

# THE JOURNAL

*Celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*



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## GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

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# German-Texan Heritage Society

## 2008 ANNUAL OPERATING FUND DRIVE

### MANY THANKS FOR ANOTHER VERY SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONAL FUND DRIVE

A big **THANKS** to you for your bountiful support of the 2007 Operational Fund Drive. Your generous donations of \$21,516 came within \$800 of our record setting year of 2006. Your donations to this fund, since its origin in 1994, stand at just over \$241,500. These funds are a vital supplement to the dues and other income producing programs that support Society operations.

The thoughtful dedication of your gifts, in memory of or in honor of friends or relatives, enriches the fund tremendously. It is a joy to read all those names, knowing they represent the history and history-in-the-making of the German-Texan experience. All donors and honorees are acknowledged in this issue.

Your continued support and generosity for the German-Texan Heritage Society and the German Free School Guild are so vital in our mission of "promoting awareness and preservation of the German cultural heritage of Texas." You will be hearing from us again soon as we start our 2008 fund drive campaign.

Again, thanks for your fine generosity. Donations at any level are greatly appreciated, though we encourage you to pledge at your most generous level. We are counting on your strong support.

Sincerely,

*Charles F. "Chuck" Kalteyer*

Charles F. "Chuck" Kalteyer  
Coordinator, Operational Fund

*Ewing "Wing" Evans*

Ewing "Wing" Evans  
President, GTHS



Return lower portion to GTHS Office

**I wish to support the 2008 German-Texan Heritage Society Operating Fund Drive at the donation level of:**

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|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chancellor \$5000+       | <input type="checkbox"/> Regent \$2500-\$4999 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dean \$1000-\$2499 | <input type="checkbox"/> Professor \$500-\$999 |
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Donation is in honor of \_\_\_\_\_ Donation is in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

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**Amount:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed payable to GTHS. Mail to: PO Box 684171, Austin, TX 78768-4171

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The German-Texan Heritage Society is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation.  
Donations are tax deductible to the extent the tax code permits and are not considered membership dues.

**Tear Out and Return This Page To**

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

# Members, we are looking for Members As we celebrate our 30th year....

We need you to "Auf der Lauer liegen" (be on the lookout). Who do you know who should/would benefit from being a member of the German-Texan Heritage Society? Complete the tear off and return to headquarters, GTHS, P.O. Box 684171, Austin, Texas 78768-4171.

**Your Help Is Appreciated**

**\*Alle Hebel in Bewegung setzen!**  
(Leave no stone unturned)



Name	Address	City/State	Zip

May we use your name in the letter we send (Yes ) (No ) ?

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# SAVE THE DATE ANNUAL MEETING, AUGUST 23



## CROWNE PLAZA®

HOUSTON WEST

**THE PLACE TO MEET.**

Thank you for considering the **CROWNE PLAZA HOUSTON WEST** for the German Texan Heritage Society. Welcome to the Crowne Plaza Houston West! We are pleased to be the host hotel for your Annual German Heritage Society Meeting.

Help celebrate GTHS's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an organization at this year's Annual Meeting. We'll have a great selection of speakers and presentations, delicious food and exciting entertainment. There will be a silent auction, as well as the airline ticket drawing. All this fun will take place in Houston. Check our website, [www.germantexans.org](http://www.germantexans.org), for updates. All the details and a registration form will be in your *Summer Journal*.



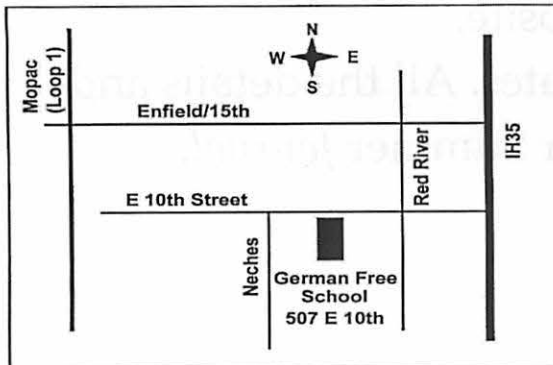
# MAIFEST

**Saturday April 26  
11 am – 5 pm**

DELICIOUS GERMAN  
FOOD & BEER  
LIVE GERMAN MUSIC  
FOLK DANCING  
MARIONETTE SHOW  
GERMAN BOOK SALE  
RUMMAGE SALE

*featuring*  
Maypole Dance at 1:00 pm

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



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



**THE JOURNAL OF  
THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY  
VOLUME XXX, NUMBER 1, SPRING (MARCH) 2008**

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Thanks to these GTHS members who submitted items for this issue of *The Journal*

*Connie Krause of New Braunfels*  
*Eva Barnett of Austin*  
*Minnie Schlortt of Knippa, Texas*  
*Angelina Kretzschmar of San Antonio*  
*Brenda Lincke Fisseler of Hallettsville*  
*Melvin F. Rosenbaum of Houston*  
*Frank R. Brown of Austin*  
*Helga von Schweinitz of Pflugerville*  
*Margaret Hitzfeld of Austin*  
*Everett Fey of San Antonio*

*Rodney Koenig of Houston*  
*Joan Griggs of Chappell Hill*  
*Herbert C. Hertel of McLean, Virginia*  
*Mary Whigham, Old Washington*  
*Van Massier of Crawford*  
*Jim West of Austin*  
*Dorothy Rothermel of Brenham*  
*Kenn Knopf of Fredericksburg*  
*Ed Makowski of Mission*

*\*German Expressions included by the editor are taken from "German Expressions, a Compilation of German Expressions, Proverbs, Sayings", compiled by Carl & Leonora Wolf, 1992 and Republished by the Comal County Genealogy Society, 2004, a book for sale by GTHS. As your guest editor this quarter, I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and loved reading all the submissions. I hope*  
*\*alles kloppte famos! Mary Whigham*

## *In Memoriam*



### **Fred B. Beckermann, Sr.**

Fred B. Beckermann, Sr., 83, of Brenham died Friday, July 20 in Houston. Funeral services were at 10 a.m., Monday, July 23 in St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brenham with Rev. Lawrence Bade officiating. Burial was in Prairie Lea Cemetery.

Mr. Beckermann was born Nov. 14, 1923 in Brenham, the son of Henry and Lilly Sophia (Hodde) Beckermann. He served with the Black Hawk Division of the United States Army during World War II, serving in both the European and Pacific theaters. On June 10, 1944 he married Elizabeth Beatrice Uhyrek in Little Rock, Ark. Mr. Beckermann was a supervisor for the Carnation Milk Company and a manager for Oak Farms Credit Union. His memberships include Buddy Wright Post, No. 48 of the American Legion, James Dillon Post No. 7104 of the V. F. W., Texas German Society, American Heritage Society, German-Texan Heritage Society and Wild Life Preserves. He received the Family Land Heritage 100 Years Certificate to commemorate his family owning the same property for over 100 years.

His parents, son Cpl. Fred Beckermann, Jr. and brother Dennis Beckermann preceded him in death. Survivors include his loving wife of 63 years Elizabeth "Betty" Beckermann, sons and daughters-in-law Donald Ray "Doc" Beckermann and wife Liz of LaCresenta, California, Henry Joe "Hank" Beckermann and wife Cheryl of Brenham; daughter Jo Ann Yates of Yakima, Washington; grandchildren, great-grandchildren, sisters and brothers-in-law, Viola Weiss of La Grange, Ruth Ganske and husband Erwin, Elvira Drews and husband Milton, all of Brenham, and sister-in-law, JoAnn Beckermann of Brenham. Memorials may be made to St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 305 West Third St., Brenham, Texas 77833.

# In Memoriam

## Mabel Backhaus Connally

Mabel Backhaus Connally was born December 7, 1917 at Sharp (Milam County), Texas to Hermann and Agnes Fuchs Backhaus. Mrs. Connally passed away Saturday, November 24, 2007 in San Antonio at the age of 89 years.

The family moved to Wilson County in early 1926. Mabel graduated from Floresville in 1937. In 1940 she began teaching at Camp Ranch Rural School as principal. Then she taught in Floresville public school until January 1946.

On December 23, 1943, she married Nolton (Max) Connally at St. John's Lutheran Church in Poth by Pastor J.K. Poch.

In January 1946, they moved to San

Antonio where she continued teaching in and around San Antonio for a total of 33 years -- the last one being in the Harlandale District for some 20 plus years.

During her teaching career, she was a continuous member of Texas State Teachers Association (TSTA). After retiring, she stayed active in the Harlandale Retired Teachers' Unit.

Mabel was a devout Christian and a member of Trinity Lutheran in San Antonio since 1946. She was active in all offices, Sunday school and vacation Bible school teacher.

Mabel was preceded in death by her parents; an infant brother; daughter, Connie Maxell Connally, at age 11; and a son, Harold Ray Connally at

age 55.

Mabel is survived by her husband, Max, of near 64 years; a grandson, Jason S. Connally; sister, Minnie Schlortt of Knippa; and Myrtle Bartels and husband, Arlon of New Braunfels; nieces and nephews; other relatives and many dear friends.

Visitation was held at Mission Park South on Wednesday evening from 6 to 9 p.m.

Funeral services were held Thursday, November 29 at 11 a.m. in Trinity Lutheran conducted by Rev. Allan Cope, former pastor of Trinity and by present Interim Pastor of Trinity, Rev. Thomas Dietzel.

Interment followed at Sunset Memorial Park.



CONNALLY

Mabel was a member for some 20 years before illness set in.

Minnie Schlortt

**CONNALLY**  
Mabel Emily Connally born on December 7, 1917 passed away on November 24, 2007 at the age of 89. She is preceded in death by her daughter, Connie Maxell and son Harold Ray. Survivors include her loving husband of 64 years Nolton Connally; sisters Minnie Schlortt of Knippa, Texas and Myrtle Bartels and husband Arlon of New Braunfels, Texas; grandson Jason S. Connally, and other loving family members, friends, and a special thanks to Sharion and Fernando Felan.

**SERVICE**

Visitation will begin on Wednesday, November 28, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at Mission Park Funeral Chapels South. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, November 29, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church. Interment will follow at Sunset Memorial Park. For personal acknowledgment you may sign the guest book at [www.missionparks.com](http://www.missionparks.com) in the obituary section. Mission Park Funeral Chapels South.



*In Loving Memory of*  
**Mabel Emily Connally**  
*December 7, 1917 – November 24, 2007*



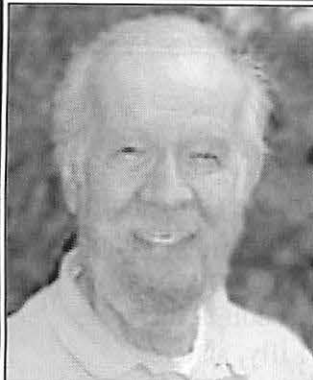
*Funeral Services*  
**Thursday, November 29, 2007**  
**11:00 A.M.**  
**Trinity Lutheran Church**

*Interment*  
**Sunset Memorial Park**

*The family wishes to express its appreciation to each of you for your attendance and expressions of sympathy.*

*Arrangements by*  
**Mission Park Funeral Chapels South**

## In Memoriam



**A. Leslie Willson 1923 - 2007** Amos Leslie Willson Jr. was born on June 14, 1923, in Texhoma, Oklahoma (where the hospital was, though his family lived in the Texas part of town at the time). He died on December 28, 2007, in Austin, Texas. With his parents, Amos Leslie Willson and Richie Hobgood Willson, and sister, Patricia Mae Willson, Leslie moved from town to town within the Texas panhandle during the Great Depression before settling in Amarillo, where he graduated from Amarillo High School. He was a voracious reader and, contemplating a writing career, entered the University of Texas at Austin to pursue a degree in journalism. World War II interrupted his education, and he joined the Army, where he discovered a gift at the German language and

quickly became fluent. Toward the end of his three-year military service, Leslie was assigned along with other German-speaking soldiers to a top secret operation at Fort Hunt, Virginia, known only as by its mailing address "P.O. Box 1142"--an operation only recently declassified. He and the other men of P.O. Box 1142 lived with and interrogated high-level prisoners of war with knowledge of Germany's then-superior submarine and rocket technology, gleaned information that changed the course of the war. After being ordered never to talk about their mission, the Brotherhood of P.O. Box 1142 is finally able to reminisce, and Leslie was interviewed about those days just days before his death. After the war, Leslie returned to The University of Texas but changed his major to Germanic Languages. While attending graduate school at UT, he met Margaret Jeanne Redrow, of Cincinnati, Ohio, a fellow graduate student in German. Jeanne and Leslie were married in 1950 in Cincinnati, then moved to New Haven, Connecticut, where Leslie had been admitted to the graduate school. Hermann Weigand, a Sterling Professor of Germanic Languages at Yale, guided Leslie in his acquisition of a PhD; his dissertation, *A Mythical Image: The Ideal of India in German Romanticism*, was later published by Duke University Press. While in New Haven, Jeanne and Leslie had a son, Brian, in 1951, and a daughter, Juliet, in 1953. After being awarded his PhD, Leslie taught briefly at Wesleyan College in Connecticut and Northwestern University in Illinois, before returning to Austin to accept a teaching position at Texas, where another son, Kevin, was born in 1959. Leslie then taught at Duke University and Penn State University before settling again in Austin as a full professor in 1966, where his family moved into the house he still occupied at the time of his death. In the intervening years he became a highly respected educator and translator of contemporary German literature, befriending many top German writers along the way, including Günter Grass. He served for eight years as chairman of the German Department at UT and for 20 years published a groundbreaking German literary magazine, *Dimension*. He was recognized for his scholarly work with awards from the Goethe Institute and German government. He retired as an emeritus professor in 1992. In retirement, Leslie kept up lively correspondences with friends both at home and abroad, continued to read voraciously and, with Jeanne, befriended a series of beloved pets, including Thekla von Wallenstein, a German shepherd-husky mix who was curled at the foot of his bed when he died. Jeanne died on May 11, 2006. Leslie is survived by his three children, Brian, Juliet, and Kevin, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, January 5, 2008, at Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to the Central Texas SPCA, P.O. Box 98, Cedar Park TX 78630. Obituary and guestbook online at <http://wcfish.com>

## *In Memoriam*



**Robert Clarence Torn** Robert Clarence Torn was born January 10, 1935 in Burlington, Iowa and went home to our Heavenly Father on February 8, 2008. He joins his parents George and Mabel Torn, brother Charles and precious son, Albert. He leaves behind his devoted wife of 52 years, Lilly, sisters: Esther Curley and Katy Lite, his children: Robert, Theresa, and Rose, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He retired from US Air Force and the State of Texas. He enjoyed woodworking, singing, German culture and bowling. He was past President of Austin Saengerrunde and lifetime member of Knights of Columbus, Robert was a fixture in the Caritas Austin Soup Kitchen serving up food and humor. He will be most remembered for the joy and laughter he brought to family and friends. There will be a viewing at Austin Peel & Son Funeral Home on Monday 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., with a rosary at 7:00 p.m. The funeral mass will be held at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday February 12, 2008 at St. Mary's Cathedral. Reception to follow at the Saengerrunde Halle after the mass. In lieu of flowers; donations can be made to Caritas of Austin - Attn: Hot Dog Fund or Christopher House.

