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Special thanks to these GTHS members for contributing to this issue of the Journal

**Teddy Boehm of Brenham
Kent L. Bohls of Bastrop
Connie Krause of New Braunfels
Everett A. Fey of New Braunfels
Frances Hartman of Yorktown
Liz Hicks of Houston
Rodney Koenig of Houston
Ron Hunka of Austin
Carolyn Petersen of San Antonio
Anne Stewart of Comfort
Henry Wolff Jr. of Victoria**

**Arlene Burges of Round Rock
Mary El-Beheri of San Antonio
James Feuge of Fredericksburg
Theresa Gold of San Antonio
Dirk Heinen of Austin
Siegi Keimling of Austin
Albert Holck of Austin
Yvonne "Bonnie" Ludwig of San Antonio
Dona Reeves Marquardt of Austin
Flora von Roeder of Houston
Gerri West of Austin**

BALLOT FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

This election is to fill two positions on the GTHS Board of Directors for four-year terms beginning January 1, 2007 and ending December 31, 2010.

Nominations were made by the GTHS membership-at-large, not by the Board of Directors.

Vote for two and return your ballot by November 1, 2006 to

**GTHS
PO BOX 684171
AUSTIN, TX 78768-4171**

BALLOT VOTE FOR TWO

_____ **CONNIE KRAUSE**

_____ **DONNA WASSON**

or

write-in vote

return your ballot by November 1, 2006

**Please vote
using the ballot on other side of this page.**

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Your Board of Directors scheduled a full day workshop at our headquarters to discuss what we want our German-Texan Society to achieve in the next one to five years. At this workshop, we developed guidelines and strategies for better fulfilling our mission and purpose. We will be working to increase our membership and funding in order to interest even more people in the study and preservation of the German-Texan heritage and culture we share. In addition, we plan to renew our efforts to publish books and sponsor programs which contribute to this effort. We will also devote time and effort to preserving and celebrating the historic German Free School and its heirloom gardens, which will be celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2007. To accomplish all of this will take renewed the dedication of our Board and membership as well as the increased efficiencies of our headquarters office. As president, I want to thank our Board members for the efforts they have made and for the work they will continue to do to bring this all about.

We are excited to announce that GTHS will be holding its 2007 annual meeting in the greater San Antonio area in the fall of 2007, with the exact place and date to be announced at a later time. We look forward to an interesting and entertaining meeting.

In the future, we will also be planning a limited number of German genealogy events in different areas of the state. These are only a few of the events planned for the near future.

GTHS President
Teddy Vanderwerth Boehm

IN MEMORIAM: ADELHEIDE WITTENBORN

A Tribute to my Sister, Adelheide

Adelheide was born on Nov. 23, 1923 in Seguin, Texas where she attended Seguin High School and was recognized by her peers and voted most beautiful and the main sweetheart of the Future Farmers of America. She and her high school sweetheart, August Wittenborn, were married after the war on Jan. 9, 1946 at Randolph Air Force Base. It was the beginning of 54 years of marriage.

They soon settled in Austin where Witt earned his Ph.D., and except for a few years in the early 50s, remained in Austin for the rest of their lives.

One of Adelheide's greatest gifts was her ability to make and keep friends. Her social network was wide and varied: It included her bridge groups, sewing group, stock group and being a member of St. Austin's choir, her charitable organizations, such as Christ Child and Meals on Wheels, and the many individuals she and Witt met on their travels. Most of these friendships lasted more than 50 years.

Adelheide loved beautiful things and was an avid collector of paper weights and cut glass. She always managed to bring some works of art back with her on their travels mostly as part of the UT Alumni Flying Longhorns.

Adelheide is survived by three sisters, Kathleen Topperwein of Houston, Dorothy Henderson of San Marcos, Arlene Burges and Joe of Round Rock, and brother, Arthur Tschoepe and wife Dorothy of Corpus Christi, her daughter, Heidi, son Warren and wife Devron, and their children, Brian, Alan and Rachel.

Adelheide and Witt loved to entertain and hosted many Tschoepe family reunions. She was a great role model for her children and often told them you can laugh or cry over a situation, but it is better to laugh. They have taken her advice to heart.

Adelheide's positive outlook on life and her strength throughout her illness was an inspiration to all who knew her. Her family and friends have remembered her sweetness, her kindness, and her unfailing social grace.

Her daughter, Heidi, a GTHS member, and Christmas Market Elf from time to time, feels that she richly benefited from her mother's example and has learned the fine art of entertaining as well.

She has left us a beautiful legacy that will be long remembered.

Arlene Burges

IN MEMORIAM: ELIZABETH LEHMANN

from obituaries from the Houston Chronicle and Memorial Oaks Chapel at Brenham
submitted by Flora von Roeder and Dona Reeves Marquardt

Elizabeth Anna Johanna Lehmann, 98, of Brenham, died June 7, 2006, in Brenham. She was born Oct. 16, 1907, in Washington County, Texas, to Albert J. and Mary Schawe Lehmann and was baptized Dec. 1, 1907, in Salem Lutheran Church at Salem by Pastor Johannes Mgebroff. She was confirmed April 9, 1922 in the same church by Pastor William Utesch. Miss Lehmann attended public school, Blinn Memorial College, and graduated from King's Daughters Hospital School of Nursing in Temple in 1931. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in public health nursing from Incarnate Word College at San Antonio in 1951; and her Master of Arts degree in sociology and education from Sam Houston State University at Huntsville in 1960. During World War II, Miss Lehmann served in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in the South Pacific areas of New Guinea and the Philippines for three years. She began her nursing career at Milroy Memorial Hospital at Brenham in 1932 and also served as a public health nurse in Austin and initiated the school health program for schools of Brenham and Washington County in 1952 and continued until her retirement in 1973. A member of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brenham, Miss Lehmann was a member of the women's circles, where she served in various capacities. A former member of Salem Lutheran Church, she was Sunday School teacher there for fourteen years, and also organized the women's evening circle, serving as its chair. Miss Lehmann served as a board member of various state organizations: Texas Nursing Association; Lutheran Social Service of Texas; Texas Lung Association; and was a charter member of the German-Texan Heritage Society and a member of its Board of Directors. She also was a charter member of the School Health Section of the Texas State Teachers Association (District VI); a volunteer for the American Red Cross in Washington County 1940-1973; member of Brenham Louise Giddings Retired Teachers Association; American Legion Post 48; and Gamma Omega Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society. Miss Lehmann served on the Washington County Historical Commission fourteen years and compiled names of early German immigrants for the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library and the Brenham Heritage Museum. She researched and compiled genealogical family history dating to the 1600s in Europe and researched and prepared information for Texas Historical Commission markers for several Washington County Lutheran churches. Miss Lehmann contributed numerous articles on early German immigration to Washington County to the Journal of the German-Texan Heritage Society. She was a former member of the Pilot Club, serving as president and member of the American Association of University Women. Miss Lehmann was recipient of honors including awards for twenty years of service in the Washington County Chapter of the American Red Cross (1970) and service to the Texas Nursing Association (1979) and service to Home Health and Home Care (1990). She was selected Outstanding Older Citizen by the Washington County Department of Aging (1980) and that same year was given the Ehrenstern Award for exceptional contributions to the German-Texan Heritage Society.

Survivors include sisters Leona Lehmann, Dula Schroeder and Mary Dell Hueske of Brenham and four nephews and their families, all of Brenham; and a niece and her husband of Austin; and numerous cousins, great-nieces and great-nephews. The funeral service was held on June 10, at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brenham with burial at Prairie Lea Cemetery.

IN MEMORIAM: MARGARET WILSON

Given by Dona Reeves-Marquardt at the memorial for Jeanne Willson, May 24, 2006, Austin, Texas

I should like to say a few words about Jeanne Willson as a member and contributor to the German-Texan community.

In our struggling new publication of the GTHS, Jeanne agreed to publish her translation of "With the Packet Ship to Texas in 1853, the Travel Report of Christiane Haun," [Mit dem Packetsegler 1853 nach Texas]. This was a report from a young girl facing a new, frightening and bewildering experience, much as an astronaut today would face blasting off into space. It was an important work and we decided that the best format for it, due in part to its length, would be to run it as a serial, in the best tradition of German suspense writing. Jeanne brought not only her considerable skill as a wordsmith to the task, but also her marvelous perspective as a woman, also one who had also faced the unknown, as her dear husband Leslie would bring yet another writer-in-residence from the far shores of Europe into her home.

Her translation skills increased as time went on. She completed a book-length translation of Andreas Reichstein's *Der texanische Unabhängigkeitskrieg* called in English *Rise of the Lone Star: The Making of Texas* and she went on to contribute other translations to the incomparable bilingual publication, *Dimension*. Other projects, great and small, often with Leslie, followed. I am reminded of one fine translation that fits this sad, yet celebratory occasion, Gabriele Wohmann's *Bitte nicht sterben, Please don't die*.

Her work, as her life, was full of understated, unassuming humility. She brought a honed intellect and gentle emotion to her desk and to her home. I recall that my late husband, Edward, installing a cutting board in her kitchen, once found her near tears. It was the day after an election and her candidate—I won't say which one—had lost. Otherwise, she always bore herself with dignity, her home ever open to grad students, dignitaries, workers, Nobel prize winners, artists and a wide assembly of beloved pets.

But Jeanne also brought to her task the particular perspective of an adopted Texan. She had plunged herself into acquiring a knowledge of our state that few could equal, a knowledge that served her well in her position as an archivist at the Barker History Center. We were so fortunate to have her wed not only the exuberant and irrepressible Leslie, but also to wed the talents of a trained archivist with a fine command of the German language, augmented with the rare skill of reading the beautiful, but so often illegible German handwriting of the nineteenth century. She was truly a gift to our German-Texan community. She will be missed.

IN MEMORIAM: MARGARET WILSON

from obituary published by the Austin American-Statesman, May 14, 2006
submitted by Mary El-Beheri

Margaret Jeanne Redrow Wilson was born on April 21, 1926, in Cincinnati, Ohio, and died on May 11, 2006, in Austin, Texas. She graduated from Walnut Hills High School in Cincinnati and attended Bryn Mawr College. On the advice of a professor at Bryn Mawr, after her graduation in 1948, she attended graduate school at the University of Texas at Austin because of Professor Lee M. Hollander, a world-renowned scholar of Old Norse. Jeanne had a consuming interest in older Germanic languages. Because she had not studied algebra, a requirement at the University of Texas for graduate school admission, she was admitted provisionally and was allowed to choose to substitute Greek for the algebra requirement. She earned a master's degree in German and, later, a degree in Library Science. It was Professor Hollander who introduced her to A. Leslie Wilson, another first-year graduate student. After they were married in 1950 in Cincinnati, Professor Hollander later liked to boast that he had played a role in what became an ideal marriage that endured until her death more than fifty-five years later.

After their wedding Leslie and Jeanne drove immediately to Yale University, where Leslie had been admitted to the graduate school. Hermann Weigand, a Sterling Professor Germanic Languages at Yale, guided Leslie in his acquisition of a Ph.D. in Germanic Languages with his dissertation, "A Mythic Image: The Ideal of India in German Romanticism," a work that was later published by the Duke University Press.

Leslie taught at Northwestern University, Duke University, Penn State University, and in 1954 was invited to join the faculty at the University of Texas at Austin. He became emeritus professor on the occasion of his retirement in 1992.

Jeanne was a skilled archivist and at the Barker Texas History Center in Austin specialized on the papers of German immigrants to Texas in the nineteenth century. She is survived by her husband and their children Brian, Juliet and Kevin and by six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. A memorial service was announced by Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home.

LEAVE YOUR GERMAN MARK BY RODNEY KOENIG

Each summer many of German choirs and church choirs are on break. However, some choirs elect to go on tour in the summer. Several years ago, in 1999, I went with Christ the King Lutheran Church Choir to Germany, the Czech Republic and Austria. This year Mary and I will be part of a group of 45 persons from Christ the King Lutheran, who travel to Sweden, Denmark and Norway in late July and early August. We will sing "Aller Augen warten auf dich, Herre" in Uppsala and Lund, Sweden, and in Roskilde and Lillerød, Denmark. A number of other choral selections will be part of the repertoire. A number of GTHS members including Don and Velma Rice, Paul and Tod Schenk, Carroll and Dorry Shaddock, Rev. Robert and Kathy Moore, Rodney and Mary Koenig, Mel Rosenbaum and prospective members Karl Lothmann, Weldon Kuretsch, and Choir Director Albert LeDoux will be traveling with us, and Charles and Janice will be traveling with us in spirit.

Texas is rich with German singing clubs, with Beethoven and Liederkrantz from San Antonio, Saengerrunde from Austin, Frohsinn from Dallas, Saengerbund and Liederkrantz from Houston, as well as a number of other choirs throughout the state. One way for you to Leave Your German Mark is to join one of our German singing clubs somewhere in Texas. For example, in Houston, the Houston Saengerbund will start its fall singing season on Tuesday, September 5, 2006, in midtown at First Lutheran Church at Holman at Caroline Street, Houston, Texas. First Lutheran was originally known as Erste Deutsche Evangelische Lutheranische Kirche.

Two major persons in my life were my father, John H. Koenig (1908-1984), who played violin, saxophone, and accordion, and sang in the Cedar Mannerchor as well as church choirs, and my mother, Elva Oeding Koenig (1912-2003), who played piano, organ and sang her entire life. My brother Weldon also played saxophone and sings in choirs. I sing in several choirs, play trumpet in a brass band and have been involved in Houston Early Music, Bach Society and other musical groups. Our family was always interested in music. My parents left their musical mark by instilling a love of music in their sons and in others, including their grandchildren, most of whom have played in band or played piano.

Another major person in the Koenig family was that of our "Uncle Charlie," who lived to be almost 103 years. He was my father John H. Koenig's oldest brother. Uncle Charles was born in 1903 and died in 2006. He was still alert at age 100. One of the stories told at his 100th birthday was the possibility of marrying a young lady if he made it to 109. Both Uncle Charlie and the young lady "winked" when that story was told. Uncle Charlie left his centenarian mark and will be remembered in the Koenig family, in the Cleveland, Texas, area where he lived in his later years, and by his sons, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

Consider leaving your musical German mark by joining one of the many musical German groups around the state. The Houston area has a new Liederabend group that meets once a month in various persons' homes. Barbara Malone of Houston is one of the organizers of that group. In any event, you should leave your mark by singing, by living a long, positive life and by providing for some of your favorite German charities. When you change your will, consider leaving ten (10%) percent of your estate to GTHS. When you look at your IRA, 401(k) plan, or life insurance, consider leaving it or a portion of it to a German charity. For help in discussing these matters, please speak to any board member or call Rodney Koenig at (713) 651-5333 or email me at rkoenig@fulbright.com

2006 OPERATIONAL FUND

We've raised \$12,000 so far in this year's Operational Fund Drive. You can help us reach our year end goal of \$18,000 by making a contribution soon. Thanks to all of you who have already given this year! Please fill out the form below and send it, along with your payment, to:

**GTHS
PO Box 684171
Austin, TX 78768-4171**

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

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TO

THE 2006 OPERATIONAL FUND DRIVE

2005 Operational Fund Donors

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The 2005 GTHS Operational Fund Drive began on April 16, 2005 and ended on December 31, 2005. We raised \$13,571 from 176 donors.

Beginning in 2006, the Operational Fund will coincide with the calendar year.

Listed on the fourth page are the donations received from January 1 to April 30, 2006. We raised \$3,345.00 from these 43 donors.

All donations received during the calendar year of 2006 will be listed in the Spring 2007 Journal.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to each of you for your generous financial support.

Scholar Gift Level (\$50-\$149)

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We are grateful to all of you for joining the
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at the Patron membership level in 2006.

**HILDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
by Julius De Vos and James E. Feuge**

In 1856 the Reverend C.A. Grote organized sixty-three men and women into the Llano River Valley Circuit, Rio Grande Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South. These sixty-three members represented seven different communities in Mason, Menard, and Llano Counties. The congregations were located in Pleuweville (now Castell), Lower Willow Creek, Upper Willow Creek (now Art), Beaver Creek (now Hilda), Simonsville (now Grossville), Little Saline and New Canaan.

As the years passed, some of these congregations combined with others, and some communities died as members moved. Today four of those original congregations remain; they are Hilda, Castell, Mason and Art.

Hilda constructed the second church in Mason County and combined it with the first school in 1862. The current church structure is the second church at the same site, larger than the first.

The sixty-three charter members were all German immigrants or children of German immigrants. They located in the Llano River Valley and basically remained rooted in the area. Today, as the Hilda Church prepares to celebrate the 150th year of its existence, there are still forty-seven descendants of the original members living in Mason County. There are thirteen direct descendents of those charter members who are members of the Hilda U.M.C.

The first twenty-two ministers serving the congregation were also all either German immigrants or German descendants. They were, in order of service, C.A. Grote, Conrad J. Pluennecke, John A. Schaper, Anton Ulrich, J. Christin Albrecht, Herman Homburg, Julius E. Urbantke, Heinrich Pape, George Koch, Jacob Ott, John Hierholzer, William Buehrer, William Makowski, George W.F. Schreiber, Herman C.G. Schmaltz, Christian F. Bohmfalk, John Kleinknecht, John A. Traeger, Walter L. Froehner, William H. Steinmann, Otto C. Raeke, and Walter L. Hornung. The first non-German minister to serve the congregation came in 1955. A number of the past German ministers have descendents in the area and some are members of the Hilda congregation.

The sesquicentennial celebration will be on Saturday, 14 October 2006 and Sunday, 15 October 2006. Saturday's activities will begin at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the Hilda Community Center on the west side of Ranch Road 783 just west of the Brandenberger mansion. A barbecue supper will be available that evening, with exhibits of the past on display all afternoon. On Sunday morning the celebratory church service will begin at 11:00 o'clock in the morning. Another meal will be available after the church service. All members, friends, guests and well-wishers are heartily invited.

Like many of the German communities in this area, the early settlers tried to have large families, because they needed help--help building structures, fences and roads, help in raising livestock, raising poultry, hogs and horses. Eventually schools had to be built, then a church, and family cemeteries often gave way to churchyard burial sites. When the children married, they needed a place to live as well as land of their own. As the population grew, fewer could remain in the country and had to go to urban areas to seek a livelihood. As parents and grandparents died out, some of the grown children returned, others sold their small portions. Texas-German girls left to seek their fortune and a husband, and returned with a new family name, usually Anglican. And boys returned with an English-speaking wife. So the culture and the language and history changed in evolution. Some make efforts at preserving what they recall of the old German heritage, others want to establish a new concept. And all of these together give a poetic overview of the German-Texan community of Hilda.

The following paragraphs present more detailed information about the colonization of the Beaver Creek/Hilda as provided by our venerable, silver-haired historian Mr. Julius E. De Vos and his ever gracious wife Ruby. Julius has researched family histories as well as church histories of the area and is a noteworthy source of historic information.

Now, a French name does not fit into the old German community, so I inquired about his heritage. Ruby De Vos was born in the Hilda community as Ruby Eckert, daughter of Ben and Cora Brandenberger Eckert. After she graduated from the local schools, she set out to become a food dietician and traveled to a job in Chicago to work as a dietician in a Naval Station. Julius de Vos was stationed at this station while attending the Illinois Institute of Technology. They met at the Naval Station and became interested in one another, began dating, and the next step was for Ruby to take him home to Hilda, Texas to meet her parents. They were married at the Eckert home in 1944. They lived and worked at various locations in Texas, before returning to the Eckert ranch to take over the ranching business left by her parents in 1951.

They were active in G.T.H.S. and the Hill Country Group until health reasons caused them to stay close to home. They remain active in their community and church. If anyone has a question about a family in the community, ask Julius, for he will remind you, "We're all related!"

THE BEAVER CREEK/HILDA COMMUNITY OF MASON COUNTY, TEXAS

The land on which the community was founded is located on the south side of the Llano River in what was originally Gillespie County. This land had been assigned to former veterans or former residents of the nation of Texas when Texas was still an independent nation at the time of the Texas War for Independence, It was not part of the Fischer-Miller Grant designated for German

immigrants. Very little, if any, of the land had been settled by the assignees; however, it did belong to them or their heirs. Therefore, immigrants had to purchase the land rather than merely settle it, as was the practice on the Grant land north of the Llano River.

Those who moved from the Fredericksburg area to the unoccupied area south of the Llano River were settlers unhappy with the limitations of the 10-acre plots assigned in and around the settlement of Fredericksburg. Their vision was for great acreage, a wide scope of operation, expansion room, and adequate room for their children in the future.

By the early 1950's, the Grant lands had not officially been approved as settlement areas. This was due, partially, to the disintegration of the Adelsverein and partly to the fear of the Indians north of the river. Those who did move northward were more adventurous people, but not quite fools. They moved north of previously established settlements, but just far enough to carve out their space. The Texas Ranger camp was still located along the north side of the Llano River.

Settlement of the Beaver Creek area began in the early 1850's. Castell, farther down the river, had already been partially settled in the late 1840's. A few settlers settled along the Llano River, upstream from Castell. Among them was Conrad Pluennecke. Moving northward from the Cherry Spring area, settlers began moving into the area along Threadgill Creek and Squaw Creek, tributaries of Beaver Creek which flowed into the Llano River. Naturally, homesteads and later whole settlements were located where water was available.

The Beaver Creek area began being settled in the mid 1850's. It is difficult to specify exactly when the settlers moved onto their homesteads, as ownership and occupation were often two different times.

Gottlieb Brandenberger, a Swiss, moved to the Beaver Creek area and purchased property in 1855. He did not settle on a water course, but found artesian water for his homesite. Fritz Kneese, brother-in-law of Brandenberger, settled in the same area at the same time. Fritz Lehmborg and his brother Charles moved in during the same year, settling along Beaver Creek. Also in 1855 Karl Eckert and his family located about a mile west of the Brandenberger claim.

To the south of Brandenberger, J.U. Anderegg located other springs and settled there during 1856. Anderegg constructed a unique house and spring house, utilizing the spring water to cool the cheeses he produced. The Friederich Ellebracht family settled on property along the Threadgill Creek during the same time. George Philip Eckert joined his brother Karl as homesteader, but a mile northeast of the Brandenbergers, also in 1855. Heinrich Kensing and his family moved to Beaver Creek near the Lehmborg homestead in 1858. During the same year Heinrich Geistweidt

moved his family from Fredericksburg to the Beaver Creek area to a site about a half mile upstream from the Lehmberts in 1858. Due to the deaths of two of their children, the family did not remain there, but moved several miles south but remained members of the community. His brother William Geistweidt soon became a member of the community, settling between Anderegg and Brandenberger.

John Woerner, working for Brandenberger, became a member of the community around 1859. That same year Catherine Brandenberger and her son Fritz, moved from Indiana, where they had originally settled, to join her other son Gottlieb in the Beaver Creek area.

These were the people who formed the nucleus of the Beaver Creek community. All were from Germany or Switzerland, all had been Lutheran Church members in Europe. From their experiences in Fredericksburg, New Braunfels and Indianola, as well as their early life on the new frontier, most converted to Methodism. Consequently, when a church membership was considered, many of them helped establish the Llano River Circuit, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in March 1856.

A congregation was formed that year and in 1862 the second church in Mason County was constructed at Beaver Creek. Education was important to the settlers, so the new church was also used as a school, the first in the County of Mason. A teacherage was added to the church site, as most of the teachers at the time were single men.

Since the community was entirely German-speaking at that time, the teachers all spoke German and all classes were conducted in German until the 1899-1900 term. Likewise, the ministers in the church were all of German heritage and the services were held in German until 1935.

When the child of a church member died in June 1892, a church cemetery was begun on the church property under the auspices of the Methodist Church. It is now independently operated.

In 1916 thirteen charter members began the Hilda Lutheran Church. The little building was constructed about one and one-half miles southwest of "downtown" Hilda. Due to a lack of supporting finances and growth, the congregation dissolved in 1948.

When school attendance became too large for the small Methodist church, a new school house was constructed about a quarter mile west of the church site and west of the Brandenberger home. This was opened in 1895 as a two-room school. The location of the new school inspired Gus Schulze to lease land near the school, where he constructed a home, small store, and a post office. His wife Mrs. Emma Stiehl Schulze became the first postmaster on September 20, 1901. The name of the post office became Hilda. Eventually, the community name "Beaver Creek" changed to be in accord with the name of the post office designated as "Hilda."

The post office, store and home remained in use until 1917. At that time the post office was closed, and Mr. Schulze dismantled all his structures and moved away. The Reverend Herman Schmaltz reopened a post office and became postmaster from March 13, 1918, until it closed for good on September 30, 1918. No structure was built to house the second post office.

In 1926 Mason County's "Music Man" came to the county. Pete Rose convinced several organizations and communities to organize bands. Among them was the Hilda community. A number of young men joined together and with the aid of Rose formed a successful band, The Hilda Community Band. To provide a place for the band to practice and give performances, the Hilda Community Building was constructed in 1929. The building remains and has been and continues to be used for community fairs, club meetings, parties, receptions, school activities, etc. The band, itself, was dissolved as the men grew old. The school closed in 1947.

Meanwhile, other families moved into the area. Among them were the Henry J. Sattler family in 1876; the Henry Pluennecke family in 1878; the Conrad Wissemann family in 1879; the Karl Rode family in 1892. Some of these came from Fredericksburg and some had resided elsewhere in the county before moving to Beaver Creek/Hilda.

Additional families and individuals have moved into the community since the beginning of the twentieth century. During the latter part of the century, many retired people have moved into the area bringing a diversity it did not have in the settling years. German is no longer the common language; large ranches have been divided and subdivided into smaller parcels; retired persons have moved in, and even a few grandchildren and great grandchildren have returned to their roots in this old German-Texas ranching settlement along the Beaver Creek.

THE HILDA POST OFFICE by Curtis Schulze

The Rev. Gustav Schulze and his third wife, Emma Stiehl Schulze, established the official post office in the Beaver Creek Community and named it for the community, but had to rename it "Hilda", because the name of "Beaver Creek" was already in use. While he tended to his church and livestock, Emma was the postmistress, gardener and mother of their eleven children as well as his three children from his second marriage.

According to the family history book, Rev. Schulze developed a severe throat condition and the doctor advised him to stop straining his voice; in other words, stop preaching. Consequently, the Schulze family closed the store and post office in 1918, dismantled the buildings and loaded them onto wagons, sold the land, and moved to another community in Mason County named Ten Mile. Ten Mile is north of the Llano River, West of Mason,

and ten miles west of the old stagecoach crossing of Pegleg Crossing on the San Saba River. Now, try to find all that on a map! Here the buildings were reassembled and the Schulzes engaged in ranching and farming.

An account of the crossing of the Llano River was recorded and correspondents with other similar accounts. When horse-drawn wagons carrying a load of merchandise arrived at a river, the horse or horses were unhitched and taken across the river to check its depth and otherwise fordability. Then the horses were brought back across to reassess the situation, rehitched to their wagons, and the journey continued.

The Schulze family lived and worked in the Ten Mile Community until 1935, when they moved to Mason. Rev. Gustav Schulze died in February, 1947, and his wife Emma on December 8, 1958. Both were buried in Hilda in the cemetery at the Hilda Methodist Church.

Gustav Schulze was the sixth child of Ferdinand and Elenore Schulze, who had immigrated from Prussia on the ship "Elisa and Charlotte." They landed in Galveston on 1 January 1846 and later moved inland to Fredericksburg, where they settled. During part of his teenage years, Gustav worked as a teamster, transporting supplies from one place to another with his team of horses and wagon. Later he worked on some of the large ranches in Mason County. While on one of the routine cattle drives in which he participated, he passed near a camp meeting. Being young and curious, he dropped in and stayed a while. After his return home, he gave some thought to what he had witnessed. He concluded that he must let Christ into his life and serve the Lord. He then joined the Beaver Creek Methodist Church. The intensity of his commitment developed and he felt the call to preach the gospel. This led him to the new Blinn Memorial College in Brenham, Texas, where he was one of the first students.

After gaining his credentials as a Methodist minister, he married Amalie Bergdorf in August 1882. She died in child birth in May 1883. Rev. Schulze then married her sister, Maria Bergdorf. Together, they had three children. Maria died of typhoid fever on 1 June 1894 in Fredericksburg while he was a minister at a Methodist church there. On 3 June 1895 Rev. Schulze married Emma Stiehl, with whom he had an additional eleven children. Remember, in those days the families needed many helping hands in order to survive. The old German adage "Viele Hände, schnelles Ende" was applied. (Many hands, work is soon done.)

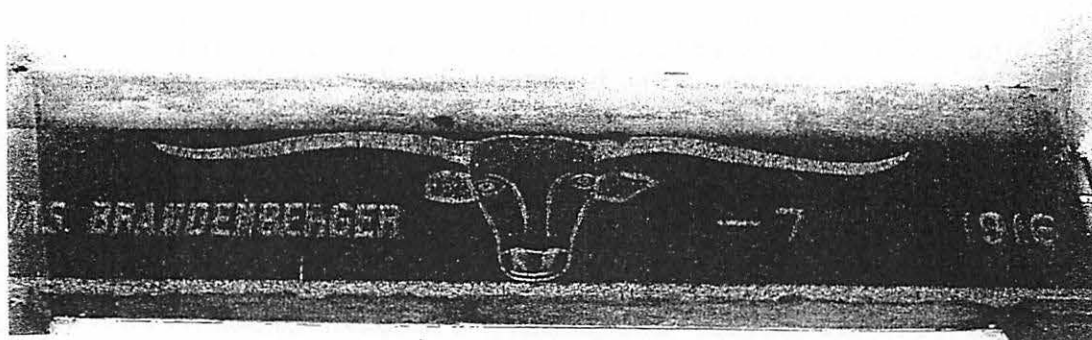
Curtis is the son of Gilbert Schulze, who was one of a set of twin boys born to Gustav and Emma. His twin brother was Wallace. Gilbert Schulze married Hildegard Roos of Fredericksburg in 1933 and also lived in the Ten Mile community. The time came for Curtis to make a living off the homestead, so he got an education and was employed with the Soil Conservation Service in Kerrville.

While working as a Kerr County Soil Conservation agent, he met the lovely Maurine Smith of Center Point, who worked in a Kerrville Bank. Center Point is named that because it is roughly halfway between Comfort and Kerrville. When Curtis learned he was to be transferred to Burnett, Texas, he and his "Renie" were married in Center Point. They now reside in Mason, Texas, and are ranchers. In addition, they have an auction business and he is a real estate appraiser.

THE BRANDENBERGER HOUSE

The following article about the old Brandenberger estate home is provided by a knowledgeable and delightful couple of Hilda, Dr. James "Jim" and Dr. Valeda Dreschner Boyd, with help from relatives and current occupants of the estate home, John and D'Lynn Brandenberger. The Boyds live on a portion of the original Gottlieb Brandenberger ranch in Hilda, where they have retired, and are active in the community and the Hilda United Methodist Church.

Valeda is a daughter of Christian and Myrtle Brandenberger Dreschner of Seguin, where she grew up in town, even though her parents owned and operated ranchland outside Seguin and in Hilda. She attended Southwest Texas State University, now Texas State University, in San Marcos, where she received her B.S. degree and met her future husband, Jim Boyd. Jim also completed his B.S. as well as his master's degree in San Marcos. Valeda obtained her master's degree at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway and her doctorate from Texas Women's University in Denton, with a major in English. Jim completed his doctorate in education at Commerce, Texas, now Texas A&M at Commerce. Both taught in the public schools for over a decade and then at various institutions of higher learning including Tarleton State University. They retired in 1998 and returned to their ancestral roots in Mason County, to live on her share of the Brandenberger Ranch. Jim's ancestors had settled north of the Llano River.



The granite lintel above the front door of the Brandenberger home features the head of a longhorn, correct ear mark, owner's name, the ranch brand, and the date of construction.