## In Memoriam

*Elsie Pressler was a founding member of the German Free School Guild in 1994 along with her son, Judge Paul Pressler who is still a member of GTHS*

By Lynwood Abram, Copyright  
2008 Houston Chronicle



Elsie Pressler, who founded and led several important social, cultural and religious organizations in Houston, died in her home Tuesday. She was 102. "She was president of nearly everything she got into," said her son, former 14th Texas Court of Appeals Justice H. Paul Pressler III of Houston. She didn't have a takeover personality, but she was so well liked they wanted her to. She did so reluctantly," he said. She was extremely capable and loving and had many friends."

Elsie Pressler was a member of Houston's first Municipal Arts Committee and a former president of the Junior League of Houston, the River Oaks Garden Club and the auxiliary of the Houston Bar Association. She helped found River Oaks Baptist Church in 1949 and remained a member until her death.

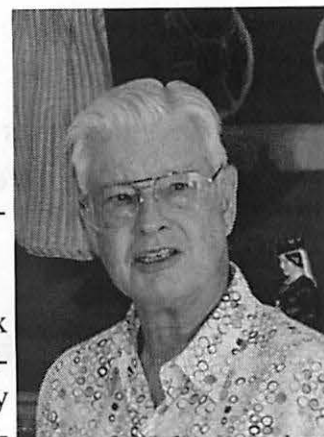
Elsie Pressler was president of the Harris County Heritage Society from 1963-65, a period when several homes dating from Houston's early days were installed in Sam Houston Park downtown.

As a child, she attended school with Howard Hughes, the future airplane designer, filmmaker and reclusive billionaire. Quoted in the Houston Chronicle in 2005, she recalled that the Hughes family chauffeur drove her and Howard to school every morning when they lived in the Montrose area. She remarked that she had seen *The Aviator*, Martin Scorsese's 2004 film biography of Hughes, and found that its portrayal of Hughes bore no resemblance to the shy boy she had known. "Of course, all that (in the film) happened after he left Houston," Pressler said.

She also remembered her mother taking her to tea in the home of Ima Hogg, the cultural leader and patroness of the arts. Pressler recalled "Miss Ima" asking visitors to remove their shoes before walking on her hardwood floors.

In 1928, she married Herman P. Pressler Jr., a young lawyer and Harvard alumnus who later became a vice president of Exxon Mobil. Sheltering Arms, a center for the homeless, conferred its Distinguished Service Award on the couple in 1987. Herman Pressler died in 1995. In addition to Justice Pressler, survivors include another son, Townes G. Pressler of Houston; and three sisters-in-law, Mrs. E.E. Townes and Mrs. Christopher G. Townes, both of Houston, and Mrs. Howard R. Barr of Austin; and six grandchildren. Services will be at 1 p.m. today at River Oaks Baptist Church, 2300 Willowick. Burial will be in Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery, 6900 Lawndale, under direction of Geo. H. Lewis & Sons, 1010 Bering.

## President's Notes February 11, 2008



It is with some trepidation that I begin the year 2008 as the GTHS President. I have such huge footprints to follow.

We had our first Board Meeting yesterday. I was delighted to see six new enthusiastic Directors there. (Dan Bode, John Siemssen, Carl Luckenbach, Martha Liehse, Warren Friedrich, and Alton Buehring)(Randy Rupley couldn't attend because his wife just had a baby, congratulations!). They are all active hardworking people who have volunteered their time to help run the GTHS.

The Directors had been asked to come prepared to discuss how the GTHS could be improved. Each of them had a chance to tell the Board what the GTHS should be and what it should do. There were many excellent ideas. History, Education, Genealogy, Membership, German Tourism, and Preservation were some of the themes. For the details, read the minutes here in the Journal. And, most importantly, if you have an idea that should have been included, please contact me, or any Director. This is your Society.

We voted that the funds left to us by Kelly Stevens, Anita Killen, and Steven Seffel would be placed into an Endowment for the German Free School. Only some of the money earned by this endowment could be used for the building, the principal to stay permanently invested.

We agreed to create an Operating Fund Endowment, but went no further because the amounts available for this Fund were uncertain.

These two steps will begin to guarantee financial stability for the future of the GTHS.

It is my hope that the GTHS will grow a lot this year. The things that must be done are:

1. The GTHS can expand the Educational efforts to all areas where there are enough members to support the classes. These can be genealogy seminars, language classes, cultural exchange, and so on.
2. The GTHS should expand its membership. Please ask your friends to join us.
3. The GTHS will give Scholarships this year. It has been a long time coming and should be continued.
4. The Publications Committee should be able to republish a book this year.
5. There should be as many as possible of the local get-togethers. Our members are wonderful people, and we should all have fun.

Wing



## Executive Director's Report

2008 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the German-Texan Heritage Society. A great deal has been accomplished over the past three decades by the leaders and members of this Society – all resulting in an increased awareness and recognition of the influence of German culture in our great state. Several of you have been with us from the beginning – our founders and course-setters. Many of you have been with us for quite some time, and have taken your turn at the oars. Others are newer members, just learning about the opportunities membership in this organization offers. I honor and thank all of you for your participation and leadership.



On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, at this year's Annual Meeting in Houston, we'll be highlighting the past achievements of GTHS and the dedicated visionaries who founded it back in 1978. We'll have excellent speakers, delicious food and wonderful entertainment. I invite each and every one of you to join in on the celebration! Please mark the date on your calendars. Detailed information will be mailed to you later on this spring.

This is a special year in another sense. The Board of Directors has made it a priority to expand outreach efforts across the state. The goal is to increase our impact and visibility all over Texas by providing additional programs and activities. We'd like more and more people of German heritage to know what we have to offer, and to give folks outside of the Austin area regular opportunities to participate in our activities.

This is an ambitious undertaking that requires a great deal of staff support. In the past we have not been able to afford that extra expense, but through the establishment of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Club fund, we are now able to cover the costs of a Program Director. As many of you know, Ben West has taken on that role and is actively setting up language classes and other programs. You'll find an article he's written on the specifics of what he's working on elsewhere in this *Journal*.

I encourage each of you to participate in this outreach effort by connecting with GTHS members in your area. You can start by simply having lunch at a local German restaurant (if there is one). Invite members and others interested in German culture and you'll probably find you'll have a great time and will want to do it again! Ben can help you get started on this process, so feel free to contact him at the GTHS office about it.

Ben may also be calling on you to help him find resources in your area – locations to hold classes, prospective German language teachers, effective places to advertise our programs, etc. Please help him out as best you can. This outreach goal is bigger than something one single person can achieve. It will take the participation of many of us to make the German-Texan Heritage Society grow – both in membership and in our ability to achieve our mission. Let us build this organization in stature so that 30 years from now we're at least as proud as we are today!

mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Eva Barnett  
GTHS Executive Director

## German-Texan Heritage Society Scholarships- 2008

In 2008, the German-Texan Heritage Society offered five Scholarships, in the category "German-Texan Research Papers", at the Texas State German Contest. The winners were announced on February 23 at the Texas State German Contest Awards ceremony at the University of Texas in Austin. The awards were presented by Wing Evans, President of the GTHS and by Mary El-Beheri, Director of the TSGC.

### THE WINNERS:

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$1000 award**

Katie McDermott of Grisham Middle School, Round Rock  
Teacher: Ulrike Puryear  
Topic - Saengerrunde Halle

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$500 award**

Anand Divakaruni of Clements High School, Houston  
Teacher: Rustin Buck  
Topic - The Quedlinburg Treasures

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Place award: \$500**

Chelsea Lewis of Lyndon B. Johnson High School/LASA, Austin  
Teacher: Keri Jaworski  
Topic - Secondhand Opera: Investigation of Julius Weiss, Scott Joplin's First formal Music teacher

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Place award: \$250**

Alexis Avram & Alexis Kropf of Westwood H.S., Round Rock  
Teacher: Evelyn Saucier  
Topic - A Joint Cooperation: The Infiltration of German Culture in Tejano Music & Dance

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Place award: \$250**

J. Bartley & P. Lippe of Whitney High School, Whitney  
Teacher: Kathy Radde  
Topic - The Settlement of Malone, Texas

Education is very important to the German-Texan Heritage Society, which was founded in 1978 by three educators - Mary El-Beheri, Dona Reeves-Marquardt and Anna Thompson. Through this annual scholarship, we are pleased to provide encouragement for the youth of Texas to pursue the study of German-Texan history and the German language. The scholarship awards go to students who were winners at the Texas State German Contest and whose teachers are members of GTHS.



The requirements for the research papers may be found at: <http://www.germancontest.org/sprachfest/critsheets/researchpaper.html>

## **An Enthusiastic Email from Scholarship Chair, Mary El-Beheri**



**We give trophies to the top five places, so i felt it was important to honor all five. The judges said all 15 papers were wonderful and they had a hard time choosing them. The judges were: Nella Spurlin from Temple H.S. and an Austin GTHS member, Cindy Kittok. I think it would be really nice to invite the Austin and Round Rock winners, or all of them to our next BOD meeting or to some other gathering to honor them.**

**I have asked them to send their papers to The Journal editor to be placed in a future issue.**

**And we could have hard copies on hand at the GTHS Library. The topics are very unusual and interesting. I have hard copies of Grisham,LBJ and Westwood. The Tejano paper has a cd with it.**

**I hope you are as impressed as I am with our kids. There were 1,000 of them in attendance.**

**The GTHS Board voted \$2000 for scholarships. The additional \$500 was given by Mary El-Beheri.  
You go girl!!!!**

## 2007 Operational Fund Donors

*The German-Texan Heritage Society is very fortunate to have supporters like you! Your continued tax-deductible financial contributions, including matching funds from your employer, are vital to the well-being of our Society.*

### ***Herzlichen Dank to:***

#### **Dean Gift Level (\$1000 - \$2499)**

*Wing & Barbara Evans, Austin*

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***The 2007 GTHS Operational Fund Drive began on January 1, 2007 and ended on  
 December 31, 2007. We raised \$21,515.32 from 209 donors.  
 All donations received during 2008 will be listed in the Spring 2009 Journal.***

### In-Kind Donations & Volunteers

*Each year, we receive many in-kind donations of books, equipment, food, crafts and supplies, along with thousands of hours of helpful and friendly volunteer labor. These vital donations assist us greatly in so many ways: we save on expenses by having equipment and supplies donated rather than purchasing them; we raise funds for the Library by selling some of our donated books; we raise funds at events by selling donated food and crafts; we save on contract labor costs by having skilled volunteers do repairs on the building, fix our computers, manage our website, upgrade our database, organize our celebrations, beautify our garden and much, much more.*

*Volunteers publish our Journal and the Schulhaus Reporter. Our office volunteers help the staff keep up with all the administrative work. Volunteers run the Annual Meeting, Maifest, Oktoberfest and the Christmas Market. They manage our library, our speaker series, our weekly Open House & Stammtisch and our potlucks. They represent GTHS at functions across the state. Our GTHS Board, Advisory Board and German Free School Guild Board consist of volunteers who give their time and expertise to set a course for this fine organization. We are extremely grateful to each and every one of you for your participation in the Society and your dedication to our mission.*

## 2007 Individual Gifts, Memorials and Underwriters

### Individual Gifts

*Jo Peebles Adams, Houston - for the German Free School, in Memory of Clara Schutze Peebles*  
*Howard R & Margaret Pressler Barr, Austin - for the German Free School Renovation*  
*Dr. Henry & Teddy Boehm, Brenham - for the German Free School Renovation*  
*Sherryl C Brown, Fredericksburg - for the German Free School Renovation*  
*James M & Johanna Damon, Austin*  
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*Richard A Schenck, Dripping Springs - for the German Free School Renovation*  
*Marcella D Spiller, Austin - for the German Free School Renovation*  
*Douglas Wixson, Austin - for the German Free School Renovation*

### Memorials

*Jo Peebles Adams, Houston - In Memory of Charles Brueggerhoff, for the Library Fund*  
*Judge Paul & Nancy Pressler, Houston - In Memory of Walter W. Kalteyer*

### Event Underwriters

*Blue Bell Creameries, Brenham - 150th Anniversary*  
*James & Johanna Damon, Austin - Maifest*  
*Ray & Amelia Dennis, Austin - Maifest*  
*Wing & Barbara Evans, Austin - Maifest*  
*Charles Kalteyer, Austin - 150th Anniversary*  
*Rodney Koenig, Houston - 150th Anniversary*  
*Julia Mellenbruch, Austin - 150th Anniversary*  
*Dr Robert Neely, Bellville - Maifest & 150th Anniversary*  
*Joyce Nelson, Austin - Christmas Market*  
*Rogelio & Christa Rabago, Austin - Christmas Market*  
*Elwyn & Anna Marie Speir, Austin - Threepenny Opera*  
*Annette Stachowitz, Austin - Maifest & Threepenny Opera*  
*Esther Miller Strange, Kerrville - 150th Anniversary*  
*Julie Tereshchuk, Austin - Threepenny Opera*  
*Charles & Janice Thompson, Houston - 150th Anniversary*  
*Gerri & Jim West, Austin - Threepenny Opera*  
*Mary Whigham, Washington - Threepenny Opera*  
*Bette Williams, Austin - 150th Anniversary*

*If we have inadvertently omitted your name, please accept our apologies and let us know so we can correct the error in a future edition of the Journal.*



## LEAVE YOUR GERMAN MARK

**By Rodney Koenig  
(Past President of GTHS)**

The annual meeting of GTHS will be in the Houston area this year. A wonderful article describing Houston Germans is in "The Ethnic Groups of Houston" published by Rice University. Dr. Theodore G. Gish, Professor Emeritus of German at University of Houston, wrote the chapter on Germans. You can link to this article at [www.HoustonSaengerbund.org](http://www.HoustonSaengerbund.org). Houston has had recent mayors named Fred Hofheinz and Kathy Niederhofer Whitmire. Houston Germans such as Gustav Dresel knew and spoke to Hofmann von Fallersleben (author of "Deutschland, Deutschland Uber Alles"), who also wrote "Der Stern von Texas." Wonderful German family names in Houston reflect a vibrant German heritage. Binz, Studemont, Usener, Settegast, Bering, Gessner, Klein, Hermann Park, Conrad Sauer, Kuhlmann, Meyerland are only some of the many German names in Houston.

We have numerous German groups in Houston including the two singing groups, Houston Saengerbund and Houston Liederkranz. We also have a Lieder Abend informal singing group. Many churches, such as First Lutheran, Pilgrim, Trinity Lutheran, Addicks Methodist, and Christ the King Lutheran have choirs that often sing in German or have German heritage. The Houston-Leipzig Sister City Association meets monthly and is very active in promoting cooperation between Houston and Leipzig. The German Saturday School meets every Saturday at Christ the King Lutheran Church.

The communities of Klein, Tomball, Spring Branch and the Heights all have significant German influence. The University of Houston, Rice, St. Thomas, Houston Baptist, Texas Southern and Houston Community College all have German Programs. Many high schools, such as Bellaire, Memorial, and others have great German language programs. The German American Chamber of Commerce has been here for many years and recently received a "shot in the arm," with a new director. The current German Consul General, Rainer Münzel is working hard to promote establishing a German Cultural Center. Many groups such as the Sons of Hermann, Texas German Society and German Texan Heritage Society are active in Houston. Various German groups and persons have left their German Mark on Houston!

What will you do to leave your German Mark? Consider preserving the stories of your German-Texan childhood by putting together a booklet of your experiences. Look for street names which reflect German heritage. Help preserve old churches with German roots. Talk to your children, nieces and nephews and allow them to record such conversations. Share some of your genealogy with us by publicizing your family reunions in *The Journal* and in your local newspapers. Honor your German ancestors by donating hymnals to your church in their memory. Change your Will to leave a portion of your assets to GTHS or to some other charity that will preserve our German-Texan history. Designate your school as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy or an IRA, with a requirement that the proceeds be used for teaching the German language or history of German culture in Texas. For help in this area, please call our GTHS office or call Rodney Koenig at 713-651-5333. Email us at [rkoenig@fulbright.com](mailto:rkoenig@fulbright.com) or [Info@GermanTexans.org](mailto:Info@GermanTexans.org). In any event, please **Leave Your German Mark**.

**Estate Bequests received by GTHS:**

**Kelly Stevens, 1991**

**Anita Killen, 2003**

**Seffel Estate, 2008**

**They really do make a difference**

## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Club – 2007 Donors

### *Leaving Your German Mark*

#### PLATINUM SPONSORS

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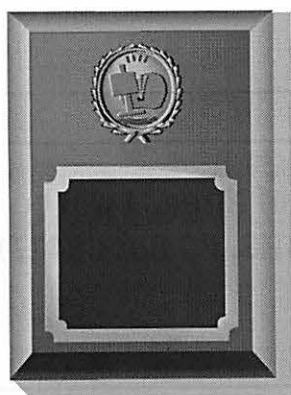
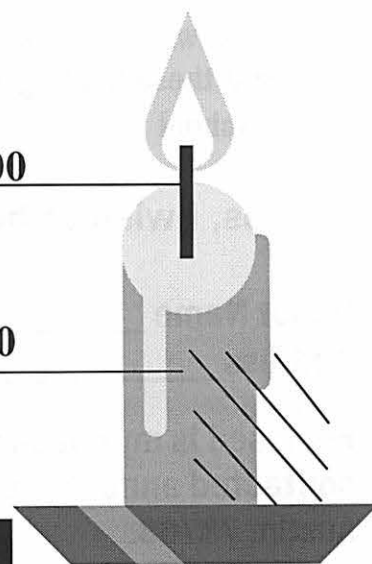
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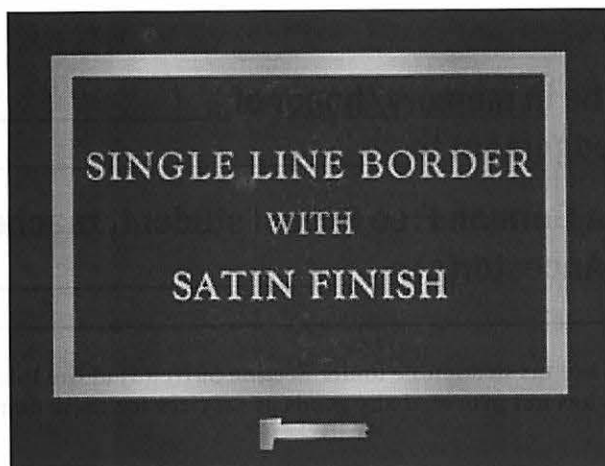
*Pledges continue to come in...5  
 months into our fund drive and we  
 have raised over 50% of our goal  
 of \$150,000.*

\$150,000

\$75,000



OR



**Funds to be used for:**

**Fund the development of outreach programs beyond the Austin area. \$50,000**  
*Genealogy seminars, German language classes sponsored/conducted by GTHS*  
*Annual Scholarships to three deserving individuals*

**Begin the funding of an operating endowment for the German-Texan Heritage Society \$50,000**

**Fund needed renovations/upgrades to the German Free School building and grounds \$50,000**

**Levels of Giving:**

- Platinum Sponsor: \$5,000/year for 3 years, total \$15,000\***
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- Silver Sponsor: \$500/year for 3 years, total \$1,500\***
- Bronze Sponsor: \$150/year for 3 years, total \$450**
- Pewter Sponsor: \$50/year for 3 years, total \$150**

**You will be a Charter member of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Club, Mention in *The Journal***  
**\*At these funding levels, name included in plaque to be hung at the German Free School**

**Yes, I wish to become a member of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Club!**

**Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_**

**Address \_\_\_\_\_**

**Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_, my first installment of three. I will be contacted annually for the balance. Make check payable to GTHS, PO Box 684171, Austin, 78768.**

**I wish my donation to be in memory/honor of \_\_\_\_\_**

**Please send acknowledgement to \_\_\_\_\_**

**I am a descendant of a German Free School student, teacher, trustee \_\_\_ (place check here) Name of GFS Ancestor(s) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Donations to GTHS are tax deductible under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. GTHS has not provided any goods or services for these donations.**

## Genealogy Inquiries: Liz Hicks, Genealogy Editor

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

Do **YOU** have a genealogy question? Send it to Liz Hicks, Genealogy Editor, e-mail: [erootrot@usa.net](mailto:erootrot@usa.net) or 746 Edgebrook Dr., Houston, TX 77034-2030. We reserve the right to edit queries. Queries are printed as space permits at no charge.



### KLAUS/CLAUS

Peggy Neill, 311 Edgehill, Pleasanton, TX 78064, e-mail: [Lempeg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Lempeg@sbcglobal.net)

Query regarding her Conrad and Katrina Schmidz Claus, who arrived on the ship *Estafete* circa 1857, Indianola, TX appeared in the winter, 2007 "Journal". Does anyone have any information on this family of 1860 Fayette County, TX?

**Reply:** The death certificates for several of Conrad and Katrina's children give their father's name as Fredrich not Conrad/Konrad. This might make a difference in the records you've searched. Try looking again, but for Fredrich Claus/Klaus.

### FUHRMAN(N)/RICHTER/SHEEHAN/RAATZ/STONE

Joe Fuhrman, 318 S. Penn St., Flatonia, TX 78041, e-mail [joe\\_fuhrman2000@yahoo.com](mailto:joe_fuhrman2000@yahoo.com)

Would like to hear from anyone researching the family of August E. Fuhrmann born Jan., 1846 Germany, died 2 May 1906 Austin, TX and wife, Emilie Richter born 5 January, 1849 Prenzlau, Pommern, Germany, died 7 April, 1939 Austin, Travis co., TX. Their children: Johannah "Hannah" b. 29 Dec. 1873, married Dennis Sheehan; Helena b. 30 Aug. 1875; August b. 9 Sept. 1877 married Edith Raatz; Charley H. b. 15 Oct. 1881; Robert b. Jan. 1887, Wally Ann b. 8 Nov. 1889 married (2) Benton J. Stone.

### SASSMANNSHAUSEN

Andre Sassmannshausen, e-mail: [ASassmanns@aol.com](mailto:ASassmanns@aol.com) is looking for any information on his ancestor, Andreas Karl/Carl Sassmannshausen born 9 July 1835, died 11 April 1884 Salado, Bell County, TX. Andreas/Andrew may have died as a result of a train accident. Letters from him to family in Germany were lost during WWII.

Does anyone have access to Salado, Texas Cemetery records, and newspapers that might have an article regarding his death?

### HEGMAN/HEGMANN/HAGEMAN/HAGEMANN/HAGMAN(N)

Roger Baker, e-mail: [RogShaBaker@aol.com](mailto:RogShaBaker@aol.com) is looking for full name, and father's name of Albert Hegman born 25 June 1905, Galveston, Tx.

**Reply:** You might find a birth certificate; but if not, try church records. Check his death certificate and social security application. You did not say when and where he died?

**These pages are a typed version of the Power point presentation given by Yu Li, Librarian at UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures, at the Annual Meeting held this last August in San Antonio. Yu Li may be contacted at 801 S. Bowie Street, San Antonio, TX 78205-3296, Phone: (210) 458-2242, [www.TexanCultures.com](http://www.TexanCultures.com) . Printed with her permission (provided by Connie Krause).**

## **ITC Library at a Glance**

By Yu Li [Yu.li@utsa.edu](mailto:Yu.li@utsa.edu)

### **Institute of Texan Cultures**

The state's center for the interpretation of the history and cultures of Texas  
San Antonio's culture experience museum  
Opened in 1965 to plan the exhibits for 1968's Hemisfair  
Became one of the three campuses of UTSA in 1986  
Maintain 50,000 square feet of exhibits featuring various cultures and ethnic groups

### **ITC Library**

Location: 801 S. Bowie Street  
Library Hours: Mon.-Fri. / 10 AM-5 PM  
Complimentary parking  
Website: <http://www.texancultures.utsa.edu/library/overview.html>

#### **Historical research library**

##### **Library Users**

ITC staff, UTSA community & General public

##### **Mission:**

To support research and education with specific emphasis on ethnic culture

##### **Two functions:**

Reference & Collection Management

##### **5 major collections**

Books & Periodicals

Vertical files

Microforms

Oral history

Photographs

### **Book & Periodicals**

7,000 titles of books and periodicals (Room Use Only)

Searchable Catalog UCAT at <http://ucat.utsa.edu>

60% dealing with Texas history & ethnic groups

Consisting of Reference materials, Family history, County history and more

Other categories--

Including Anthropology, Social & Political Sciences, Law, Education, Medicine, Music, and Arts, Literature, Agriculture, Technology and more

**Useful Reference Materials include:**

1. **Texas Almanac**
2. **Handbook of Texas**
3. **Encyclopedias and Guides**
  - Guide to historical literature
  - Guide to multicultural resources (periodical)
  - Guide to Texas emigrants
  - The Bexar Archives (1717-1836): a name guide
4. **Archives**
  - Samuel Bell Maxey papers; an inventory
  - Inventory of County records (1977)
5. **Bibliography**
  - Bibliography of ethnicity and ethnic groups
  - Guide to Information Resources in Ethnic Museum, Library, and Archival Collections in the United States (Bibliographies and Indexes in Ethnic Studies)
6. **Directory**
  - Encyclopedic directory of ethnic organizations in the United States
7. **Census**
  - Residents of Texas 1782-1836
  - Early Texas birth records, 1838-1878
8. **Thesis's**
  - Texas history thesis's

**Specific Materials on German Texans include:****Guides**

- Tetzlaff, Otto W. The Emigrant to Texas: a handbook and guide for those who want to colonize (settle) in Texas with special consideration for those who join the Mainz and Antwerp Society: with a colored map and the new constitution of Texas. Burnet, Tex.: Eakin Publications, 1979.
- Robl, Gregory. A student's guide to German American genealogy. Phoenix, Ariz.: Oryx Press, 1996.

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**Encyclopedia and History**

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- German pioneers in Texas: a brief history of their achievements. Fredericksburg, Tex.: Fredericksburg Pub. Co., 1925.

- Eagle in the New World: German immigration to Texas and America. College Station: Published for the Texas Committee for the Humanities by Texas A&M University Press, 1986.
- Germans to America: 300 years of immigration, 1683 to 1983. Stuttgart : Published by Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations in cooperation with Inter Nationes, Bonn-Bad Godesberg, 1982
- Hawgood, John Arkas. The tragedy of German-America. New York: Arno Press, 1970.
- German-American life: recipes and traditions. Iowa City, Iowa : Penfield Press, 1991
- Carvajal, Christa Luise. German theaters in Central Texas, 1850-1915.
- Geue, Ethel Hander. New homes in a new land: German immigration to Texas, 1846-1861. Waco, Tex. : Printed by Texian Press, 1970.
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- Flach, Vera. Yankee in German-America: Texas hill country. San Antonio, Tex. : Naylor Co., 1973.

#### Essay

- Luebke, Frederick C. Germans in the New World: essays in the history of immigration. Urbana : University of Illinois Press, 1990.
- Benjamin, Gilbert Giddings. Germans in Texas: a study in immigration. Austin, Tex. : Jenkins, 1974, 1910.

#### Periodicals

- Society for German-American Studies newsletter. Northfield, MN : The Society, . 1984-Quarterly.
- German Texan Heritage Society newsletter. Austin, Tex.] : The Society, 1979- Quarterly.

#### Archives

- Papers from the St. Olaf Symposium on German-Americana, April 27-28, 1979. Morgantown, W. Va. : West Virginia University, 1980.
- Passenger lists for Galveston, 1850-1855. [Houston, Tex.] (9174 Westview, Houston 77055) : [A.J.Blaha, 1985-]
- Hurst, Regina Beckmann. Literal translation of diary and letters of Carl Hilmar Guenther. 1952.

#### Year Book

Yearbook of German-American Studies.

#### Family Histories

- Hoobler, Dorothy and Thomas. German American family album. New York : Oxford University Press, 1995.
- Dielmann, Henry B. Emma Altgelt's sketches of life in Texas. [Austin, Tex.] : Southwestern Historical Quarterly, 1960.
- Reichstein, Andreas V. German pioneers on the American frontier: the Wagners in Texas and Illinois. Denton, Tex. : University of North Texas Press, 2001.
- Scheel, Clarence A. Bernhard Joseph Scheel, His family in Germany and In Texas, 1605-2005.