The Brandenberger Ranch Home: A Pioneer Family Legacy

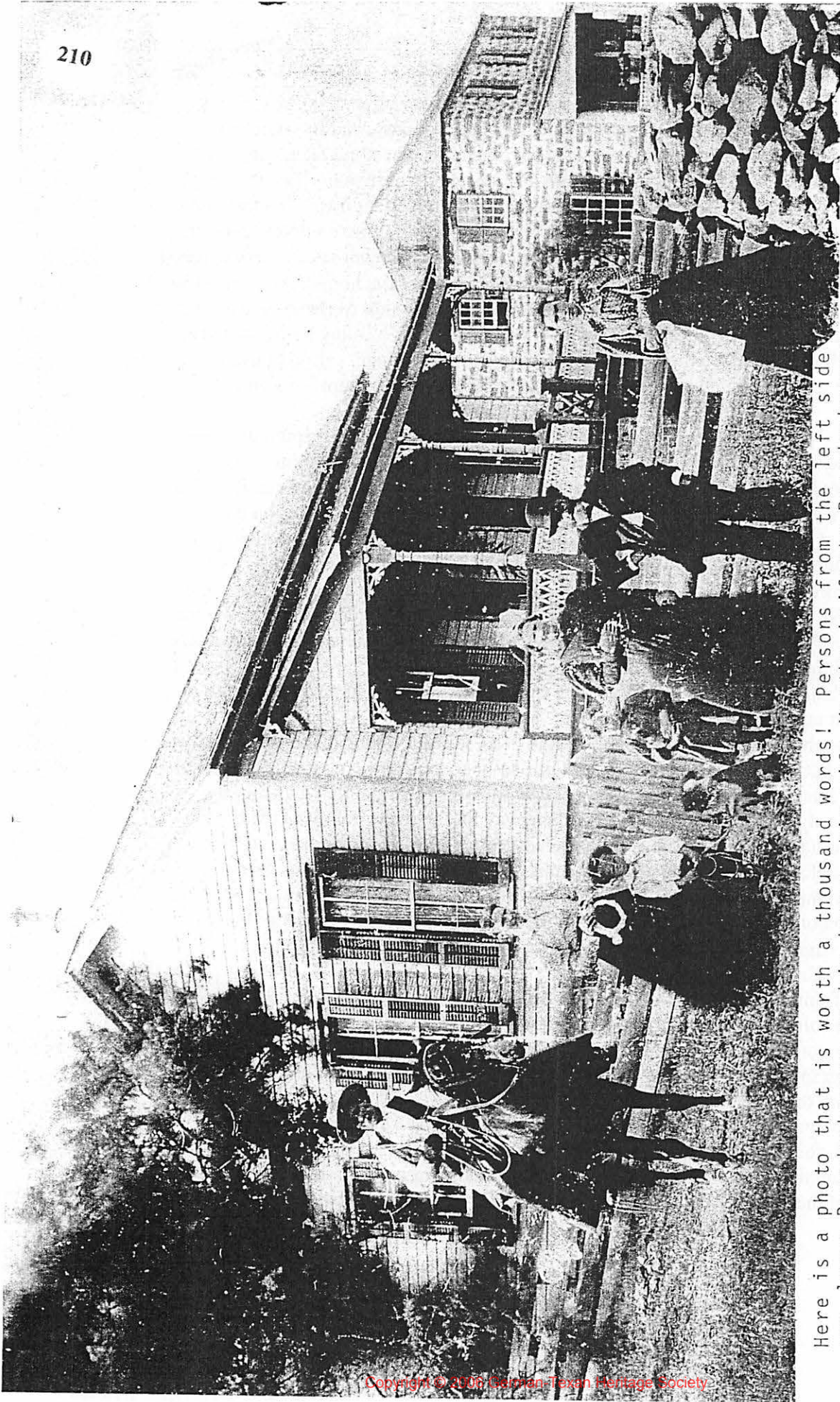
Lovely historical homes abound in Mason County, and the stately, two-story Brandenberger mansion, with its alternating red and white stone facade and cast concrete columns, exemplifies the best in turn-of-the-century craftsmanship. The first glimpse of the home for most people comes as they drive down Highway 783 through the Hilda community. From that vantage point the James Brandenberger complex, consisting of an old blacksmith shop, various rock "out buildings," a smoke house, a cistern perched atop a twenty-four foot rock tower, a windmill and the back of the home are visible. The home fronts on Loeffler Lane, a vantage point that shows off more of the classic details of the structure. The home's front porches overlook an extensive valley below, featuring the historic Hilda United Methodist Church with its rock parsonage, spring house and a stable. Cattle graze on ranches in the distance and deer frequently roam the pastoral landscape.

The settlers who first came to the Hill Country quickly learned that their homes needed to be designed to protect them from the region's torrid summers, as well as the frequent cold "northers" in winter. The Brandenberger home was no exception. The rock walls are two feet thick on the first story and narrow to eighteen inches on the second floor. On both stories rooms are arranged to provide maximum opportunity for cross ventilation. Each of the rooms in the living area has four windows and 10 foot ceilings to promote airflow within the house. The front porches facing to the east were situated to take advantage of the early morning sun and to provide afternoon shade. One of the two porches on the south side was a sleeping porch, placed so as to take advantage of the prevailing breezes. For warmth, the home had a fireplace in the parlor and a wood stove in the dining room. A wood cook stove in the kitchen provided needed warmth in the winter but unwanted heat in the summer.

Although the structure was completed in 1916, it incorporates the materials of two older homes that were on the site. Both a traditional rock pioneer home that had housed Gottlieb and Maria Brandenberger and a wooden Victorian-style home where his son James and family lived were torn down to make way for the construction of the new, grander home. James used the old hand-chiseled stone from his father's house for the trim and cut field stone for the rest. Wood from the old Victorian house was used extensively in the interior. Milton Brandenberger, the younger son of James and Martha, used to tell about having to make many trips in a horse-drawn wagon down to Beaver Creek to get sand for the mortar. Their use of old materials and natural resources reflected their Germanic heritage.

The front of the two-story home features a full porch for each floor. Six massive cast-concrete columns characterize each level, with a balustrade providing added safety for the top balcony. Above the front beveled glass door and side panels on the first floor is a massive granite lintel beam. It features the etched head and horns of a longhorn steer (complete with the ranch ear mark), flanked by the Bar Seven (-7) brand and the name of Jas Brandenberger. The engraved date 1916 marks the time of completion for the structure built for the James and Martha Brandenberger family.

Custom designed tin ceilings with different motifs for each room add to the uniqueness of the décor. Western features such as the horns from James Brandenberger's



Here is a photo that is worth a thousand words! Persons from the left side are James Brandenberger on his horse, his wife Martha Leifeste Brandenberger, their two children Walter and Ida, Maria Brandenberger and Gottlieb Brandenberger, and a Mrs. Geistweidt. The Victorian frame house was the home of James and Martha; the redstone house the home of the Gottlieb Brandenbergers. After the passing of Gottlieb and Maria, James had the two homes dismantled and reused in building the Stately Brandenberger home which is the current residence of John and D'Lynn Brandenberger.

1928 Mason County grand champion longhorn steer and racks from deer harvested on the Brandenberger ranch decorate the entrance hall and upstairs landing.

The ranch house complex is further enhanced by three artesian wells located a short distance from the home. This constant water supply allowed the Brandenbergers to cultivate huge vegetable gardens and an orchard, complete with figs, peaches, plums, pears, grapes and apples. They also made sorghum molasses from sugar cane and kept their smoke house full of sausages, jerky and cured bacon and hams. It was customary for them to butcher a goat every week and send a portion of it to the nearby Methodist pastor and his family.

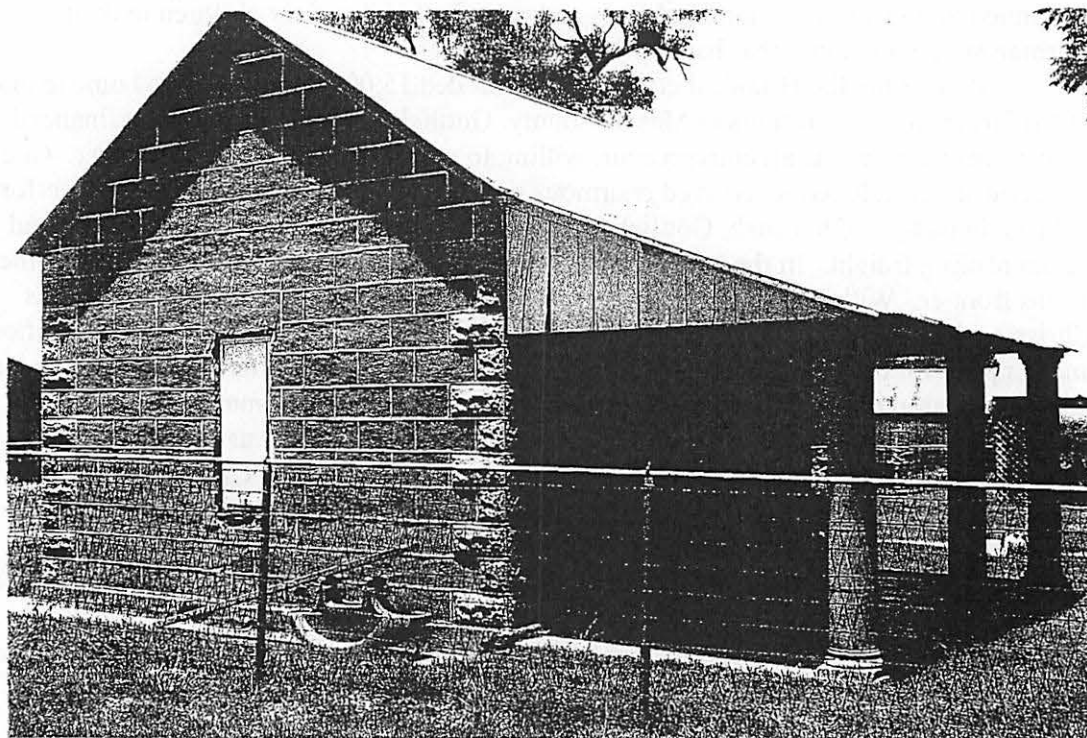
Gottlieb Brandenberger, the founder of the extensive Brandenberger ranch holdings, was born in Switzerland in 1825 and migrated to Indiana with his brother Fritz in 1848. The brothers then traveled to California during the Gold Rush and made good money supplying the Forty-Niners with meat from the hogs they raised. Later they left California and Gottlieb headed for the Texas frontier. In Fredericksburg he met Maria Bierschwale and they married in 1853. Her past had held almost as much adventure as that of Gottlieb. In 1845 when Maria was ten, she along with two sisters and an older brother emigrated from Germany to Texas after the death of their parents and settled in Fredericksburg. In spite of enduring many hardships such as disease and short food supplies, all the siblings survived. After her marriage to Gottlieb, the couple settled on land he bought near there. Three years they later moved to a log cabin they built in the Beaver Creek community (now Hilda) when the area was still a virtual wilderness. They continued to increase their land holdings and reared a family of six children in their German style rock home that had replaced the log cabin.

At one time the Brandenberger ranch exceeded 15,000 acres and was home to one of the larger cattle operations in Mason County. Gottlieb Brandenberger was a financial success because he was an entrepreneur, willing to work hard and not shirk danger. One of his business endeavors involved enormous risks to himself and his family. In an effort to bring in badly needed cash, Gottlieb purchased two wagons and ten yoke of oxen and began hauling freight. In the beginning he hauled freight to various military posts on the Texas frontier. With the onset of the Civil War, he started hauling cotton from Corpus Christi to the Mexican border. On his return trip from the border, he brought ammunition and supplies for the Confederacy. On this track, which took him some 300 miles from his home, he passed through lands that were not only dominated by Comanches and Lipan Apaches but also subject to raids by Mexican bandits. During the war the only sanctuary between Corpus Christi and the border was the famed King Ranch. Captain Richard King fortified the ranch headquarters where he provided freighters protection, lodging, supplies and connections to cotton buyers. Throughout this period when the Indian deprivations were at their worst, Gottlieb was sometimes gone from home for months at a time.

When the children were grown, James inherited the home place and continued in the cattle business. He married Martha Leifeste in 1889 and built the wooden home next to his parents rock home. James had known Martha since childhood. He knew of her difficult life, having lost her mother when she was ten years old. Several years later, her two older sisters died, leaving Martha to be mother to the five younger children. He determined at a very young age that he would marry her someday and give her all the comforts of life that had been denied her as a child.

James was known for his fine horses, prize-winning long horn steers, Hereford cattle and his shrewd financial investments. The couple had five children: Ida, Walter, Milton, Myrtle and Viola. Ten years after the birth of their youngest child, the Brandenberger mansion was ready for occupancy. Their younger son Milton continued to live with his parents in the Brandenberger home after he was an adult and helped his father with the ranching operation. In 1926 Milton married Edna Opperman, and the upper floor became the couple's residence. To accommodate their needs, they converted one room upstairs into a kitchen. The couple had two sons, James (Jim) and Perry. After the deaths of James and Martha, Milton and his wife moved to the first floor, reserving the upper story for their children's visits. Following Edna's death, Milton continued to live in the home until shortly before his death at the age of 96.

Milton's son Jim and his wife Roseline inherited the home and part of the ranch although they never used the home as their primary residence. Today their son John, wife D'Lynn and children Ashlyn and Colten, are the fifth generation Brandenberger family to occupy the classic home. They, along with his mother and sisters Judy and Jill, have sought to renovate the home and to undo some earlier remodeling. Their efforts have restored the place to its original grandeur with only a few concessions to modern conveniences. The home stands as a visual tribute to the resourcefulness of the early ranchers of the region and to the skilled craftsmen that helped bring this architectural landmark into fruition.



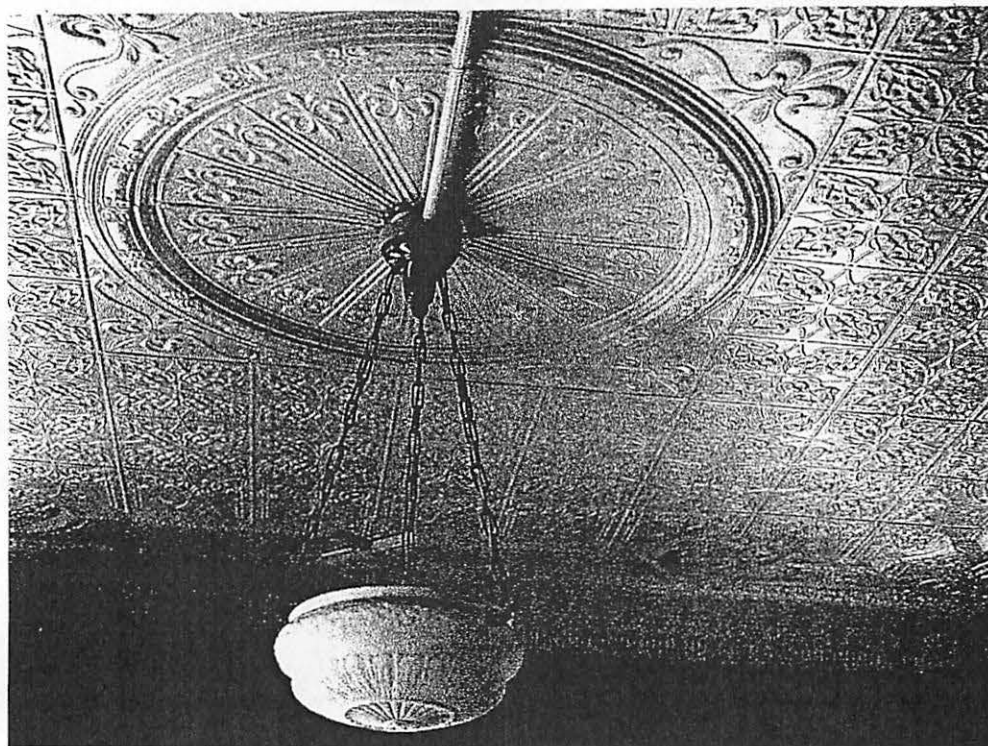
An integral and necessary part of a German-Texan estate was a smoke house. Log structures were built where trees were available and small stone buildings where rock was more abundant. This Brandenberger smoke house is unusual in that it is of cut stone and has granite columns supporting the porch roof. Smoke houses were used for storing and curing fresh butchered products such as hams, bacon, jerky and sausage. Smoking not only helped cure the meats, but also kept the outside dry to ward off mildew.



ABOVE: The old blacksmith shop still stands beneath an even older liveoak tree on the Brandenberger complex. Note the vise on the left.

BELOW: The grande dame herself as the afternoon shadows dull her fine lines and signal the end of another day in her long and glorious life.



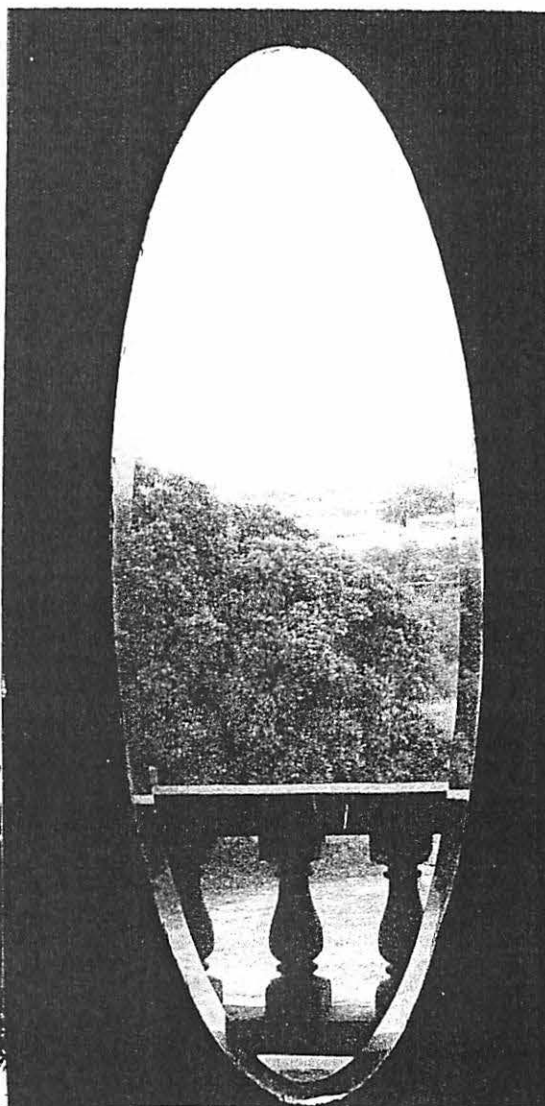
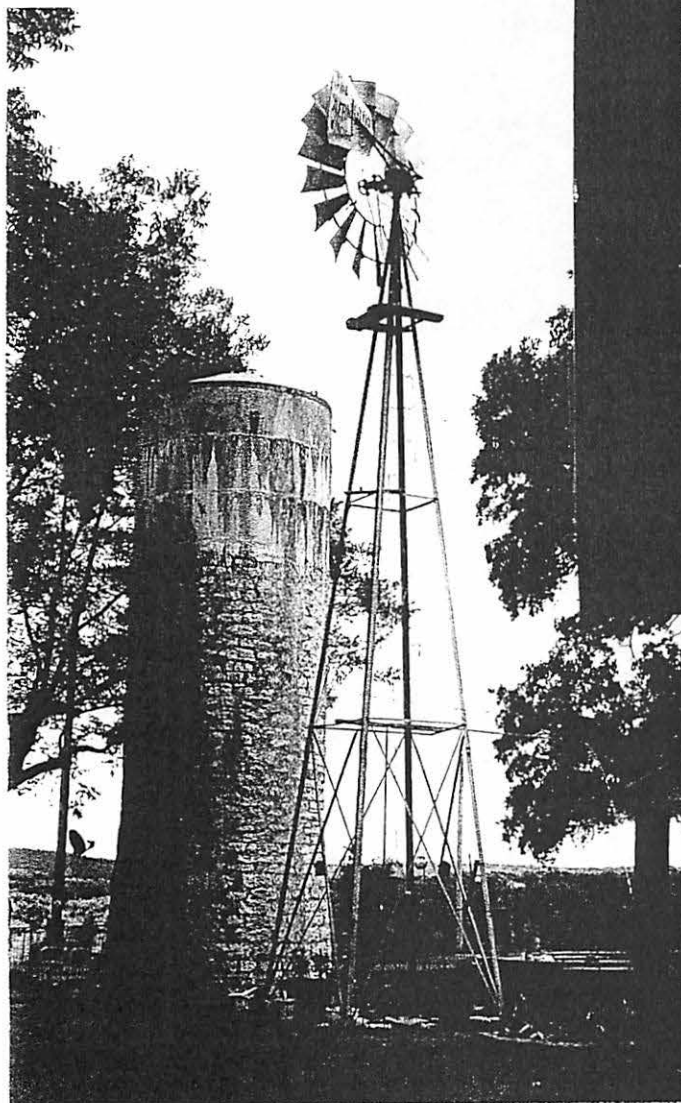


ABOVE: The embossed tin ceiling of the living room.

BELOW: The embossed tin ceiling of the front bedroom has a border which incorporates mythological figures such as these griffins.



BELOW: In bygone days, the windmill pumped water into the tank sitting on top of an unusually tall tank house. The height of the tank provided abundant pressure on the gravitational flow of the water to the house, yard and garden. The hollow space inside the lower portion of a tank house was often used for storing vegetables and or yard and garden tools.



ABOVE: The oval, beveled glass of the door opening to the upper, front porch (east side) frames the scenic Beaver Creek Valley.

Preservationists spared convento from commercialization

■ *Second of two parts*

Last week, a reader asked about the Gustav Schmeltzer business at the Alamo.

Home to Franciscan friars at Mission San Antonio de Valero, site of a pivotal battle in the Texas Revolution, used by the U.S. Army after Texas statehood and developed as commercial property in the bustling late 19th century, what's now known as the Long Barrack/convento was handed off to whatever constituted the next big thing in the city's evolution.

Gustavo "Gus" Henry Schmeltzer was a pretty paradigmatic character for his time. Described as a "pioneer merchant" in his San Antonio Express obituary, Dec. 29, 1911, the co-owner of Hugo and Schmeltzer, Wholesale Grocers, was born in Germany, came to Texas in 1849, fought Indians as a Texas Ranger, clerked at the Menger Hotel, served in the Confederate Army and learned the retail trade in San Antonio after the Civil War. In 1871, he and his partners established their grocery firm.

After a fire in their premises at Commerce and Navarro streets, Hugo and Schmeltzer moved to the old convento, developed in the mid-1870s by Honore Grenet as a general store with a façade of anachronistic wooden decorations meant to suggest a fantasy



PAULA ALLEN

castle/fortress, capitalizing on its proximity to the Alamo church.

Schmeltzer may have foreseen another trend on Alamo Plaza. As head of a historical group that later merged with what became the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, pioneer preservationist Adina De Zavala approached Schmeltzer around 1892, "persuad[ing] him to grant her his long barracks if his company ever decided to sell the structure," says Frank Jennings in "Adina De Zavala: Alamo Crusader," Texas Highways, March 1995.

Fundraising went slowly and nearly halted after the 1900 Galveston hurricane. South Texas heiress Clara Driscoll, fortuitously, joined the DRT a few years later. While a guest at the Menger, she heard of De Zavala's cause.

Though Driscoll would join the faction that believed "the monastery fell to pieces long ago," according to the Houston Semi-Weekly Post, Jan. 12, 1905, she and others still sought to preserve the site as part of a parklike setting for the Alamo — an ideal



COURTESY OF THE SAN ANTONIO GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Gustav Schmeltzer, shown in a photo taken around 1885, ran a grocery business in the Alamo's Long Barrack/convento.

threatened when an out-of-state syndicate planned to build a hotel on the site of the Hugo and Schmeltzer building.

Intent on halting commercialization, Driscoll — the only daughter of a wealthy cattleman — paid option

money and signed a note for purchase of the property. To the would-be developers, as well as Driscoll, the convento/Long Barrack was a nonhistoric, post-1836 teardown. De Zavala, however, "led the opposition in a resolute and voluble stand against any such move," says the Handbook of Texas.

After years of wrangling, the Texas Legislature in 1905 made an appropriation to purchase the convento building from Driscoll. With the Alamo church, the convento would be the property of the state, in the custody of the DRT.

It wasn't quite a happy ending. "Driscoll, who had saved the convento, wanted it demolished," says the Texas Almanac, 2006-2007, "so that the chapel's role in the Texas revolution would be emphasized." De Zavala wanted both chapel and convento restored.

Fearing that a Driscoll-driven faction wanted to rent part of the site to an investors' group, De Zavala — descendant of Lorenzo de Zavala, vice president of the first government of independent Texas — "barricaded herself in the Long Barrack building to protest its being rented," says Jennings. There she remained for three days, while the story became national news.

Public hearings in December 1911

— concluding the day Schmeltzer died — resolved in De Zavala's favor, and the convento walls were preserved.

Schmeltzer died at home at 517 Water St., a house with elaborate wooden decorations that was demolished for HemisFair '68. He was buried in Alamo Masonic Cemetery, fitting for someone whose onetime business premises had been the site in 1847 of the founding of San Antonio's first Masonic lodge.

The Alamo National Bank also made some emblematic moves, from organizational meetings at the Hugo and Schmeltzer building in 1890 to an adobe building on Commerce Street, then the Kampmann Building and the building on Commerce and Presa — the five-story structure moved about 20 feet to accommodate a 1910s street-widening project. In 1930, the bank moved to Commerce and St. Mary's streets. Mergers and acquisitions have resulted in name changes — Mbank Alamo in 1985, BankOne Alamo in the early 1990s and, most recently, Chase.

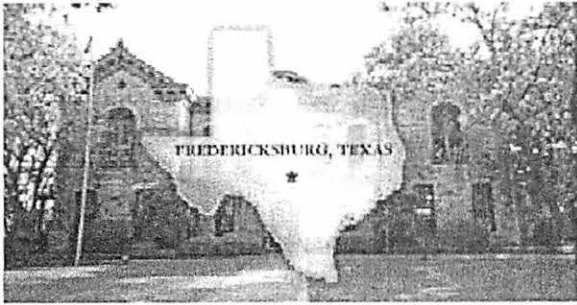
The convento building, meanwhile, has become a key part of the Alamo compound, housing the Long Barrack museum.

from THIS WEEK IN GERMANY submitted by Theresa Gold

German heritage Texas style: Fredericksburg

Fredericksburg, Texas, as well has pride in German heritage that speaks loudly through its website, which greets visitors with a boisterous "Willkommen!" It holds true to its unofficial motto: blending German heritage and Texan hospitality for over 150 years.

Fredericksburg, the county seat of Gillespie County, was founded in 1846 by a small group of settlers on a patch of land surveyed by Prince Karl of New Braunfels. The town was one of a projected series of German settlements from the Texas coast to the land north of the Llano River, which was the ultimate destination of the German immigrants sent to Texas by the Adelsverein, a group of German nobility. The city was named Fredericksburg after Prince Frederick of Prussia, an influential member of the Adelsverein.



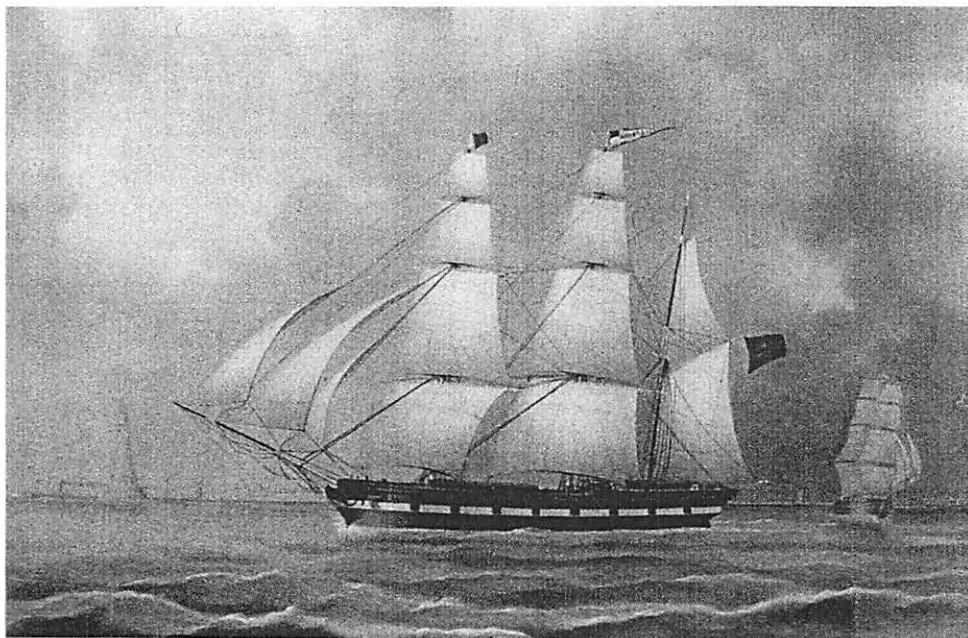
Each settler of the town received a lot and ten acres of farmland nearby. The town was laid out like the German villages along the Rhine, from which many of the colonists had come, with one

long, wide Main Street that ran along Town Creek. The earliest houses in Fredericksburg were built in a humble manner, of post oak logs stuck upright in the ground. These were soon replaced by Fachwerkhäuser, built of upright timbers with the spaces between filled with rocks and then plastered or whitewashed.

The bitter experience of the Civil War did nothing but bolster the traditional German determination not to get involved in state and national affairs, which in turn solidified the German community over time. The Germans tried to maintain their independence by steadfastly refusing to learn or use English, an isolationist move that they gave up by 1900.

DUDERSTADTS GATHER FOR FAMILY REUNION

Some 50 Duderstadt relatives met at the Fellowship Hall of St. Paul Lutheran on July 16, 2006, for their 25th biennial reunion. These are descendants of the immigrant brothers, Andreas and Fredrich Duderstadt, who reached Indianola, Texas, in December, 1854, after a two month's voyage from Germany on the bark, AMMERLAND.



This photograph of the AMMERLAND is from an oil painting by Carl Justus Harmen Fedeler. The Ammerland was a bark, flying the Oldenberg flag. Home port: Brake (on the Weser River, in the State of Oldenberg). She called on Galveston at least 3 times: 8/20/1851 - arriving 10/28/1851 with 196 passengers; 10/10/1854 (under Captain Gutkese) arriving 12/12/1854 with the Duderstadts on board; and 01/24/1857 arriving 3/14/1857. Prints were available.

Floral arrangements marked with "25" and another with "SMILE" greeted everyone. Bright yellow canna blooms and purple passion flowers were table centerpieces....a WILLKOMMEN sign welcomed all.

Sid Duderstadt, President, welcomed everyone and introduced Wilmer Duderstadt of San Antonio who gave the table prayer.

After the sumptuous covered dish meal, Ron Randolph, a family member and a photographer from Corpus Christi, Texas, took pictures of the group and also distributed photos of the 2004 Reunion, which he very generously donated.



Led by Frances Hartmann, Secretary, the group recited the Pledge of Allegiance and sang "God Bless America". Jean Striedel, vice-president, read the list of family births, deaths and marriages since the 2004 reunion. In memory of the deceased relatives, all sang "You have come down to the Lakeshore." Greetings from relatives unable to attend came from Fred Holmes, Worth Duderstadt, Winston Bode and Pauline Lynn.

Door prizes of Smiling Face pencils were won by Mrs. Lem Duderstadt, Elaine Nichols, Pete Duderstadt, Rick Scheppan, Dave Petersen, Ruth Bettge, Lisa Kincart, Jay Deason and Kathy Tharp.

The oldest lady present was Helen Orr (98), San Antonio, and the oldest man was Wilmer Duderstadt (86). The youngest child was Frances Hartmann's great-grandson, Aaron Druilhet, of Ansbach, Germany. With Aaron were his mother and grandparents, Kurt and Ethel Hartmann, making a four generation family. Margie and Merton Ideus, Meyersville, Texas, received the award for the couple married the longest, being 55 years, and the most recent newlyweds were Culver and Elaine Duderstadt, 5 years, from Austin, Texas.

Those traveling the farthest included Dorothy Duderstadt and Gloria Tenguma, Raymondville, and Joy Bailey and Ruth Brady, Houston.

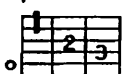
Members of the Albert Duderstadt family sang a 70-year old favorite German folksong : "Tief im Bohmerwald" - Text: Maximilian Schmidt in der Erzählung "Am goldenen Steig", 1893; Music: Hans Bicheri, 1896: *(see below and following page)*

In the short business session, the following were elected as Officers: President: Marjorie Ideus, Meyersville; Vice-President: Darwin Duderstadt; Jean Striedel, Treasurer, and Frances Hartmann, Secretary. The next reunion is to be held at this same place on July 20, 2008.


The meeting was adjourned and the reunion ended with all singing "God Be With You".

Tief im Böhmerwald


F



C7



Empfindsam



1. Dort, tief im Böh - mer-wald, da liegt mein
 Hei - mat-ort, es ist gar lang schon her, daß ich von
 dort bin fort. Doch die Er - in - ne-rung, die bleibt mir
 stets ge-wiß, daß ich den Böh - merwald gar nie ver-
 giß. Das war im Böh - mer-wald, wo mei - ne
 Wie - ge stand, im schö - nen, grü - nen

F C7

Böh - mer-wald, es war im Böh - mer-wald, wo mei - ne

F C7 F

Wie - ge stand, im schö - nen, grü - nen Wald.

2. O holde Kinderzeit, noch einmal kehr zurück,
wo spielend ich genoß das allerhöchste Glück,
wo ich am Vaterhaus auf grüner Wiese stand
und weithin schaute auf mein Vaterland.
Es war im Böhmerwald . . .
3. Nur einmal noch, o Herr, laß mich die Heimat sehn,
den schönen Böhmerwald, die Täler und die Höhn,
dann kehr ich gern zurück und rufe freudig aus:
Behüt dich Böhmerwald, ich bleib zu Haus!
Es war im Böhmerwald . . .



GERMAN FOLKSONG "DEEP IN BOHEMIA'S FOREST LAND"
English translation submitted by Frances Hartman & Carolyn Petersen

Verse 1

There in Bohemia's wooded lands
Is where my old home town stands.
Even though it's many a day
Since I did move away,
Still many fond memories,
They stay with me yet.
That dear Bohemia land I can't forget.

Chorus

It was in Bohemia's wooded land
Where my cradle once did stand,
In green and luscious Bohemia land.
It was in Bohemia's wooded land
Where my cradle once did stand,
In Bohemia's wooded land.

Verse 2

O joyful childhood days!
O do return once more.
Where playfully I explored
The highest joys of all.
There at my Father's home,
Green meadows all around,
I joyously viewed it afar ---
My own dear Fatherland.

Verse 3

Just one more time dear Lord
Let me view once again
This beautiful Bohemia land,
The mountains and the plains.
Then I'll joyfully call all day
Be careful Bohemia land,
I'm here to stay.

GENEALOGY INQUIRIES
by 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: crootrot@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.

RAAB-BOECKER-KOEHLER

Joan Raab Boecker, 4134 W. FM 485, Cameron, TX 76520, cwboecker@hotmail.net
According to census, the Raab's came from Bohemia. My grandmother Raab came from Moravia, but I can't find anything about grandpa Raab.

Reply: You did not say which census, nor a first name for "grandpa Raab". Which census did you find him on and where? When did he die and where? I need more information to be helpful.

SCHUELKE-LALA

David Schuelke, 14923 Windmill Cove, Cypress, TX 77429, dschu@houston.rr.com
Is looking for a history of the Schuelke family, and information on his grandfather, Adolf Schuelke.