## Vertical Files

250 linear feet / 6 drawers; 800 folders on German

4 categories:

**Ethnic groups** (80% including Afro-American, Anglo, Armenian, Australian, Basque, Black Seminole, Bulgarian, Cambodian, Canadian, Caribbean, Chinese, Cuban, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Egyptian, English, Filipino, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Guatemalan, Gypsy, Hawaiian, Honduran, Hungarian, Icelandic,



Indian, Iranian, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Jewish, Korean, Laotian, Latvian, Lebanese, Lithuanian, Mexican, Nigerian, Norwegian, Nova Scotian, Pakistani, Panamanian, Peruvian, Polish, Portuguese, Puerto Rican, Romanian, Russian, Saudi Arabian, Scottish, Spanish, Swedish, Swiss, Thai, Transylvanian, Trinidadians, Turkish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese, Welsh, Wendish and Yugoslavian,

**General Topics** (including Agriculture, Architecture, Art, Associations, Bibliography, Civil War, Cultural Background, Education, Emigration & Immigration, Family History, Festivals and Religion,

### **Cities and Towns and Photographs**

Material Type:

**Pamphlets, Newspaper clippings, Magazine or periodical cuttings, Photocopies, Leaflets, minor posters, brochures and research notes**

## **Microforms**

540 reels

### **Census reports**

Translations of Statistical and Census Reports: Texas, 1782-1836

### **San Antonio city directories, 1861-1935**

### **Early Texas newspapers**

Telegraph and Texas Register 1835-1853

Semi Weekly Farm News 1931-1979

Frieie Presse fur Texas 1865-1945 (German)

Neu Braunfelser Zeitung 1852-1923 (German)

San Antonio Zeitung 1853-1856 (German)

### **San Antonio Commercial Record 1942-1949**

## **Oral history**

600 tape recorded interviews

### **Topics:**

Local and regional history, important individuals and events and Texas traditional life ways

### **Transcripts & Tapes**

### **Access through the card catalog**

### **Interview Collection includes:**

Interview with Thea Kraege, May 24, 1982/ Betty Keefer, interviewer

Interview with Edmund Seidel, August 4, 1984/ Esther MacMillan, interviewer

Interview with Alma "Dusty" Sherrill, June 23, 1999/Laurie Gudzikowski, interviewer

Interview with George R. Stumberg, August 26, 1989/ Donald G. Glessner, interviewer

Interview with Stella Teltschik Taylor, April 8, 1988/ Joan and Sidney Ballard and Helga Parks, interviewer

Interview with Regina Tyrrasch, January 20, 1982/ Betty Keefer, interviewer

Interview with George Waitz, April 24, 1985/ Esther MacMillan, interviewer

Interview with Hans E. Bergner, September 17, 1987/ Bill and Precious Gregg, interviewers

Interview with Gilbert H. Burkhardt, January 28, 1988/ Sarah and Hardy Cannon, interviewers

Interview with Ida Schaefer Burkhardt, January 28, 1988/ Sarah Cannon, interviewer

Interview with Blanche Burrer and Erna Mosel, September 17, 1987/ Bill and Precious Gregg, interviewers

- Interview with Tyrus T. Cox and Joe Cox, September 16, 1987/ Bill and Precious Gregg, interviewers
- Interview with Gretchen Keumple, June 5, 1977/ Cheri Wolfe, interviewer
- Interview with Arthur H. Kowert, September 16, 1987/ Bill and Precious Gregg, interviewers
- Interview with Louise Enderle Nixon and Victor L. Nixon, September 15, 1987/ Bill and Precious Gregg, interviewers
- Interview with Carmen Perry, June 25, 1988/ Patrick McGuire, interviewer
- Interview with Robert H. Thonhoff, August 18, 1995/ Mary Grace Ketner, interviewer
- Interview with Helen Pauline Weirich, September 17, 1987/ Bill and Precious Gregg, interviewers
- Interview with Elizabeth Zogheib, December 13, 1990/ Maria Nora Olivarez, interviewer

## Photo Library – Treasures of ITC

3.5 million Images

**Late 19 century -- present**

**Black-and-White film negatives, Glass negatives, Silver gelatin photographic prints, Color negatives and Transparencies and slides**

**6 collections**

### General Collection



**Photos received on Photo Heritage Day, in which negatives are made from originals owned by families, businesses, and organizations as well as loans and donations of photographs**

**San Antonio Light Collection**

**San Antonio Express-News Collection**



### Zintgraff Collection



### Howell Collection



### Harvey Belgin Collection



## **Photograph Collection—Finding Aids**

Card Catalog--100,000 Cards

Online Catalog—20,000 MARC records

Goal: turn our photograph collection into a fully searchable online resource

## **ITC Digitization – Online Photo Catalog**

### ITC website

<http://www.texancultures.utsa.edu/>

### UTSA Library website

<http://lib.utsa.edu/>

**UTSA Library Electronic resources**

**Databases & Articles**

**E-journals**

**Subject Guides**

**The following 4 pages are examples of the Online Catalog that may be used to search for photographs in the ITC Collection.**



## **GERMAN FAMILIES IN TEXAS- GENEALOGY**

About 18 years ago I completed my family tree and enjoyed doing it so much that I continued on with my extended family. Such names as Grusendorf, .Makowski, Hartung., Ebers, Raesener, Urbantke, Hillegeist, Retzlaff, & Stuessy are all rather well documented in my research. After about a 12 year delay I discovered the ease with which research could be done on the internet. Since making that discovery I have added about 40,000 more names to my file that I call "German Families in Texas", It is my compilation of descendants of Germans who came to Texas in the period 1840 until about World War 1. I have done no research on their forebears in Europe and have not tried to add much on those born after 1930, but I thought that few members of the Heritage Society might be interested. Therefore you might want to log on to [www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com). home page. Then at the top of the page select 'Family Trees'. Scroll down to 'Specific database' on left side or [orpa.ge.](http://www.rootsweb.com), then enter [germantexan](http://www.rootsweb.com) , then GO. My front page will appear and you may either scroll through the index or enter a name. There are about 46,000 individuals, 14,500 family groups and 6650 surnames, most of them of German immigrant origin. I add, on average, about 150 names per week, so the file will continue to grow.

Certainly there is much yet to be done and there are almost certainly some errors, but members may find some useful information. It would be helpful to me to be informed of any error, and I certainly would appreciate contribution of additional family records. My email address,

[www.waconative33@aol.com](mailto:www.waconative33@aol.com), mailing

address 2109 Colorado, Mission, Tx 78572; fax 956583 1669.

Ed Makowski

# Online Photo Catalog

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer window with the title "ITC Photo Archive Catalog Search - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The address bar contains the URL "http://utclib.utsa.edu/cgi-bin/pwebcon.cgi?DB=local&PAGE=First". The browser interface includes a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Favorites, Tools, Help) and a toolbar with buttons for Back, Forward, Stop, Search, Favorites, and Go. A status bar at the bottom indicates "5:50 PM".

The main content area features the "ITC Library - Photo Archive Catalog" header, which includes the ITC logo and the text "UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures". Below this is a navigation menu with links for "The Museum", "Visit", "Special Events", "Get Involved", "Education", "Library", "For Kids", and "Facility Rental". A sub-menu for "New Search" includes links for "Headings", "Titles", "History", "Help", and "UTSA Library".

The "Photo Archive Catalog of ITC Library" section contains two search options: "Basic Search" and "Advanced Search". The "Advanced Search" form includes a "Search For:" field with the text "German and Americans", a "Search By:" field with the text "Expert Keyword (and/or/not)", and a "Search:" button. A "25 records per page" dropdown menu is visible above the search button. Below the search form is a "Prints of most of these photographs are available for purchase. Our photo catalog shows more than 2000 individual photographs." and a small image of a group of people.

The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows several open applications: "Start", "Inbox - Microsoft Outlook", "talk.GTHS.doc - Microsof...", "ITC Photo Archive Cat...", "5 Windows Explorer", "Microsoft PowerPoint - [...]", and "Internet".

# Online Photo Catalog

ITC Photo Archive Catalog Titles - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Address: [http://utella.utcs.edu/cgi-bin/fwebproc.cgi?Search\\_Arg=German+and+Americans&Search\\_Code=CMD&PID=STWPeFCbl7H1Z20Jz0yMgcChplw9O&SEQ=200708061748](http://utella.utcs.edu/cgi-bin/fwebproc.cgi?Search_Arg=German+and+Americans&Search_Code=CMD&PID=STWPeFCbl7H1Z20Jz0yMgcChplw9O&SEQ=200708061748)

Google [General history German](#) [Go](#) [+](#) [-](#) [E](#) [S](#) [v](#) [Bookmarks](#) [919 blocked](#) [Check](#) [Look for Map](#) [AutoFill](#) [Send to](#) [Print](#) [Settings](#)

New Search [Headings](#) [Titles](#) [History](#) [Help](#) [UTSA Library](#)

Search Request: Command = German and Americans  
 Search Results: Displaying 1 through 25 of 1085 records.

Find This: [German and Americans](#)      Search By: [Expert Keyword \(and/or/not\)](#)

25 records per page      [Submit](#) [Reset](#)

Sort by: [Title Long](#)

#	Title Long
[ 1 ]	1970 Wurstfest, New Braunfels, Texas [transparency]
[ 2 ]	60th wedding anniversary portrait of August and Friederke Lindemann and their children [picture]
[ 3 ]	Aaron Pancoast family on porch of their home, 203 King William Street, San Antonio, Texas, 1888 [picture]
[ 4 ]	Adelheid Von Wysehetzka Schramm [transparency]
[ 5 ]	Admiral Chester W. Nimitz [picture]
[ 6 ]	Adolf Herff, Jr. [picture]
[ 7 ]	Adolf Peschel on horseback outside frame residence, Austin County, Texas [picture]
[ 8 ]	Adolph and Anna Forke Dittmar standing behind gate [picture]
[ 9 ]	Adolph Berner [picture]
[ 10 ]	Adolph Herff posed with model railroad and dog [picture]

Navigation: [previous](#) [1](#) [26](#) [51](#) [76](#) [101](#) [126](#) [151](#) [176](#) [201](#) [226](#) [251](#) [276](#) [301](#) [326](#) [351](#) [376](#) [401](#) [426](#) [451](#) [476](#) [501](#) [526](#) [551](#) [576](#) [601](#) [626](#) [651](#) [676](#) [701](#) [726](#) [751](#) [776](#) [801](#) [826](#) [851](#) [876](#) [901](#) [926](#) [951](#) [976](#) [1001](#) [1026](#) [1051](#) [1076](#) [next](#)

Taskbar: Start | [Inbox - Microsoft Outlook](#) | [talk\\_GTHS.doc - Microsoft...](#) | [ITC Photo Archive Cat...](#) | [5 Windows Explorer](#) | [Microsoft PowerPoint - \[I...](#) | Internet | 5:48 PM

# Online Photo Catalog

ITC Photo Archive Catalog Brief View - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Address http://utctib.utsa.edu/cgi-bin/webrecon.cgi?v1=3&t=1,3&search%5FArg=German%20and%20Americans&search%5FCode=CMD&CNT=25&PID=RfqZhamXaktMOBJGVH

Go Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites Bookmarks 949 blocked 20% Check Look for Map Autofill Send to oral Settings

Search results displaying 7 of 1007 records

previous next

Long View MARC View

*Aaron Pancoast family on porch of their home, 203 King William Street, San...*

Click to Enlarge:



Call No.: 075-0860

Title: [Aaron Pancoast family on porch of their home, 203 King William Street, San Antonio, Texas, 1888]

Description: Photograph shows seven members of the Aaron Pancoast family on porch decorated with a large amount of "gingerbread" woodwork trim.

Location: Photographed in San Antonio, Texas.

Cite as: UT Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio, 075-0860. Loaned by the San Antonio Conservation Society.

Date: 1888.

Notes: Photographed in San Antonio, Texas.

Source: San Antonio Conservation Society.

Format: 1 copy negative : b&w : 4x5 in.

Subject: Pancoast, Aaron

German Americans

Family portraits

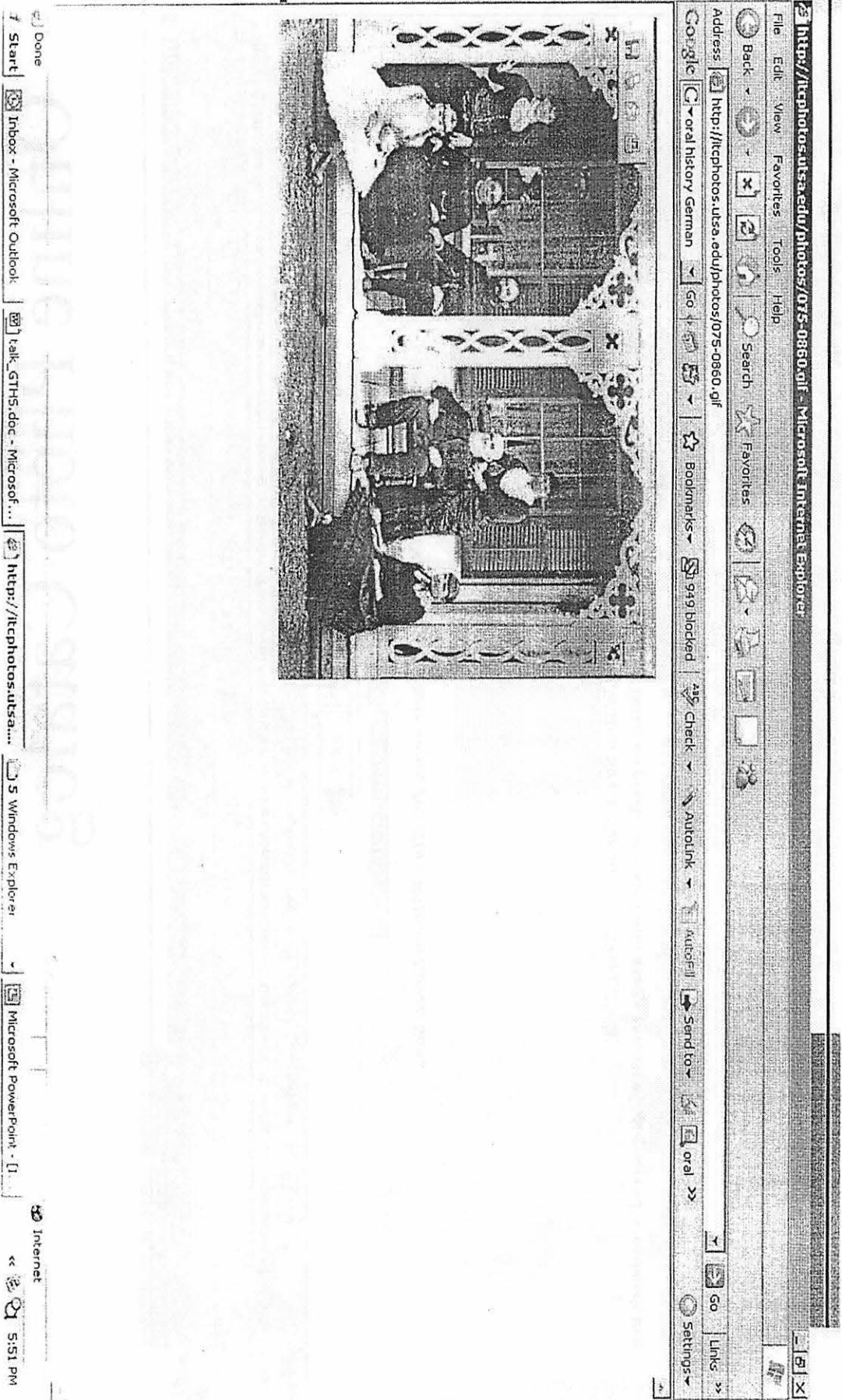
Gingerbread (Woodwork)

Houses San Antonio (Tex)

V:\UT\Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio, Texas\

Start Inboxes - Microsoft Outlook talk.GTHS.doc - Microsoft... ITC Photo Archive Cat... 5 Windows Explorer Microsoft PowerPoint - [1] Internet 5:50 PM

# Online Photo Catalog





# Community Events

## Sängerrunde Halle

By Katie McDermott  
GRISHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL

At first I was rather surprised to see the tears in her eyes.

"What's wrong?" I ask. "I only mentioned bowling."

"Sängerrunde Halle," she sighs. "It's just... I used to go bowling there with my father when I was younger. Old place," she nods. "Very old place indeed. It's got a lot of history."



"How old?" I attempt to sound interested. "It's been around since right after the Civil War. A German immigrant, August Scholz, bought the lot where it still stands back in 1867,<sup>1</sup> and shortly after built the infamous tavern- you must have heard of it- Scholz Garten."



Hey, I think. *I know that place!* "You mean that place right on the University of Texas campus? I heard it was a pretty cool hangout- that it's been connected to the school since it was founded."<sup>2</sup>

"That's right," she smiles. "Sängerrunde Halle has also been part of its history ever since it was founded, right after

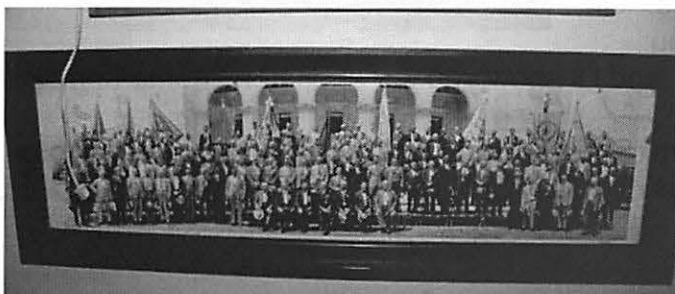
the Garten. It is in fact on the same property.<sup>3</sup> However; it has its own traditions." I flinch. She has that *look*- the look that I know means that I'll have to hear her story.

"It's one of the oldest businesses here in Austin, and it was originally a place for the Austin Sängerrunde to meet and practice."<sup>4</sup>



I cut her off. "Sängerrunde?"

"Singing club," she explains. "It's German for 'singer in the round'.<sup>5</sup> Many of the immigrants from Germany felt the need to preserve their culture,<sup>6</sup> and this was a fairly popular way." She rises and walks to her desk, where she shuffles through papers and pulls out a photocopy of an old advertisement. I squint at it.



"The group was officially founded on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 1879.<sup>7</sup> However, there'd been a German singing group in the city ever since 1852- that makes the Sängerrunde the oldest ethnic organization in Austin, and one of the oldest in Texas."<sup>8</sup>

"So... if the group is older than Scholz Biergarten, then where did they practice before then?" I ask, my mind reeling with all of the dates being thrown at me.

"They didn't lease the Halle for practice until 1904, and they purchased it in 1908.<sup>9</sup> It's been basically used for enjoying its six lane bowling alley, receptions, and singing<sup>10</sup> ever since. There was even a fire recently, which caused much of the Halle to be renovated...I think that was in 2005...<sup>11</sup> or was it 2004? This is all jumbled..."

Already losing interest, I attempt to summarize my disinterest. "So... the Halle is important because it's an old, traditional place?"

"Yes, but it's more than that," she sighs. "Most people assume that. However, there are a lot of family ties to this place. Many families have been either bowling or singing for many years.<sup>12</sup> My family, for instance, can be traced back to the early 1900s, just through the records."



I whistle. "That's a long time."

"Yes, but you have to keep in mind that there are many families that have been a part of it for quite a bit longer."

I no longer have to feign interest. "Why did they start bowling in the first place, just for fun?"

"Well, not everyone in my family liked bowling. Many of them sang in the Sängerrunde, too. They originally joined the group after they came from Germany."

"Nowadays, although technology may have improved and American culture might have changed, you can still hear the crash of a ball against pins and the voices of proud Germans as they sing to honor their culture in the beautiful Sängerrunde Hall." She sniffs and delicately wipes her eyes on her sleeve.

"You okay?" I ask, concerned. She nods.

"No, I'm fine, honestly. There are just so many memories... for instance, my parents met at the Halle, and it's also where I held my wedding reception.<sup>13</sup> That's how dearly I hold this place to my heart... and to think, that's just my life. There are so many other lives that are a part of this, so many memories..."

Sensing that she needs some time to reflect, I say, "Maybe we can check it out sometime, then."

Her eyes light up through her tears. "Oh, that would be wonderful! I could show you where I used to bowl when I was a child, and I'll show you my ancestors' names on all of the old records..." her voice trails off.

I nod, and get up to leave the room. She's already looking back at her old photograph, and as I close the door, she smiles.



## Notes

- <sup>1</sup> For further information regarding the founding of Sängerrunde Halle, refer to the “History” section of the Austin Sängerrunde home page (<http://www.main.org/asr/>).
- <sup>2</sup> A complete history of Scholz Biergarten can be found on <http://www.scholzgarten.net/History.html>.
- <sup>3</sup> Refer to endnote 1.
- <sup>4</sup> Learned from an interview with Ria Wiruscheske, a member of the Austin Sängerrunde
- <sup>5</sup> For the meaning of “Sängerrunde”, refer to <http://www.petermansbendel.com/austincoral.asp>
- <sup>6</sup> A brief meaning of the word Sängerrunde can be found on <http://www.main.org/asr/Maennerchor.html>
- <sup>7</sup> Refer to endnote 1.
- <sup>8</sup> Refer to endnote 4.
- <sup>9</sup> Refer to endnote 1.
- <sup>10</sup> More information on bowling (and the Halle itself) can be found on <http://www.main.org/asr/Kegeln.html>
- <sup>11</sup> For a full account of the fire on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005, please visit <http://www.dailytexanonline.com/news/2005/04/11/TopStories/Fire-Smoldered.For.Hours.Before.Partiers.Left-919273.shtml>
- <sup>12</sup> Refer to endnote 4.
- <sup>13</sup> Refer to endnote 4.

**Looking Back—(As a salute to our 30th anniversary we will reprint selected items from previous Journals)** - This article first appeared in Volume II, Number 1 Journal from March, 1980. The church that Mr. Wilson describes, Bethlehem Lutheran, disbanded in 2001 after 61 years of service.

**LEBENDIGES DEUTSCH: Houston's Bethlehem Lutheran Church** -- a Congregation founded during World War II for the German Language

Joseph Wilson

In the January issue, this column discussed the more easterly of the two focal areas of German immigration into Texas, the region around La Grange and Giddings (the other major area is the San Antonio-Fredericksburg-New Braunfels-"Hill Country"). The people of this "Eastern Focus", including the many Wendish Germans, are mostly from the Saxony-Prussia-Silesia region south of Berlin. They speak very good German, although of course with some modifications and Anglicisms. The mother community of the Wendish Germans, Serbin, is today one of the most German places in Texas; in June the Serbin congregation commemorated their 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a day of celebration and services in English, German, and Wendish.

As the Lee-Fayette County Germans grew in numbers they founded many new settlements, both nearby and in more distant regions of the state. Many naturally also came to the bustling young town of Houston. In 1879 they formed the Trinity Lutheran congregation in what is now near the downtown business district. With its own eight-grade school and German services, the church allowed new arrivals from "die Country" to continue their church-centered German life even in "die grosse Stadt."



World War I caused some problems with the use of German, but these were only temporary, for the simple reason that in those days the people were so German that many of them actually spoke no English. However, by the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, the natural process of assimilation had made much more progress, especially in the cities. And naturally even many of the German Americans themselves felt that they had to give up their German to become "good Americans." Thus it was only to be expected when, in 1940, in the anti-German atmosphere of the early days of World War II, a resolution abolishing all German services was passed by the majority of the voting members of Trinity (i.e., the men over 21). While that action would not surprise anyone, what happened next might indeed do so: the minority, which still was determined to continue its German religious life, seceded and formed a new congregation - Bethlehem Lutheran Church - for the express purpose of the German language. Even in 1940, it should be remembered, there were still many people who spoke English very poorly if at all, and there were many more who, though they spoke English well enough, could never receive the inspiration from an English church service that they did from their native German (this latter attitude is still widely felt today). And, of course, there were still many people consciously loyal to their German language and desirous of passing it on to their children. These people wanted their children to be raised in the same German church services which they themselves loved so dearly. Thus, for varying reasons, this group was devoted to German



and intent on continuing to use it, seeing no discrepancy between these emotions and their loyalty as American citizens, which was absolute. And so they founded Bethlehem, in the "Heights" area of Northwest Houston where many of them lived. Even the location was anomalous: the small new church was built just a few blocks away from the large, well-established sister-congregation, Immanuel, but that was of no concern - Bethlehem was not founded to be a mission to the unchurched (though it did naturally also come to perform that function), but to be a refuge for the German language. This sentiment was so dominant at the time of the founding that the constitution of the new church made it clear that the rights of the minority were not again to be rejected by a majority vote: it read "as long as one member shall vote for the continuation of the German services, they shall be continued on a regular weekly basis."

We all now know that even this bastion of freedom, America, committed some grievous errors against many of its loyal Japanese and German citizens during the Second World War. However, the founding and prospering of Bethlehem is an inspiring counterexample. In the darkest days of the war, at the height of anti-German emotionalism, American democratic processes functioned perfectly. The majority at Trinity prevailed in what they thought was right, but the minority was peacefully allowed to go its own way and protect its own rights. And at the same time that the "Bund" was making "German-American" a bad word, and Hitler's troops were turning out the lights of Europe, Bethlehem began its quiet tradition of serving God in German. There was no governmental hindrance or harassment; the neighborhood, which

Was not at all predominantly German, accepted the new congregation without reservation. Never did a single anti-German incident break the peace.

Rev. Anton Froehlich became the first pastor and served for 22 years, until his untimely death in 1962. I was told that other pastors were afraid to accept such a call, but that Froehlich was not. Pastor Froehlich was completely bilingual, a native of Harris County and a product of the Missouri German seminary training. His sermons were in the traditional beautiful High German of the pulpit, avoiding the Anglicisms and other modifications used in the colloquial language. He also carried on the tradition of chanting the extensive liturgy - one of the main beauties of the German service lacking in the English.

My own acquaintance with Bethlehem began just at the end of the war. I was a college student of German, thirsting for contact with the German language, but at a time when there were no tape recordings and the only contact with Germany was per bomber. One can imagine with what amazement I accidentally learned from a neighbor that there was a church in Houston, only a few miles away, where there was German every Sunday and live people speaking German. I went there the next Sunday -- and every Sunday thereafter (with few exceptions) for the next twenty years.

Over the years, the position of German at Bethlehem gradually took the inevitable decline. After Pastor Froehlich's death, it became more and more difficult to find a qualified pastor. Rev Henry Traugott, bilingual but not as strong in German as Froehlich,

continued the regular weekly German services for another ten years. Their successors, Rev. Douglas Robbins and Rev. William Luecke (the present pastor), have been capable and devoted men, but monolingual. You can still hear a lot of German at Bethlehem, but the German services, for which the church was founded, are no more. When Rev. Robbins came, they were gradually phased out: for a while a mixed service was continued, with the sermon in English and the prayers and hymns in German. Time had taken its continuing toll, and most of the older people who had really needed the German services were gone. The gradual phase-out was now accepted as inevitable; the clause in the constitution, "as long as one member shall vote for the continuation of the German services...", although of course well-known, was never invoked.

From the viewpoint of students of German, it is regrettable that Bethlehem no longer offers them the opportunity to steep themselves in the German language and German religious culture (the Bible, the hymns, etc., reflections of which meet us at every turn). Nevertheless, anyone wishing to practice speaking German or perhaps curious to convince himself that many native Texans really do talk German, can simply go to Bethlehem and ask anyone over forty, "Sprechen Sie Deutsch?"



## Winedale center celebrates German Heritage

By Stephen Keller  
Daily Texan Staff

German Christmas music emanates from a barn-turned-stage, while horse-drawn carriages trot around and Dave Koenig chinks away on a glowing hot piece of iron.

The Winedale Historical Center — part of the UT Center for American History — celebrated the holiday season early with Christmas at Winedale 2007 on Sunday.

Located about 80 miles from Austin, the center put on musical performances from country band Sled Zeppelin, the Round Top Children's Choir and the Der Froehliche Gesangverein von Winedale German singers, made mostly of second-generation German immigrants.

The center, donated to UT in 1965, also conducted tours of the property and held demonstrations of 19th-century crafts such as forging, spinning, weaving, whittling and chair-making.

"You get a total sense of what 1800s-era farming and ranching was like in this region," said Mary Evelyn Sorrell, director of the Winedale Center. "Our goal is to educate the public about how they lived, but it's also to allow students to come out and do actual research. We have a dorm so they can live out here."

UT's Shakespeare Players also performed scenes from "Twelfth Night" and "The Taming of the Shrew."

"I love it," said philosophy senior Matt Davidson. "It's just a really beautiful place to work on Shakespeare. It's definitely a place to get in

touch with roots and traditions."

Every summer, in conjunction with the Department of English, the center hosts Shakespeare at Winedale. The program will turn 38 this summer, said English associate professor James Loehlin, the program's director.

"I think people enjoy coming out to this beautiful setting," Loehlin said. "It's also useful for the educational aspect. Shakespeare was a writer that was very attuned to nature, and the plays, I think, have a different kind of resonance when you are working on them in a natural environment."

Those in attendance were also given tours of the Wagner House, an original 19th century homestead built on the property. The interior was decorated as if it were Christmas Day in the 1800s.

"It's very important to understand your heritage and where you came from," said Mary Claire Becker, a tour guide and UT alum. "How they lived, when they lived, influenced how they viewed life and the decisions that were made at that time."

Sorrell said she believes that the center fosters a great respect for 19th-century Texas immigrants.

"I think part of the importance of Winedale is to understand how innovative, resourceful and tenacious the immigrants were that came here and what they had to undergo in order to start from zero," Sorrell said. "You come into a place and you don't have any salt, you hardly have any flour, you are going to have to grind wheat to make flour and grow the wheat to even grind it."



Blacksmith Dave Koenig demonstrates how to work with iron at Sunday's Christmas at Winedale 2007 event.

Aging halls built by immigrants retain cherished history

By Michael Corcoran  
Cox News Service

AUSTIN — The Broken Spoke is a boot-slidin' paradise, haunted by the ghosts of true country music, but don't call it a dance hall.

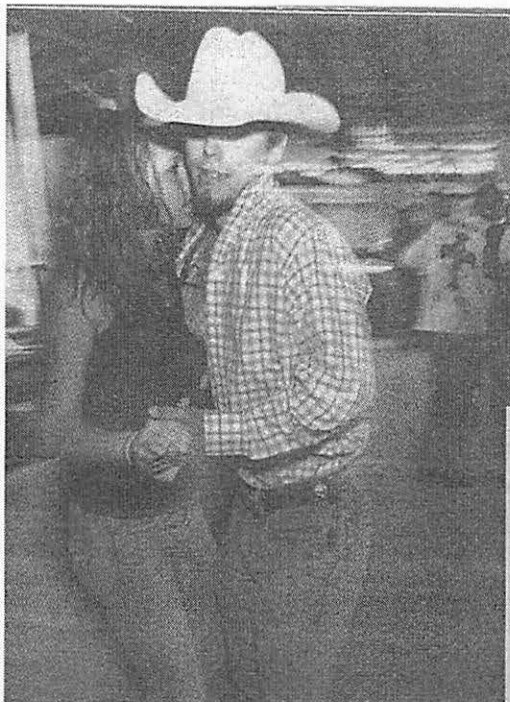
For starters, the joint on South Lamar Boulevard is a relatively young 'un, opening in 1964. The majority of classic Texas dance halls were built by Czech and German immigrants in the years between the Civil War and World War I to help keep their cultural identity alive.