BECKER

Barbara Becker Bailey, 401 Metairie Rd. #107, Metairie, LA 70005, bbbailey@cox.net
Looking for kin of Pierre Becker, port of entry-New Orleans, LA early 1800's.

DUGLER-BLACK

Mack Black, e-mail: BLACKMtn@aol.com, is trying to find parents of Mary H. Duglar, born 7 Nov. 1890 Texas, died 16 Feb. 1979 CT. She married a soldier, Edward F. Black. Looking for marriage record.

Reply: I found a Mary Dugler on the 1900 Census of San Antonio, Bexar County. This Mary is the right age to be the one you are looking for. Mary age 9 is listed as the daughter of John age 41, Julia age 31, siblings: Paulina 13, and Charles 10. This is page 1B, ED #81, Ward 2. I will check for marriage in Bexar Co. for you.

STEINBACH-NIENSTEDT-RUDLOFF-WEBER

Judy Steinbach, 303 Starlight Circle, CO 81130, judysteinbach@yahoo.com
Is looking for immigrant ship documents for her ancestors who emigrated from Kurs, Prussia; Cassell, Hessen; Westphalen and Mecklenberg.

Reply: You need to determine the year of immigration. The year of immigration question was asked on the 1900,1910,1920,1930 censuses. If before 1900, check the Index to Texas Naturalizations which is on microfilm. This film is available on interlibrary loan from the Texas State Library and Archives. It is arranged by county,

then alphabetically by surname. Once you have the year of arrival, you can look for passenger list, picture of ship, etc.

.HASSELMIER

Jean Brown, tjbaus@sbcglobal.net

Has just started researching the Hasselmier family from Germany. Charles F. Hasselmier died August, 1954.

Reply: I would obtain a death certificate for Charles F. Hasselmier. If completed correctly, it will give you the names and place of birth of his parents. You start with what you know and work back. Since you do not have a common name, it is always fun to see how many and where the Hasselmiers live in present day Germany. You can find German phone books online by doing a google search.

BOLLENDORF

Robert H. Cawood, 8026 Garden North Dr., Garden Ridge, TX 78266, rcawood@satx.rr.com, would like to find Brigadier Aloys Bollendorf who living as of 15 Jan. 1856. Brigadier Bollendorf and his parents were living in Koblenz, Rhine River area at one time, and Brigadier Bollendorf was stationed with the German military in Morocco.

Reply: I have been told it is not very easy to locate someone in the German military as these records are considered private. I have not been able to find a Veterans Administration as such in Germany. I did check the phone book for Koblenz for a listing Bollendorf. One listing was found, a Klaus Bollendorf. I would write him as he may be your best bet for information.

Are there any GTHS members who can assist Mr. Cawood?

DUDERSTADT-MECKE

Edward P. Staley, 1101 Harding Avenue, Muscle Shoals, AL 35661-2500, MARPATSTA@comcast.net, saw the "Duderstadt" Family Reunion mentioned in the Summer "Journal". He has traced his Mecke ancestors to the town of Rudershausen, Hannover, Duderstadt, Prussia. Edward said he understood that Duderstadt was the name of the town, meaning "what shall we name this town". Is this town named for this family?

SCHNEIDER-STOLTER-STOLTE

Mike Schneider, 808 Abbie Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566-7502, mike.schneider@ngc.com, would like to correspond with anyone researching Balthaser Schneider, born 1822, died 1907, buried New Braunfels city cemetery. On the 1900 census of Guadalupe Co. Balthaser was living with his daughter and son-in-law, Henry & Rosine Stolter (Stolte in 1880 census). Is this the Balthaser Schneider baptized 13 Jan. 1822 in Weglesheim, Germany?

NOTICE OF MEETING

THE BURNET COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, 100 EAST WASHINGTON STREET IN BURNET, TEXAS, IS HOSTING A SEMINAR ON OCTOBER 7, 2006, FROM 9 A.M. TO 4 P.M. FEATURED SPEAKERS WILL BE BILL BUCKNER ("Beginning Genealogy"), GERRON HITE ("Cemetery Preservation"), KEN FETTE ("LDS Research Tools & Personal Ancestral File (PAF) Program), AND ELIZABETH "LIZ" NITSCHKE HICKS, G.T.H.S. EDITOR ("Using the Clayton Library for Genealogical Research & Little Known Sources for Genealogical Research")

FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT MRS. DONNA PALKOWSKY BY PHONE AT (830) 693-6818 OR BY E-MAIL AT genealogy@281.com (be sure to put "Gen. Seminar" in the subject line of your e-mail message)

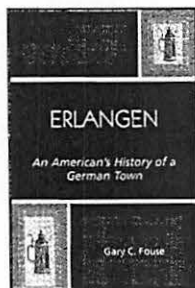
**SEND YOUR GENEALOGY INQUIRIES
OR RESPONSES TO INQUIRIES BY OTHER GTHS MEMBERS
OR ANY QUESTION YOU HAVE ABOUT FAMILY HISTORY
TO
OUR G.T.H.S. GENEALOGY EDITOR**

**LIZ HICKS
746 EDGEBROOK DRIVE
HOUSTON, TX 77034-2030
E-MAIL erootrot@usa.net**

Erlangen

An American's History of a German Town

By Gary C. Fouse



April 2005, 408 pages
ISBN 0-7618-3024-3
\$55.00 paper

This work is a historiography of the German town of Erlangen, which lies approximately 20 kilometers north of Nuremberg in the Franconian region of Bavaria. With a current population of just over 100,000, the city is primarily noted for its university, founded in 1743, and as the headquarters of the Siemens Corporation. This work based on the personal accounts of author Gary Fouse, who spent three years as a U.S. military policeman in Erlangen, and historical research explores the life of a town and how it has been impacted by history.

Beginning with Erlangen's origin in 1002, Fouse describes the city during important events in German history including the Reformation, the Thirty Years War, the Napoleonic Wars, the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1871, the two world wars, and post-World War II recovery. Fouse delves into the life of the city under the rule of the House of Hohenzollern, the arrival in 1686 of French Huguenot refugees, the founding of the university, and the history of Erlangen's Jewish community. Also detailed is the history of the U.S. Army in Erlangen from 1945 to 1994. The author's personal accounts provide an interesting look into the lives of the Americans, both inside and outside the caserne.

Gary C. Fouse is Adjunct Lecturer in English as a Second Language (ESL) at the University of California at Irvine.

**BOOK OF POSSIBLE
INTEREST TO GTHS
MEMBERS WHOSE
ANCESTORS CAME
FROM ERLANGEN
OR BAVARIA**

Published University Press of America Inc. (online at www.univpress.com)

SPILL (SPIEL) REUNION
 by Joyce Spill Gosh
 submitted by Rudolph Wallace

Descendants of August and Rosa Falser (Spiel) Spill, pioneer settlers of Runnels County, Texas, held their family reunion on Saturday, July 29, 2006 in San Antonio, TX at the Geromino Village Fire House Hall with 122 members present.

August (born 1840 in Westphalia, Germany, a stone mason), and Rosa Falser (born 1849) were married in Germany in 1869. They had two sons, Joseph and August Jr., in Germany before they came to America in the early 1870's for a better life. They settled in the South Texas city of Seguin as farmers. They had four children before moving to San Antonio. In 1888 the family joined the Ambrecht wagon train to Runnels County and purchased 400 acres of somewhat open range land. Two years later, the town of Winters was established and about half of their land was in the corporate limits of Winters. August and Rosa became prominent catholic pioneers, active in farming, furniture, and other various successful businesses. In the Friday, January 11, 1929 issue of *The Winters Enterprise* at the death of Rosa, it was printed "Mrs. Spill was . . . a good woman and a sacrificing mother. It was people like Mrs. Spill and her deceased husband who are responsible for the civilization we of today enjoy, they having blazed the way in pioneer days." Grandmother Spill, affectionately called by family and friends, died at the home of her son, Ben, on January 10, 1929, after a few days influenza attack.

The Spill Reunion is held every other year and had members this year from California, New Mexico, Colorado, and various parts of Texas. Michael and Nancy Spill Phillips hosted the event which honored 12 deceased members in a Memorial Service and devotional led by Al and Virginia Spill Flathmann. The Ohlman Singers (Mary Flathmann Ohlman, Vaughn and 6 children) entertained with several songs.

Lunch was catered but members brought their favorite desserts for all to enjoy. Other activities included a silent auction, picture taking, visiting, and enjoying scrapbooks of family photos and history, and a family tree prepared by Michael Phillips.

Rose Marie Spill Pape Michel, 90 years old, was the only living grandchild in attendance. She lives in San Antonio, TX.

The 2008 Reunion will be hosted by Mrs. Dorothy Afflerbach Ferrel in San Antonio.

Munke And Laux Oeding Reunion Held

The 2006 annual reunion of the Christian Munke/Margareta Laux Munke/Oeding family was held July 16 at the Swiss Alp Farm Bureau Hall. The John Munke branch, the host family, was assisted by Leo and Barbara Wick.

More than 60 members and guests attended. They came from Arlington, Austin, Brenham, Cedar Creek, Columbus, Cypress, Fayetteville, Friendswood, Houston, Katy, La Grange, Oakwood, Schulenburg, Sheridan, Spring, and Weimar.

Attendance awards were presented to Herbert Munke of Arlington for traveling the farthest, Clement and Dorothy

Wind for having been married the longest, Nancy and Chad Otto for being married most recently, Martha Botter was oldest member present, and Michael Koeth, the youngest.

Several members who are working on family histories brought old family pictures. One set of four framed and dated photos included one of Judith Katharina Fietzsch who was born in 1797.

A silent auction of more than 25 items included bags of oatmeal and chocolate cookies, two lbs. of shallots, a pair of Balmain mugs, chiffon scarves, a custom-made shoe shine, cran- plum jelly, pickled beets, three western hand-knitted wooden

wall plaques, and a Christmas lotion dispenser. The white elephant exchange included more than 35 items such as a jar of buttons, a picture frame, a dancing frog, white and yellow doilies, garden gloves, and a book light.

Christine Wied of Katy guessed closest to the number of mini pretzels in a jar.

The noon meal consisted of fried chicken, many casseroles and salads, and an assortment of desserts. Tea and coffee were enjoyed throughout the meeting.

The John Munke branch of the family will host 2007 reunion on the third Sunday of July 15 at the Swiss Alp Farm Bureau Hall.

THE FAYETTE COUNTY RECORD, Tuesday, August 1, 2006, Page 5,

submitted by Rodney Koenig

Blasmusik Texas Coming To Round Top

from the Fayette County Record

submitted by Rodney Koenig

Blasmusik Texas, the Texas All State German Band, will perform its annual concert at the Round Top Rifle Association Hall in Round Top on Saturday, Aug. 5. The concert will commence at 6:30 p.m. Admission

to the concert is free. A German style meal of sausage, sauerkraut, German potatoes and the trimmings will be available starting at 5 p.m. A cash bar will be available.

Blasmusik Texas is a volun-

ter band comprised of professional and accomplished amateur musicians from throughout the State of Texas. The band's repertoire is music from Germany, the Czech Republic, Austria, and the Alsace of France. Included are marches, polkas, waltzes and traditional "volksmusik." The 45-piece German instrumentation band meets several weekends a year to rehearse and perform for German-Texan events, having recently performed for the 160th Anniversary of the founding of

Friedensburg in May of this year. The band is directed by Herbert Bilhartz. Local musicians performing with the band are Michael Reznick, Jr. on Trombone, Dalton Harbert on Trumpet, and Romy Sack on French Horn.

All are invited to experience the authentic sounds of this outstanding band. Come early to ensure good seating. For further information call Romy Sack at 979-249-3117 or Beth Sack at 979-249-3117.

50th Eichler Family Reunion

The descendants of the Eichler family immigrants aboard the *Good Ship Eugenie* met for their 50th annual reunion on June 4, 2006 at the La Bahia Türn Verein between Carmine and Burton, Texas. One hundred eleven souls ranging in age from 88 years to 4 months were in attendance at the reunion: 89 adult family members, 20 teenagers and children, and 2 guests. They came from all over Texas as well as Arkansas, Colorado, and Virginia.

A catered meal of barbecued chicken and sausage with traditional sides was served at noon. Family members brought desserts to share. A family meeting was held after the meal. When not engaged in those group activities or visiting, attendees participated in the lively bidding for silent auction articles ranging from garden-fresh vegetables to handmade or purchased items to commemorative WWII medallions. The memorabilia table was especially popular this year arranged around a map of Germany with the Eichler's ancestral village of Staffelde highlighted.

Other items of interest included a large map of the United States with map pins representing current residences of all known descendants as well as box chart posters of the first generations of Eichlers in Texas. A plaque in tribute to family members who are serving and who have served the the United States Armed Forces was displayed in a prominent position next to a United States Flag. Through the years 58 of our own are known to have served. Seven descendants and/or spouses of descendants are still on active duty; there are 51 veterans, of which 34 four are deceased. A project has been started to assure all family veterans are identified. Roy Eichler, himself a veteran, will head this project.

Reunion president, Eugene Muehlbrad, opened the meeting by asking Roy Eichler to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Births and deaths since the last reunion were enumerated by the family historian, Carol Hackemack Harper, who asked that our deceased veterans be remembered in the silent tribute along with those who died during the past year.

A special certificate of appreciation was presented posthumously to Martin Eichler and accepted by his children, Lucille Eichler Miller and Dr. Elwood (Woody) Eichler for his leadership in organizing the first reunions. Other

certificates accompanied by gold dollar coins were awarded as follows: oldest direct descendant - Alberta Otto, 88, of Austin; youngest descendent - Emerson Ann Eichler, 4 months, of Austin (daughter of David and Shera Eichler); oldest man present - Burney Kieke of Wallis; oldest woman - Alberta Otto of Austin; person traveling farthest to attend the reunion - Roy Eichler from Fairfax Station, Virginia; couple married the longest - Nevilee and Clinton Marburger of Burton, 58 years; couple married the shortest time - David and Shera Eichler of Austin, 4 years.

The current reunion officers were re-elected: Eugene Muehlbrad, president; Carol Hackemack Harper, vice-president; Charles Beettner, treasurer; Donna Hackemack Bryant, secretary. Centerpieces with silk Texas bluebonnets and Indian paintbrushes, Texas and German flags, and a miniature 50th Reunion plaque were awarded as door prizes.

Handouts available during the day included updates to the 2001 Eichler History books and a brief outline of the Eichler immigrants. This contained some new information gathered since last reunion about the family of Wilhelmine Eichler Feindt. The first Eichler history published in 1968 stated information for that branch of the family was not available. What was known was that Auguste Köhler Eichler along with her children Herrmann, Wilhelmine, and Ottilie arrived to set up farming in the La Bahia community June 19, 1969. Herrmann and Wilhelmine had young families as well. More recent research had uncovered an 1880 Bell County and a 1900 Washington County Census with Feindt information.

In the spring of 2006, a breakthrough in research uncovered a great granddaughter of Wilhelmine living in Amarillo. She verified findings made to date that the family had been in Bell County and then back in Washington County before making a move to Sterling County in west Texas. The family name was changed from Feindt to Findt sometime around 1910. Other descendants who have been contacted live in Aransas Pass and in the states of Arkansas, California, and Washington.

With all branches of the family who immigrated to Texas now located, the search will go back to Sachsen (Saxony) in Germany looking for more information on Johann Gottlieb Eichler, his father Gottfried, and

Henry Pfluger Reunion, July 4, 2006
Pflugerville, Texas
Kent L. Bohls

This prayer and sharing was done at the 72nd reunion of the Henry Pfluger Sr. Family held on the 4th of July in Pfluger Hall, Pflugerville, Texas by Pastor Kent Bohls, great-great-great grandson of Henry Pfluger. The sharing was for the "Circle of Life" Remembrance time as the names are read of those who have died since the last reunion. In 2006, 27 names were read. 224 were present for the 2006 reunion. There was a catered barbecue meal, singing of patriotic and faith anthems, a children's program, along with family displays and a reunion store with caps, mugs, t-shirts, family history books and a 2007 calendar of Pflugerville sites. The oldest in attendance was 95, and relatives came from as far away as California, Washington D.C. and Belize. Two antique quilts were also auctioned.

Thank you Holy God for the gift of family heritage and now we ask that you bless our time together today!

Thank you Holy God for the wisdom brought by gray and thinning hair.

Thank you Holy God for the sights and sounds of the infants and the young in our midst.

Thank you Holy God, for the gentle healing of rain, and the gentle touch of time together with friends and relatives.

Thank you Holy God, for the courage of those willing to cross an ocean and come to this land we now call home.

Thank you Holy God for the joy of being connected to one another in family and in faith. Bless the bounty of this meal! Bless the bounty of our lives lived in this rich land, and open our hearts to be generous stewards of the earth and all that we have and all that we do in your Holy name. Amen!

+++++

Growing up as a part of the heritage of this great family of traditions, I knew what to expect in my home, and in the home of my grandparents on Christmas. There was always food enough for a feast; there family gathered together; there was a decorated Christmas tree and gifts beneath, and finally there was the story that had to be read or told year after year. The story of a man and a woman who traveled together under stress to a far away town and there, their son was born in humble conditions. It could not be Christmas without the faith story that knit us together. The story bonds us and touches our hearts. And in our faith tradition, we sing "I Love To Tell The Story"!

The Jewish people of the Hebrew Bible celebrate Passover and as they do in their homes, the words of the story enable them to become as actual participants in that story of the escape from Egypt, "*when we were brought out of Egypt*".

The story is of long ago past, but the story is present in us, and so it is important that the story be told, and retold, heard and reheard again and again. Whether the story is of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus to Bethlehem or Moses and the people of God leaving Egypt, or

our family story of **Henry and Anna Christina Pfluger** from Germany to Texas, the story really must be told. The family has known for a long time, that storytelling was important so they gathered here in Pflugerville July 12, 1934 at the request of the last surviving child of Henry. For every year since, except for 1945 when gas rations meant staying close to home, the reunions and storytelling continue.

Henry Pfluger was the 9th child of Anna and Johannes, born in Altenhasungen, Hessen, Germany, and baptized there. He married **Anna Catharine Liese** and lived in the town where he was born, and together they had 6 children. Anna died in the mid 1840's and about that time, Henry lost an eye to smallpox. Henry married again to **Anna Christina Kleinschmidt**; they had six children, with one dying as an infant.

Two sons, **George** and **Conrad** came to Texas in 1849 by sailing ship and the rest of the family followed the following year arriving in Galveston in January, 1850. The trip took 13 weeks onboard the sailing ship, and two weeks by oxcart from Galveston to Austin. Henry paid his passage for his large family and arrived with \$1600 in his personal bag beneath his clothes. Three years later Henry bought a farm and moved to Wilbarger Creek when there was no Pflugerville, only prairie, grasslands, Indians, buffalo, and home was a simple log structure far from home of Hesse, Germany.

The Henry Pfluger family has left its mark on this community, our state and the nation. Patriotism ran deep and faith roots even deeper. Many of the family members are noted as the original founders of Immanuel Lutheran congregation, Pflugerville. Many have served in the various wars of the country from the Mexican American War, Civil War, World Wars I and II, Korea, Viet Nam and the Gulf Wars.

It is the annual tradition to remember those who have died in each of the different families since the last reunion. They were recognized as families stood and each name was read out loud. 27 were remembered at the 2006 reunion.

Conrad was the eldest child of Henry, born in 1830. He crossed the Atlantic at age 19 with a younger brother, and later married a young Swiss woman, Anna Wutrich. He hauled freight and supplies for the Confederacy during the Civil War. A prize possession of his was a suit his wife created; she spun, wove and dyed the wool in tree bark before sewing the suit. They had 7 children.

Catherine, the oldest daughter was born 1832, and married William Bohls in 1852. We have the amnesty papers William signed at the conclusion of the Civil War. A year before their 10th child was born, they donated 5 acres of land to begin Immanuel Lutheran congregation.

George, born in 1834, was only 14 when he ventured out with his older brother, Conrad to come to Texas. A freight hauler during the Civil War, he married Dorothea Sternberg, and after her death at age 26, he married Louisa Lange; he fathered 12 children. He lived his lifetime in his first log house. His wife donated the bell for the church which tolled for funerals, one toll for each year of life.

Marie was born in Germany in 1837, and married Frederick Franz Schmidt in 1861. They had 9 children and donated land for a school near Richland where a congregation was also organized. She wore a black dress made by a close friend for her 50th wedding anniversary.

Ludwig was born in 1840 and served in the Confederate Army with Captain James A. Thompson's Calvary. He was married in Brenham to Fredericka Plattow in a double ceremony with his brother George. They raised 10 children. At Christmas, Fredericka gave silver dollars to their children: small children received 1, teenagers, 5 and married children 10. Many families followed this gift tradition.

William was born in 1842; at 16 he hauled freight between Galveston and Brenham and joined Ludwig in the Civil War Calvary. He married Franziska Sternberg and they had 6 children. In 1871 he bought a farm north of Pflugerville for \$7 acre. William and George built the first cotton gin in the area. "*Uncle Bill*" was responsible for many of the buildings in early Pflugerville, and for having stick candy to share with the children.

Henry, Jr. was born in 1847 and married Wilhelmine Henze in 1867; they had 10 children; he farmed, ginned and operated with Henry Bohls the first steam thrasher in the area.

John was born in 1851, the first child to be born in Texas and he was the first to be married in Immanuel Lutheran in 1875 to Wilhelmine Sakowitz. They walked to the church from Conrad's home, and they had 11 children.

Charley was born 1853 and married Mary Bernhard in 1876. He was the last surviving child of Henry and Anna. Charley was a pioneer himself and he headed west in a covered wagon from Pflugerville and moved to a log house near Priddy, Texas. He rode the waves of the cattle business and lived his life in West Texas. They had 7 children.

August was born in 1855, the youngest son and on July 4, 1869 his horse stumbled and fell in a hole while driving cattle; his right arm was amputated as a result of the fall. Even at that he was a champion roper and continued in the livestock business; later was kicked by his favorite horse and died within three days.

Elizabeth was born in 1861 and married August Braker. She was the youngest child, but feared nothing. At the age of 8 she rode her pony to the grist mill at Rice's Crossing to carry corn to be ground into corn meal. She and her husband were buying furniture in Round Rock the day Sam Bass was killed there. They had 9 children.

Henry Pfluger and his extended family, came to this part of the United States and Texas to raise their families, find their dreams, build their future, and live their faith.

We are all blessed to share in this heritage, giving us a connection to the land and to the past. We know who we are because we have knowledge of where we have come from.

We come today to acknowledge and thank those on whose shoulders we stand, who passed on their genes, their culture, their wisdom, and their faith in God.

May we continue the joy of telling the story far into the future, passing on our great family heritage. The 2006 Pfluger Family t-shirts that **Rodney Bohls** has created say, "Keeping the Heritage Alive!" That is now our opportunity, as we continue to tell the story.

Submitted by Kent L. Bohls

Georgia O'Keeffe Slept Here

(Pt. 3)

by Anne Stewart



GEORGIA O'KEEFFE photo from Le Mirage Year Book—1917, West Texas State Normal College, Canyon, Texas. Courtesy of Sidneye Johnson, Special Collections Librarian, West Texas State University, Canyon.

In case you are wondering how you missed parts 1 and 2 of the Georgia O'Keeffe saga, it is because this research began in 1979: at a party, in the courtyard, at the Comfort Common.

The CHF was hosting a party (courtesy of Bob and Diane Potter) and we were all sitting about, drinking cold, frosty punch on a hot summer

evening. The conversation wandered around to someone asking Esther Wiedenfeld and me how we chose the topics that we researched and wrote about.

"Happenstance", we answered. "Mostly someone asks us a question for which we have no answer and we look into it."

"Why don't you write about Georgia O'Keeffe in Waring?" said Fanny Chamberlain and her sister, Helen Martin, agreed, "Good idea." The answer here was easy: we had no idea the famous artist ever was in Waring!!!

"Oh, yes, during World War II" and that is all the two women could tell us.

What was Georgia O'Keeffe doing in that small Texas town? Where did she live? Did she paint anything while staying there? How long did she stay? Why did she come? Where did she even learn about Waring? We asked everyone. No answers, BUT everyone could tell us where she spent the night on her sojourn to the hill country.

That proved the easy part. She stayed with a friend. She stayed with a student of hers from Canyon. She stayed at Aunt Lizzie Zoeller's boarding house. She stayed at the house at the hill above the depot. She stayed in a small rock house about two miles out of town. She stayed at my aunt's house. She stayed in a house near the train station. Take your pick, whichever you choose, there is no definite,

for sure answer. Not yet anyway.

In 2004, Hunter Drohojowski-Philip wrote **Full Bloom**, a new biography of O'Keeffe. In her 630-page tome, Texas does not even rate an index entry. Careful scrutiny reveals a few pages of O'Keeffe's time in Texas, but little that sheds much light. The only helpful clue is buried in a footnote: "heirs to Oak Ranch" (in Waring).

Is any reader able to direct me to someone who is familiar with this site, this ranch, this former health resort or boarding house? To complete our book on **Georgia O'Keeffe in Texas: Amarillo, Canyon, San Antonio and Waring**, it would be the frosting on the cake to identify where O'Keeffe really did sleep in Waring, Texas.



BOARDING HOUSE

THE HISTORY OF WARING by Eva Blaschke, The Waring Thimble Club's bi-centennial project. Cover art by Sarah Robertson, 1976.

FROM THE COMFORT NEWS



Fröhliche Weihnachten Y'all!

Christmas Markt
Saturday, December 2, 2006
10am to 4pm

Large selection of handcrafted wooden items imported from the Erzgebirge region of Germany, Bavarian Toilework, Blown Glass Ornaments, Embroidered Linens & much, much more...

Live Performances of Traditional German Christmas Music and Songs throughout the day and a Special Visit by St. Nikolaus at 2:30pm.

507 E. 10th St., Austin, Texas
(near Red River St.)

Headquarters of the German-Texan Heritage Society

For details call 512-482-0927 or visit us online at www.GermanTexans.org

German Ingenuity Developed on the Farm

My dad, Alphonse Fey, started his life on the farm. After WW II, however, he followed his true love ... wood-working. Often he needed special tools and so he went to his shop to fabricate what he needed. Pictured is his "stock holder". When cutting a long piece of wood on the table saw or shaping it on the joiner, he needed help to hold the end of the wood as it left the machine. Hence, the home-made stock holder!



Look at the picture of his home-made stock holder. Starting at the bottom, he used the Wheel Rim of an old car. This forms a perfect base and, when the stock holder is tilted, it can be easily rolled to the next needed job-site.

The next piece steadying the upright shaft is the Agitator from our old washing machine! Welded onto the wheel rim, it provides a strong and safe support for the stock rolling off the table saw or joiner.

The thin metal shaft welded into the wash machine agitator is an old Bumper Jack! If it could hold up a car, it certainly could hold up this job, but the main reason for using a jack was to use its notches to "jack-up" the roller on top to the same height as the table saw or joiner which he was using.

The wooden shaft which was clamped into the notches of the car jack and the wooden roller on top were fabricated in his shop. I would like to claim that the roller was from the old washing machine but it was not! He fashioned it on the wood lathe.

Dad probably built this tool in the 1960s. His shop is full of such "jigs" or "helpers" as they were called. He died in 1982. Today I continue to use those same tools. They keep him fresh in my mind and they are "good memories". That shop is my therapy room.

Everett A. Fey – SS Peter & Paul Archives
New Braunfels, Texas

submitted by Connie Krause



Weihnachtsmarkt

**A Christmas Market
to benefit The Sophienburg
Museum and Archives**

**Treat yourself to a shopping extravaganza.
Unique decorations, specialty items, gifts
and antiques. Select from an array of retail
merchants and artisans.**

Friday, November 17 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 18 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 19 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

\$5.00 general admission
 \$8.00 3-day admission
 (Strollers extra)

Visit With Santa
Sophie's Kaffee Haus
 An all-day tearoom serving freshly prepared food.

Raffle
 Featuring great prizes.

Preview Gala

Thursday, November 16, 2006
 Private preview shopping, a delectable buffet,
 and silent auction.
 \$40/person, \$75/couple.
 Reservations required.
 For Reservations call Sophienburg Museum
 830-629-1572

**All events are at the New Braunfels Civic Center
 New Braunfels, Texas**
 For more information, call the Museum at 830-629-1572
 or visit www.nbt.com/sophienburg

**VISIT THE
 G.T.H.S.
 BOOTH
 AT THE
 CHRISTMAS
 MARKET**



German Interest Tours ...update #1

As part of the membership registration form you submitted with your dues this year, you may have checked off one or more interests. The choices on the form you mailed in had areas such as Christmas Market, classes, speaker series, etc. Most of these activities are held each year, and many of you take part in them. The German Interest Tours designation has been on the form for some time and it has been a while since the GTHS has offered these events. We are attempting to revive this tradition and have asked those of you who have already expressed interest for some help.

Those of you who checked off 'German Interest Tours' on your membership form this year may remember receiving a letter in the mail asking you further details on your wishes. I would like to give you a progress report on where I am in planning these and in my findings along the way.

First I would like to say that it has been quite the geography challenge for someone who is relatively new to Texas (forgive me; I got here as fast as I could!). I would like to first apologize to those of you whose feelings I may have inadvertently hurt. In putting this letter together and in reading some of your responses I learned that I neglected to put some key things on the response form. Thank you to all of you who added your name where it was not asked. Also a big 'mea culpa' to the New Braunfels folks. I guess I lumped the area into the Hill Country without realizing the historical impact of the town and the wealth of things to learn about in that area. New Braunfels, while not specifically on the form, is most definitely part of the areas we will need to explore in a tour. Many others provided quite helpful comments or have offered their help in certain cities or regions of our state. Thank you for this helpful guidance. I will be in touch should the information be relevant to our next destination(s).

We are still receiving replies, but as of this Journal deadline some of the results are thus:

*Out of 200 letters sent, 45 have sent in a response (it is not too late!)

*The highest area of interest in the responses received thus far is the Hill Country, followed closely by the Brenham area.

*Many of you generally mentioned wanting to see museums, churches, libraries, city halls, and historical places. Most noted specific locations to see. I, personally, am intrigued to find out what the 'hoo doo' wars were.

Along with the compiling of our results I plan to read much more on the history of Germans in Texas so that I can both learn and be a better facilitator of GTHS tours. I expect that we will have a few more weeks of data compiling to do in order to determine some destinations. I will then be in contact with the various historical societies and chambers of commerce. From this I hope to compile itineraries for day trips. I hope to have some results for you soon. Look for coming articles in the 'Schulhaus Reporter' and in the Winter *Journal*. If you have a computer and get GTHS E-Kurier, check that as well.

Finally, I'd like to recognize Eva, Gerri, Olivia, and others from the weekly Stammtisch. You all helped either in idea germination, compiling or inspiration.

Respectfully,
Karen Morgan

Kristkindmarkt ²³⁷

Sponsored by Beethoven Damenchor

*A Traditional German Christmas Outdoor Market with Hand-Crafted Gifts,
Clothing, Crafts, Jewelry, Floral Arrangements, Decorations, Gingerbread Houses
Pottery, Baskets, Ornaments, Quilts, Quillows and More*

Saturday, December 2, 2006

10 AM - 5 PM

Free Admission



*Come savor and enjoy the German Christmas atmosphere,
foods, beverages, music, entertainment, shopping...the
"Gemuetlichkeit" of the Holiday Season.
A special visit from Nikolaus (Santa Claus) for
children of all ages, from 2-3pm*

Bistro und Konditorei

Erbensuppe (Split Pea Soup)

Bratwurst mit Sauerkraut

Rueben Sandwich

Kaffe und Kuchen

Gluehwein Bier Heisse und Kalte Getraenke

Beethoven Halle und Garten

422 Pereida Street at South Alamo

King William District

San Antonio, TX

For more information or a vendor application, please call

Kay at 210-930-6374

Limited number of vendor spaces available - Please apply soon

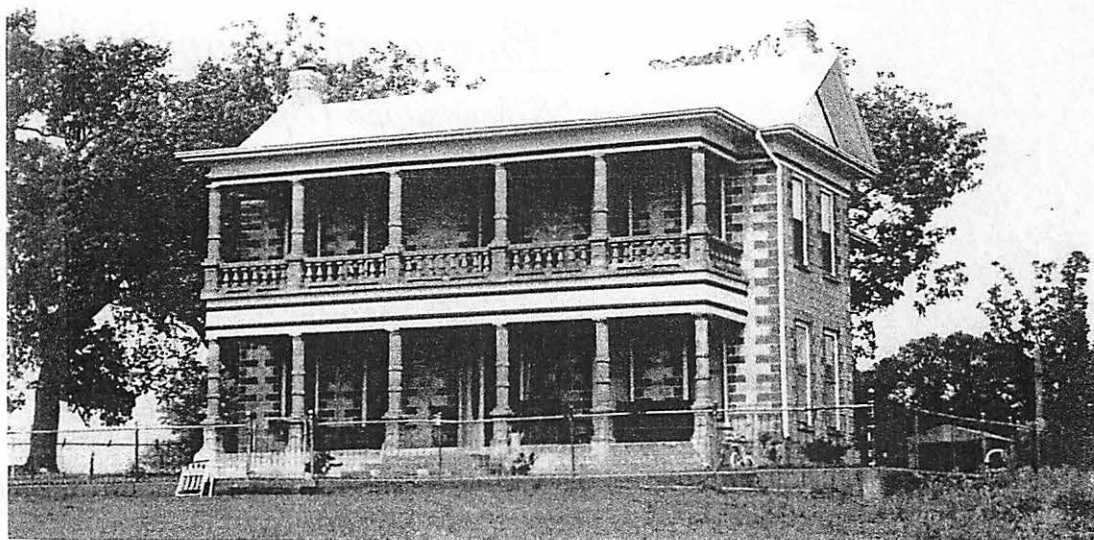
HILDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH by James Feuge

"Oh, come, come, come, come to the church in the wildwood,
the little brown church in the vale."