You know the Spoke is a honky-tonk, not a dance hall, because there are no foreign words on the walls like *Wilkommen* and *Verein*. There are no children standing on the shoes of their waltzing grandfathers.

"The feel of playing in a great old Texas dance hall is probably like a Little Leaguer stepping up to the plate at Yankee Stadium," says country singer Pat Green, who has a book about dance halls coming out in February. "There's so much history, yet as a fan, there's such an intimate feel."

The walls of a dance hall are the arms that guide you in and show you around. The sole-polished wooden floors of places like Fischer Hall, 20 miles west of San Marcos, and Sefcik Hall, eight miles east of Temple, gleam and creak like reminders of the past, linking the dancers of today with a time when Texas was a land of immigrants.

## Texas Dance Halls Still In Step With Their Communities



### Heritage from home

From the time 16 Czech families landed at Galveston in 1852 until 1900, more than 15,000 Czechs lived in Central Texas, where they brought polka music and built halls like those back home, ranging from simple four-sided structures to spectacular 12-sided shrines.

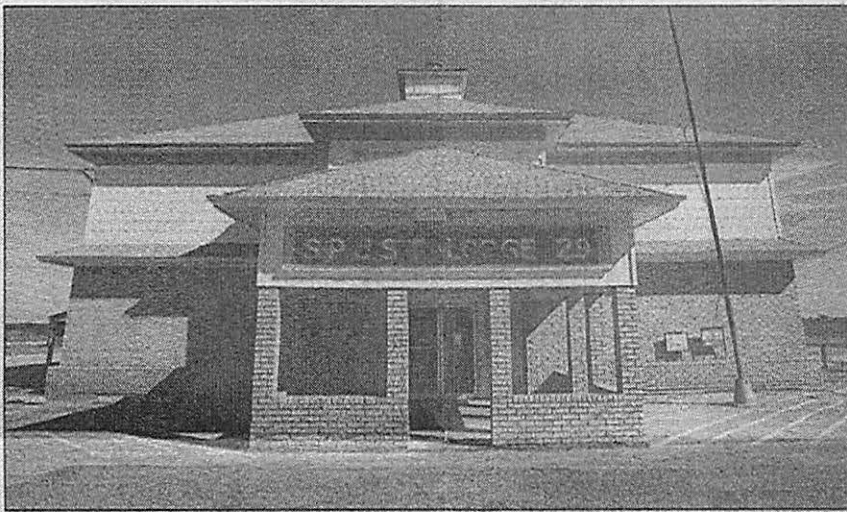
Germans, meanwhile, built similar halls in Fredericksburg, Comal County and, with Saengerrunde Halle, in downtown Austin. Founded by the fraternal orders, singing societies, gun clubs and agricultural organizations that still run them today, these halls were meeting places where such topics as life insurance and livestock protection were discussed during the week. And on

Saturday night, the community danced. The halls were at the intersection of family life and single life.

It's still like that the first Saturday of the month at Twin Sisters Dance Hall, a German-founded hall on U.S. 281, an hour's drive from Austin. Although Gruene Hall, which was built in 1878, is often recognized as the oldest dance hall in Texas, Twin Sisters owner Marvin Haas is out to prove that his hall is eight years older. He's hired a translator to go over the old records, written in German, to find evidence that Twin Sisters was built in 1870.

But none of this matters to the hundred or so who came out to dance on a recent Saturday. When the band opened with "Waltz Across Texas" — an anthem of Texas dance halls if there ever was one — there was none of that first-song apprehension; the dance floor filled instantly. There were old married couples dancing as they have been for 50 years, teenage girls dancing with each other, a mother showing her awkward teenage son, who never took his eyes off his feet, how to two-step.

Submitted by Van Massirer, Crawford



Austin American-Statesman — **Ralph Barrera**

The SPJST Lodge dance hall is seen in Taylor, Texas. From the their arrival in Galveston in 1852 until 1900, more than 15,000 Czechs lived in Central Texas, where they brought polka music and built halls like those back home.

### Finding new fans

It's a world that Texans often take for granted, one that newcomers are delighted to discover.

"When my husband and I moved to Texas two years ago, I was completely thrilled to see so many old dance halls still functioning," says Steph McDougal, a native of Dayton, Ohio, and wife of a NASA engineer.

Before moving here, McDougal did not know a thing about the Texas dance-hall tradition. Today she heads Texas Dance Hall Preservation Inc., a nonprofit organization she co-founded with music historian Steve Dean and structural engineer Patrick Sparks.

"We all came to our love of dance halls from three different perspectives," McDougal says. While McDougal studies the architecture for her master's

thesis, Dean is in tune to the indigenous Texas music born in these wooden melting pots and Sparks is a dancing enthusiast who discovered dance halls during his years at Texas A&M University in the '80s.


"The story of dance halls is really the story of Texas," says Dean, who has long been researching a book on dance halls he plans to complete in 2010.

The very personality of Texas music is to serve the dancers, which is why Bob Wills added drums and Ernest Tubb's band had an electric guitarist back when such instrumentation was considered sacrilegious to the Grand Ole Opry crowd.

"We have all kinds of people coming to Sefcik Hall," says Alice Sulak, 74, who carries a trace of a Czech accent. "But the one thing they all have in common is that they love to dance."

Her father, Tom Sefcik, built the hall along with the downstairs saloon in 1923. It remains virtually unchanged today, aside from the solid oak dance-floor that was installed in 1953.

It was inevitable that dance-hall enthusiasts McDougal, Dean and Sparks would meet, but they didn't officially team together until January, when DeWitt County's Gruenau Hall, with its glorious hardwood maple floor and hand-carved rafters, burned to the ground. Insurance on the building would cover only one tenth of the cost to restore it.

"That was really the spark for us to start the nonprofit," says McDougal, who says one goal is to document all existing dancehalls in Texas, then organize driving tours. "We want to promote dance halls as active venues," she says. "Some have become antique malls or are used to store hay. We'd love to see them return to their past glory." 

## Restoring history

One historic hall that has come back after two decades of dormancy is Swiss Alp Dance Hall, built in Fayette County, 10 miles south of La Grange, by German settlers in 1900. Originally a polka palace, the hall, like most, switched to country music during the Western swing and honky-tonk heyday of the 1940s and 1950s. Then, in the '60s, it became the place to see regional rock 'n' roll favorites such as B.J. Thomas and the Triumphs, Roy Head and the Traits and a pre-bearded ZZ Top. The hall closed in the

mid-1980s, and the owners concentrated on running the convenience store in front.

Two years ago, a couple from Houston — medical product executive Kevin Ustynik and his wife, Donna — were driving around Fayette County, where his parents live, looking at houses. They saw a "For Sale" sign on U.S. 77 and pulled over.

The property for sale included 26 acres of farmland, a ranch house, a storefront and the dance hall.

"We didn't set out to buy a dance hall," Ustynik, 46, says with a laugh. "We had to think long and hard about whether we wanted to get it back up and running."

A visit from his parents made up his mind. From the back windows of the hall they pointed to a bluff where a group of Czech families settled in the late 1800s. Ustynik's great-great-grandparents were among them. Ustynik's grandfather was a drummer in a polka band, so he had undoubtedly played Swiss Alp Dance Hall.

## Part of the family

While working as a medical equipment consultant, Ustynik and his workers slowly restored the dance hall and reopened its doors in April 2006. There are country music dances every Saturday night and, in the spring, Ustynik plans to start Sunday afternoon polka dances. Donna Ustynik, meanwhile, manages the Czech/German restaurant in front, where the store used to be.

"Every night we've been open, we've had people come up and tell us interesting things about the hall," Kevin Ustynik says. "See this area over here, off to the side?" he says, pointing to a railed-in square at stage right. "This is where the parents used to stand during a teen dance. If a guy asked a girl to dance, she'd look over at her parents for a signal that he was OK, or that he wasn't."

Swiss Alp also had a crying room because dance halls are nightlife without the need for baby sitters.

"We had five generations of one family come in together and they were all hanging out together," Ustynik says. "The older ones were showing the younger ones how to dance, and it just hit me: Man, reopening Swiss Alp was the right thing to do."

There is no trait as admirable to a true Texan as keeping tradition alive.

End

# Throughout Central Texas, community and history still meet up for scootin' and socializing

By Michael Corcoran

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

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See video and more photos from Central Texas dancehalls with this story at [statesman.com/life](http://statesman.com/life).

## Read more about Texas dancehalls

- 'Dance Halls and Last Calls' by Geronimo Trevino III (Republic of Texas Press)
- 'Texas Dance Halls: A Two-Step Circuit' by Gail Folkins and Marcus Wheatley (Texas Tech Press)

Nest Page

Submitted by Connie Krause—  
New Braunfels

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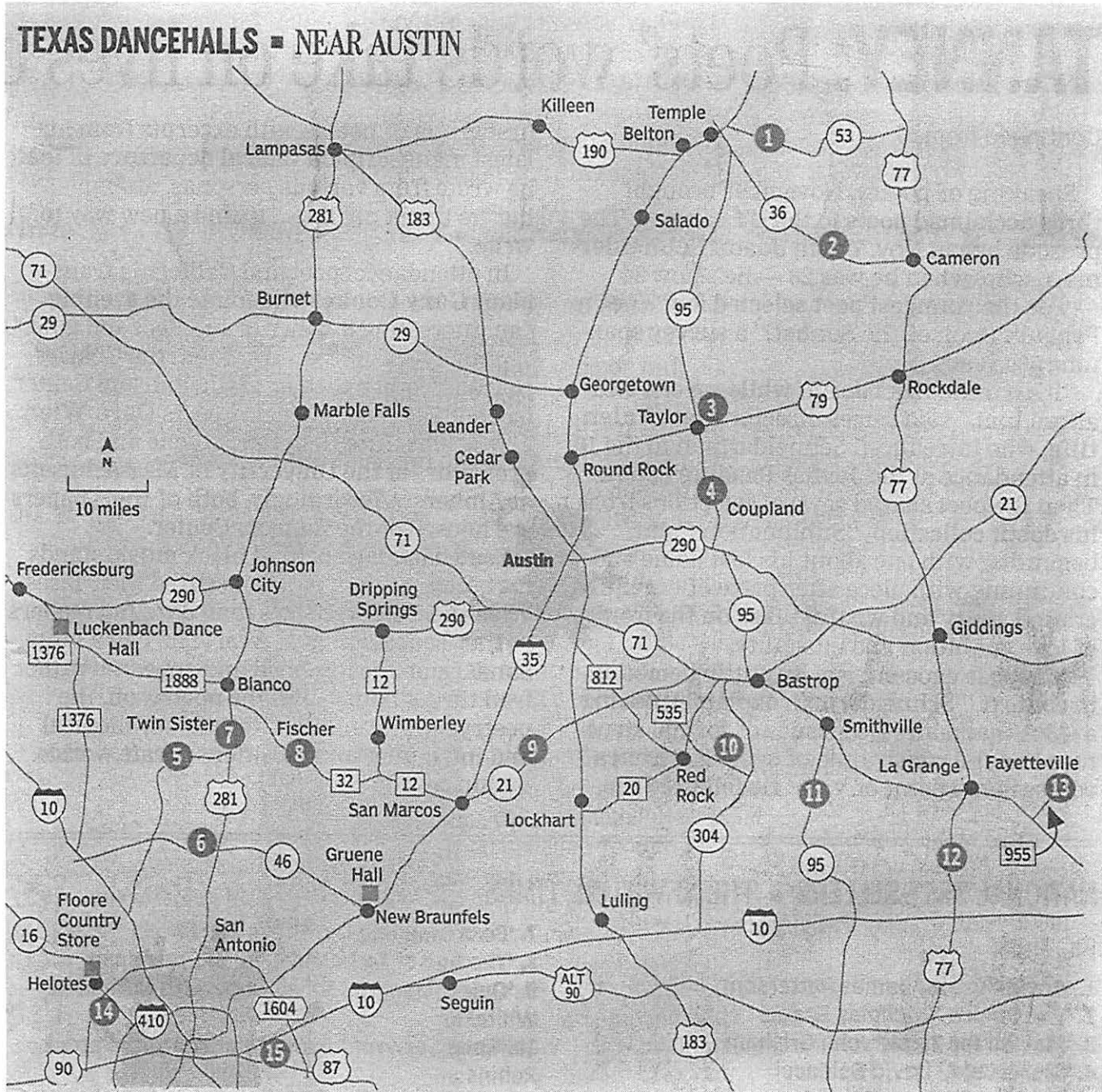
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Linda Scott AMERICAN-STATESMAN

The classic Texas dancehalls are treasures, and they're buried right in your back yard. We all know about Luckenbach and Gruene Hall, the most famous dancehalls in Texas. And though it's not technically a dancehall, Floores Country Store in Helotes is a fave way-back venue for the college country crowd. But there are several lesser-known dancehalls in the area which will make you feel like you're stepping into 1956, or even earlier than that if a polka band is playing. Here are 15 classic hardwood havens, all built before World War II (and many before World War I), where you can get in your car and, in less than a 90-minute drive, transport yourself to a simpler, more innocent time.

(Many are open to the public only occasionally, so call first.)



**1. Sefcik Hall, Bell County.** Sefcik Hall has a downstairs bar that's open nightly, but the real attraction is the upstairs ballroom, where regulars dance every Sunday night from 6 to 10 p.m. (Tonight, sax-player Sulak's band Jerry Haisler and the Melody Five play.) Just off Texas 53 in Seaton, eight miles due east of Temple. (254) 985-2356.

**2. Buckholts SPJST Lodge, Milam County.** Rebuilt in 1934, after bank robbers set the original SPJST Hall on fire to create a diversion, this octagon-shaped structure hosted all the big Texas honky-tonkers and Western swing guys from Ernest Tubb and Webb Pierce to Bob Wills in the early '50s, when Taylor station KTAE used to broadcast live shows. The biggest attraction these days is 'Hee Haw Night,' coming Jan. 25. Former Texas Ranger Milton Wright leads a country and polka band, which plays around rural-themed skits. 600 E. Texas 36. (254) 593-2222.

**3. Taylor SPJST, Williamson County.** Downstairs is a bar where the men watch sports and the women play dominoes. Upstairs is one of the grandest banquet halls in the area, where many a wedding and quinceañera (sweet 15) party have taken place. These days, the classic country bands play downstairs. On FM 619, near Texas 79. (512) 352-9139.