Hilda United Methodist Church, formerly Beaver Creek Methodist Church, fits this description perfectly. The church is situated on a hillside overlooking the Beaver Creek valley on Loeffler Lane just down the hill from the stately, old Brandenburger mansion. Hilda is a ranching community and there is no longer a post office, once operated by the Schulze family.

Pioneering Germans established the congregation in 1856 and built their first church building in 1862 out of the native reddish-brown sandstone. Descendants of the early families still maintain membership in the church. However, many of the old names have disappeared, because so many girls were born into the families and they married outsiders and brought them in. Now, in the past four years, the congregation has experienced an infusion of new members, who are not related to the early families, some of whom drive as far as 34 miles to go to the Hild church. Yet, the congregation is small in number, having reached 76 members now.

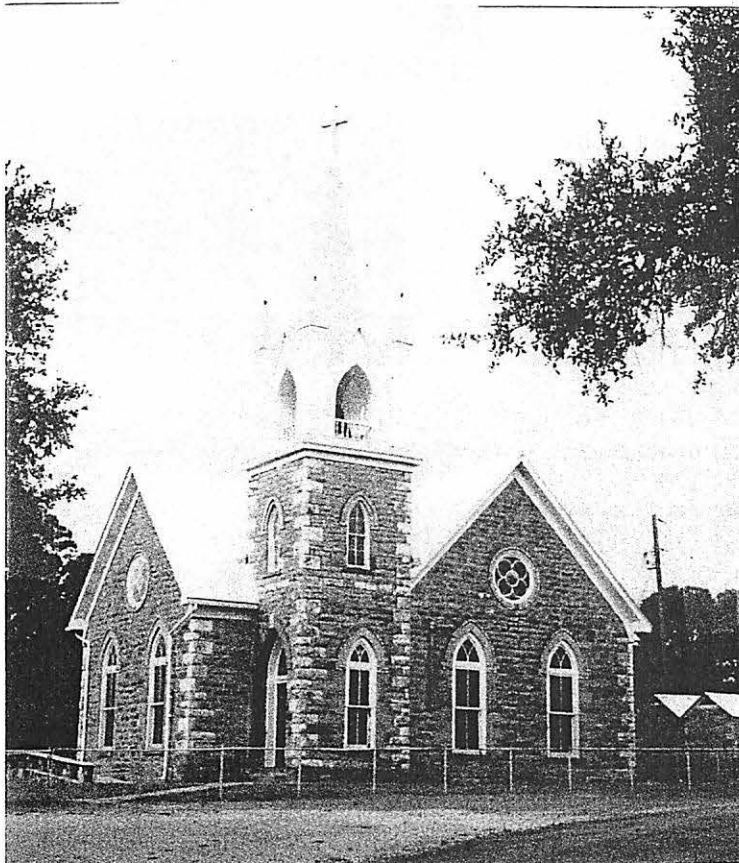
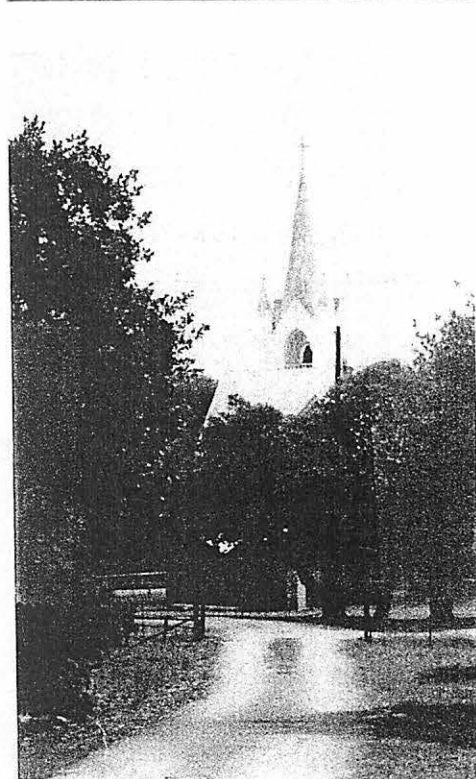
Following are some snapshots of the churchgrounds and buildings with a brief anecdotal caption to communicate the story of what is still there.



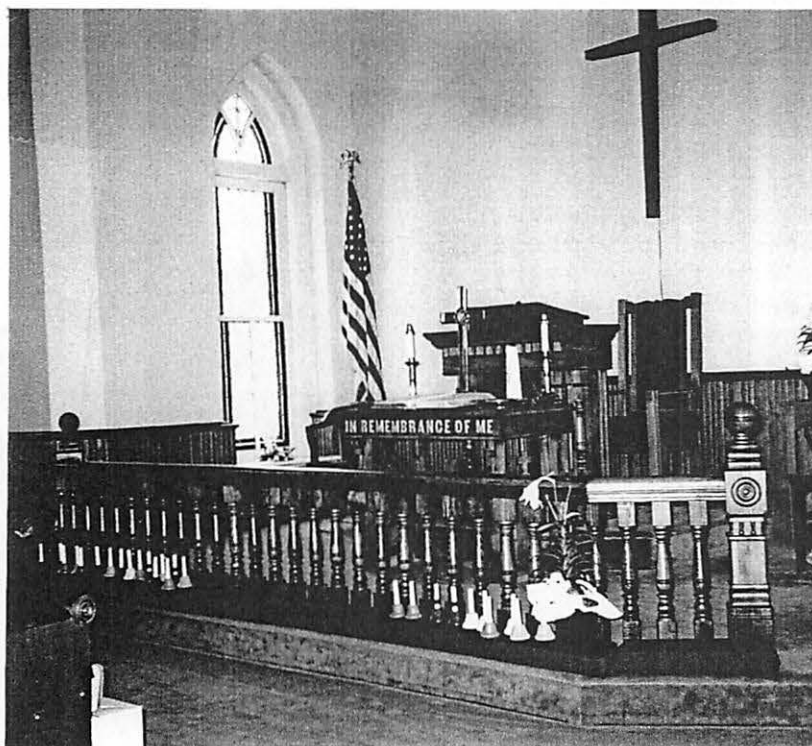
The James Brandenburger mansion, built of hand-hewn red sandstone, on the site of his father Gottlieb Brandenburger's original home, sits in a corner of state highway 783 and Loeffler Lane, atop the hill overlooking the Hilda Church.

This is the view of the Hilda United Methodist Church from the Brandenberger mansion as one looks eastward down Loeffler Lane. The original church site was about 40 acres of land donated by Gottlieb Brandenberger and Fritz Kneese, which included the church grounds, parsonage, cow shed, and pasturage for the preacher, and the cemetery. Three Esshäuser (eating houses) were also built thereon. The size of the church grounds has been reduced to around 12 acres now. Members of the congregation maintain the buildings and the grounds. The parsonage and the Esshäuser now serve as Sunday School and storage facilities.

The site of the Church grounds is at the corner of Ranch Road 783 and Loeffler Lane in Mason County. The site is about 4 miles south on RR 783 from U.S. Highway 87 some 12 miles south of Mason, Texas.



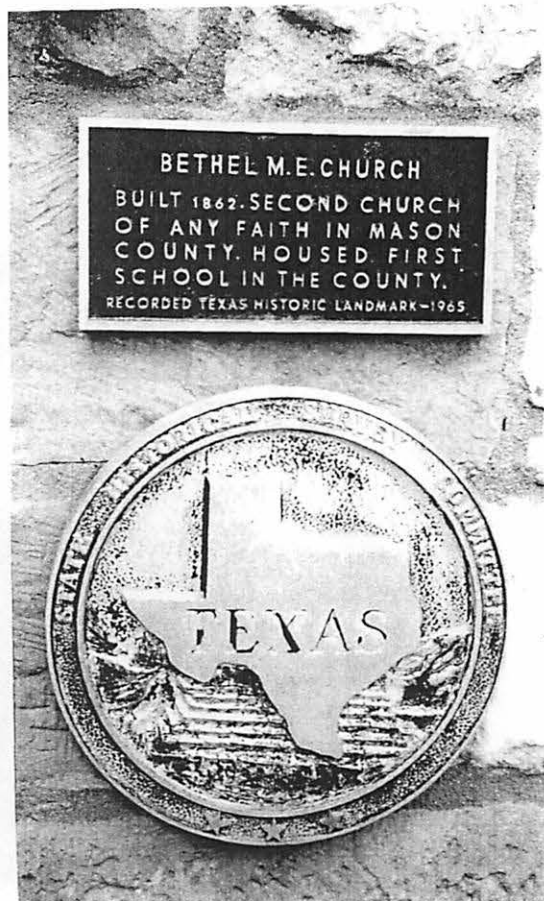
On the left is a view from the east. This is the second church on this site. The 1862 building was torn down to enlarge the structure. The frugal Germans did not waste any rocks and the original hand-hewn rocks were recycled into the new building.

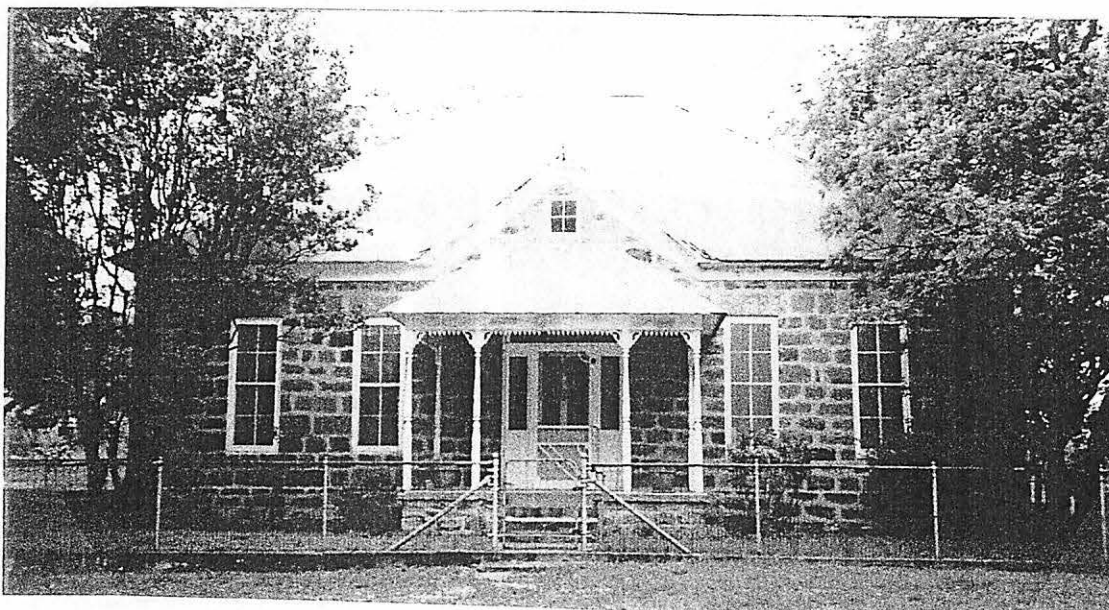


To the left is the simple altar area so appropriate for the no-frills German settlers and now so attractive for those who seek a simple temple for worship with no visual distractants.

At the base of the rear wall and the left side is the view of the beaded wood used in both the wainscoting and the entire ceiling.

At the right is a photo of the historical marker which is placed near the cornerstone face of the church. To the average eye, all is well. But, to the old-timers, there is a clucking of the tongue and a little chuckle. The name of the church was never BETHEL Methodist Church. It was Beaver Creek Methodist Church. The Rev. Buehrer did not like that countrified name, so he went to his friend in the New Braunfels area and had a face for the cornerstone made, which declared it to be the Bethel Church. The Directors were, of course, appalled, but their frugality prevailed--they could not throw it away because it cost too much, so it was placed on the face of the cornerstone. The church was later officially named the Hilda United Methodist Church to reflect its location.





The first parish house was built on the church yard around 1866, and was a small red sandstone structure. The above is a photo of the second parsonage, which was erected in 1899. The first parsonage was disassembled and the stones recycled into the new structure.

This parsonage was last used as a parsonage around 1956. It is now used for Sunday School, United Methodist Woman, church dinners, and committee meetings.



The photo at the left depicts the spring house, which has been restored. This fresh water spring in the hillside provided all the water for the church, the parish house, and the animals. Perhaps an occasional baptism? The spring still flows a bit sluggishly during the long drought, but has not stopped flowing.



The above photo is of the Brandenberger Esshaus. An Esshaus was a small structure in which families gathered for lunch during the days of all day church services, prior to the days of the advent of the automobile in rural communities. The Esshäuser served until the late 1930's, when most of the local congregants had access to an automobile and the preacher lived there, so church could be over at sometime around noon.

Two other Esshäuser still stand, and they are the Geistweidt and Schulze Esshäuser. NOTE: For you non-German literate, essen is a verb in German, meaning "to eat"; Haus is a noun in German, meaning "house". Häuser is the plural form and is "houses" in English.

All of these houses were frame buildings. The brick-faced tin was placed over the frame buildings probably in the 1920's. The Geistweidt Esshaus and the Brandenberger Esshaus are used for Sunday School classes. The Schulze Esshaus was converted into a garage for the preacher's automobile. After the preachers no longer lived in the parish house, the Schulze Esshaus converted to garage became a storage building. It is still a frame structure.

The surrounding areas has large oak trees, both liveoak and post oak, where horses could be tied and pastured and their buggies, wagons, and gigs could be parked in the good old days.



Modern, concrete picnic tables and benches have replaced the deteriorated wooden ones of generations ago. Small family groups, not large enough to construct an Esshaus, ate at rustic tables in the churchyard.

Below is the view of the Kirchhof--churchyard cemetery. It is no longer the direct responsibility of the Hilda United Methodist Church, but is cared for by their cemetery association. The earliest tombstones are in German.



Schulenburg Library Groundbreaking



Many county officials were on hand for groundbreaking ceremony to herald new library facility in Schulenburg.

■ Construction on new library facility expected to start soon

SCHULENBURG - The Schulenburg Library Steering Committee recently held a groundbreaking for the new library scheduled to be built just north of the Stanzel Airport Museum. Over 100 community leaders and other library supporters attended. The site is on property donated to the city by the Stanzel Family Foundation. Thus far, in excess of \$700,000 has been raised toward the funding of this facility and grant applications to a number of major foundations continue to be submitted. The city will continue to move forward with site preparation and acquiring bids for the project.

The library has been designed as a forward-thinking facility where young people can have a place to learn, and the young-at-heart can visit, have access to computers and a chance to socialize in a positive atmosphere. To make a donation, please send a tax-deductible contribution to the Schulenburg Library Foundation, P. O. Box 397, Schulenburg, Tx. 78956.

FAYETTE COUNTY RECORD FEB. 14, 2006

Protecting Historic Cemeteries

You can find them almost anywhere, if you look. Some are hidden behind shopping centers, tucked in between stretches of roadway or housing developments. Sometimes they are marked with rusted fencing and broken grave markers, often the only evidence they exist at all is markings on an old map. They are Texas historic cemeteries and the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) cemetery preservation programs work to preserve these threatened historic resources.

"We salute Preservation Texas for placing historic Texas cemeteries on its 2006 Texas Most Endangered Places List," said THC Cemetery Program Coordinator Gerron Hite. "These cemeteries are often our only link with a community, a particular family or an individual. They are an extremely important historic resource."

The THC estimates there are as many as 50,000 cemeteries throughout Texas. To date, they have identified more than 6,000 through surveys and field research. Many, such as the Sneed family plot in South Austin, have been vandalized or damaged. The Sneed family was a prominent South Austin family in

the early 1800s. The family home is now in ruins and surrounded by chain-link fence, the nearby family plot was recently vandalized and grave markers broken or destroyed.

The THC wants to know if you know of any undocumented cemeteries. To address the problem of cemetery destruction and to record as many historic cemeteries as possible, the

THC's Historic Texas Cemetery Program designates known sites with official recognition, encouraging preservation and providing a recordation of the property into the county deed records. The THC also is creating a program to provide local businesses, civic organizations, churches, schools and individuals the necessary tools to take on the role of protecting and preserving Texas' historic cemeteries.

For more information, contact Gerron Hite in the THC History Programs Division at 512/463-5853 or visit www.thc.state.tx.us.

The Texas Historical Commission is the state agency for historic preservation. The agency administers a variety of programs to preserve the archeological, historical and cultural resources of Texas.

SUBMITTED BY
RODNEY KOENIG

Apathy changes History

by Yvonne "Bonnie" Ludwig

When Aunt Louisa died, the family sold the inherited land which included a family cemetery. Money was left to a relative for cemetery maintenance and life continued as the land was sold several times through the years. Then unfortunately, when another one of the owners decided to sell, this man tried to destroy the cemetery thinking he could get more money for the land without a cemetery. The people of Castroville saw what he was doing but did nothing. The relative who was left money to maintain the cemetery knew what he was doing but did nothing. When my husband and I discovered the cemetery, we got permission from the present day owners to upright and repair the destruction of this small cemetery. Because we applied and got a Texas Historical Marker for the cemetery, my husband and a friend along with a city crew using their crane and a rope from our son in Maryland which was used by contractors to raise generators up for high voltage testing for lighting strikes by airplanes, worked together and the cemetery was restored. My husband gave this rope to the city in appreciation of their help as they had no equipment to do such heavy lifting. This cemetery has since received the first historical cemetery designation in Medina County.

When the homestead of Mr. W. W. White, a man who did so much for the people of Hondo and Castroville, was sold, it was soon noticed that the new owners were little by little building over his graveyard situated in the back of the property. Now Mr. White had thought he would keep his grave safe by deeding it to the county. This did not happen. Mr. Irvin Kilhorn tried to get people to see what was being done and stop this degradation. But by the time he got others to finally realize this was wrong, it was too late. Unfortunately with the big agitation rising, the county deeded the land back to the new owners. Mr. White's efforts for a safe burial plot was defeated. Mr. Kilhorn's efforts to save history was defeated. But at least he tried. Later The Medina County Historical Commission put up a marker recognizing Mr. White's significant part in history.

Now when I started researching my family history, I noticed The Castroville's Visitor's Guide had an Ihnken Cemetery in Regional Park. Then I discovered an Ihnken Cemetery across the road. I immediately contacted the Chamber stating Renkens grave markers are in Regional Park, Ihnkens are across the road. The Chamber logically changed the name but research finds it actually was the original 1846 Ihnken Cemetery. Whoever heard of a small single family having two cemeteries. When the Chamber changed the name not one person in Castroville tried to correct the error I had made. Several different writings have been found stating this regional Park Cemetery is the 1846 Ihnken Cemetery. The Haass Papers found the the Library at Baylor University in Waco Texas has a copy of a will written by Gerhard Ihnken leaving \$300 to his son Louis to build a rock wall around the family graveyard in the field on the little hill. Obituary of F.E. Saathoff tells of the burial of two half brothers in Ihnken's Field. Medina County History Book (page 479) states the names of these children were Ehme and Tomme. Zion Lutheran Church in Castroville, page 8 - 1876 burials records, Lisette Renken buried in farm of Mr. Ihnken. (Note: Henry Renken came from same town as Gerhard Ihnken and they were good friends.) The book *Spirits of San Antonio and South Texas*, page 171- copyrighted 1993, states the original builder, Gerhard Ihnken, had two small private cemeteries located on the property. In an effort to correct this error and put the Ihnken name back where it belongs, even with these reference proofs my efforts appear to be futile.

Apathy changes history.

Church in Helotes celebrates a century of growth and change



COURTESY

The original church building of Zion Lutheran Church of Helotes was built in 1906. For its restoration of the building, the church has won the Texas Historical Commission's Award of Excellence in Historic Architecture. The church is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the building.

BY AMANDA REIMHERR
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

HELOTES — Although the building has changed several times, Karen Peterson's family has held membership at the same church for six generations.

Her family has celebrated baptisms and weddings, witnessed funerals and attended thousands of Sunday services at the Zion Lutheran Church of Helotes for more than a century.

Peterson's family is not the only one with multigenerational ties to the church, which was officially chartered Feb. 14, 1904.

Several of today's congregants had ancestors worshipping together in the late 1800s, before Zion had its charter.

"Members, which (then) were mostly farmers in the Northwest Bexar County area, met in the old school-

house that was once located about where O'Connor High School is now," said Peterson, 60.

"Many of our charter members' descendants still attend the church, and quite a few of those charter members are buried in the cemetery. My great-great grandfather, Heinrich Steubing, is buried there and was one of the charter members who helped build the church from 1904 to 1906. It was the first church in Northwest Bexar County, and we are very proud of that."

The cemetery on the church grounds, as well as the church buildings, will be part of an open house 9-11 a.m. Sunday. Zion is located at 9944 Leslie Road, near the intersection of Braun Road and North Loop 1604 West.

The open house is part of the 100-year anniversary celebration of the dedication of the first church building,

which its original 48 members dedicated June 10, 1906.

The services were conducted in German as men and women sat in segregated seating, hoping a breeze would come through the windows on a hot summer day.

Zion Lutheran Church of Helotes now boasts more than 2,000 members, and families can sit together in the air-conditioned house of worship, the third that was constructed on the property.

The original church had a minister only on rare occasions. An ordained minister was available when one traveling on horseback rode through Helotes or when a member would take a buggy to San Antonio and pick one up. There now are three Sunday services with a minister.

In the 1990s, the congregation restored the 80-seat original church,

which sits directly behind the newest 500-seat white rock building where services are held. Children use the historic building for singing during Sunday school, and the 250-seat church built in 1950 is used for classrooms. The April 16, 1995, Easter Sunday service was held in the original, white wooden church building after six years of renovation funded by members.

For its efforts, Zion received the Texas Historical Commission's Award of Excellence in Historic Architecture on May 4, 1996. The following year, a Texas Historical Medallion was placed on the front of the building. The cemetery has a Texas Historical Marker as well.

For more about the celebration, call Peterson at (830) 510-2025.

areimherr@express-news.net

from San Antonio Express-News, June 7, 2004

German is fading in Hill Country

Stigma, changing demographics may silence area dialect.

BY ALEXANDRA BERZON
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

FREDERICKSBURG — Jack Frantzen's rifle is taller than he is. At 11, he's among the youngest competitors in the 111th annual Gillespie County Bundes Schuetzenfest, the shooting festival originally brought over from Germany and held Sunday outside Fredericksburg.

Many of the mostly older men gathered around the rows of guns stacked behind the shooters grew up speaking German. But younger generations, like Jack and his father, 47-year-old Willie Frantzen, never learned the language.

So at Sunday's event, English, broken up by a few booming sounds of rifle shots and a German word here and there, was the language of the day.

When the shooters are done, the shooting king will be hoisted in the air and each of the six shooting clubs will march in a parade accompanied by German ompa music.

"When I was a little kid I didn't care, but now that I'm older I wish that I spoke German and could teach it to my son," said Willie Frantzen, his red shirt adorned with pinned medals from past shooting festival wins. "I just remember wandering around wishing (my older relatives) would speak English so I'd know what they were talking about."

The German language — a Texas-infused version with English words thrown in that once had as many as 110,000 speakers in Texas — took a dive during World Wars I and II, when children were scolded for speaking German in the schoolyard.

Texas German dialect could disappear

Vanishing language

An estimated 8,000 people in Texas speak German. Before WWI that number was 110,000. It is estimated the Texas German dialect will be extinct by 2040.

Language spoken at home, by age group

Fredericksburg			New Braunfels		
Age 5-17 (1,324 people)			Age 5-17 (6,955 people)		
German	7	0.5%	German	34	0.4%
Spanish	271	20.5%	Spanish	1,575	22.6%
18 and older (6,996 people)			18 and older (27,286 people)		
German	1,032	14.8%	German	805	3%
Spanish	953	13.6%	Spanish	7,220	26.4%

Sources: 2000 U.S. Census; University of Texas German professor Hans Boas

Yet in many homes in New Braunfels and the Hill Country, it persevered through the fourth, fifth or sixth generation, with people now in their 50s, 60s, 70s.

But it stopped there.

Fewer than 1 percent of children in New Braunfels and Fredericksburg now speak German in their homes, according to the 2000 census. Meanwhile, Spanish is growing as the preferred alternative to English. In Fredericksburg, 21 percent and in New Braunfels 23 percent of children speak Spanish in their homes.

Because of the relative isolation of the German communities in Texas, their language survived many more generations than most languages brought by immigrants to the United States, said Hans Boas, a University of Texas at Austin professor who oversees an ongoing project documenting Texas German.

But he estimates the dialect will be extinct by 2040, killed off by the stigma of speaking it during the world wars and by the changing demographics of the Hill Country over the past 50 years.

There are an estimated 8,000 mostly elderly Texas-German speakers today. They keep the culture alive with activities like

Wednesday night skat — a traditional German card game — at Fredericksburg's Turner Hall, and Arion Maennerchor and Hermann Sons choir performances.

There's the Saturday morning stammtisch — a table reserved for regulars — and Wednesday afternoon kaffeeklatsch, or coffee club, at New Braunfels' Friesenhaus, and an every-fifth-Sunday German church service at Zion Lutheran Church in Fredericksburg.

But as the language declines, could the German heritage become more of a tourist attraction than a living, breathing culture?

For people who remember hearing German spoken in the supermarket and saw the culture outlast a vehemently anti-German era, such a thing seems impossible.

"I'm not saying they'll always talk German, but they'll still have the hard-headedness of the Germans," said Schuetzenfest organizer and Fredericksburg native Charles Feller, 72. "I always said if you look up 'stubborn' in the dictionary they'd have a Ger-

man next to it."

Ken Knopp, 72, who researches the German history of the Hill Country, describes Ger-



PHOTOS BY JOHN DAVENPORT/STAFF

Thomas Gant, 70, watches as his grandson Ryan Mott, 11, lines up a shot at the 111th annual Schuetzenfest near Fredericksburg.

man culture there as a resilient mix of "beer, schnitzel, German jokes and German prayers."

He settled back in Fredericksburg after years in San Antonio. When his kids were growing up, he had a rule that when no one else was around the house, he wouldn't answer back unless

they spoke to him in German. But his three kids all married non-German speakers and they haven't taught his grandchildren the language.

Knopp remembers gravitating more toward German culture in his 40s, and he assumes the younger generations will do the same.

"You didn't want to be considered old-fashioned. I generally ignored all that until I was 40, and

then I began to appreciate my German heritage," Knopp said. "We know the young people are just busy with their schools and what they're going to do to make money. We don't want to bother with this stuff yet. After 40 they'll start getting interested."

But Boas isn't so sure that will happen without the strong tie of language.

"If you grow up speaking German, you have that distinct identity," he said. "The kids (who don't speak German) are more likely to get sucked into the mainstream. My guess is, I

would give it two to three generations. But things like Wurstfest will survive. People like to eat and drink and listen to music."

"I blame myself, that we didn't teach our children more, and

then they would have passed it on to their children," Fred Dietel, 83, said of his six grandchildren who can say only the few German phrases he's taught them, like "Ich liebe dich" — "I love you."

"Everyone gets busy and some of those important things in your life, you don't realize they're stepping away from you," Dietel said.

FROM SAN ANTONIO
EXPRESS-NEWS

JULY 31, 2006

submitted by Gerri West

COMFORT "STAR OF THE HILL COUNTRY" INDEED by Anne Stewart (from Comfort News, June 29, 2006)

249

by Anne Stewart

Three books published concerning our community in two weeks! Even with today's 24/7 media and real time technology, three books about Comfort, Texas within fourteen days must be a record. If not, I am taking the liberty of declaring it so.

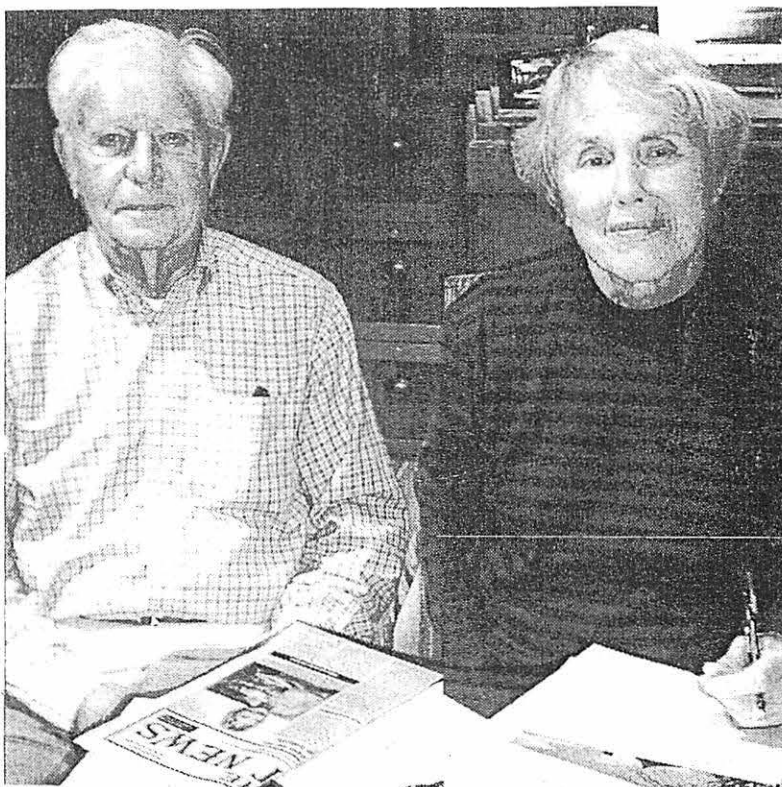
The Saints Go Marching, Saint Boniface Episcopal Church, written by Bill and Mae Durden Nelson, commemorates the establishment and history of one of Comfort's older churches. *Saints*, an attractive hardback published by Eakin Press of Austin, came to town Saturday, June 10th, 2006, at the new church site on Highway 87.

The inimitable Al Scott's photograph graces the cover. The balance and the colors of the central stained glass window and the shadows of the cross in the second church's sanctuary are without peer. Well done, Al! P.S. Get Amy to tell you the story about her assisting Al during this photo session with her standing out behind St. Boniface struggling with a large mirror.

The Nelsons ably interwove the history of St. Boniface into the community. Photos, generously loaned for the book, reproduced beautifully. Only 250 copies were printed and a few are still available for purchase for \$35.00 each. The authors will be happy to autograph your copy.

Comfort Public Library: A Fifty Year Retrospective, by Anne and Mike Stewart, recounts the briefer though equally interesting history of Comfort's public library. Appropriately enough, in view of the previous book, it was two civic-minded Episcopalian women, Mrs. (Tom) Laura Bradfield and Mrs. (Palmer) Edith Giles, who saw the need for a public library and set about founding it. Again, the cover of this paperback history is noteworthy.

Natalie Dupuy painted the library in its home, the historical Arno Schwethelm Building on High Street. The cover features the library inviting the viewer inside. It is a happy, bubble gum, summer time painting with vanilla ice cream clouds and blue skies. Dr. Seuss's poem, printed just below the library doors, encourages the viewer to come read and learn and



GENE GEORGE, photographer, and Mary Carolyn George, author, were very pleased at last Saturday's turnout for the book-signing of her latest book on the architecture of Alfred Giles.

grow. Wonderfully done.

The library moved at least seven times in its fifty years of being. Photographs, loaned by the families and the Comfort Heritage Foundation Archives, illustrate the initial site and subsequent move.

Local artists' renditions of the various buildings that housed the library throughout its history are reproduced, in color, at the end of the book. These artists include Laura Bradfield, Bobby Burow, Anna Flatten, Mary Ellen Petry, Selina Saur, Anne Stewart and Margaret Van Bavel. The book signing and sales took place also on June 10, 2006, in the morning in the library's reading area. A hundred copies were printed and the first 50 comprise a numbered edition—one book for each of the 50 years. Copies are still available at the library for \$12.00 and everyone concerned will be happy to autograph your copy.

The Architectural Legacy of Alfred Giles: Selected Restorations, by Mary Carolyn Hollers George, covers Giles buildings in the Hill Country but comfort is the star. Mrs. George's husband, Gene, photographed the sites. Mr.

George's cover is particularly striking. Highlighted by a Texas blue sky and fluffy white clouds, the King William area house never looked so good.

This is Mrs. George's second book about the work of Alfred Giles. Trinity University Press published both books and both are most impressive. The original book, *Alfred Giles: An English Architect in Texas and Mexico* is out of print but comes up for sale from time to time on amazon.com. Mrs. George's second book is available from Trinity University press and the Twigg Bookstore in San Antonio for \$60.00 plus tax.

The Comfort Heritage Foundation hosted a book signing at the old bank building on Saturday, June 24th. An overflow crowd was in attendance: relatives, descendants, neighbors and Comfort collectors intent upon adding this most recent book to their collection. Mr. and Mrs. George graciously signed books for over two hours and visited with every person who came to their table. The crowd munched cookies and drank coffee and enjoyed the rain. Let the huzzahs for our town begin. A star indeed!

An era is ending in Fredericksburg

*from SAN ANTONIO
EXPRESS-NEWS,
JULY 20, 2006*

Fredericksburg losing
its last independent
department store.

BY ALEXANDRA BERZON
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

FREDERICKSBURG — On Main Street downtown, you can buy stuffed aardvarks, nutcrackers in the shape of Dorothy and the Tin Man, beer steins emblazoned with knights, and any variety of barbecue sauce you could ever desire.

But soon you'll have a harder time finding everyday necessities — think un-frilly underwear, jeans and tennis shoes.

Knopp & Metzger, 87 years old and Fredericksburg's last

independent department store, is closing. For longtime residents, it's one more indication of the forces of change in this Hill Country town: Chains have drawn local trade out of downtown, while Main Street has become a tourist shopping mecca.

When Bob and Fritz Metzger started working in their father's store as teens, Fredericksburg was a sleepy German-heritage farm town, and Knopp & Metzger competed with more than a dozen grocery stores, pharmacies and family-owned department stores.

"On Saturdays all the locals would shop on Main Street," said 65-year-old Fritz Metzger, wearing cowboy boots and jeans. "Then on Sunday you

See AN ERA/9A

"I always say I'm a walking Knopp & Metzger because everything I have is from here," said part-time employee Margaret Priess, in purple pants, a

flowery shirt, brown shoes and matching purple necklace and earrings.

So where will she shop now? "I'm almost 68, so maybe what I have in my closet now will last my whole life," said Priess, mingling with customers next to glass shelves filled with big, colorful costume jewelry.

On a recent weekday morning, about 15 customers bustled through, most of them from the Metzger brothers' generation. They browsed racks of shiny silver belts, floral T-shirts and pantyhose. A Levi's jeans display lined one wall, and women's button-down shirts with designs that include the Texas state flag filled another.

The brothers have kept a few old-time touches on the floor, such as an enormous turn-of-the-century cash register and old photographs depicting the store's various incarnations.

But most of the items that reveal the store's age can be found downstairs, in the cavernous basement filled with nearly a century of accumulation: a work bench the brothers' grandfather made from a tree trunk, financial records dating to 1919, a giant Styro-

foam snowman, plastic mannequins affixed with duct tape.

Some of it will be sold during the store's final days.

Jim Pape, 65, went to school with Fritz in the red brick building behind the shop.

"Change is inevitable, but you don't like to see it," said Pape, loading just-purchased boots and jeans into his car. "Now Main Street is one gift shop after another, one antique mall after another. I only shop there during Christmastime. I've got enough things as it is."



CONTINUED FROM 1A

could shoot a shotgun down Main Street and not hit anyone; everyone was at church and with their families. There were a dozen cars, and they were all left over from Friday night."

"I remember a salesman would come up to Fredericksburg from San Antonio and stay the night at Neiman's Hotel," said Bob Metzger, 67. "Then he would go and sell to every independent up and down Main Street."

In those days, Knopp & Metzger stocked groceries, fabrics and basic clothing. At one time it even sold baby chicks. Now the brothers are ready to retire.

A going-out-of-business sale started Wednesday, "and then when we run out of merchandise we'll close up and go fishing," Bob Metzger said.

"Unless it's hunting season by then," Fritz said with a laugh.

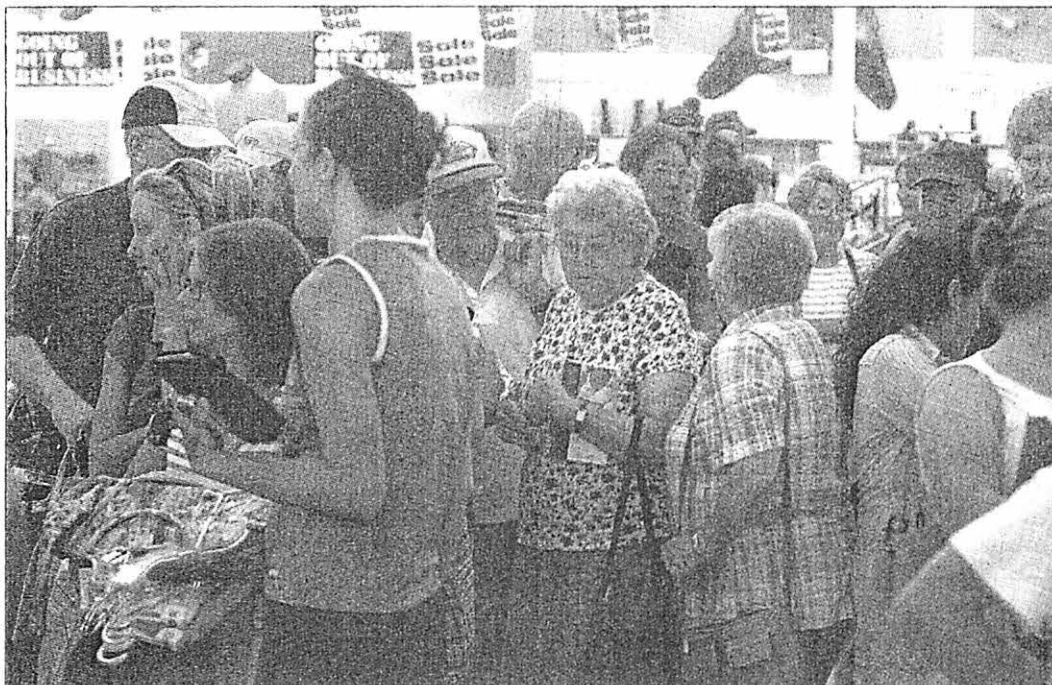
Despite the presence of Wal-Mart and other chains, the store still makes money from its loyal customer base, the brothers said.

"Years back when Gibson's first opened up, I thought the world was coming to an end," Bob Metzger said. "But that didn't happen. We had a drop opening week, and then everyone came back."

Altogether, four Metzger brothers took over the business from their father, along with a brother-in-law, but their own children have found other pursuits.

"We're a dying breed, the independent shop," Bob Metzger said. "There's just not anybody out there who is into it anymore, running a store. It's a seven-day-a-week job if you want to do it right. My kids have their own careers."

For old-time locals, this big, boxy store with mounted horns and large swaths of fur framing the walls has become a meeting place of sorts.



TOM REEL/STAFF

Customers, perhaps looking for a bargain or a piece of nostalgia, jam Knopp & Metzger on Wednesday.

Joe Kammlah, president of the Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce, said the closing of one of Fredericksburg's last old-time shops is sad, but it's also part of a positive trend.

"People miss how it used to be. There's a lot of nostalgia involved," Kammlah said. "I tell them things change; we're a growing community. Other rural communities are dying. The alternative would be much worse."

Across the street from Knopp & Metzger sits the empty frame of what used to be appliance store Duecker Electric. That leaves Dooley's, a five-and-dime in the heart of the touristy part of Main Street, as

the last of the shops from an older era.

Tim Dooley's father opened the store in 1923. Now, Dooley, 52, sells everything from Texas T-shirts to kitchenware, handkerchiefs and bins of toys.

Dooley said he doesn't sell antiques but his store offers patrons an opportunity to step back in time and experience the nearly extinct tradition of five-and-dime shops. The store itself is an antique, he said.

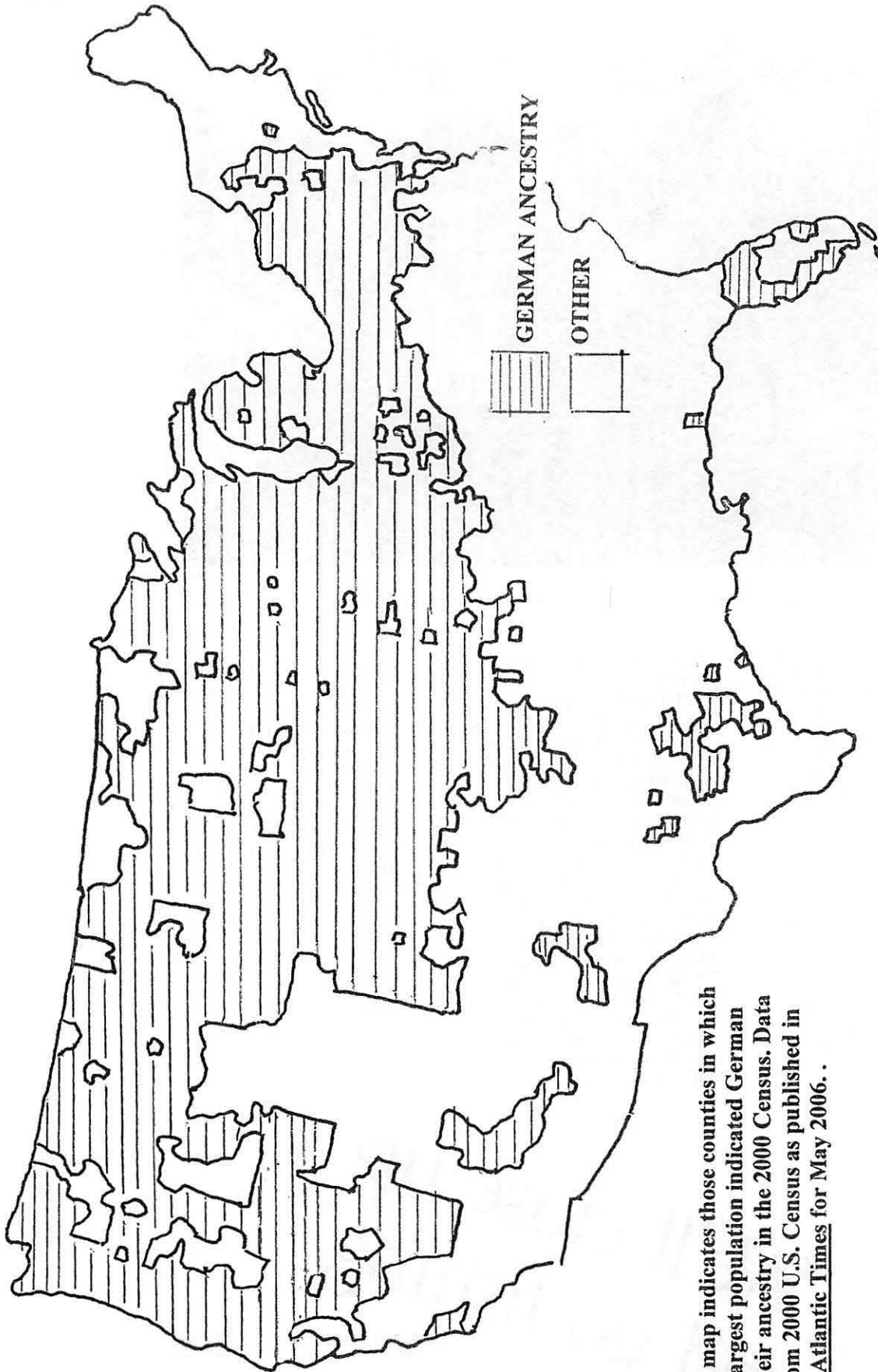
"We maintain the image we've always had," Dooley said. "People say to me, 'Why don't you modernize the store inventory and use a computer?' But when I start scanning I've lost everything we've spent 80 years trying to maintain."

Dooley said he could make more money renting the space to a trendier shop on a block that, according to Kammlah, generates more sales per square foot than downtown Austin.

"I can carry this thing another 10 to 15 years, but I don't think my children will be able to sustain it," Dooley said. "That's just a sign of the times."

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'We'll close up
and go fishing'



This map indicates those counties in which the largest population indicated German as their ancestry in the 2000 Census. Data is from 2000 U.S. Census as published in The Atlantic Times for May 2006. .

Map prepared by Terry L. Smart

AREAS OF PREDOMINANT GERMAN ANCESTRY

Born German, Made American

To prove their patriotism, immigrants abandoned their old identities
■ By Nicolas Kumanoff

Tens of millions of Americans claim German descent. Their immigrant ancestors built up a vibrant culture and recorded unique achievements. Today, both have been largely forgotten. A TV documentary series tells the story.

The 2000 census reports 47 million people claiming German heritage, the largest single ethnic group in the U.S. Yet less than 1.4 million claim to actually speak German.

Their story was told over two evenings in March on the German-French ARTE public TV channel, in a four-part documentary series by Fritz Baumann.

In "The Promised Land," "The Price of Freedom," "Little Germanies" and "A People Vanish," Baumann vividly depicts the German experience in America.

The Germans founded their own settlements, the first of which was Germantown, established near Philadelphia by Mennonites in 1683. There would soon be many other German religious communities, their inhabitants splintering off, rejecting the others as too worldly – and seeking land further west.

Most German immigrants were economic refugees. The cities of New York, Philadelphia and New Orleans

were their ports of entry. Although huge German communities would emerge in all three, most Germans got out as soon as they could, seeking the plentiful and affordable farm and pasture land they had all heard about.

Baumann recounts in detail a unique story, even by Old West standards, of the German settlements in Texas, whose settlers would eventually create what is considered the only treaty between whites and Native Americans still in force today.

In 1842, a group of noblemen, eager to both get rid of malingers and capitalize on America's riches, hatched a scheme. They decided to found a German colony, together with the Association for the Protection of German Immigrants to Texas. For a big fee, the association promised transatlantic passage, infrastructure such as schools and churches, and generally promised to take care of the settlers until their first harvest. The group bought tracts of land in Texas, at the time an independent republic.

An initial party of 600 families embarked from Bremen in 1844. When, after 65 days, they arrived at the swampy mouth of the Guadalupe River, cholera and yellow fever broke out. More than half the settlers died within two years. The association failed to keep its promise of protecting the settlers. In other words, they were left on their own.

To survive, the Germans had to adapt. The grain they had

brought with them didn't grow in the hot Texas plains, so they learned how to plant corn and sweet potatoes from the native population and other settlers. In place of dark bread, the Germans ate tortillas.

Meanwhile, further immigrant trains continually arrived and pushed north, putting pressure on both the existing small-parcel farms and the native population, notably the proud and warlike Comanches.

As the whites began destroying the buffalo herds on which the Comanches' existence depended, tensions increased. There were killings on both sides. Finally, in May 1847, the governor of Texas (by then the 28th state in the Union) told the leader of the German settlers, John Meusebach, they would have to move elsewhere.

Meusebach decided instead to seek a treaty with the tribe. He rode off with a group of settlers to negotiate.

Nick Bradford, the spokesman of the Comanche Nation, recounts how the 42 Germans emptied their magazines by shooting into the air, then rode into the Comanche camp unarmed.

Meusebach, whose red hair and flowing beard would earn him the title Chief Red Sun, offered the



Comanches \$3,000 in return for the right to settle the area and live in peace. The two peoples would coexist as brothers, Meusebach assured them.

The treaty allowed Meusebach's settlers to go unharmed into Indian territory and the Indians to go to the white settlements, and promised mutual reports on wrongdoing. It opened more than 3 million acres of land to settlement. To distinguish themselves from the Yankee settlers whom the Comanches hated and feared, the Germans were told to smoke pipes while in their fields. That way they were safe from attack.

To this day, the 1847 Meusebach-Comanche Treaty is believed to be the sole pact between whites and Native Americans that has never been broken. Every May, an "intertribal pow-wow" commemorates the occasion and reunites members of both communities. "The Germans did not

just want to take and own," says Bradford. "They wanted to share."

Wherever they went in America, Germans established printing presses and newspapers. The printed word played a central role in German culture in America. In 1743, the first New World edition of the Bible was printed in German by Christoph Sauer. It was still a common sight in German-American households 200 years later. Even Benjamin

Franklin printed a German newspaper, the *Philadelphische Zeitung*. That paper folded within a year, but many others would be more successful.

At its zenith in the 1880s, the German language press in North

America boasted over 800 daily and weekly periodicals.

New York had four German-language dailies – more than even Berlin at the time. The *New Yorker Staats-Zeitung* had over 60,000 readers, more than the 40,000 circulation of *The New York Times*. At its peak in 1938, the *Staats* sold 80,000 copies a day. Today, fewer than 20 periodicals, mostly weeklies or monthlies, are left. Why?

The last of the films, "A People Vanishes," shows how these tens of millions of German-Americans, whose culture, language and communities had been kept alive over centuries, completely abandoned their old identities during the world wars, when Germany twice became America's enemy.

Before the United States entered World War I, public opinion was far from unanimous on what, if any, side to back. German-Americans often vocally opposed Washington's increasing support for the Allies and advocated neutrality instead. Yet Germany's military conduct, especially the sinking of the liner *Lusitania* in 1915, discredited this position.

Beginning in 1917, a virulent anti-German sentiment spread. In several states, German lan-

guage instruction was banned from schools and German books burned in the streets. German terms were excised from the language: *Sauerkraut* became "liberty cabbage" and *Frankfurters* became hot dogs.

Indeed, anyone with a German name was a target for harassment. A widely publicized notice from the American Defense Society stated that a German-American, "unless known by years of asso-

ciation to be absolutely loyal, should be treated as a potential spy."

Ethnic Germans responded by suppressing their heritage to prove their patriotism. Names were anglicized, organizations renamed. Parents forbid their children to speak German outside the home. German-Americans held parades to demonstrate their loyalty. One memorable banner read: "Born in Germany, Made in America."

The process of cultural realignment was therefore taking place well before World War II, when America once again fought a Germany that, this time, became associated with a depravity previously unheard of. The deathblow for German culture in the United States was dealt by the "fatherland" itself.

Much was lost. Kurt Vonnegut, a child of third-generation German immigrants, writes in his autobiographical novel "Palm Sunday":

"...the anti-Germanism in this country during the First World War so shamed and dismayed my parents that they resolved to raise me without acquainting me with the language or the literature or the music or the oral family histories which my ancestors had loved. They volunteered to make me ignorant and rootless as proof of their patriotism."

■
*Nicolas Kumanoff is
a Berlin-based editor
and translator.*

from the Atlantic Times, May 2006, submitted by Siegi Keimling

Melk: Austria's Legendary Abbey

Driving the autobahns of Austria near picturesque lakes and transcendent mountains, one commonly sees abbeys that have stood since the Middle Ages. The preeminent monastery in early Austria, Melk Abbey, originated under the patronage of the Babenberg family, the nation's founding dynasty, and played an important role in their reign.

The first capital of Babenberg, Austria, was the town of Melk on the Danube River, about 50 miles west of Vienna. Melk began as a Roman outpost, and around 900 AD, raiding Magyars destroyed a castle originally owned by the Bavarian Count Sizzo, thought to have been built about 831.

From 895 to 955, the Magyars (who later became the Hungarians) made about 30 military forays into Bavaria and Saxony. Finally, in 955, Otto I, the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation, defeated them at the battle of Lechfeld. Although the military custom of the day was

to ransom the captured leaders, Otto instead changed the leadership. The result was such a depletion of Magyar commanders that they were never able to threaten the heartland of Germany again.

This also opened up an opportunity for further expansion of Otto's Empire into what is today Austria. In 976, he awarded what is now northeastern Austria, along the Danube, to Leopold I of the Babenberg family. Leopold I "the Illustrious" became the first margrave (a lord of a border region or *mark*) of Ostmark, later known as Austria.

The year that Leopold became margrave, he constructed a residential castle on a granite hill about 200 feet above the Danube, probably on the same site where Sizzo's castle once stood. Leopold's son Heinrich I the Rebel succeeded him as margrave in 994, followed by his brother Adalbert the Victorious, in 1018. Adalbert passed the margravate to his nephew Ernst the Brave in 1053.

In 1075, the beautiful 20-year-old wife of

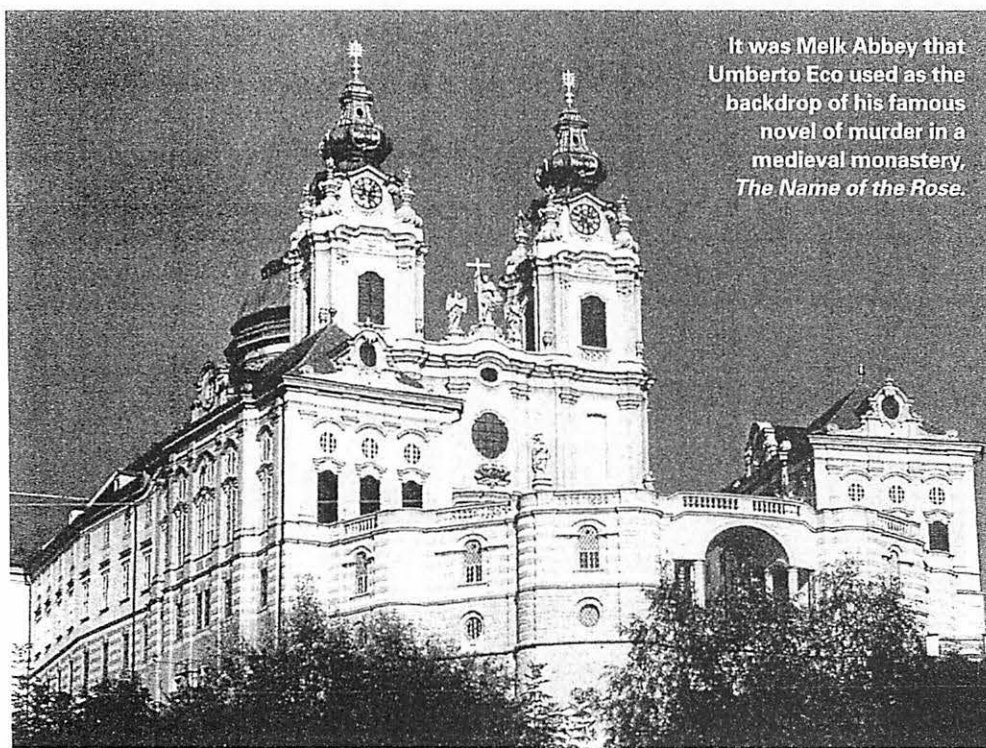
Leopold II, Ida Countess of Cham, gave birth to a son, Leopold III. Ultimately, he would become the most celebrated Babenberg ruler of Austria, the so-called "mild margrave." His education was given over to the Bishop of Passau, later known as St. Altman. This decision had a lasting influence on the young man's life, for his interests throughout his reign proved to be more religious than military. Accordingly, he came to be known as "the Good," "the Pious," and "the Saint."

The Founding of the Abbey

After almost 100 years at Melk, when the Babenbergs had expanded the borders of their margravate to the east, they found it strategically necessary to relocate their capital to Tulln, approximately 40 miles east on the Danube. But since their sacred burial ground was at Melk, they wished to leave it in good hands. So in 1089, Leopold II awarded the Babenberg castle and the church at Melk to the Benedictine Order. Thus, the establishment of the monastery resulted indirectly from military necessity. Since then, there have been Benedictine monks living at Melk.

About two centuries after the abbey's founding, a large fire destroyed the monastery, the church, and the out buildings, as well as a number of priceless manuscripts. The fire almost bankrupted the monastery, a problem that was further aggravated by the plague and poor harvests. Monastic discipline faltered, and the monks quarreled among themselves.

In 1414, church administrators decided to reform the Benedictine monasteries. As a result, in 1418, they installed Nikolaus Seyringer as abbot of Melk. He initiated a rigorous monastic discipline which focused on asceticism and adherence to rituals, such as daily and weekly prayers and chants. Collectively, the changes were known as the "Melk Reform," and they quickly spread among the other Benedictine orders across Austria and Bavaria.



It was Melk Abbey that Umberto Eco used as the backdrop of his famous novel of murder in a medieval monastery, *The Name of the Rose*.



Abbot Seyringer then began forging ties with Vienna University. An important aspect of this initiative was the augmentation of the abbey library, which included the writings of the 12th-century satirist and lay brother Heinrich of Melk, and Frau Ava, the first-known poetess of the German language, who may have resided at the abbey prior to her death in 1127. But the most treasured possession of the library was a copy of the Gutenberg Bible which was regrettably sold in 1925 to Harvard University, to fund badly needed general repairs to the abbey.

By 1701, the physical condition of the abbey had deteriorated to such an extent that Abbot Berthold Dietmayer hired the talented Tyrolean architect Jacob Prandtauer to undertake a major renovation. Ultimately, the work of Prandtauer and his associate Franz Munggenast transformed the abbey into one of the great architectural masterpieces of the German-speaking world, and probably Austria's finest example of Baroque architecture.

During the 1780-90 rule of the Emperor Joseph II, Melk escaped the fate of many Austrian abbeys, which were closed as a result of his secularization of church lands and reduction of the influence of religious orders. Extensive renovations were carried out at the abbey in the 19th century and, most recently, between 1987 and 1995. Melk Abbey still administers 23 parishes and belongs to the Benedictine Order.

Today, from its vantage point high on the south bank of the beautiful Danube, a palatially ornate abbey, with no less than 1,353 windows, twin towers facing the river, and an elegant copper dome, plays host to thousands of visitors. To those who come, it is an affirmation of its religious dedication and human perseverance through the vicissitudes of 900 years of history.

Melk Abbey is open to visitors year-round. The admission price for a guided tour in English is about \$10 for adults. To get to Melk, take Autobahn 1 (A1) west from Vienna toward Linz and Salzburg. After 52.5 miles, exit at Melk to B3A. Then follow the signs to the large parking lot behind the abbey.

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MAKING TEXAS COWS PROUD

by R. W. Apple Jr. in New York Times, May 31, 2006
submitted by Dirk Heinen

BRENHAM, Tex.

THE tens of thousands of German immigrants who poured through the Port of Galveston and across south-central Texas in the mid-19th century brought with them formidable appetites not only for hard work but also for good food and drink. All these many decades later, the Lone Star State still relishes and keeps alive their legacies.

Take beer. Texans rural and urban dote on long-neck bottles of Shiner bock, Shiner lager and other suds with the distinctive tang of the Rhineland, made by the little Spoetzl Brewery hidden away halfway between San Antonio and Houston.

Cutting even closer to the heart of the matter, take barbecue. African-Americans and Hispanics clearly had a lot to do with establishing 'cue as a Texan passion, but it was German-American butchers, drawing upon the Old Country's meat-smoking traditions, who enshrined beef rather than pork as the regional meat of choice. Not by accident have families named Mueller (in Taylor) and Kreuz and Schmidt (in Lockhart) served up some of the state's top barbecued brisket and link sausage for years on end.

Perhaps less obviously, you could — you should — take ice cream. Blue Bell ice cream, to be specific, which is made in out-of-the-way Brenham and which many people consider the best in the country. So many people think so that Blue Bell, though sold in only 16 states, mostly in the South, and sold for a premium price, ranks No. 3 in sales nationally, trailing only Dreyer's (known as Edy's in some areas) and Breyers, ahead of the more widely available Häagen-Dazs and Ben & Jerry's.

The 100th anniversary of Blue Bell Creameries — "the little creamery in Brenham," as it folksily and misleadingly describes itself — will be celebrated in 2007. For most of those years, members of a German-American family named Kruse (pronounced CREW-zee) have been at the helm, exhibiting an obsession with quality and a way with words. Ask why distribution is so restricted, and the Kruses answer, "It's a cinch by the inch but it's hard by the yard." Ask about raw materials, and they reply, "The milk we use is so fresh it was grass only yesterday."

Snappy slogans like those, coined by family members and an inventive Houston advertising man named Lyle Metzdorf, have helped to fuel the growth of Blue Bell, which is named for an indigo-colored wildflower that blooms in July, when ice-cream cravings become irresistible.

Ads are all-important, Ed F. Kruse, 78, the company's avuncular chairman, said in an interview. "You could put gold nuggets in the ice cream, but that wouldn't do you any good unless you get it into people's mouths so they can see if they like it."

But Blue Bell is not all hat and no cattle, as they say of some things and some people in Texas. With clean, vibrant flavors and a rich, luxuriant consistency achieved despite a butterfat content a little lower than some competitors, it hooks you from the first spoonful. Entirely and blessedly absent are the cloying sweetness, chalky texture and oily, gummy aftertaste that afflict many mass-manufactured ice creams.

I wouldn't (quite) claim to remember every bite of ice cream that I've eaten since my first tastes of peppermint stick at Mary Coyle's and banana at Isaly's in Akron, Ohio, around 1940. But I can recall no American commercial ice cream in a league with Blue Bell except the remarkable Graeter's, which is made in Cincinnati and sold only there

The Kruse family sings from the same hymnal, stressing the importance of central control. Ed Kruse; Howard, 75, Ed's brother, the company's president emeritus, and Paul, 51, Ed's son, the president, entrust nothing to franchisees or distributors. Every ounce of their ice cream is made in their four plants, one in Sylacauga, Ala., one in Broken Arrow, Okla., and two here in Brenham, a trim little town of 13,500 set amidst rolling hills carpeted with live oaks and daisies an hour or so west of Houston.

"We make it all, we deliver it all in our own trucks and we maintain all the stock in retailers' freezers," Ed Kruse told my wife, Betsey, and me as we sat in the old-fashioned ice cream parlor at Blue Bell's headquarters, dreamily lapping up dishes of its best-selling product, Homemade Vanilla. "Ice cream does not do well if it isn't handled carefully. The texture is ruined by any significant variation in temperature."

The milk of more than 50,000 cows from Jersey and Holstein herds on farms within 200 miles of Brenham is delivered to Blue Bell's plants here every day of the year. Every batch is carefully tested lest an "off" flavor creep in. Control again.

No wonder deprived Yankees and displaced Texans pay big bucks to have Blue Bell sent to them, packed in dry ice (four half-gallons for \$89, including shipping). No wonder astronauts on board the Atlantis space shuttle took some Blue Bell along with them in 1995. And no wonder the White House press corps goes through gallons of the stuff whenever it finds itself sweltering in underwhelming Crawford, Tex.

Fellow named Bush is said to like a scoop or two on a hot day, too.

For many people, buying Blue Bell ice cream means buying into a carefully crafted image of bucolic simplicity and tranquillity, light years from the hurly-burly of 21st-century urban commerce.

But don't plan a pilgrimage to Brenham in search of farm wives in gingham frocks churning out ice cream in wooden tubs. True enough, Blue Bell remains a family company. True enough, it still uses the charming little white building with an Art Deco facade in which it once made all

its ice cream. But today it produces more than 100 pints a minute in its big modern plant, with enough stainless-steel tanks, pipes and specialized machinery to equip a small refinery. Its annual sales top \$400 million.

A mixture of milk and cream is first pasteurized and homogenized, then blended with sugar and flavoring agents, on the Blue Bell production line. Rows of 40-year-old Cherry-Burrell freezers, with a capacity of 60 gallons each, spew out ice cream with the consistency of a milkshake. Six hours in a blast freezer turns it rock-hard, dropping the temperature well below zero.

When I asked Howard Kruse for the real secret behind Blue Bell's success — not for the formula, which I knew he wouldn't tell me — he replied, "A combination of process and ingredients." Duh.

A half-gallon of Blue Bell, whose retail price ranges from \$4.99 to \$5.99, weighs 52 ounces, compared to 40 ounces for Breyers, and it has a butterfat content of 13 percent, compared to 18 percent for Häagen-Dazs.

Italian gelato, also noted for richness, contains even less butterfat, usually around 7 percent and never more than 10. And Blue Bell's sweetness is restrained. When I ran these facts past Mr. Kruse, he replied, "We aim to fill our customers up on taste, not on fat and sugar." Double duh.

On the matter of flavors, the Kruses are a good deal more forthcoming. They make 45 or 50 in any given year, building on a core list of 17. The rest vary from season to season and market to market. Grocers' freezers are not big enough to accommodate all the varieties customers might want — peppermint year round, for example — so a system of rotation is inevitable.

The biggest seller by far is Homemade Vanilla, developed in 1969; it is only one of four vanillas in the repertory, and it is of course not homemade at all, just made to taste as if it were. I was struck by two things about it: a faint hint of maple flavor, which I found very appealing, since I love maple syrup, and the absence of the tiny black flecks (the seeds of the vanilla pod) that are so evident in most premium vanillas.

If it is flecks that you crave, you can opt for Natural Vanilla Bean.

Cookies 'n Cream comes second. Blue Bell makes no claim to have invented it but certainly pioneered the flavor, buying Oreo cookies at retail prices from Nabisco, painstakingly cutting open each package and dumping the contents into the mixers. That got tedious very quickly, and today Blue Bell bakes its own.

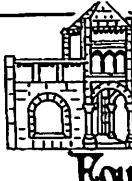
No. 3: Dutch Chocolate, made with — you guessed it — chocolate from the Netherlands, with the taste of the finest cocoa. No. 4: Great Divide, half Homemade Vanilla and half Dutch Chocolate.

Some regional flavor preferences are easy to fathom. New Orleans, a big banana port since the 19th century, loves Banana Pudding (and Banana Split, which I admit that I found a bit of a dog's dinner, overstuffed as it is with sliced maraschino cherries, crushed pineapple, almonds, strawberry topping, chocolate syrup and quarter-inch slices of bananas fresh from the Chiquita box). It's much harder to understand why parts of the Midwest adore Black Walnut and why El Paso has a passion for Pistachio-Almond.

There are flavors with a Hispanic influence: Dos Amigos, in which vanilla ice cream is swirled with Mexican chocolate containing a hint of cinnamon, for example, and brightly hued Piñata, flavored with lemon and accented with strawberry.

I long to taste Peanut Butter Cup (Reese's are among my many weaknesses) and Hot Fudge Sundae (another one) and Cinnamon (still another hard-to-get variety, since it is sold only in restaurants). When they saw me drooling unashamedly at the prospect, the kindly folks in Brenham promised to send me some Cantaloupe and Cream this summer. It is made only from July 4 to Aug. 4, when cantaloupes from Pecos, the state's best, reach peak ripeness.

But I already know my favorite: Buttered Pecan. I'd never tasted anything like it, nor had Betsey — packed with roasted, lightly salted Texas pecan halves. (The pecan, as Ed Kruse was quick to remind me, is the Texas state tree.) Rich. Mellow. Salt and sugar playing Ping-Pong in my mouth. I could easily down a pint at a single sitting. Just give me a spoon (no dish required) and stand back, kid.

	<p>The Comfort Heritage Foundation, Inc.</p>	<p>The Monument</p>	<p>by Esther Wiedenfeld</p>
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FROM THE
COMFORT NEWS
JULY 27, 2006

After one moves to the Comfort area, they invariably get tangled up with the subject of the Treue der Union monument.