**4. Coupland Dance Hall, Williamson County.** The former La Casa Grande Ballroom (circa 1936), which was built in 1904, is just 25 minutes north of Austin off Texas 95, but it's a whole other world away. Featured in the films 'Lonesome Dove' and 'A Perfect World,' Coupland Hall is a two-stepper's paradise. 115 Hoxie St. in Coupland. (512) 856-2226.

**5. Kendalia Dance Halle, Kendall County.** A German singing society built this 1903 hall. Gone is the chain around the oak tree out front, where drunk customers used to be restrained until they sobered up, but everything else is just about the same as it was back in the 1930s when oom-pah bands played on the weekends. Located 8 miles south of Blanco at the junction of RM 473 and FM 3351. (830) 833-4902.

**6. Anhalt Hall, Comal County.** The best dancefloor in Texas? This wonderfully preserved 1908 hall boasts 6,300 square feet of boot-polished hardwood. The original hall was built in 1875 by the German Farmers Association, who met to discuss ways to stop the horse and cattle rustling that had become rampant after the Civil War. It's mainly used today for private parties and weddings, though there are big public dances the third Sunday in May and during Oktoberfest. 2390 Anhalt Road off Texas 46, 28 miles west of New Braunfels. (210) 414-1477.

**7. Twin Sisters Hall, Blanco County.** Opened as a 'gentlemen's club' in 1870, this hall on U.S. 281 South (14 miles south of U.S. 290) hosts public dances on the first Saturday of every month. (830) 833-4808.

**8. Fischer Hall, Comal County.** Originally called Fischer Store, this quaint hall was used for some of the live music scenes from the movie 'Honeysuckle Rose' in 1980. More prominently, this is where Adolph Hofner, one of the all-time great German band leaders, got his start. Located in Fischer, the hall is near the intersection of RM 32 and RM 484, about 20 miles west of San Marcos. Currently open for private events only, though the nine-pin bowling alley next door is open for bowling on Saturdays. (210) 935-4800.

**9. Club 21, Caldwell County.** Don Walser loved playing 'the oldest continuously operating dancehall in Texas' so much that he shot the cover of his 'Rolling Stone From Texas' album here. Built in 1893, Club 21 is on Texas 21, eight miles east of San Marcos. (512) 398-2901.

**10. Watterson Hall, Bastrop County.** This is the cavernous hall where Charlie Robison's band played during the obligatory country dancing scene of 'Hope Floats.' Tucked away in the farming community of Red Rock, about 15 miles south of Bastrop, this place is hard to find, but well worth the U-turns on FM 535. The address is 1179 Watterson Road. (512) 321-2010.

**11. Kovar SPJST.** You drive eight miles south on Texas 95 out of Smithville, then take a right turn where the sign says 'Kovar' and about half a mile →



down the road you start to feel like you're part of a film-opening pan shot of rural reflectivity. There's a cemetery next to one of those great 'painted churches' of the area. And then down the road is the Kovar SPJST (a Czech fraternity that translates to Slovanic Benevolent Order of the State of Texas), built by Czech Catholics in 1926. Kovar is one ghost town where the spirits are mighty strong. No phone.

**12. Swiss Alp Dance Hall,** Fayette County. Built in 1900, this spacious hall at 6940 U.S. 77, 10 miles south of La Grange, was reopened last year after 20 years. Country dances every Saturday night. (979) 247-4536.

**13. Fayetteville SPJST.** Built in 1897, this was the very first SPJST lodge in the state, and it's kept up like a treasure. Public dances are rare, but it's worth seeing, along with the rest of this quaint Old West town, if you're driving to or from Houston on Texas 71 and you're not in a hurry. Turn off at FM 955 and go five miles.

**14. Braun Hall,** Bexar County. Built in 1893, this Hermann Sons Lodge still has dances every Saturday night and most Sunday afternoons. (210) 588-9241.

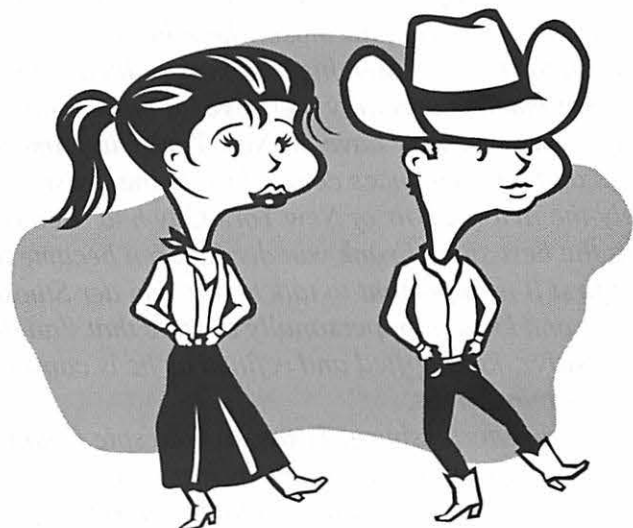
**15. Martinez Social Club,** Bexar County. Founded in 1912 and pronounced 'Martinis' by most regulars, this club is open every day, with country music dances on Wednesdays and weekends. Take the Converse exit off Interstate 10, go three miles to FM 1346 and take a right. (210) 344-4747.

## If you feel like driving a little farther....

- Cat Spring Agricultural Society Hall (Austin County), on FM 1094, 10 miles northwest of Sealy.
- Schoeder Hall (Goliad County), 15 miles north of Goliad on FM 622. (361) 573-7002
- Nordheim Shooting Club Dance Hall (DeWitt County), seven miles west of Yorktown on Texas 72.
- Round Top Schutzen Verein (Fayette County), just off FM 159, 18 miles northeast of La Grange.
- Quihi Gun Club Hall (Medina County), nine miles north of Hondo on FM 2676.

## The most famous, the most popular

- Gruene Hall (Comal County). (830) 606-1281
- Luckenbach Dance Hall (Gillespie County). (830) 997-3224
- Floores Country Store (Helotes). (210) 695-8827



## ON MARCH 14, 2008, IN FREDERICKSBURG:

A SPECIAL MUSICAL CONCERT TO CELEBRATE THE 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF COMPOSER/DIRECTOR, FRANK VALENTIN VAN DER STUCKEN (1858-1929)

The German Heritage Foundation and the Van der Stucken Foundation of Fredericksburg have completed plans for a special Van der Stucken Music Festival on Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. March 14, 2008, in the Historic St. Joseph Halle to honor the composer-conductor's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. Frank Valentin Van der Stucken was born in Fredericksburg on October 15, 1858. The concert will be free.

Professional guitar virtuoso Jason Sagebiel of New York City whose parents are from Fredericksburg, Bob & Molly Sagebiel, will be making his first appearance in Fredericksburg. Also to be featured will be Dr. Larry Wolz, professor of voice and music history, Hardin Simmons University, Abilene, Texas, along with Fredericksburg's esteemed director, Mark Hierholzer, who will be directing the Hermann Sons Mixed Chorus and the Arion German Men's Chorus.

Frank Valentin van der Stucken's father was Jean-Francoise van der Stucken, who came to Fredericksburg from Antwerp, Belgium. His mother was Sophie Schoenewolf, a native of Hildesheim, Germany. Young Frank was only 7 years old when the Civil War caused his parents to return to Antwerp, Belgium. Jean Francoise along with Charles Nimitz and a few others chose the Confederate side during the Civil War while the majority of the Germans in Fredericksburg and the Hill Country were against secession. The young son's musical genius probably led his parents to stay in Antwerp for continuous studies in music rather than returning to Texas after Reconstruction never returning to Friedrichsburg. Yet, their son Frank Valentin would return to America as a distinguished composer and the founding director of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and the Music College of Cincinnati, Ohio. He visited his relatives in Fredericksburg on several occasions.

In honor of Fredericksburg-born Frank V. van der Stucken's 32<sup>nd</sup> birthday in 1890, the *Friedrichsburger Wochenblatt* reprinted a German publication's tribute to the noted musician, conductor and composer on his birthday. Fredericksburg resident and teacher at San Antonio College, Ronnie Pue, translated the article from the German that appeared in 1890 in the *Leipziger Musikalisches Wochenblatt*, a weekly music industry publication issued in Leipzig, one of Germany's finest musical centers:

*"Among those who have earned high recognition for their effort to give classical music a fresh impetus in the United States in general and in New York City in particular, the name of Frank van der Stucken is conspicuously at the top of the list. The American, who with an innate ability is able to acquire the best from all those whom he comes in contact with and who also has a far greater appreciation for the arts than his is being credited with as a foreigner, could not avoid being attracted to German music, especially men's vocal music and to become active in those musical circles. This is the reason why we now have, in New York City, American singing societies, who in their artistic endeavors and performances come close to the artistic achievements of German singing societies. Namely the Arion Choir of New York City had been regarded as amateurish but now is ranked among the best since Frank van der Stucken became the conductor.*

*But first it is important to talk about Van der Stucken as a man. It is easy for those of us who admire him and know him personally to state that Van der Stucken as a human being is just as congenial, sensitive, kind, gifted and refined as he is conscientious, serious, energetic and multi-talented as a performing artist.*

*Born in Fredericksburg, Texas, in Gillespie County, on October 15, 1858, he is, therefore not withstanding his artistic abilities, by birth a true and still young American. His mother, Maria was born in Hildesheim, Germany, his father in Antwerp, Belgium. His parents moved to Antwerp in 1865 because of the Civil War. There, this talented youngster was taken in by the great and well-known composer Pierre Benoit. The influence of such a teacher and his resultant enthusiasm for*

*Flemish music can be heard in Van der Stucken's compositions and musical style that favors the French trend without neglecting German masters, classical, romantic and modern.*

*From 1879-80 Frank van der Stucken traveled in Austria, Switzerland, Italy and France with his Flemish friend Jan Blockx, the composer of the ballet "Milenka" which was successfully performed last year at the Theatre de Monnaie in Brussels, Belgium. In 1880 he met his wife, Maria Vollmer, who was a student of Madame Biardot Garcia, in Paris and who several times performed his ballads. After spending most of his time in the prominent artistic circles of Europe and becoming renowned for his musical talents, he was appointed as the conductor of the city theater in Breslau, Germany, from 1881-1882. Here he wrote the music to Shakespeare's Tempest and then accepted a position in Weimar, Germany.*

*In Weimar, at the urging of the composer Franz Liszt, the ducal court orchestra invited him to present his own composition and conduct the concert benefiting orphans and widows. Presented were among others his "Tempest" composition, his symphonic prologue to Heine's "William Ratcliff" and different excerpts from the lyrical opera "Blasda." The concert was a tremendous success and Franz Liszt, Eduard Grieg, Ed. Lassen, and Mueller-Hartung, who attended, heartily congratulated the young composer. This was truly a memorable day in the life of the young musician who also received laudatory comments recognizing his talents in the press.*

*Soon after this Van der Stucken was called to New York City to be the successor of the conductor of the Arion Choir, Dr. Damrosch. This was in the beginning of 1884 and by April 4 of that year he performed with the Arion choir at the Steinway Hall. He was heartily welcomed in America the country of his birth with his concerts being most successful. Next year (1891) Van der Stucken was chosen to be the guest conductor of the Northeast German American Saengerfest (singing festival) in New York City.*

*As a conductor in America, Van der Stucken has contributed immeasurably not only in the area of men's vocal music but also in the development and expansion of the musical arts. It was he who in a series of 'Novelty Concerts' introduced to the New York City public rarely performed compositions or first performances. Novelty such as Berloiz, Trojans, Brahm's Third Symphony, Sgambati's First Symphony, Massenet's Les Erinnyes, Nicode's Suite Symphonique, Klughard's Symphony Leonore, and B. Goddard's Symphony Gothique.*

*Frank van der Stucken's greatest accomplishments were his initiatives to present the works of talented American composers both native and immigrant. The contributions he has made in this area and is still making is deserving of a monument among the outstanding musicians of his native country the United States. It was he who performed the seldom of never heard of works of composers such as Paine, Buck, MacDowell, Strong, Fouts, Heimendahl, Klein, Foester, Gleason, Ahrens, Chadwick, Floresheim and many more. He paid much attention to the performance of these musical works as he would have his own.*

*His other activities included concerts in New York City dedicated to the performances of works by American composers; conducting the music festival during the national convention of American composers in Indianapolis the summer of 1887; and the American concert at the Trocader Concert Hall in Paris, France, on July 12, 1889, at which time the French government recognized him as Fellow of the French Academy of Musicians.*

*His performance and style can be characterized as concise and elegant, similar to that admired in Mendelssohn. In spite of his professional successes he remains true to his roots in feelings, thinking and sentimentality, true, honest and warm. Nothing escapes his pen that is superficial but is truly due to his artistic talents. Because Van der Stucken is still a young man and is in the midst of his most creative and active period much can still be expected of him and his creative musical pen. (3 MS. 1)*

The Van der Stucken Foundation, sponsors of the annual Van der Stucken Music Festival in Fredericksburg, kindly extends its appreciation to Kirsten Pue, daughter of Ronni Pue of Fredericksburg for the photograph of the Van der Stucken family grave and headstone in the Ohlsdorfer Friedhof in Hamburg, Germany, where Van der Stucken was buried in 1929. Additional photos of gravesite were a gift of Robert Hinshofen of Hamburg. (3 MS. 2)

Notes:

(3 MS. 1) Reprinted from the *Friedrichsburg Wochenblatt*, Fredericksburg, Texas, November 6, 1890; which in turn was reprinted from the *Leipziger Musikalisches Wochenblatt*, Germany, as a tribute to Frank Valentin van der Stucken on his 32<sup>nd</sup> birthday, October 15, 1890. Considering how stoic and reserved early German journals are this article in itself was a stellar achievement for such a young prodigy. The author thanks Ronnie Pue for uncovering the articles in the microfilm section of Pioneer Memorial Library in Fredericksburg.

To contact the German Heritage Foundation and for more information about the Van der Stucken Birthday Tribute Music Festival 2008, email: [spacitytexas@ktc.com](mailto:spacitytexas@ktc.com) or telephone 830-997-7273.

(3 MS. 2) Thanks is extended to Mr. Robert Hinshofen, House of Bewlay Antiq, Grosse Bleichen 31, D-20354 Hamburg, Germany, a visitor to Fredericksburg, who located and photographed the Van der Stucken family gravesites located in J-14/382-383-384 of the Ohlsdorfer Friedhof, Hamburg, for the Van der Stucken Foundation. Also contributing photographs of the Van der Stucken gravesite in Hamburg was Kirsten Pue, daughter of Ronni Pue of Fredericksburg, stationed in Hamburg with the U.S. Consulate office there.

**SPECIAL NEWS RELEASE FROM:**

The Van der Stucken Music Festival

407 Cora Street, Fredericksburg TX 789624 Tel: 830-997-7273 email: [spacitytexas@ktc.com](mailto:spacitytexas@ktc.com)

# A PLACE IN HISTORY

## Century-old home has new owners but keeps much of its original charm

By BETTY TAYLOR

SPECIAL TO THE EXPRESS-NEWS

**N**EW BRAUNFELS — It has been the object of envy and of many a man's dream for years. And until now, few have even stepped inside the two-story brick home on the quiet street near downtown.