Once a newcomer broaches the subject as to why this community is the resting place for men who gave up their life for the North, opinions are quickly formed. If their forefathers were here during the Civil War, their allegiances are either for the North or the South. These opinions have been handed down from generation to generation.

Think back to your great grandfather or a great uncle. However, if one side of your family fought for the South, and gave their life, and if the other side of your relatives stood firm and stayed true to the Union, what are your thoughts about the monument?

Are you still fighting the Civil War, as some do in the Deep South? Are you afraid to talk about your forefathers' actions? Is your neighbor still your adversary? Or can you calmly converse with someone about what your great-great grandfather said or

did?

Do you realize that Comfort, Texas is known world-wide because of the

Treue der Union monument? Travelers stop and read the plaques mounted by the side of the mass grave and wonder.

According to many, the monument is the only one for the North built south of the Mason-Dixon line. For 140 years this pile of limestone rocks has stirred many emotions; perhaps they will continue to do so in the future.



Who bought the Monument site?

by Anne Stewart

The Treue der Union Monument crowns a small hill near the west end of High Street, Comfort, Texas. It stands tall and solid, surrounded by oak trees and pasture grass. A United States flag flies at perpetual half-mast, an official privilege extended to only a few unique places in our country.

Did not Texas secede from the Union in 1861? Did it not do so over the entreaty of its governor, Sam Houston? Did it not become a member of the Confederate States of America? So, if all this is true, what is a Union memorial doing in the heart of the Confederate southwest? Why is it in Comfort, Texas?

Many Germans who immigrated to Texas sought political freedom and those men and their families were drawn to like-minded individuals in Sisterdale, Fredericksburg/Grape Creek and Comfort. When push came to shove, Comfort, Kerr County, Precinct No. 2, went to the polls casting 34 votes for secession and 53 against. In this case, the majority did not carry the question. Texas seceded from the Union.

Realizing they were now members of the Confederacy, a government whose principles they could not accept, these new German Texans decided to act. They formed an underground organization, complete with passwords and secret handshakes. Their mission: create problems for the Confederate military. They employed a number of tactics to achieve this goal.

They delayed taking the oath of allegiance to the Confederacy. They refused to accept and use the Confederate script. They dilly-dallied about selling necessary supplies, like grain and hay for horses, to the Confederacy. Young men avoided conscription into the Confederate Army.

This conflict climaxed when members of the pro-Union group voted to go to Mexico, sail to New Orleans via Vera Cruz and join the Union forces stationed there. About sixty-eight men rode away.

Confederate troops tracked them south. A battle ensued on the banks of the Nueces River in Kinney County. The fight, that Sunday morning, August 10, 1862, proved a disaster to the Union sympathizers. Nineteen of those men, mostly German, though there were some Anglos and one Mexican, were killed in battle.

Some of the men who escaped the scene made it to safety while a few were scooped up days later in the

"mopping up" assignment and were hung near Fredericksburg. The men taken prisoners in the immediate aftermath of the battle, some seven or so in number, were shot later that afternoon.

The bodies were left to the mercies of the Texas summer and the local "varmint" population. No family member dared the wrath of the Confederates to ride to the site and bury the dead. Another seven men were killed in October while attempting to cross the Rio Grande, in a last-ditch attempt to leave Texas.

The war ended in defeat for the Confederacy in the spring of 1865. Men who survived the battle decided to return to the Nueces River, collect the remains of their comrades and bring them back for burial. Heinrich "Henry" Schwethelm organized the effort.

They left in July on their grisly task and returned home in August. Due to complications on their trip south and back, the group missed their intended deadline, August 10, to bury the remains on the third anniversary of the battle.

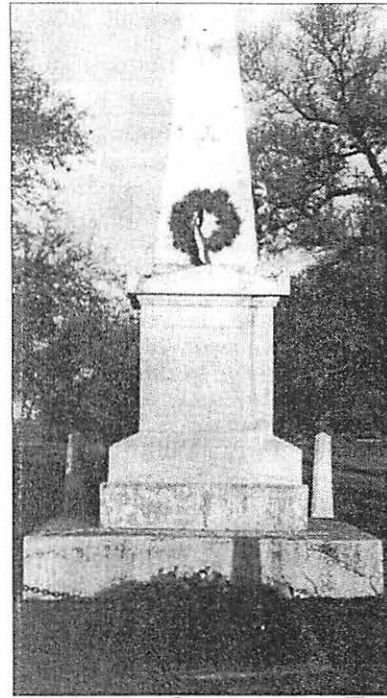
While the coffin for the bones of the dead men was being built of cypress, a committee of three men searched for an appropriate site. Families decided to bury their dead in a special place.

On August 19, 1865, the committee, composed of Edward Degener, William Heuermann and Ed. Steves bought Comfort Town Lot #122 for \$20.00. They bought it from Ernst Altgelt, the founder of Comfort, a staunch Confederate, acting agent for J.F.C. Vles of New Orleans.

The deed specifically states that this "1/2-acre of land, more or less", was bought for the "purpose to erect a monument or monuments." Witnesses to the transaction were A. Rosenthal and Louis Breitenbach. The deed was filed in the Clerk's Office, Boerne, Kendall County, the state of Texas, by "Richard Brotze, Clk.", on September 16, 1865.

The financial transaction took place on 7th Street, between High and Main Streets, in Altgelt's general store. These men had all left a comfortable life in Germany for the challenge and adventure of a new beginning on the frontier of German West Texas. They had toiled in an unfamiliar and hostile environment.

They transplanted their culture and customs among cedar trees and limestone, Indians and an English-speaking majority. They organized a singing and



CLOSE UP of the Treue der Union Monument. Plaster and white-wash showing signs of deterioration.

a shooting club. They produced a hand written newspaper. They read books and debated philosophy and political theory. They had survived illnesses and backbreaking work.

Their friendship had been forged in a territory foreign to them all. And now, they were no longer friends. The songs, the books, the hard work, the camaraderie were all for naught. It had come to this. Hard feelings and money.

Altgelt had been generous in setting up the town of Comfort. He had donated free land for a park, a market place, a school, and a cemetery. He did not donate land for the Monument. Perhaps if he had, his former friends would have refused to accept it. It had come to this. Hard feelings and money.

Twenty dollars changed hands. Twenty dollars was paid by pro-Unionists to a Confederate sympathizer and former friend, to provide a final resting place for those young men who declared themselves loyal Unionists and who died because of their political beliefs and actions.

Sources: A Hundred Years of Comfort in Texas, Guido Ransleben, 1954 & 1974; Gregory J. Krauter. Accumulated writings. Personal Archives, Anne Stewart, 1985-87. Personal Archives. Ernst and Emma Altgelt Letters (1863-1865). Anne Stewart. Personal Archives.

*from The Comfort News
August 3, 2006*

*Submitted by
ANNE STEWART*

Archives. Letters from Minetta Altgelt Goyme to Esther B. Wiedenfeld and Anne Stewart, 1985-87. Personal Archives. Ernst and Emma Altgelt Letters (1863-1865). Anne Stewart. Personal Archives.



Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum - Serbin, Texas

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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.

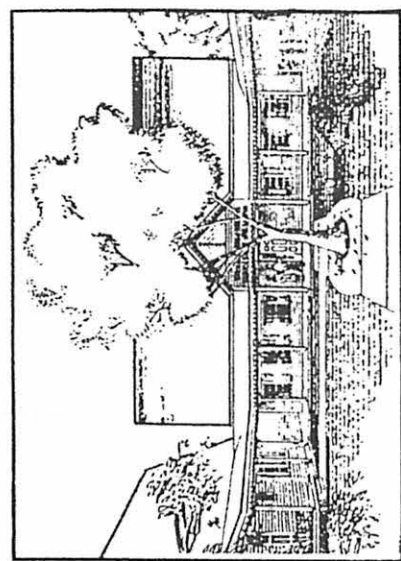
Meal tickets will be available for purchase beginning at 9:45 a.m. and the meal will be served until 1:30 p.m. Snack booths open at 2:30 p.m.

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".



The Texas Wendish Heritage Museum preserves the history of the Texas Wends, slavic immigrants from Lusatia, an area in eastern Germany. Today the Wends of Lusatia are called Sorbs.

Families began arriving in Texas in 1849, followed by a group of 35 in 1853. In 1854 a congregation of over 500 Wends came on a chartered sailing ship, the *Ben Nevis*. They founded a new homestead on 4254 acres in Bastrop County (now Lee) and named their new town Serbin. Other Wendish towns and congregations were soon organized. Many more Wends immigrated during the second half of the 19th Century.

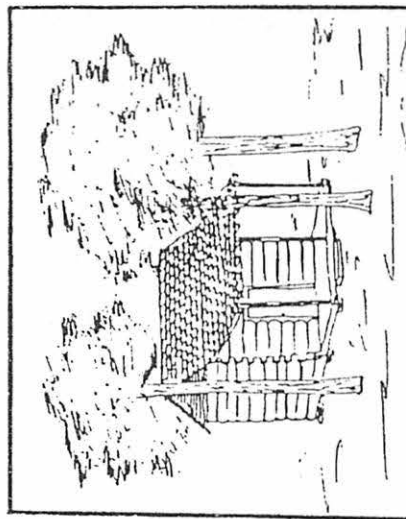
The Museum is located in historic Serbin, near the St. Paul Lutheran Church, school and cemetery. The present Church building, built in 1871, is one of the painted churches of South Central Texas.

The Museum is a complex of buildings which are connected by porches. In the center is a new facility with a display interpreting the history of the Wends. It also houses the Offices, Gift Shop,

Library, and Archives. To the right and left are the old St. Paul school buildings.

Exhibits include relics from the old country and Texas. Folk dress of Lusatia, the traditional Texas wedding dresses and the beautiful Easter eggs are a few of the colorful exhibits.

Outdoor exhibits include two log buildings and farming equipment. The 1856 log room built by the Kurio family, originally part of a dog trot home, is furnished as a bed room. A section of the earlier 1855 room is also preserved on the Museum grounds.



The Mertink log room is used to exhibit carpenter's and farming tools.

The Lillie Moerbe Caldwell Memorial Library specializes in the history and genealogy of the Wendish people. It welcomes donations of family histories and genealogies. The Archives includes rare books in Wendish and German, manuscripts, personal papers, and a photographic collection.

The Museum & Library are open Sunday thru Friday 1-5 p.m. and 7 days a week 1-5 p.m. between Easter and Labor Day. Closed holidays. Archives by appointment only.

Admission: non-members - \$1.00
under 14 years - free

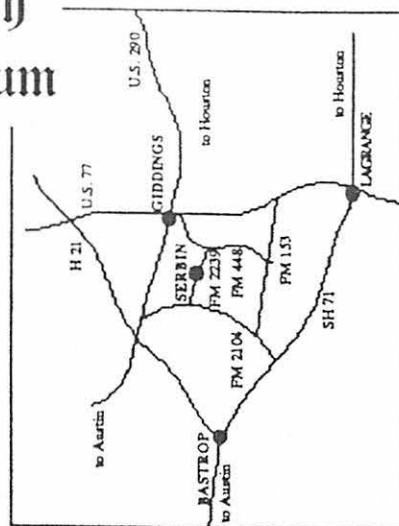
Group tours may be scheduled with a Wendish meal.

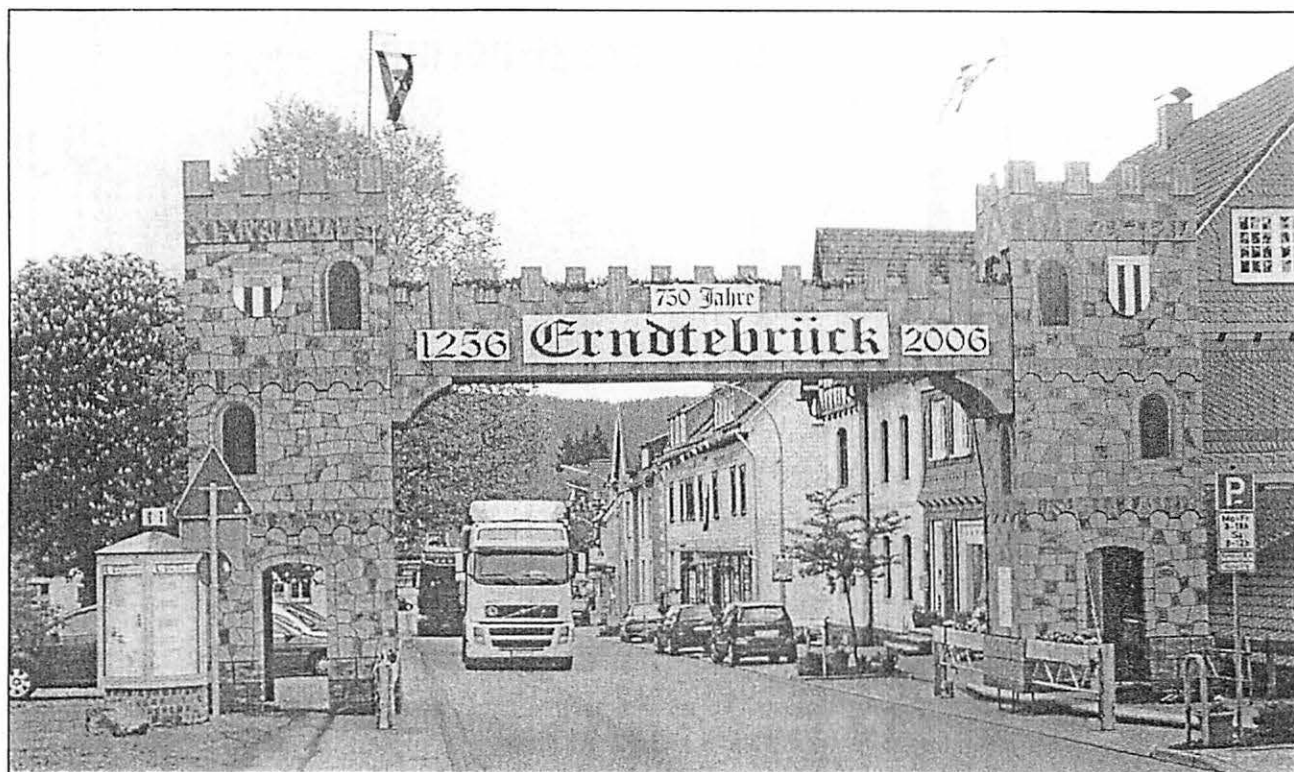


For more information and to request a tour brochure and Gift Shop booklet contact:

Texas Wendish Heritage Museum

Texas Wendish Heritage Museum
Route 2, Box 155
Giddings, Texas 78942
Tel: 409-366-2441





Gateway to 750th Anniversary Celebration

Wittgenstein Descendants Visit Germany For Erndtebrück's 750th Anniversary Celebration

By Henry Wolff, Jr.

A large delegation from Texas, many with ancestry from Kreis Wittgenstein in old Westfalen, traveled to Germany in May for the 750th anniversary of the village of Erndtebrück.

There were two separate groups, 49 with a privately organized Wittgenstein Heritage Tour and 25 with the Round Top Brass Band, along with a number of others who traveled on their own to the celebration, in all totaling more than 80 people with close to half of them having ancestral connections to Erndtebrück and surrounding villages.

Represented in their ancestries are numerous family names from that one small part of Germany about 65 miles northwest of Frankfurt.

The county of Wittgenstein was combined in 1975 as a part of the present-day

governmental district of Siegen-Wittgenstein in the province of Nordrhein-Westfalen.

Many immigrants from Wittgenstein had settled in Texas during the 19th Century and particularly in and around Shelby and Round Top where Austin, Fayette and Washington counties come together, also Yorktown in DeWitt County and Fredericksburg in Gillespie County, both Yorktown and Fredericksburg being new German communities during the mid-1800s.

There are some 50 known Wittgenstein surnames in Texas representing 500 or more individual immigrants.

Ancestral names of many of the immigrant descendants attending the celebration are still found in Erndtebrück and other nearby villages. Those who had been there before renewed

acquaintances and others met distant relatives for the first time, it being something of a homecoming for all those with family ties to Wittgenstein. A number of the ancestral villages are part of the larger municipality of Erndtebrück which also includes the villages of Balde, Birkefehl, Birkelbach, Benfe, Schameder, Womelsdorf and Zinse with a combined population of about 8,000 of which Erndtebrück has some 4,700 residents.



Charcoal making demonstration

Erndtebrück was first mentioned in 1256 as being the site of a knighthood and before 1352 had the freedom of a city with its own mayor and other municipal privileges. Originally known as Irmingardibrugge, the village was located at the only ford on the river Eder that allowed for a medieval trade route to Hessen. This resulted in a bridge being built with "brücke" becoming a part of the village name.

Sixty per cent of Wittgenstein is hilly, including the tallest peak in central Germany at 2,759 feet, and is said to have the largest continuous expanse of forest in all of Germany. In early times Wittgenstein was a major producer of charcoal for the mining and smelting industries in neighboring Siegerland.

A beautiful part of Germany, it was a great place for those attending Erndtebrück's 750th anniversary to celebrate their German ancestry. Those with the Wittgenstein Heritage Tour stayed at the Hotel Westfälischer Hof in Bad Berleburg and those with the Round Top Brass Band stayed at the Hotel Lahntal in Feudingen. Some of the others stayed with relatives, all the

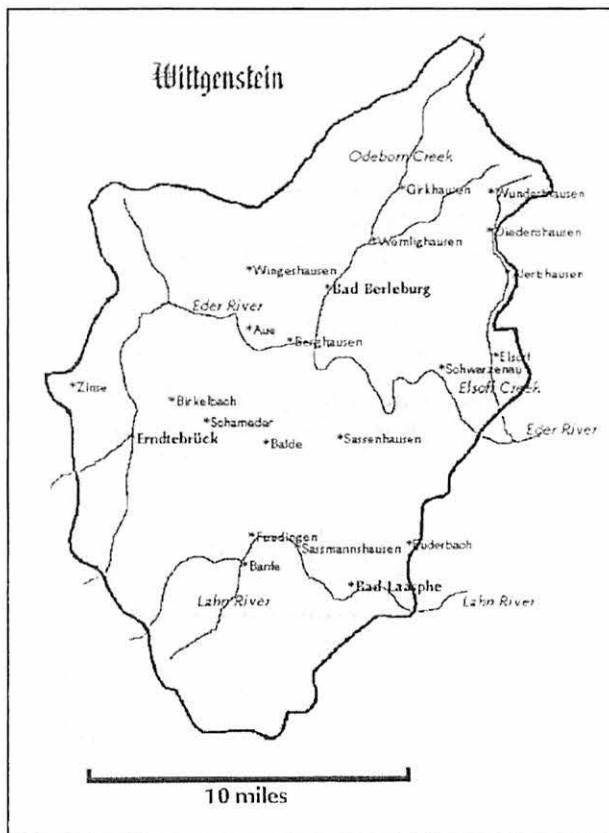
villages being within a relatively short distance of each other.

All were invited to attend a reception on Wednesday, May 24 with Bürgermeister Karl Ludwig Völkel at the city hall in Erndtebrück.

While each of the three groups had their separate schedules, it was a busy week that included attendance at a large anniversary event, other festival activities throughout the week and a Sunday afternoon parade.

The Round Top Brass Band performed in the parade and at a number of other events, including a function arranged by the Wittgenstein Heritage Tour group from Texas for local dignitaries, relatives and friends from Wittgenstein.

The tour group was in Wittgenstein from May 23-29 and visited many of the villages of those having Wittgenstein ancestry, toured museums in Erndtebrück and Feudingen, visited a charcoal making demonstration near Walpersdorf in the Siegerland, also the village of Freudenberg with its many fachwerk houses, toured the Bosch Brewery in Bad Laasphe and the castle at Bad Berleburg, among other places



of interest. The German-American Association of Siegerland-Wittgenstein was their host on a number of occasions during the week.

The Wittgenstein Heritage Tour remained in Germany for a second week visiting Remagen and Bacharach on the Rhine, Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Titisee and Freiburg in the Black Forest, and Heidelberg.



Round Top Brass Band in parade

Those on the Wittgenstein Heritage Tour included Dora Altman of Goliad, Willie and Lana Aschenbeck of Fayetteville, Adolph and Peggy Basse of Fredericksburg, Tommy and Emi Bozka of Shiner, Ron and Dianne Bridges of Fair Oaks Ranch, Luke and Bridgett Kersh of Spring and daughter, Madilyn, Joyce Larsen of Twin Falls, Idaho, Sandy Mahaffey of Decatur, Betty McFarland of San Antonio, Gary McFarland of Missouri City, Warren and Carolyn Meischen of Shelby, George and Gayle Minear of Shiner, Vestine and Dolores Nesloney of Victoria, Bonnie Percy of Casper, Wyoming.

Also, Roy and Judy Pieper of Round Top, Dennis and Susan Riedesel of Victoria, Bill and Linda Sorrells of Spicewood, Harvey and Shirley Spies of Victoria, Harrison and Jeanette Stafford of Edna, Rhinhard (Buster) and Judy Treude of Baytown, David and Betty Voelkel of League City, Eugene and Jane Voelkel of Bryan, Oscar and Marie Voelkel of Shelby, Innis Jr. and Helen Wagner of Warrenton, Curvey and Jean Weber of Fredericksburg, William and Dotsy Weber of Waelder, Henry and Linda Wolff of Victoria.

With the Round Top Brass Band were Ronny and Betty Sacks of Round Top, Michael and Jackie Reznicek of Round Top, Ken Herbst of Boerne, Clint Herbst of Boerne, Jimmie Heinsohn of Sugarland, Wolf Kayser of Richmond, Dalton and Connie Harbers of Blanco, Bill Holt of Wharton, Tony and Sharon Buban of Brenham, Joe and Sarah Lewis of Belton, Glenn Davis of La Grange, Felix and Pat Meyer of Round Top, Jack and Sharon Kleinecke of Victoria, Robert and Violet Krennek of Fayetteville, Robert and Carol Treude of Severn, Maryland, Evelyn Cook of Richmond.

An additional group of family members attending the celebration from Texas included Beth and Charles Boettcher of East Bernard, Jo Ann Wolf of Houston and John and Deborah Geistweidt of Doss who were guests of Klaus and Christina Adler in Bad Berleburg, also Ray and Carol Pickens who stayed in Winterberg.

For those who had been there before and those visiting the old homeland for the first time, there could have been no better time than the 75th anniversary celebration of Erndtebrück to become better acquainted with the land of their forebears.

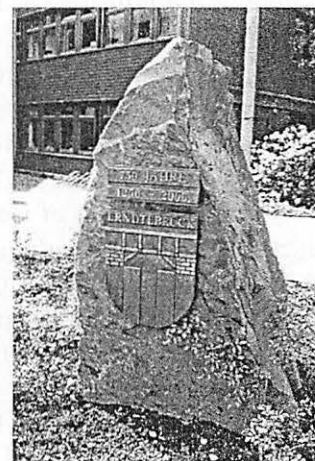
The descendants of Wittgenstein immigrants attending the celebration could only imagine the emotions their ancestors must have felt when they left the beautiful wooded hills along the Eder and Lahn rivers for an unknown future in Texas.

Except for Texas, never has this writer felt more at home than in Wittgenstein.

75th Anniversary Marker

Editor's note:

A Victoria journalist, Henry Wolff, Jr., has been documenting all the families that came to Texas from Kreis Wittgenstein. His Wolf family (original spelling) immigrated to Texas in 1851 from Zinse, a small village near Erndtebrück.



BOOK REVIEW
By Ron Hunka, GTHS Book Review Editor

The Tiger in the Attic: Memories of the Kindertransport and Growing up English

Edith Milton

University of Chicago Press

2005

Price \$22.50

ISBN 0-226-52946-0

This work is the story of two sisters who, through the *Kindertransport*, a pre-war program with the approval of the German government, were exiled to the safety of foster homes in England along with 10,000 Jewish children from Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia. The author and her sister, Ruth, were two of them. Their mother, a pediatrician in Karlsruhe, fled Germany and made it to the United States, where the family was eventually re-united.

Despite what the reader might anticipate, this is not altogether a story of tragedy. A good deal of it is a story childhood fascination with a new country and the human decency of those who sheltered the author and her sister. The Cohn sisters were not only extremely fortunate in having gotten out of Germany. They also were lucky to end up in the home of an English Christian family, who lovingly took them in. Edith Milton, as an adult, became a professional writer, and here, resisting the temptation to elicit sympathy from the reader, she has written articulately and insightfully of her English childhood. Like most foreign-born children, she wanted mainly to be like everyone else.

Of her departure from Germany, Milton remembers crossing to England from Rotterdam. The next day, she recalls arriving at the Liverpool Street Station in London where a tall, thin woman, Helen Harvey, laid claim to her and her sister. She was seven years old and spoke only German when she arrived in England in April 1939. Her sister was 13. She carried a backpack with two Swiss watches and some gold and platinum jewelry to be used as a last resort. When they arrived at the Harvey family's home in Swansea, it was much larger than where they had lived in Karlsruhe and about "two miles" down the corridor to the bathroom. They were led up to a bedroom where two hot bowls of mushroom soup awaited along with a fire in the fireplace. From the window, there was a view of the garden and the distant sea.

The Harvey family consisted of "Aunt" Helen, "Uncle" Bourke, who had served in the British army in India, and two daughters, Valerie and Diana. The Cohn sisters lived with the family, through wartime hardships and shortages, for seven years. By the Fall of 1939, young Edith began to forget her German. Swansea had an important harbor, and air raid sirens sounded nightly. Milton recalls that sometimes after the raids, there would be gaps in the street where houses had once been and the smell of rot and burning. Eventually, the family moved on to Leeds, at that time "unequivocally a dump", where Uncle Bourke had transferred as prison governor. They lived in a house that was a lesser version of the one in *Brideshead Revisited*.

Meantime, Milton's mother arrived in Philadelphia penniless and without prospects, her

possessions at the bottom of the north Atlantic in a Dutch ship the Germans sunk. In a self-serving move, the American Medical Association had declared foreign medical certification invalid, so she took a job cleaning houses for earlier Jewish refugees who gotten out with some of their money. Faithfully, she wrote a letter to her children in England weekly. But Milton says that she had erased her real mother from her mind and recreated her in a more perfect form.

One day, bicycling in the countryside, Milton and a companion named Georgie came across a huge encampment of American soldiers who resided in city of hundreds of tents. From the hilltop, the children observed their coming and going in trucks and jeeps and marching about in columns. At the beginning of June, the Americans unexpectedly packed up and left.

When Germany surrendered on May 8, 1945, for the most part, it was the end of the war in England. The Japanese still had to be defeated, but, Milton writes, that was somebody else's war. For the English, it was the "end of bombings and blackouts and gasmasks." In Leeds, May 8 was a warm sunny day, and a national holiday. The family held its first spring picnic. The church bells, conspicuously silent during the war, tolled in jubilation in every town in every church in England.

After Milton and her sister got the word from Aunt Helen that they were going to the United States, they departed by train from Plymouth station. She noticed that Uncle Bourke was crying and that Aunt Helen's kiss and hug were less restrained than usual. She regrets that she was too young to appreciate the moment, because she was excited about a voyage to America.

The trip by ocean liner proved interesting for the young Milton and her sister. On shipboard, her sister quickly became the focus of many a returning American soldier's interest, and she, even at 14, attracted some attention. Unsupervised as the two were, they did what they wanted, stayed out late, and generally had an adventure. Through the experience of sharing a cabin with two other Jewish girls who had been in several concentration camps, they learned what had happened to other girls who had stayed. They also met a young boy who had hidden in an attic like Ann Frank, who was unknown to them until later.

Upon arrival in New York, an American sergeant who had fawned over Milton's sister most of the trip offered to help get their stash of valuables through customs. Of course, he made off with them, never to be seen again. The writer's own suitcase had been ripped open but discarded for lack of interest in its pitiful contents.

When Milton was first re-united with her mother, she says she felt somewhat "the way Luke Skywalker must have felt when he discovered that Darth Vader was his father". Her first three years in the United States, Milton lived in Great Neck, New York, the model for West Egg in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. The street where she lived had become a focus of German-Jewish settlement. Milton continued to struggle to adjust to her mother until she went off to college and grew up. Her mother was finally able to resume her medical career.

Eventually, Milton made a trip back to Karlsruhe where she visited her father's grave in the Jewish cemetery. There she found hundreds of stones that marked no actual graves. These memorials bore the date of death of 1944 or 1945, some with the place of death, Auschwitz. Milton's sister never went back to Karlsruhe. The two of them rarely spoke of it. But both acknowledged the "extraordinary privilege" of having been allowed to live out their lives where so many had not.

submitted by Albert Holck

“De Windjammers” at Austin Saengerrunde Oct 10-12

The Austin Saengerrunde, Austin, Texas, will host the “De Windjammers,” a Shanty Choir from Neu Wulmstorf, Germany on October 10-12.

The choir will present an evening concert at 7:30 p.m., October 11, 2006 in the Saengerrunde Hall, 1607 San Jacinto, Blvd, next to Scholz Garden.

De Windjammers will be touring Central Texas with visits to Austin, Dallas, Houston, New

Braunfels, and San Antonio.

Shanty choirs sing the songs of sailors. The choir will arrive in Austin October 10. They will tour local attractions in Austin on October 11 including the Capital, Bullock Museum and Blanton Museum.

Approximately 55 individuals are in De Windjammers traveling group; but not all of them are singers. Members of the Austin Saengerrunde will provide

housing for their German guests.

The Austin Saengerrunde concert is free and the public is invited to attend. Parking is available in the garage located next to the hall. If parking is not available due to a Longhorn activity, there is a parking lot on 16th and Congress Avenue, just a block or two west from the hall.

Program Committee Chairman, Albert Holck said that it should be a fun evening and he is hoping for a great attendance.

The “German Athens:” Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The government of Wisconsin played an active role in attracting German immigrants to the state. In 1852, Wisconsin established a Commission of Immigration with a resident commissioner in New York whose duty it was to distribute pamphlets extolling Wisconsin's attributes.

Disbanded in 1855, it was re-established in 1867 during the second great wave of German immigration. But the greatest motivation for German settlers was the firsthand accounts of friends and family members who attested to the quality of their new lives in the state, where land was relatively easy to come by and the German community had firmly established itself.

German organizations and clubs were instrumental in creating a German consciousness in Wisconsin. Much of German social life revolved around the many musical and athletic societies, freedom of thought organizations, horticultural societies, cultural clubs, socialist groups, and religious organizations.

A strong German-language press and the informal institution of the beer hall also played key roles in keeping with the traditions of the homeland while assimilating to their new home. All of these gave Milwaukee the nickname “the German Athens.”

One of these was the Turnverein, or Turner Society, a group suppressed by then prince Metternich of Austria because it focused on an atmosphere of congenial, lively debate. The Turners, who were primarily gymnasts but also interested in disseminating political theory, became active in many German-American communities. Milwaukee's Turnverein is perhaps the most famous.

Today, Milwaukee citizens play an active part in revitalizing and celebrating German culture in their city. Milwaukee is now home to the largest German Fest in the United States, in its 25th year in 2005.



This lovely card invites German immigrants to join the Milwaukee Turnverein.



German food is authentic and tasty at the German Fest.

The Milwaukee German Fest has been a staple of summer fun for a quarter of a century, having become one of the most important cultural events for the German-American community in the Midwest.

Wisconsin, along with Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Iowa, and Nebraska, comprise an area of the Midwest with the highest concentration of German ancestry in the country. In these states, as many as one half of all people claim German heritage.

But the visitors who flock to Milwaukee in celebration of German culture are not necessarily German-Americans in search of their roots. Visitors of all stripes come to enjoy a unique mix of food, drink and fun.

Coordinated by several area German-American associations and staffed by 3,000 volunteers, the festival attracts most of its visitors from out of town.

After days filled with beer, parades, dances, and activities for children, each evening ends with a fireworks display with Lake Michigan as its backdrop. On Sunday, the program concludes with a performance of Carmina Burana by the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra.

Authentic German foods such as Bratwurst, Strudel and Sauerkraut are prepared fresh each day, with over 20,000 Bratwursts and 10,000 pounds of potatoes and sauerkraut to be consumed over the course of the three-day festival. A wine-tasting will offer the best in imported German wines, while 35,000 pieces of pastry from Torten to Strudel will fulfill the German tradition of Kaffee und Kuchen.

On ten entertainment stages, eleven European bands and twelve musical and dance groups from Wisconsin will perform, among them the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, yodeler Edith Prock, the Schlossberg Quintet, and Die Sandler.

The largest selection of German goods outside of Germany will be at the festival this year, including fabulous displays of imported German gifts and one-of-a-kind collectibles in a European market setting.

Festival organizers will also raffle off several grand prizes, including a car, continental airline tickets from Midwest Airlines and a selection of wine from a local German wine distributor.

↙
from THIS WEEK IN GERMANY submitted by Theresa Gold

↖
American Oktoberfest: Cincinnati, Ohio

According to the 2000 census, more than four in 10 Ohioans claim German ancestry. But go to Cincinnati, known to the German-American community as Zincinnati, and the proportion rises to one half. Along with Milwaukee and St. Louis, Cincinnati forms part of the "German triangle" of German-Americana.



The sister city Cincinnati, home to the largest U.S. Oktoberfest, is Munich.

What began in 1788 with the arrival of Major Benjamin Steitz (Stites) and Matthias Denmann and continued with the Danube Swabian immigration of the 1950's, flourishes today as a vibrant pride in German-American heritage. Cincinnati boasts more than 20 German-American societies, a bilingual school, a German language newspaper, a sprawling May festival, and the largest Oktoberfest outside of Munich, Cincinnati's sister city.

The "elbow" formed by the Miami and Erie Canal, nicknamed the "Rhine," now forms the Central Parkway, the spine of the city that splits the city in half. The area known today as "over-the-Rhine" was once the German district.

Of all the buildings in Over-the-Rhine, the one that expresses the German-American love for culture and learning and the arts is the Germania building, with a statue of a woman who embodies Germany, with books, a globe, and a palette at her feet. During the Anti-German sentiment of World War I, she was renamed "Columbia" and draped with a black cape. But the most impressive embodiment of German culture in Cincinnati, is by far, its annual Oktoberfest, where 80,500 bratwurst, 64,000 sauerkraut balls, 56,000 sausages, and 24,000 potato pancakes are consumed each year.

***** from **THIS WEEK IN GERMANY** submitted by **Theresa Gold** *****

Germans helped form the nation's capital in Washington, DC

Many German immigrants shaped public life in the nation's capital and left their mark on American history. Two of the most notable are philanthropist Christian Heurich and architect Adolf Cluss.

Located near the heart of the DC social scene, Heurich's Brewmaster's Castle has long been one of Washington's best-kept secrets. Built in 1892 of poured concrete and reinforced steel by Christian Heurich, a local brewer and philanthropist, it is also the city's first fireproof home.



The Smithsonian Castle, one high-profile building by Cluss.

As one of DC's largest landowners, Heurich was a stalwart among businessmen — and employed more German immigrants than any other employer in the city. His home mixes the "good life" of a moneyed aristocrat with the Old World charm of an immigrant who made his fortune through hard work.

But the home's longevity as a DC landmark has just as much to do with its contents, Victorian details that remain true to late 19th-century Washington, DC life. The family's German heritage is evident throughout the home, but most prominently in the basement "Fruehstueckszimmer," a breakfast room complete with hand-carved chairs and German proverbs painted on the walls.

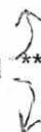
A further section of the home has been converted to an exhibition space used to tell the story of beer brewing in the nation's capital, an industry greatly influenced by Heurich.

Cluss designed the public face of many of DC's most beloved buildings, including the Charles Sumner School and Eastern Market.

Cluss was born in 1825 in Heilbronn and emigrated to the United States in 1848 at the time of the Revolution in the German states. In Germany, he was a member of the Communist League and associate of both Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. Following the American Civil War, he became the most influential architect in Washington, DC, especially known for his model schools and other public buildings.

In 2005, Washington celebrated "Adolf Cluss Year" with a series of public lectures and events celebrating the often overlooked city architect.

***** from **THIS WEEK IN GERMANY** submitted by **Theresa Gold** *****



From "Kleindeutschland" to a re-emerging cultural scene: New York City

New York City and Ellis Island have served as the gateway to the United States for millions of Germans. In New York, Germans lived in enclaves alongside Italians, French, Irish, Polish, and many other ethnic groups.

Each year, the city's annual Steuben Parade in September attracts thousands to Fifth Avenue in a celebration of German-American heritage. The parade ushers in the city's German-American friendship week, an event that highlights the strong ties between the United States and Germany.



The annual Steuben Parade gives new life to old customs.

Germans have always been a part of the social fabric of New York, but the German-American community there took its hardest hit on June 15, 1904, when 1,300 tourists, many of them woman and children from what was then called "Kleindeutschland" ("Little Germany") on the lower East Side of Manhattan, boarded the General Slocum steamboat for a daytrip along the East River. A fire broke out below deck just as the ship reached 90th Street and quickly spread to the upper decks. The ship sank, and more than 1,000 people drowned.

For the German-American community in "Little Germany" the effects were devastating. Because so many in the 800,000-strong community knew someone who was a victim of the tragedy, it was if a dark cloud had settled upon that part of Manhattan, which had been a haven for German immigrants since the 1840's. A mass exodus began that saw many of these immigrants relocate to Yorkville on the Upper West Side.

Although "Kleindeutschland" on the lower East Side has all but disappeared and Yorktown now has little particularly German flavor, New York City is still a bustling cultural center for all things German. In response to the growing interest in a re-emerging New York German culture, a new non-profit organization, Germany in NYC, has put together a website to direct people to events and festivals of today's German community. These days, cold German draft beers stand alongside swanky Rieslings, hardcore rock bands beside oompah and schuhplattler. German film festivals and exhibitions, as well as traditional German food have

again made the German-American community a vibrant and recognizable part of New York City life.

One of the most appreciated cultural events is the Museum of Modern Art's annual showcase of New German Film, which celebrates its 28th anniversary in 2006.

*****: **from THIS WEEK IN GERMANY submitted by Theresa Gold** *****

German heritage Texas style: New Braunfels

New Braunfels, Texas, wears its German heritage on its sleeve. A proud mishmash of both Texas grit and German gemütlichkeit, it was founded by Prussian Prinz Karl of Solms Braunfels on Good Friday in 1845. The prince had been negotiating with authorities to bring German immigrants to the area.



A local folk festival serves the best in Bratwurst.

New Braunfels, known as the "City of a Prince," had a major impact upon the immediate area as well as opening West Texas to a civilized economy. The many artisans and craftsmen among the 6,000 settlers generated industry and commerce for the entire central Texas area. In addition to economic growth this early colony brought religion, organized public education, and other socioeconomic benefits to the area.

But it wasn't until the 1960's that New Braunfels began to recognize the value and actively promote its German

heritage. Determined to preserve the remaining German sites in the city, historians set out to revitalize the

Sophienburg Museum and Archives, the Ferdinand Lindheimer Home, Conservation Plaza, and the Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture, all of which were of vital import to the German community.

From San Antonio Express-News, May 18, 2006. . .

Courthouse art initiative seeks to lure public into federal site

Carl G. von Iwonski's "The Terry Rangers" are riding through the John H. Wood Federal Courthouse as part of a new public art project designed to liven up the round, modern building on Durango Boulevard.

One of the best-known early Texas paintings in the permanent collection of the Witte Museum, "The Terry Rangers" depicts mounted cowboys whooping and shooting pistols. It has been greatly enlarged and reproduced in an archival digital print as part of the Art in the Courthouse Project.

"This is a public building, and we hope to make it a little more open and inviting to the public," said U.S. District Judge Xavier Rodriguez. "So we enlisted the aid of the local museums to see what we could do."

Sponsored by the San Antonio Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, the project will have a public unveiling from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. today.

Along with historical images from the Witte, artworks from the permanent collections of the San Antonio Museum of Art and Institute of Texan Cultures have been reproduced to hang in the courthouse's public spaces. And the McNay Art Museum facilitated the loan of two prints by San Antonio's César Martínez.

"We had to go with reproductions because of problems with temperature control that we have," Rodriguez said. "But we think it's a good way of showing what our local museums have to offer, and we hope that we can get more works donated to the courthouse."

Besides "The Terry Rangers," the Witte reproduced a series of paintings of the San Antonio missions by 19th-century artist Theodore Gentilz and a large portrait of Sam Houston by early San Antonio artist Seymour Thomas that hangs in the San Jacinto Monument Museum.

By Dan R. Goddard
San Antonio Express-News

submitted by Theresa Gold

Editor's note: Carl von Iwonski was an outstanding German immigrant artist and painter of the nineteenth century.

Special Group Of Students Visiting



All the way from Offen - German exchange students, and two chaperones, from La Grange's sister city of Offen, Germany who attend Wolfhelmschule Gesamtschule arrived in La Grange on Monday, March 20 for a reception at city hall followed by a week of activities. Each student will stay with a local family. Pictured are, front row, L-R: Phillip Volmer, Olga Rybalkin, Lisa Glarmin, Karola Lehmann; middle row, L-R: Sarah Lorenz, Hannah Lichtenthaler, Nicole Siatkowski, chaperone and teacher Edeltraud Kramer, and Carolyn and Bob Heinsohn, Sister Cities Committee; back row, L-R: Paul Schenck, Sister Cities Committee, Tobias Rlemekasten, Sebastian Anselmann, chaperone and teacher Frank Seiler, Anna Prochaska, Mark Koster, Jens Wienken and Alfred Drascher, Sister Cities Committee.

*from the Fayette County Record, Mar. 14, 2006
submitted by Rodney Koenig*

Emcee bids Folklife farewell

'Professor' retiring after 35 years

By JESSICA BELASCO
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

You can't miss Professor Katzenjammer: He's the one decked out in lederhosen, mismatched socks, a hat covered with buttons and a tie that hangs to his knees.

The emcee is a familiar sight at the Texas Folklife Festival, which runs through Sunday on the grounds of the Institute of Texan Cultures. But if you haven't seen him yet, better check him out this weekend.

After 35 years, the harebrained German character — the alter ego of Karnes City resident Robert Thonhoff — will bid *auf wiedersehen* to the event.

"I'll be 77 soon," Thonhoff says. "I can't do the polka the way I used to."

Thonhoff calls Professor Katzenjammer "a blend of German folk hero Baron Münchhausen, Spanish folk hero Don Quixote, Texas folk hero Pecos Bill and Viking comic-strip character Hägar the Horrible."

Sometimes it's hard to separate Thonhoff — a retired educator, respected author and former Karnes County judge — from the nutty Katzenjammer (which means "hangover" in German). Both throw German words and phrases into conversation, both are kind of goofy, and both love the festival and its commitment to multiculturalism.

Oddly, Thonhoff isn't a full-blooded German or even a native Texan. He was born and raised in Salida, Colo., and moved to

Thonhoff changed the name after someone suggested he seemed more like a Professor Katzenjammer; a reference to "The Katzenjammer Kids," a long-running comic strip about mischievous German children created by Rudolph Dirks.

When O.T. Baker started the Texas Folklife Festival in 1972 to celebrate the traditions of the state's ethnic groups, he asked Thonhoff, a close friend and one of the original researchers at the Institute of Texan Cultures, to be an emcee.

Thonhoff plans to dedicate this year's festivities on Stage 5 to the memory of Baker, who died in January at 95.

"I think that Bob is the perfect example of a Folklife Festival participant," said festival director Jo Ann Andera. "They do it because they love their heritage and their culture and they love the festival. And we all love him. He is irreplaceable."

He is, first and foremost, an entertainer; the old-fashioned kind who sings and dances and tells stories.

One of his favorite stories is how he and his wife, Victoria (aka Frau Katzenjammer), arrive at the festival a different way every year: They've traveled in a hot-air balloon, a canoe, a paddleboat and in tubes on the San Antonio River (he says). They've ridden a longhorn steer; a donkey, a camel and a buffalo, been shot out of a cannon and shot off in a rocket (he says). They've even cross-country skied all the way from Karnes City after a freak August snowstorm.

"I have a great imagination. I like to believe that other people believe me, but they don't," Thonhoff says.

For his final year, he says, he will arrive

downtown in a rickshaw pulled by his wife, one week after the couple celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary.

"Frau Katzenjammer is the one who cares for all the details, and she carries the load," Thonhoff says. "She's a very loving and caring, understanding and patient and long-suffering wife. The only way I've been able to do this is because of her."

Victoria Thonhoff, whom Robert calls "Mutter," says she hurts her husband. "You never

know what's on his mind," she says. "You never know what he's going to come up with next."

Here's one no one could have foreseen: after a blacksmith friend branded Katzenjammer's lederhosen at a Fashing Bestfest, the professor has had the garment branded every year since 1984 in front of an audience at the Folklife Festival. The brands are mainly replicas of Spanish-Texas brands that go back to the 1700s. Doesn't that hurt?

"The blacksmith would usually hold a heavy glove between the brand and my flesh," he says. "But one time it went all the way through."

The fact that there are few unmarked spots on his uniform is another reason to retire, he says.



COURTESY PHOTO

Professor Katzenjammer (Robert Thonhoff) sings and dances, and loves to tell stories.

San Antonio in 1947 when he joined the Army Air Corps. He served as a medic at Lackland AFB, earned his history degree at St. Mary's University and embarked on a career in education.

Professor Katzenjammer, on the other hand, came to life in the small German community of Fashing, where Thonhoff was the teaching principal of the rural elementary school. In 1964 he dressed up as Doktor D.W. Quack, an absent-minded German doctor who did a medicine show on the back of a Model-T Ford at the Fashing Bestfest.

SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS, JUNE 9, 2006

Unique Views Of Texas Cities Focus Of Museum Exhibition

■ Rare 1880 drawing of La Grange is included in exhibition, see it at: <http://birdseyeviews.org>

FORT WORTH — From the close of the Civil War until shortly after the turn of the 20th century, a number of artists traveled throughout the United States to create map like scenes of each state's burgeoning settlements, towns, and cities. These highly detailed and oversized lithographic prints, created by the artists as if seen from high above, came to be known as "bird's-eye views." Today, the ones that have survived over the years are remarkable objects for all of the information they contain, and the Texas views offer a fascinating chronicle of one of the greatest periods of urban growth in the state's history.

From Feb. 18 to May 28, the

Amon Carter Museum presents Patterns of Progress: Bird's-Eye Views of Texas, an exhibition of more than 60 views of cities ranging from Austin, Childress, Denison and El Paso to Sherman, Texarkana, Victoria, and Wichita Falls. In many cases the prints are at least three feet wide, and their detail is surprisingly accurate. They will be displayed in alphabetical order so that visitors can easily find the view of a particular city. The cities of Austin, Dallas, Denison, Fort Worth, Gainesville, Galveston, Greenville, Houston, New Braunfels, San Antonio and Waco each have as many as three or four views published on different dates. As an example, visitors will be able to see the growth of Austin from 1873, when the state capitol was a relatively small structure, to 1887, when the present state capitol had just been completed.

The Fayette County Historical Commission and the Fayette Heritage Museum & Archives assisted Ron Tyler with the Fayette County portion of the exhibit. Fayette County was well documented with Mr. Koch's drawings of La Grange, Schulenburg and Flatonia. Examples of his work are available at the Fayette County Museum and Archives.

These captivating bird's-eye views helped satisfy a need for municipalities and businesses to promote their interests and encourage urban growth. Each view shows a patchwork of streets intersected by railroads and rivers and dotted with buildings, houses, factories and farms. Small or large, each townscape exhibits its unique character while making unabashed claims for prosperity and progress.

"The Carter's collection of
See Museum, Page 10

---MUSEUM ---

Continued from Page 1

bird's-eye views is one of the very finest in the nation, on a par with that of the Library of Congress," notes Rick Stewart, the museum's director.

"We have long wanted to mount an exhibition of the Texas bird's-eye views, and we've been able to do that through the generosity of individuals and institutions who have loaned views that we do not possess," Stewart said. "This is a unique opportunity for visitors to see a vivid record of the astonishing growth of Texas in the latter decades of the nineteenth century."

The views also document the development of the railroads and their seminal influence on the growth of cities and smaller towns throughout the state in the post-Civil War period. In 1870, when some of the earliest views were done, Texas ranked 28th in the nation in the number of miles of rail-

road track. By 1904, the state ranked first in the nation, with more than 10,000 miles laid during the years that most of the bird's-eye views were produced.

"Visitors to the exhibition will be interested to see how many Texas towns were created or invigorated by the arrival of the railroads," Stewart notes. "You can tell where the streets and public spaces of a town were laid out to accommodate them, as opposed to earlier towns that depended on a river or an old overland trail for their existence."

The Artists

These prints are not only comprehensive historical documents but are intricate works of art as well. Motivated by a seemingly insatiable public thirst for views of a growing nation, a small coterie of artists—perhaps around 50—crisscrossed the country for the sole purpose of making separately published bird's-eye views of American cities. Between 1871 and 1914, eleven dif-

ferent itinerant artists drew and published at least 67 bird's-eye views of Texas cities. They had to act as traveling salesmen, securing funding to cover their costs before the views could be drawn and then printed. The most popular method was to secure advance subscriptions, which the artists or their agents offered in every city. The editors of local newspapers were enlisted as allies to sell the idea of a bird's-eye view as a matter of civic pride. In some instances, banks, real estate firms, and other merchants paid to have their ads printed on the views in the form of small vignettes in the margins. In an age of unprecedented urban growth, the bird's-eye views served as examples of community boosterism.

Augustus Koch, a German immigrant from Birnbaum, made 22 Texas views, more than any other artist. Thaddeus M. Fowler, a native of Pennsylvania, made 16 views in Texas and more than 400 nationally.

Museum Will Feature Unique Views Of 1800s Small Town Texas, Including La Grange

making him the most prolific of the city-view artists. Other artists included Herman Brosius, Camille Drie, Paul Giraud, D. D. Morse, Henry Wellge and A. L. Westyard. Many of these artists received their training through apprenticeships with older artists; some of them had also served as advance sales representatives for the lithographic firms—for the most part based in the Midwest—that printed the views. All of the artists were skilled in the ability to sketch the streets of a town block by block, and then combine the sketches into an overall view, imagined from above.

What Is a Bird's-Eye View?

The images were drawn by hand using, most often, two-point perspective to produce a three-dimensional rendering. The artist usually began making the city portrait by consulting any available maps of the city, which helped him better understand its overall layout and identify the optimal vantage point. If no maps were available, the artist might make one of his own for those purposes. He would then canvas the town, sketching individual buildings from the predetermined direction and converting them to the desired aerial perspective. The artist would then typically make sketches of individual buildings; in other instances,

he might sketch whole blocks or areas of the town. The artist might spend several days in the smaller towns and weeks in the larger ones.

Several objects in the exhibition show what the artist initially produced and how it compares to the finished lithograph. The Carter's unfinished view of Sunset, Texas, by Thaddeus Fowler features notes made by the artist, either for himself in producing the finished drawing or perhaps to guide the lithographic artist in transferring the drawing to the stone or zinc plate. Another example in the exhibition is Fowler's finished pencil drawing of Quanah done in 1890, compared to the final print. The most apparent change is the omission of the cartouche in the print's title, which in the drawing includes a handsome portrait of Comanche Chief Quanah Parker.

Bird's-Eye Views in the Carter's Collection

The Amon Carter Museum holds more than 300 bird's-eye views in its collection. More than 50 of these are of Texas cities, and there are significant holdings for California and Colorado as well. Only the Library

of Congress has a larger collection of bird's-eye views; the Amon Carter Museum has worked extensively with the Library of Congress in the past to make the views better known to scholars and the public. Mitchell A. Wilder, the museum's first director, became interested in the objects after reading *The Making of Urban America* (1965), a seminal history authored by John W. Reps, then professor of urban studies at Cornell University (and now Emeritus). Wilder began acquiring examples of the views for the museum's collection, concentrating on Texas and other states west of the Mississippi. In 1967 Wilder began a close working relationship with Reps, who had become the nation's leading expert on the views. This collaboration, over a period of many years, resulted in exhibitions and the publication of Reps' groundbreaking study, *Cities of the American West: A History of Frontier Urban Planning* (1979), awarded the Alhert J. Beveridge Prize by the American Historical Association.

The views in *Patterns of Progress* record the beginnings of urban growth in the Lone Star State,

and they are fascinating objects to admire and study. They are documents of promotion and civic boosterism, to be sure, in which artists emphasized the attractive features of a city, while tending to diminish or ignore the less pleasant aspects. As a general rule, the artists exaggerated the height and size of major buildings and eliminated many fences, out buildings, and electric and telegraph poles. But such embellishments and omissions are of small consequence and do little to diminish the remarkable detail the views contain. Thaddeus Fowler's portrait of Denison, according to the local newspaper editor at the time, "is believed to include every residence within the city limits, covering a territory of over three miles square.... Every public school building, all the churches, and every residence [are] easily recognized."

Patterns of Progress: Bird's-Eye Views of Texas is organized by the Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, Texas. The exhibition is made possible in part by grants from the Texas Commission on the Arts and the Clements Foundation.

FAYETTE COUNTY RECORD, MAY 23, 2006

SUBMITTED BY RODNEY KOENIG

Section A, Page 2, Tuesday, May 23, 2006 THE FAYETTE COUNTY RECORD

Polka Lovers Club Of Texas Museum - Hoelsch Haus Has Open House In La Grange

Polka music was in the air on Saturday morning, May 13 when the Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum - Hoelscher Haus held an open house in conjunction with the May Fest celebration held at the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center in La Grange.

Over 150 enthusiastic music lovers came to see the restored Hoelscher Haus and the first polka exhibits displayed therein.

The near perfect morning which began at 9 a.m. brought both young and old to dance and sing to the music provided by Chris Rybak on his Gabbanelli accordion and Debbie Hoelscher on her Hengel Concertina. Hoelscher is the daugh-

ter of Henry and Esther Hoelscher who donated the Hoelscher Haus to the Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum.

Attending the event were all five of the children of Henry and Esther Hoelscher, numerous charter members of the club including Carl Freis of New York City, son of Jane and Frank Freis, and others came to enjoy singing and visiting on the grounds in front of the Hoelscher Haus and to take family pictures on the old carriage that was brought in by Jimmy and Lucy Brosch of Katy and Praha. A group picture of charter members was taken at the carriage site after which "God Bless America" was sung.

The Maypole dance followed led by Cathleen Noska, accompanied by Chris Rybak and Debbie Hoelscher and Jimmy Broschon harmonica. The very tall cedar pole was brought in by Kenneth Noska from his farm in Roznov. In procession, the entourage was then escorted with music by Chris and Debbie to the neighboring Migl Open House hosted by Ben and Rudy Patek. Many of the attendees then proceeded to the Fair Pavilion for lunch, refreshments, and more music by Chris Rybak, and later in the day music by the Konvanka Czech Band.

Many came to hear the history of the late 1870s Hoelscher home and others came to view the display of

the 18-years of Polka Lovers Klub of America Chapter 1 memorabilia and the first official exhibit which highlights the life and accomplishments of the late Julius Tupa.

Future temporary exhibits in the Polka Hall of Fame room will feature other polka artists.

The late Julius Tupa envisioned a museum in which polka memorabilia could be exhibited in order to help promote and preserve the music he loved.

Tupa was born in Moravia and attended the historic Moravia school and graduated from Schulenburg High School. He married Marie Schultz in 1954 after proposing to her at Houston's Bill Mraz Ballroom while on military leave. He served in the Air Force Reserve at Houston's Ellington Field and attended the University of Houston majoring in Electronic Engineering.

He formed his first country polka show on Rosenberg's KFRD and in 1987 he hosted Saturday morning "Polka Express" on KYND in Cypress. In 1987 he established a monthly polka newspaper, "The Texas Polka News," which is still being published by his loving wife

Marie with the help of their good friend John Rivard.

In 1992, Julius co-founded the Sound Connection Band. He and his wife helped established the Texas Chapter of the Polka Lovers Klub of America in 1989 and were the first King and Queen of that organization.

In 1991 he organized The Texas Polka Music Association (TPMA) which for eight years henceforth recognized the contributions of Texas musicians who had created and helped preserve the rich polka music heritage of Texas.

Tupa was an optimist who believed that great things could be accomplished.

The Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum will be opened by appointment, and is registered with the La Grange Chamber of Commerce as an added attraction to its tour schedule. In the meantime, you may call the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center at 979-968-9399, or 1-888-785-4500, to arrange a tour of the museum by giving a 24-hour notice. There is no fee to tour the museum, but donations are welcomed.

SUBMITTED BY RODNEY KOENIG

'Made in Germany' Still Popular

By Wolfgang Glabus

Occasional success stories from the German economic front seem to pass almost unnoticed. That was true of the most recent export report issued by the Federal Statistics Office, which should have attracted more attention. In June, German exports rose by 9.8 percent over the same period last year to a volume of €68.8 billion. Never before has Germany exported that much in one single month.

Those figures are not just a statistical anomaly. Products "made in Germany" are doing very well in the world. In the first six months of the year, Germany exported goods worth €382.3 billion, another historical record.

Despite high oil prices, which drive import statistics up, Germany's balance of trade – the ratio of import to export – shows a comfortable surplus. In other words, Germany sold goods and services abroad worth €84.9 billion more than that which foreign countries imported to Germany. Andreas Scheuerle of Deka Bank says, "Exports continue to be an important pillar of the German economy."

It sounds paradoxical. Germany goes from one export record to the next, yet the overall economy stagnates. Unemployment remains high and, as a consequence, consumers are slow to spend money.

The country's downbeat economic mood may be one of the reasons why the export news goes unheard. Germans simply can't reconcile it with their current situation. A Dutch correspondent described the "German sickness" this way: "Germany has become a country where many people are unhappy and don't have work. But then when they get jobs, they

want to work as little as possible." These days, everyone has at least one unemployed person among family or friends, says psychologist Bernd Bohn from the University of Bremen. So the feeling seems to spread that nothing is certain anymore and it's only a matter of time until it hits you personally.

So the export statistics also reflect psychological differences between nations. On the one hand, you have the dejected Germans, on the other the optimistic British, Americans or Chinese who can't get enough of German machinery, BMWs or Porsches.

But economic optimism in the importing countries alone does not account for the German export boom. Germans have also done their part. And the faltering euro helped. Since March, the European common currency has

fallen about 8 percent against the dollar, to \$1.24. But many economists also cite the increased competitiveness of German industry as one reason for strong exports. "In the end, we've benefited from a weak currency and done a lot to rein in labor costs," says Holger Fahrkrug, an economist with UBS Investment Bank.

An international comparison of labor costs by the Cologne German Economics Institute (IW) showed the rise of the euro driving German labor costs up as recently as last year. The institute's study showed western German industrial labor in 2004 costing €27.60 per hour, the second highest labor cost average after Denmark. IW says it was primarily fringe benefit costs that made an hour of labor cost an average of 38 percent more than in the established rival labor countries, an increase of 2 percent over 2003's 36 percent differential.

German industry has responded to that enormous burden in recent years by increasingly moving production to Eastern Europe. The result is a kind of "mixed costing" of domestic and foreign production that has kept German companies internationally competitive despite high labor costs at home.

However, the eastward expansion of the European Union also harshly exposed the weaknesses in the German labor market. This is particularly evident to those workers and managers who have watched their jobs moved to low-wage countries such as the Czech Republic, Slovakia or Poland.

Many Germans are now asking themselves if Germany is becoming

no more than a trade hub, with products passing through but no more domestic production. The term "bazaar economy" has already started to circulate, meaning an economy in which domestic output continues to drop and more and more jobs are lost.

In 2004, the German economy did, in fact, both export and import almost twice as much as in 1991. The amount of finished products imported to Germany climbed from 24 percent in 1991 to 28 percent in 2004. In other words, "made in Germany" increasingly means made in Poland or a similar country. In 2000, one-third of the exports by the processing industry were already comprised of goods that had previously been imported. In 1995, that figure was just one-quarter.

The country goes from one export record to the next

FROM THE ATLANTIC TIMES, SEPTEMBER 2005

continued →

Despite relatively high labor costs, German exports in 2004 were almost double what they were in 1991. And it's no tragedy that many of the products incorporate foreign-made components. All sides benefit from this kind of international cooperation.

SUBMITTED BY SIEGI KEIMLING

However, that "bazaar" element of foreign trade does not mean fewer jobs in the end, but in fact benefits the domestic economy. In 2000, about one-fifth of Germany's domestic output was kicked off by exports, compared to just 16 percent in 1955. In short, without a booming export market, domestic industry would have a lot less to do.

The international division of labor means that even low-wage countries are experiencing increased prosperity. Because unemployment in many Eastern European countries is dropping, workers are able to push through higher wages.

The effects of that greater demand for labor can be seen this year in Hungary. According to a survey by the German-Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Trade, foreign companies in Hungary expect average wage increases of 6.3 percent in 2005 – the kind of growth that German workers can only dream of.



Origin	Visitors in thousands (increase over 2004, in percent)	Overnight stays in thousands (increase over 2004, in percent)
Germany	2129.9 (6.9)	4522.3 (7.3)
Foreign countries	852.8 (17.9)	2175.3 (17.0)
Total	2981.7 (9.8)	6697.6 (10.3)
In detail:		
UK	110.6 (26.6)	276.3 (32.2)
U.S.	82.4 (15.8)	214.8 (11.2)
Netherlands	73.2 (25.7)	187.3 (22.1)
Italy	62.7 (11.4)	179.7 (10.3)
Spain	51.3 (65.7)	142.0 (68.4)

Source: Statistisches Landesamt

■ Welcome to Germany

Germany is further gaining in popularity with tourists. In the first half of 2005, overseas visitors accounted for almost 21 million overnight stays. According to the Federal Office for Statistics, that's a 6 percent increase over the same period last year. The number of Germans vacationing in their home country grew by 1 percent. Berlin is one of the biggest tourist magnets: 850,000 foreign visitors spent more than 2.1 million nights in the German capital during the first half of 2005.

■ Very German

The German language association Verein Deutsche Sprache has warned that the German language is getting too tainted by expressions from English. The association's director, the statistician Walter Krämer, argued that even among Goethe Institutes the Germans use many English terms.

Such "pigeoning" harms not only the language but the thought process is a different one. Krämer is of the opinion that "to be creative and innovative with the ability to imagine new horizons, one generally needs to communicate in one's mother tongue."



Austrian general's Hussar uniform, worn by Prince Ernst August of Hanover, 3rd Duke of Cumberland, 1880. Auction value: €3,000 to €5,000.



Half-armor suit, probably from Brunswick, Germany, circa 1560-65. Auction value: €60,000 to €80,000.

from Atlantic Times, July 2006

Change by Exchange

The German Academic Exchange Service in America ■ By Irmgard Taylor

The DAAD Alumni Association brings American and German students together. This year's highlight will be a concert on March 28 in Carnegie Hall. Carefully selected German and American music students will take the stage to display their talents in both classical music and jazz.

The 14th floor of the German House at 871 United Nations Plaza in New York City is a busy place indeed. No one day is like the other with about 80 telephone and 45 e-mail inquiries daily at the North American branch office of the German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst, DAAD). The organization is headed by director, Ulrich Grothus, who works with a staff of 12, not to mention an array of volunteers, interns, Alumni Association board members, and visitors floating in and out.

The New York office of DAAD, founded in 1971, is one of 14 international branches of DAAD, a global, publicly funded, self-governing organization made up of higher education institutions in Germany. Its work supports three major missions:

- To act as a bridge between U.S., Canadian, and German colleges and universities, higher education professionals, and students by providing information, advice and managerial assistance.
- To administer the numerous individual fellowships and other programs made available to circa 1,400 students and scholars in the U.S. and Canada by DAAD.

- To advise the nearly 3,300 German students studying in the U.S. and Canada each year with a DAAD grant.

DAAD was founded in 1925 when Carl Joachim Friedrich, a student in Germany, obtained 13 fellowships from the Institute of International Education in New York for Germans to study in the U.S. Currently, DAAD awards more than 50,000 fellowships annually and is the largest supporter of international academic mobility in the world. Based in Bonn, DAAD now plays important roles in furthering the international aspects of German academic, cultural and scientific policies.

Charles S. Maier, Leverett Saltonstall Professor of History at Harvard University, says: "DAAD is receptive to unconventional proposals, flexible in its selection criteria, and helpful to those who seek it out. The DAAD has been one of the most farsighted invest-

like foreign policy, this kind of intercultural understanding and exchange is crucial." DAAD and its programs seek to foster exactly this kind of exchange.

Director Grothus of the New York office comments: "In the past couple of years, we have been very pleased to expand our information work as well as our fellowship offerings, especially those aimed at undergraduates wishing to study in Germany. Furthermore, we have been very successful in reaching out to previously underrepresented fields such as the natural sciences and engineering through programs like our new Research and Internships in Science and Engineering (RISE)."

During the last 10 years, DAAD New York has been aided in its goals by the DAAD Alumni Association (DAAD-AA). A symposium on German reunification held at Harvard University in October 1995 led to the creation

German-American Bridge Builders

ments of the German government in the future of scholarship and cultural diplomacy."

Yascha Mounk, a German DAAD grantee studying philosophy at Columbia University, would agree. He feels that Maier's cultural diplomacy can only take place when people of two different cultures, even those as similar as the American and German, have lived abroad and have seriously sought to understand each other's cultural differences. "Particularly when societies appear to have so much in common, it is especially important to analyze how and why many things can be expressed in completely different ways," Mounk says. "If you take an area

of the organization. Many former DAAD grant holders attended and there was general agreement on how important DAAD had been for them.

One alumna, future DAAD-AA president Monika Riely, suggested that if each one donated just \$50, a scholarship could be funded to send one American student to Germany as a token of their appreciation. Warm applause greeted the idea, and the foundation for the Alumni Association was laid. Today, DAAD-AA has grown to over 750 members, has an endowment of over \$75,000 and is fully incorporated.

Amanda Cannata, CUNY Queens College, New York, a

submitted by Siegi Keimling from The Atlantic Times



German House

871 United Nations Plaza



DAAD grantee, Yascha Mounk, and alumna, Amanda Cannata, on a windy day in New York.

grantee in 2005 reminisced: "I have always been interested in German culture and language and the history of music. A professor of mine, a former Humboldt scholarship holder, encouraged me to apply. I went to Bayreuth for language and music study. At night, I was able to attend operas at the Festspielhaus. It was also great to experience German daily life, but it was too short. Now, I want to go back!"

The current president of DAAD-AA, Laura Bucermann, summed up the accomplishment: "Over the years, numerous students have received grants for language study in Germany through our funding;

we have supported a Master Class for German and American music students; we have held an annual fundraising concert at Carnegie Hall showcasing our music grantees; and we have provided special scholarships for music students. We are also forming regional alumni groups."

The Carnegie Hall concert, Sound Understanding, is one of the DAAD and DAAD-AA's highpoints of the year. Carefully selected German and American music students take the stage to display their talents in both classical music and jazz. The audience response has been enthusiastic. DAAD-AA is fortunate in having found generous sponsors for this event which brings together music friends as well as strong supporters of German-American exchange. Hopefully, this year's event will not be any different!

Irmgard Taylor is a trustee of the DAAD Alumni Association.

PLEASE SEND THE JOURNAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR LOCAL GERMAN SINGING SOCIETY, DATES OF ITS CONCERTS, AND ANY OTHER NEWS

Singing societies

A guide to local German singing societies:

Beethoven Maennerchor, Damenchor and Kinderchor

Practices on Tuesday evenings at the Beethoven Halle und Garten, 422 Pereida St. Contact the organization by calling (210) 222-1521 or write to Beethoven Maennerchor, 422 Pereida St., San Antonio, TX 78210
Event schedule, history and other information available at www.beethovenmaennerchor.com

New Braunfels Gemischter Chor Harmonie

Practices on Mondays at 7 p.m. at Eden Home, 631 Lakeview Blvd. Contact President Roy Knippa at (830) 629-5942 or write him at 26 Royal Crest, New Braunfels, TX 78130

San Antonio Liederkrantz

Practices on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph's Society Hall, 420 E. Durango Blvd. 7:30 to 10 p.m. Contact President Joe Miller at (210) 824-3395 or write to San Antonio Liederkrantz, P.O. Box 12442, San Antonio, TX 78212-0442.

THIS IS FOR GTHS MEMBERS WITHOUT E-MAIL

All GTHS members with e-mail receive the society's short *Kurier* written by Executive Director Eva Barnett on a regular basis, usually monthly. Because many of our members do not have e-mail access, the Journal will reprint the *Kurier* for them.

If you have e-mail but do not receive the *Kurier*, please contact the GTHS Office at Austin and let Eva know, so you can be added to the e-mail list.

EXCERPTS FROM
THE JULY ISSUE
OF THE KURIER

STATEWIDE NEWS

FREDERICKSBURG BAKERY SEEKS NEW GERMAN BAKER & OWNER

Because of health reasons, Lutz & Katja Henschell, the owners of Fredericksburg's very popular Old German Bakery & Cafe, are wanting to retire. They would like to sell their bakery/cafe business as well as their ranch and home. They rent the building where the bakery & restaurant is at a very reasonable price and have cafe personnel who have been with them for a long time and know how to maintain the quality of the cafe. Please help find a German baker that might like to move to Fredericksburg and take over the business, and perhaps even buy the Henschell home and ranch. Those interested should only write in the German language directly to Lutz Henschel c/o CC Herber Realty, 145 E. Main St., Fredericksburg TX 78624. No emails or phone calls please. More information can be found by contacting their realtor, Mr. Herber, at 830-997-4323.

TEXAS CZECH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Texas Czech Genealogical Society is in the process of seeking and gathering Czech family articles and stories concentrating on Czech family genealogy, culture and traditions. These articles will be published in early 2007 in the book *Czech Family Histories, Volume III*. The deadline for submissions is September 1. For more information, go to www.txczgs.org or contact Charlene Hurta at 979-849-0348 or fhurta@brazosport.edu.

POST YOUR IMMIGRATION STORY ONLINE

There's a new website where immigrants to the U.S. from every nation have a chance to share their immigration stories in their own words - www.MyImmigrationStory.com. News about the site has been growing as a unique opportunity for Americans from all over the world to foster greater understanding about their native cultures. If you'd like to share you or your family's immigration story, go to the site and click on "Add Your Story".

AUSTIN AREA NEWS

BOARD MEMBER NEEDED FOR GERMAN FREE SCHOOL GUILD

The German Free School Guild Board of Directors is looking for a Communications Director to join the Board. This person would be responsible for helping with local area promotion, media contacts, maintaining the calendar of events, co-coordinating the Schulhaus Reporter, and working with the webmaster on our website. This is a volunteer position. Interested people should contact either GFS Guild President Annette Stachowitz at AnnetteS@swbell.net or the GTHS office.

GERMAN FREE SCHOOL GUILD EVENTS

Please join us for any of these regular events:

Stammtisch - Thursdays at noon

Evening Stammtisch and Games Night - Wednesday July 19th from 6:30 to 9:00 pm.

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.

GUILD POTLUCK

Please join members of the German Free School Guild on Sunday July 23rd at 4:00pm for our bi-monthly potluck dinner at the German Free School in downtown Austin. Bring a covered dish to share and join in on the wonderful *gemuetlichkeit!* All are welcome. Contact the GTHS office for more information at 512-482-0927.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY

On Saturday, August 12th at 3:00pm, Annette Stachowitz is hosting a volunteer appreciation party at her home for all GTHS and Guild volunteers. If you've ever helped out, or even plan to in the future, please come and let us thank you again! Location: 8611 Appalachian Drive in Austin. Call Annette at 346-2236 for directions.

CONVERSATIONAL GERMAN CLASS IN LOCKHART

Come learn and practice German with Loretta Leonhardt on the third Thursday of every month at the Senior Activities Center on Redwood St. in Lockhart. All levels and ages are welcome. For more information, contact Loretta at 303-0584 or lorettaleonhardt@yahoo.com.

DALLAS AREA NEWS

FORT WORTH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY LUNCH AND LECTURE

On Saturday August 12, the Fort Worth Genealogical Society presents "Lunch with Lloyd", featuring genealogy expert Lloyd Bostruck, at the Diamond Oaks Country Club in Haltom City. The event runs from 8:00am to 2:00pm, and costs \$30 (if paid by August 1). For more information, go to www.rootsweb.com/~txfwgs or contact Gina Brown at vbrown111@sbcglobal.net

EAST TEXAS NEWS

ANGELINA COLLEGE GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

On July 20-22, in Lufkin, there will be a genealogy conference hosted by Angelina College. Topics include building your case, research in burned counties, probate records, military records land records, civilians in the Civil War South, and much more. More information can be found at www.angelina.edu/genealogy.htm or send an email to treviabeverly@houston.rr.com.

HILL COUNTRY NEWS

FREDERICKSBURG STAMMTISCHEN

Two ongoing events for German speakers in Fredericksburg: (1) a weekly German Lunch & Discourses in duo-languages at the Fredericksburg Senior Center "Golden Hub" from noon to 1 pm on Thursdays. (2) a daily Stammtisch at the Old German Bakery/Restaurant. For more information, contact Kenn Knopp at kenknopp@kfc.com.

COMAL COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD TRIP TO AUSTIN

On July 12, join the folks from the Comal County Genealogical Society for a field trip to the Texas Military Forces Museum and All Faiths Chapel at Camp Mabry in Austin. View historical displays and equipment on the Texas Revolution, Mexican War, Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I and II, Korean War, Vietnam, and Iraq I & II. Bring a photo ID. Meet at the west end of the First United Methodist Church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. (in New Braunfels). Schedule: tour museum; lunch; chapel; continue tour at museum. No charge for entry. Lunch at Marlene's Kitchen will be about \$5.00 to \$6.00. Please RSVP by July 6th to Wilfred Schlather at (830) 606-6376.

HOUSTON AREA NEWS

WORLD CUP VIEWING PARTY

The German American Chamber of Commerce is organizing a World Cup Final Celebration on Sunday, July 9th, from noon to 3:00pm, at Tumbleweed Texas on Kuykendahl Road in Houston. The sponsors will be providing a free Texas barbeque. Houston's own Major League Soccer Club, the Houston Dynamo, are invited and will provide sponsored tickets and jerseys. The owner of the restaurant, Mr. Fred Grundmeyer, will provide a 20-foot screen and entertainment at the outside barbeque. Please RSVP as soon as possible to HW Korten at 832-251-9832 or gacchou@hwksystems.com. For more information, please visit www.gaccsouth.com.

HOUSTON LIEDERKRANZ BBQ DINNER

On Saturday August 26 at 7:00pm, the Houston Liederkranz is hosting a BBQ Dinner with all the trimmings at their headquarters at 5100 Ella Boulevard in Houston. Bring table games and musical instruments if you like. \$7 per plate. Children under 6 free. For more information, contact them at 713-957-9004 or houston_liederkranz@yahoo.com.

Wal-Mart quitting Germany, retrenching for growth elsewhere

BY MARCUS KABEL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is ending its loss-generating business in Germany just two months after leaving South Korea in what analysts welcomed as a move to focus resources on expanding in more profitable international markets such as China and Latin America.

Wal-Mart said Friday it plans to sell its 85 stores in Germany to rival Metro AG, ending a nearly decade-long effort by the world's largest retailer to crack the market in Europe's biggest economy.

Terms were not disclosed,

but the Bentonville, Ark.-based retailer said it expects to incur a loss before taxes of about \$1 billion related to the deal in its second quarter.

The total cost of the German experiment is not known because Wal-Mart does not report individual financial results for each of its international markets. Wal-Mart has said over the years that its German operations were not profitable.

"They've been losing money there for years," said Robert Buchanan, head of retail analysis at A.G. Edwards & Sons.

Patricia Edwards, a portfolio manager and retail analyst at Wentworth, Hauser & Violich

in Seattle, which manages \$8.2 billion in assets and holds 51,000 Wal-Mart shares, said the company can use the money it was spending in Germany to fund expansion elsewhere.

"At some point it feels really good to stop beating your head against the concrete. That's a good thing, because it means that they're being much more logical about their growth and taking into consideration shareholder returns," Edwards said.

Buchanan said another candidate for withdrawal is Argentina, where Wal-Mart has 11 stores. It needs either to make an acquisition to gain scale and

market share or pull out, he said.

In May, Wal-Mart left the highly competitive South Korean market.

Wal-Mart's total international division accounted for about 20 percent of last year's overall net sales of \$312.4 billion.

In China, which has long been a major supplier of its products, it has 56 stores and plans to open 20 more this year.

Wal-Mart has not said how many stores it wants there in the long term but did say in March it could hire up to 150,000 employees in China over five years, five times its current work force.



MARTIN MEISSNER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deutsche Bank analyst William Dreher Jr. said the German exit was consistent with Wal-Mart's renewed focus on improving returns.

FROM SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS JULY 29, 2006

German Man Visits La Grange To Work And Learn

■ This is the time to travel and have fun, visitor says

BY CYNDI WRIGHT
Editor

LA GRANGE An enthusiastic visitor has landed in La Grange, straight from Germany. Staying for five months on a work and travel visa, Tonio Hinz has found mostly delight in his American surroundings since coming from Cologne.

May 1, Hinz, 26, will be helping Lee Ann Hartmann teach the German students at the high school for a short time in September and he cannot wait. Meanwhile, he has been exploring every aspect of American and small Texas town life that he can - mostly from the seat of a bicycle.

"This is the best time of my life," Hinz said. "You have to do something really special and different when you are studying."

What he means is that currently he is working on obtaining what is close to the equivalent of an American master's degree. He feels that after he graduates and settles down to a job, traveling options may be limited. Hinz is staying with a local family, James and Nita Tiemann, in one of their bed and breakfasts. He is single, although he has a girlfriend back in Germany.

"I tell people who are serious about coming to Germany that they can stay with me," he said. "It's not much but hey, it's an apartment." Speaking almost flawless English, Hinz is working this summer, waiting tables at an area restaurant. But he is thrilled at the prospect of teaching German to local students. His own schooling has led to a major in sports media, another area that he finds fascinating here.

"I'm very interested in high school sports here," Hinz said, explaining that in Germany students normally attend four hours of P.E. credit per week and get their team sports, such as soccer and tennis, in after-school clubs. Born in beautiful Heidelberg, Hinz comes from a family that includes an architect father, a mother who is a lab supervisor at the University of Heidelberg, a brother, Arndt, who is getting married while Tonio is here, and a younger sister, Alke.

He says his dad named him the Italian "Tonio" after a character in a Thomas Mann novel. There have been a few adjustments, such as the weather. Hinz complained a little bit about the humidity, but says he misses the rain in Germany.

"We had a hard winter, with lots of rain and snow," he said, "so the heat is nice." He says that so far, he has been welcomed with open arms. "The people are very friendly here," he exclaimed. "I'm having the best time of my life!"



Tonio Hinz is busy making friends and having experiences to last him a life time.

submitted by Rodney Koenig

**MINUTES OF THE MAY 20, 2006 MEETING
GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The May 20, 2006 meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 10:30 a.m. in the German Free School at Austin with the following directors present: Teddy Vanderworth Boehm, Ewing (Wing) Evans, Jean Heide, Hubert Heinen, Connie Krause, Van Massirer, Janice Warncke Thompson, Gerri Gehman West and Mary El-Beheri. Directors absent were James Feuge, Glen Triebs, Terry L. Smart, Annette Stachowitz, Carolyn S. Heinsohn and Henry Wolff, Jr. Also present was Eva Barnett, GTHS Executive Director.

Recognition of Rolf Stachowitz

The Board took a few moments to recognize the accomplishments of Rolf Stachowitz, to express their feelings about his recent passing and to discuss how the Guild is covering his tasks.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of February 11, 2006 Board meeting

Motion to approve the minutes. Motion approved.

REPORTS

Maifest Report

W. Evans reported that this year's Maifest was quite successful, with revenues of \$10,651 and expenses of \$ 2402, for a profit of \$8,250. The airline drawing had a significant increase over last year's amount. Some small adjustments still need to be made to the financial figures. Eva Barnett will distribute a final accounting to the Board once all the Silent Auction receipts are in. The health inspection at Maifest was passed with flying colors.

Treasurer's Report

G. West distributed copies of the financial report for January - April 2006, and reported revenues of \$37,533, including a \$1,500 grant for the Samstagsschule, and expenditures of \$28,917. Motion by M. El-Beheri to accept the financial report. Motion approved. Copies of the three-page investment report were also distributed. G. West reported realized investment earnings of \$3,618 for the period January - April 2006. Motion by M. El-Beheri to accept the investment report. Motion approved.

Office Manager's Report

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

In response to one item in the Office Manager's Report, Eva Barnett will send a regional list of members from 2005 who did not renew for 2006 to Board members so they contact these former members.

J. Heide moved to accept the Office Manager's report. Motion approved.

Activities Committee Report

C. Krause, committee chair, reported (1) C. Krause will send proposed guidelines for the Ehrenstern Award to all Board members, (2) all Board members are asked to submit 2 recipes for

the cookbook, (3) the committee is working on an updated director's manual, (4) the committee will ask all Advisory Board members for their ideas regarding Advisory Board responsibilities.

Budget and Finance Committee Report

The investment subcommittee considered specific investment changes as detailed in the appended report. Their recommendation, submitted to the GTHS board, was approved.

G. West submitted a revised budget based on actual figures for approval (see appended revised budget). The revision was approved as submitted.

It was remarked that the GTHS needs to have a financial audit. The committee should solicit prices from several sources and return to the board for further discussion.

A reminder was made that for urgent substantial expenditures, the Executive Committee can approve; otherwise, a vote of the whole board at the next scheduled meeting is required.

Since not everyone had understood an earlier decision, it was reaffirmed that the library budget is to be raised to \$1,500. Though fund-raising through book sales and special gifts is encouraged, the importance of the library to the mission of the society is such that the library need not be self-supporting.

It was felt that there should be a GTHS stated policy on donations for designated projects.

It was proposed that the GTHS should take on-line payment of dues and for gift-shop purchases. The proposal was referred to an ad-hoc committee comprised of M. ElBeheri, Jim West, Eva Barnett, and G. West to implement. It was recommended that this committee consult with Wendell Voigt of the Comal County Genealogical Society to learn from his experience in this matter.

Reference was made to the interest expressed by the advisory committee, meeting at the annual TGS/GTHS convention in Yoakum, in developing a planned giving program earmarked toward an endowment fund.

All board members (and other interested members) were urged to solicit further Journal sponsorships.

Membership Committee Report

J. Heide reported on a lunch meeting of GTHS members and others at the Old World Delicatessen in San Antonio in June with 32 attending.

J. Heide reported on meetings of the Boerne Genealogical Society, the San Antonio Genealogical Society and the Kendall County Saengerfest where information about GTHS was disseminated. The Texas State Genealogical Conference invites a GTHS booth at Fort Worth in October 2006.

G. West, who is continuing her efforts to develop a revised brochure, will accept suggestions for a genealogical insert for it.

The TGS and the GTHS should work together (along with the Advisory Board) on genealogical workshops. We should establish a speaker's bureau and try to identify a contact person in each relevant community.

Liz Hicks is an excellent choice to lead a workshop.

A symposium on preservation in conjunction with local organizations would be a worthwhile project, as well.

A list of historic farms and ranches in Bexar County has been prepared; a number of these were established by German Texans.

J. Thompson reported on her efforts at the Tomball Germanfest.

A recommendation was made that members who receive the E-Kurier forward (redirect) it to friends who may not be GTHS members.

Old German Free School Committee Report

We should keep in mind the 150th anniversary of the German Free School in October 2007. Please send ideas on festivities to Wing Evans.

Serious work is necessary on motion sensor lights (exterior lighting).

The fire risk to the building is severe; a sprinkler system (using inert gas to protect contents?) is sorely needed.

Interior renovation remains a top priority.

Ad Hoc By-Laws Committee Report

With regard to section 2.3 (disposal of assets upon dissolution of Society). No decision was made on final wording; however, whatever organization(s) is or are designated as recipients must have 501(c)3 status.

Grants Report

The garden should move up to number 3 on the priority list.

Eva needs help in getting quotes for exterior painting, carport repairs, grillwork, etc. She should wait until after grant proposals already submitted or essentially ready to to submitted have been approved or denied.

Making a special appeal for donations toward repairs and mainenance is a good idea in principle, but we should wait till next board meeting to consider a proposal for such an appeal.

OLD BUSINESS

Acceptance of that portion of Doug Wixson's proposal relating to spending up to \$500 (as part of the \$1,500 allocation) for software was moved by H. Heinen, seconded, and the motion passed.

The copyright status of our publications remains unclear to many board members. M. ElBeheri will check with Dona Reeves Marquardt to tap her knowledge.

NEW BUSINESS

Office Manager's Title

W. Evans moved that the Office Manger's title be changed to Executive Director. This would entail a change to the by-laws, so written notice will be given, and item will be brought to the next Board meeting. T. Boehm moved to make this a temporary appointment until finalized. Motion approved.

W. Evans will develop a tri-fold poster for our table at various events.

Carolyn Heinsohn having submitted her resignation from the board as she had indicated earlier she intended to, Mary Whigham of Washington-on-the-Brazos was appointed by acclimation to be her replacement as a board member.

W. Evans distributed his draft of a goals statement and urged other members to formulate their own. It was agreed that we schedule the August board meeting with Saturday devoted to goal-setting, with Sunday being reserved for regular business. Austin members will host out-of-town board members.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:30.

Respectfully submitted by Eva Barnett and H. Heinen, acting Secretaries

**MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 27, 2006 MEETING
GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The August 27 meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 10:10 a.m. in the German Free School at Austin with the following directors present: Teddy Vanderwerth Boehm, Mary El-Beheri, Ewing (Wing). Evans, Jean Heide, Hubert Heinen, Connie Krause, Terry L. Smart, Annette Stachowitz, Janice Warnecke Thompson, Glen Treibs, Gerri West, Mary Whigham, and Henry Wolff, Jr. Also present was Eva Barnett, GTHS Executive Director. Directors absent were James Feuge and Van Massirer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of May 20, 2006

Motion by T Smart to approve the minutes with corrections provided by E. Barnett, GTHS Executive Director: MOTION APPROVED

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

G. West, Treasurer, presented a quarterly report that included an earned income of \$6,142.20 from endowments/investments for the period 1 January 2006 to 31 July 2006. Motion by T. Smart to accept the Treasurer's report: MOTION APPROVED

Executive Directors' Report

E. Barnett, GTHS Executive Director, presented a three-page written report that included (1)the current GTHS membership at 1,075 (2)contributions to the 2006 Operational Fund as of August 15 totaled \$12,060 (3)the net profit for the 2006 GTHS Maifest at Austin was \$8,352 (4)the *Samstagsschule* has been expanded to include children under five years of age, and (5)an update on her grant-writing.

In response to E. Barnett's request, President T. Boehm charged the Executive Committee to develop a policy regarding delegation of authority for the Executive Director.

Activities Committee Report

C. Krause, committee chair, reported guidelines for the Ehrenstern Award are being prepared.

Budget Committee Report

G. West, committee chair, reported committee recommendations which included use of a no-fee business credit card for payment of GTHS bills in order to reduce check-writing.

Membership Committee Report

J. Heide, committee co-chair, reported that thirty-two GTHS members attended a luncheon she arranged at San Antonio in July, and that future plans include an October meeting and a joint meeting with New Braunfels GTHS members.

Old German Free School Committee

A. Stachowitz, committee chair, presented a report that included the immediate need for a sprinkler system for the Old German Free School grounds and garden.

Report on Observance of the 150th Anniversary of the German Free School

E. Evans reported plans for an observance on October 6, 2007 to celebrate the Old German Free School's 150th anniversary.

Report on State-Wide Opportunities for GTHS Participation

E. Barnett, GTHS Executive Director, reported the dates of future meetings of other organizations at which GTHS might set up a booth or otherwise distribute information about the society. These included meetings at Austin, Brenham, Fort Worth, Houston, New Braunfels, and Serbin. She also requested volunteers from the Board to attend these meetings.

Report on On-Line payments to GTHS

M. El-Beheri reported how payment of GTHS dues, etc. might be made on-line by credit card.

Report on status of the Resources Learning Center at the former Southwest Texas State University

M. El-Beheri reported the center still exists at the university.

Report on status of copyright for GTHS publication

M. El-Beheri reported that the copyright for GTHS publications remains in effect.

Report of Misuse of the GTHS Membership List

Executive Director E. Barnett, C. Krause, and A. Stachowitz reported complaints from GTHS members regarding solicitations/advertising received by mail from another GTHS member using the membership list published in the winter issue of the journal.

By common consent the Board directed President Boehm to send a letter to the GTHS member misusing the membership list, requesting him to cease from doing so.

NEW BUSINESS

Ad Hoc Publications Committee

T. Smart moved creation of an ad hoc Publications Committee made up of M. El-Beheri, H. Heinen, A. Stachowitz, G. Treibs, and H. Wolff Jr: MOTION APPROVED. President Boehm appointed H. Heinen as chair.

President Boehm charged the Publications Committee with reviewing 1849 and 1915 German-language cookbooks offered by G. Treibs for translation and publication by GTHS.

Financial Audit

H. Heinen moved that the Executive Committee investigate a financial audit of GTHS and present its recommendations to the Board: MOTION APPROVED

President Boehm charged the Budget and Finance Committee to obtain bids for an audit and send them to the Executive Committee.

Membership Renewal

M. El-Beheri moved approval for the Executive Director to mail renewal notices to 2005 GTHS members not renewing memberships for 2006: MOTION APPROVED

Cut-Off Date for New Members

G. West moved approval of November 1, 2006 as the cutoff date for accepting new members for the year 2006, after which new member applications would be for 2007: MOTION APPROVED

Life Memberships

President Boehm charged the Membership Committee to review the amount now charged for a lifetime GTHS membership and to present its recommendations for change, if any, to the Board.

Sprinkler System at German Free School

E. Evans moved approval of an expenditure from budgeted reserve funds to install a sprinkler system for the German Free School grounds and garden: MOTION APPROVED

Liability Insurance for Use of the German Free School

President Boehm charged E. Barnett, GTHS Executive Director, to check current insurance coverage for the German Free School to determine if liability insurance covers use of the facility by non-GTHS groups.

Size of Board Membership

T. Smart moved that the Board rescind the action at its February 2006 meeting to reduce the elected positions on the board from fifteen to twelve effective January 1, 2007 and to reduce the number to thirteen: MOTION DEFEATED

C. Krause moved that the Board rescind the action at its February 2006 meeting to reduce the elected positions on the board from fifteen to twelve effective January 1, 2007 and to reduce the number to fourteen: MOTION DEFEATED

After further discussion, E. Evans moved that the Board rescind its action at its February 2006 meeting to reduce the elected positions on the board from fifteen to twelve effective January 1, 2007 and to reduce the number to fourteen: MOTION APPROVED

GTHS Annual Meeting in 2007

By common consent, the Board recommended to the Activities Committee that the 2007 Annual GTHS Meeting be held in the Fall of 2007 rather than the Spring of 2007.

Nominating Committee

T. Smart moved the creation of a nominating committee made up of H. Heinen, C. Krause, J. Thompson, and H. Wolff Jr., to present nominations at the November board meeting for 2007 officers: MOTION APPROVED. President Boehm appointed C. Krause as chair.

2007 Election of Board Members

By comment consent, the board designated November 1, 2006, as the deadline for receipt of ballots (in the Fall 2006 Journal) for the elections to two positions on the board beginning January 1, 2007.

November Meeting of the Board

C. Krause moved that the board change its next meeting date to November 12, 2006 and accept the invitation of G. Treibs to meet at his home in Fredericksburg: MOTION APPROVED

Guidelines for Board Actions in 2007

T. Smart moved acceptance of the guidelines for Board actions in 2007 developed at the August 26 Board of Directors Workshop: MOTION APPROVED

Matching Funds for Grants

C. Krause moved approval to increase from \$5,000 to \$10,000 the GTHS commitment in grant applications to various foundations seeking funding of renovations (totaling approximately \$40,000) of the German Free School: MOTION APPROVED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

German-Texan Heritage Society Revenue and Expenditure Statement - January through June 2006

	Jan-Mar 2006		April-Jun 2006		Jan-Jun 2006		Revised 2006 Budget		% of 2006 Budget
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Total	2006 Budget	2006 Budget		
REVENUES									
1 Dues - GTHS	\$ 12,372.50	\$ 1,232.50	\$ 13,605.00	\$ 25,000.00	54%				
2 Dues - Guild	\$ 2,977.50	\$ 217.50	\$ 3,195.00	\$ 5,500.00	58%				
3 Annual Meeting	\$ 2,461.17	\$ -	\$ 2,461.17	\$ 2,461.00	100%				
4 Operational Fund	\$ 3,155.00	\$ 7,595.00	\$ 10,750.00	\$ 16,000.00	67%				
5 Maifest	\$ -	\$ 5,018.05	\$ 5,018.05	\$ 5,100.00	98%				
6 Maifest Drawing	\$ 1,843.00	\$ 3,696.00	\$ 5,539.00	\$ 5,539.00	100%				
7 Christmas Market	\$ 189.50	\$ -	\$ 189.50	\$ 14,000.00	1%				
8 German Classes	\$ 3,155.00	\$ 1,380.00	\$ 4,535.00	\$ 8,200.00	55%				
9 Misc. Gifts and Memorials	\$ 665.04	\$ 1,507.76	\$ 2,172.80	\$ 1,800.00	121%				
10 GTHS Book sales & Royalties	\$ 563.15	\$ 190.90	\$ 754.05	\$ 1,300.00	58%				
11 Gift Shop & non-GTHS book sales	\$ 1,194.55	\$ 572.06	\$ 1,766.61	\$ 2,700.00	65%				
12 Library Income & Donations	\$ 850.00	\$ 616.00	\$ 1,466.00	\$ 1,500.00	98%				
13 Miscellaneous	\$ 674.34	\$ 265.60	\$ 939.94	\$ 1,000.00	94%				
14 Investment Income (realized)	\$ 2,815.13	\$ 2,220.74	\$ 5,035.87	\$ 7,000.00	72%				
15 Sub-Total Revenues	\$ 32,915.88	\$ 24,512.11	\$ 57,427.99	\$ 97,100.00	59%				
16 Specific contributions & Grants									
17 Grants - Samstagsschule	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	n/a				
18 Advertising in Journal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	n/a				
19 Special Project Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	n/a				
20 Sub-Total Specific Contributions	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00					
21 TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 34,415.88	\$ 24,512.11	\$ 58,927.99	\$ 98,600.00	60%				
Report of Projected Dividends (not included on line 14)									
22 Investment Inc: unrealized (M. Stanley)	\$ 2,546.06	\$ (125.02)	\$ 2,421.04	n/a	n/a				
BANK BALANCE									
23 Bank of America - checking	3/31/06	6/30/06							
	\$ 6,371.22	acct closed							
24 Washington Mutual - checking	\$ 5,932.71	\$ 5,895.09							
25 Washington Mutual - money market	\$ -	\$ 22,687.81							
Total Bank Balance	\$ 12,303.93	\$ 28,582.90							
FUND BALANCE									
Unrestricted Funds		\$ 26,847.90							
Restricted Funds - Library		\$ 1,735.00							
Restricted Funds - Building Fund		\$ -							
Total Fund Balance		\$ 28,582.90							
will be \$765.48 in July once fundraiser income shows									
NOTES									
A	This amount is less than budgeted because \$147 of the income is in the library category for used book sales and \$50 of it is posted to membership dues. Actual total Maifest income was \$5215.								
B	\$500 of this comes from renting the building; \$130 from the 6/29 fundraiser; it also includes sales tax received.								

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

German-Texan Heritage Society Revenue and Expenditure Statement - January through June 2006

	Jan-Mar 2006		April-Jun 2006		Jan-Jun 2006 Total	Revised 2006 Budget	% of 2006 Budget
	Actual	FOZ	Actual	FOZ			
EXPENDITURES							
30 Administration Staff - Office Manager	\$ 7,301.71		\$ 7,683.47		\$ 14,985.18	\$ 29,760.00	50%
31 Other Administration	\$ 285.84	C	\$ 368.27		\$ 654.11	\$ 1,000.00	65%
32 Supplies & Equipment	\$ 765.77		\$ 556.81		\$ 1,322.58	\$ 3,600.00	37%
33 Telephone & Internet	\$ 474.63		\$ 306.44		\$ 781.07	\$ 1,800.00	43%
34 Utilities	\$ 1,152.58	D	\$ 1,522.63		\$ 2,675.21	\$ 4,600.00	58%
35 Insurance	\$ 711.00		\$ 711.00		\$ 1,422.00	\$ 2,900.00	49%
36 Officers and Board	\$ 1,469.30				\$ 1,469.30	\$ 1,470.00	100%
37 Worker's Comp						\$ 100.00	0%
38 Building Maint. & Repair & security	\$ 832.08		\$ 807.54		\$ 1,639.62	\$ 4,000.00	41%
39 Yard Maintenance	\$ 700.00		\$ 600.00		\$ 1,300.00	\$ 3,000.00	43%
40 Professional services	\$ 500.00				\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	100%
41 Bank Fees	\$ 264.48	E	\$ 288.59		\$ 553.07	\$ 750.00	74%
42 Fund Raising	\$ 126.00		\$ 125.27		\$ 251.27	\$ 1,000.00	25%
43 Annual Meeting	\$ 140.93				\$ 140.93	\$ 141.00	100%
44 Maifest Costs	\$ 653.78		\$ 1,747.98		\$ 2,401.76	\$ 2,402.00	100%
45 Maifest Airline Tickets							n/a
46 Christmas Market costs	\$ 1,723.18				\$ 1,723.18	\$ 9,500.00	18%
47 German Classes	\$ 920.74		\$ 1,332.00		\$ 2,252.74	\$ 5,500.00	41%
48 Outreach/Comm. Involv.	\$ 77.09		\$ 131.52		\$ 208.61	\$ 500.00	42%
49 Journal	\$ 3,403.09		\$ 3,419.84		\$ 6,822.93	\$ 13,800.00	49%
50 Schulhaus Reporter	\$ 79.48		\$ 91.97		\$ 171.45	\$ 600.00	29%
51 Library expenses						\$ 1,500.00	0%
52 GTHS Books						\$ 500.00	0%
53 Gift Shop & non-GTHS books	\$ 573.98	F	\$ 851.41		\$ 1,425.39	\$ 2,000.00	71%
54 Miscellaneous	\$ 599.89	G	\$ 32.67		\$ 632.56	\$ 1,000.00	63%
55 Sub-Total Expenditures	\$ 22,755.55		\$ 20,577.41		\$ 43,332.96	\$ 91,923.00	47%
56 Reserve Fund						\$ 4,000.00	n/a
57 TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 22,755.55		\$ 20,577.41		\$ 43,332.96	\$ 95,923.00	45%
REVENUE/EXPENDITURE SUMMARY							
58 TOTAL REVENUES (line 21)	\$ 34,415.88		\$ 24,512.11		\$ 58,927.99	\$ 98,600.00	
59 TOTAL EXPENDITURES (line 57)	\$ 22,755.55		\$ 20,577.41		\$ 43,332.96	\$ 95,923.00	
60 Overage/ (Shortfall)	\$ 11,660.33		\$ 3,934.70		\$ 15,595.03	\$ 2,677.00	
NOTES							
C	This figure is almost all postage. If we spend about the same on postage as in the last 6 months of 2005, we will come in on target.						
D	This figure is high because of high water usage in the first 6 months of 2006. The City of Austin Water Dept. came and adjusted our watering system, and now we're using less water. Our utility bills should go down substantially.						
E	This figure is high because of set up fees for our new merchant service account, and because there was a one month overlap when we had to pay both banks a fee for credit card services. We may want to allocate another \$250 to this line item to keep from going over budget by the end of the year.						
F	\$712 of this total is for t-shirts that were printed.						
G	\$560 of the total is our sales tax payment which is made only once a year.						

**WE NEED EVERY GTHS MEMBER TO CONTRIBUTE
TO THE JOURNAL**

**SO SEND NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, NEWS OF
LOCAL GERMAN-RELATED EVENTS OR NOTICE OF
FAMILY REUNIONS OR WRITE SOMETHING ABOUT
YOUR FAMILY HISTORY OR GENEALOGY.**

ADVISORY BOARD FOR 2006

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Send inquiries or responses for family history information to Liz Hicks at 746 Edgebrook Drive, Houston, TX 77034-2030 or e-mail to erootrot@usa.net

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Materials sent for The Journal will not be returned. All materials must include contributor's name, a source and date. All submitted manuscript articles must be typed single space on 8 ½ x 11" white paper with right and left, top and bottom margins no less than .7 inches. Editors are not responsible for errors or misinformation. All German materials must be accompanied by an English text. Editors have the right and the responsibility to refuse materials that may not be in accordance with GTHS policies. All editors are volunteers, and they are not paid for their services.

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