With its columned porches, ample windows and shutters, porte-cochere and cupola, it is both daunting and inviting. Originally built on a cornfield, this home sits as a reminder of the city's earlier times.

Built in 1910 by flour mills czar Hippolyt Dittlinger, the house was constructed with the best in mind.

"At least that's the feeling I get," said new owner Michele Casteel, who, with husband Baron, purchased the home in April 2004 and moved in this May after three years of updating. Coincidentally, it took Dittlinger three years to build the house.

"He started building it in 1907, and we moved into the home in 2007, 100 years later," Michele said.

Several people had made offers on the house that had stayed in the same family almost a century, but upkeep was getting more difficult. And the Casteels made the right offer at the right time.

When the Casteels bought the house, they promised Maria Liebscher, Dittlinger's granddaughter, that the basics of the home would not change, and they have kept that promise.

"It was already a beautifully preserved home," Michele said. "We just gave it a face lift and brought it back to life."

It sits on 1.6 acres heavily dotted with pecan trees, and more than a fourth of the house consists of porches.

"We had been told that Dittlinger planted a pecan tree every time a

grandchild was born," Michele said.

The interior of the home, with its lavish woodwork, 12-foot ceilings and massive windows (some more than 8 feet tall) contains 3,346 square feet.

The Casteels began work from the inside out. They were amazed at the mint condition of the pocket doors in the parlor and sitting room and of the judges paneling and other woodwork.

"We have not done anything to it," Michele said. "The pocket doors were still

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**Keyword: Home**  
More photos of the Casteel house and an archive of Spaces features

See ORIGINAL/11E

**The home that took flour mills czar Hippolyt Dittlinger three years to build also took its new owners, Baron and Michele Casteel three years to renovate. Originally built on a cornfield in 1910, the house is a reminder of earlier times in New Braunfels.**



CONTINUED FROM 10E

working perfectly, and the wood was in great condition."

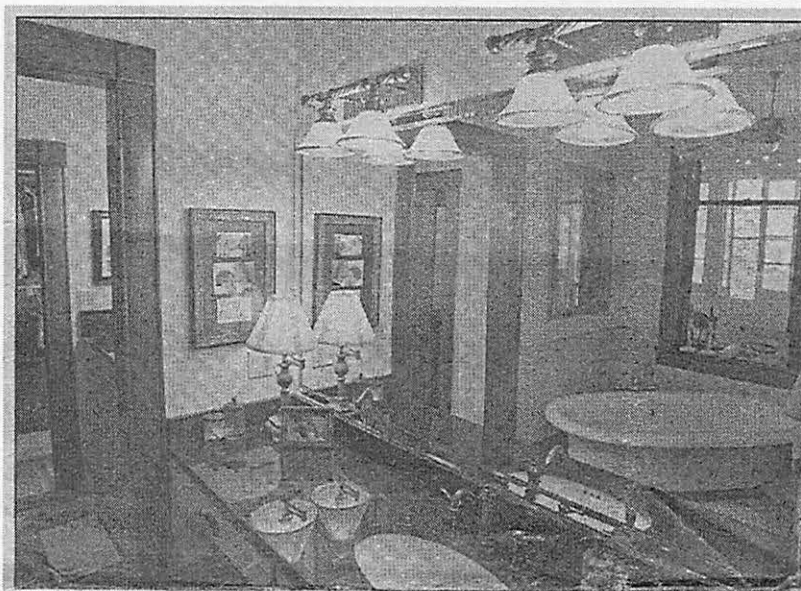
Guests enter through the original wood door with oval beveled glass. In the foyer, a stately wooden staircase greets visitors. The judges paneling that covers a third of the walls gives the house its "presence."

Liebsher told the Casteels that Dittlinger bought curly pine, or burr pine, from a forest in East Texas and had it milled on site for the woodwork. When he ran out of the original wood, he used wood from a different source to finish out the upstairs.

When the Casteels bought the house, they inherited some of the original furnishings. A bronze statue, "Sauveteur" (the rescuer throwing a lifeline), sits at the bottom of the staircase just as it always has. A large portrait of a stern-looking Hippolyt Dittlinger also remains in the home.

The radiators and some of the original lighting fixtures remain, and even the sinks, many of which were placed in the bedrooms, have remained in place or been relocated to other rooms.

To the right of the entryway is the original cloakroom that at one time housed a small elevator.



TOM REEL/STAFF

The master bath incorporates the home's original claw foot tub. The bathroom leads into a master closet, which was once a sewing room.

The elevator was removed and the area was transformed into a small bar. The Casteels found long-leaf pine in Gonzales to match the judges paneling for use on the cabinets in the area. A unique green, stained-glass Tiffany-style ceiling light was rescued from the parlor to be used in the bar.

The biggest challenge for the Casteels in updating the house

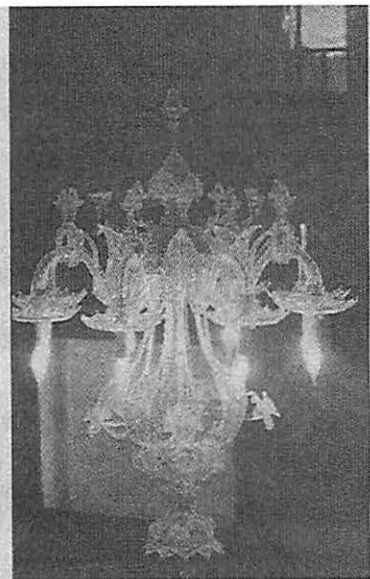
was the walls. Most were covered in wallpaper, which was attached to cheese cloth, which in turn, was tacked to the shiplap wood walls. The Casteels came up with a stucco finish in golden wheat for the walls, which meshed perfectly with the dark woodwork.

To the left of the entryway, the parlor, in the cupola, offers large rounded windows, a gold-colored radiator for ambience and the original light fixture. Gold-leaf molding was salvaged from the attic and used in the parlor and the powder room.

Two sets of large pocket doors partition the sitting room from the front parlor and from the formal dining room, where much of the home's history is located.



"Dittlinger had a pump house and firehouse installed next to it after the fire," Michele said. "The carriage house, which was used as the lumber mill while the main house was being built, bears a large 'Dittlinger Roller Mills' sign, and a second house behind the Girl Scout house was occupied by a family that once helped the Dittingers, Michele said. Now the Casteels are writing their chapter in the history of the grand home so many have admired.



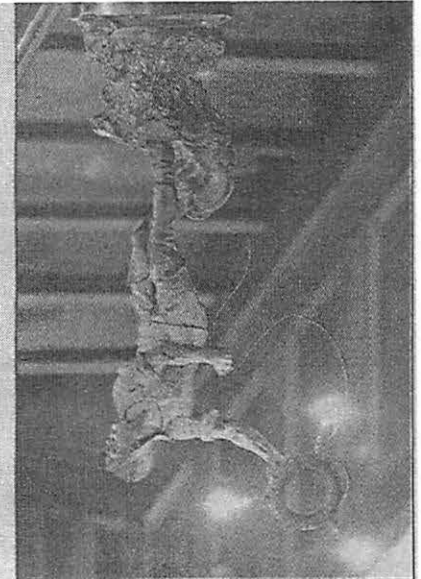
BELOW: A chandelier bought in Venice adorns the formal dining room.

pantry and dining room and create a pass-through. Tile replaced the laminate flooring in the butler's pantry and kitchen. The butler's pantry also includes the original pass-through for loading ice into the ice box from the porch. The Casteels have the original ice box and plan to incorporate it in their home. The original wooden doors of the pantry are still in place and even the original writing on the pantry shelves, some of it in German, remains intact, indicating where items should be placed. The couple appreciate the history and character even if they don't store sassaparos or allatta on the shelves. Several of the outbuildings speak to the history of the house. In one that served as a meeting house for area Girl Scouts during the 1950s, Michele found a picture of a troop still tacked to the wall. A two-story laundry building, built in concrete after a fire destroyed the original wood structure.

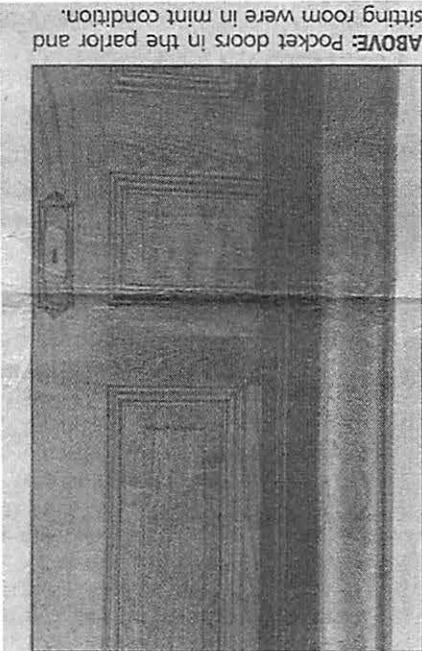
Much of the original French landscape mural painted on the upper half of the walls was saved. A built-in china cabinet, running

the height of the walls and featuring original woodwork, was a key selling point for Michele. The room also features the original shell molding with indents for plate displays and the room's original radiator, which includes a warming tray that was used for helping bread dough rise. It also houses a stunning chandelier purchased by the Casteels during a trip to Venice. All the wood floors were sanded and resealed. During the process, the Casteels were perplexed when they got to the dining room floor, which was covered in a dark, shiny material, almost like metal. They learned it was ship decking, used to make cleanup after grandchildren easier. The small kitchen was opened up by removing the swinging kitchen door between the butler's

BELOW: A bronze statue of the 'Sauveur' remains at the bottom of a staircase.



ABOVE: An oval stained-glass window is one of the many original fixtures still in the home.



ABOVE: Pocket doors in the parlor and sitting room were in mint condition.

## *German holiday celebrated in the streets of Pflugerville*



Residents gathered for a traditional German St. Martinstag children's lantern parade. Founder of the School for International Languages Mindy Copeland and her preschool students welcomed German and Austrian born children for an informal parade through Pflugerville. The children carried homemade lanterns with colorful glowsticks instead of traditional candles. The preschool and grade school children sang several German songs ending with the traditional "Ich geh mit meiner Laterne." After the parade the students

returned to the School of International Languages campus for a traditional German potluck dinner which included hand stuffed sausages delivered from a German deli in Dallas, Texas.

"St. Martinstag was wonderful!" expressed a guest Hans-Peter Goschin "My wife attends small Lantern walks by a stay at home mothers group and learn to speak German group; but there were so many people here it was exciting!"

"This was like Halloween," said a first grade visitor. "We get to walk around with pretty lanterns on the side walk."

The children sang the traditional St. Martinstag song "Ich geh mit meiner Laterne" which sings "Ich geh mit meiner Laterne, und meine Laterne mit mir. Dort oben leuchten die

Sterne, und unten leuchten wir. Mein Licht ist aus, ich geh' nach Haus. Rabimmel, rabammel, rabum," which translates to "I'm walking with my lantern, and my lantern comes with me. Up there the stars are shining, and we're shining down here. My light is out, I'm going home. Rabimmel, rabammel, rabum."

St. Martinstag has many stories. The best told is that St. Martin was the bishop of Tours and lived in the 4th century. Originally a soldier in the Roman army, St. Martin met a shivering beggar in Amiens and gave him half of his cloak. In early November, German children begin these processions, which celebrate the feast day of Martin of Tours. In the Rhineland the lantern procession even takes on a certain Halloween feel as children go from house to house singing and receive

sweetened, bishop-shaped bread rolls with raisin eyes and buttons.

November is also the official beginning of the new Carnival session across western and southern Germany. St. Martin is unique in that he is the first saint that was not martyred. The German lantern fest at the School of International Languages also welcomed families who were Christian, Jewish, Hindi, and a Buddhist family. One of the Austrian women, Valerie Segal at the start of the telling of St. Martinstag said to everyone "This St. Martinstag night is not religious!"

So the celebration of St. Martin's day had only shining lanterns and children singing through out the dark sidewalks.

The School of International Languages is the name of a Texas department

of family protective services licensed home preschool. It is nestled in a house that uses five rooms exclusively for the school. In the mornings the students study Chinese and the remainder of the day is a German school for ages 2-12 years old. The founder Mindy Copeland shares her German upbringing from a childhood in Germany and an adoption into a German-American family to teach

American children a unique bi-lingual education. Partnered with native speaking German mothers and German teachers the program also prepares German born children to re-enter the European school system when their parents return to Germany or Austria. The school is not a language program but a full fledged German and English academic based school. Hand in hand with Pflugerville and

North Austin border the school opens its doors for German holidays year round as well as lectures and tours on Pflugerville and North Austin history. In 2004 Mindy Copeland's students from her house were invited to the Pflugerville Heritage House to sing traditional German songs as well as an invitation from a Pflugerville school to perform international vocals on their campus in 2007. In

December 2007 the school plans to combine their preschool students and their Pflugerville afterschool care students to welcome the Washington D.C. German embassy's Houston consulate to Pflugerville with a holiday weekday brunch at the school.

For more information on upcoming social events in Pflugerville call 215-0001 or visit [www.SchoolofInternationalLanguages.com](http://www.SchoolofInternationalLanguages.com).

Submitted by Helga von Schweinitz—Pflugerville



# **Fire Destroys Gruenau Hall**

## **Gruenau Turn and Schuetzen Verein**

### **“Now it’s our “Turn” and Schuetzen Verein”**

By: Brenda Lincke Fisseler—Hallettsville

On Wednesday, January 17th 2007 an early morning fire destroyed the old octagonshaped Gruenau Hall located seven miles north of Yorktown in rural DeWitt County, Texas. The fire completely destroyed the 80 year old dance hall, bar and kitchen and severely damaged the facility's dining hall and barbecue area where Gruenau sausage was made twice a year for the Spring feast in May and the Fall feast in October. Over the years, the hall was also used for a variety of community events such as dances, athletic demonstrations, shooting club events, club meetings, wedding dances, anniversaries and other social functions.

Literally before the smoked cleared, the current members of the Gruenau Turn and Schuetzen Verein, many of whom are descendants of the early settlers and original members, began the task of replacing the historic structure.

Gruenau, which means green meadow in German, was an area of open prairie land when it was acquired by Vachel Weldon Sr. and his wife Sophia Dodge Weldon in the 1880s from the Indianola Railroad Company after plans to build a railroad along the old Indianola Trail were abandoned according to Nellie Murphree in her book "A History of DeWitt County". At this early date, the land in Gruenau had virtually no trees or shrubs but an abundance of native grass, suitable for grazing and hay making. As early as 1872, David Stanchos, then residing in Yorktown, owned a large tract of land in the area of Gruenau, but settlement truly began when Weldon and his wife opened the land for settlement in 1890. Some of the first settlers were the families of Ernst Haertig, Dietrich Janssen, Heinrich Mueller and Ernst Kimmel. They were followed by Henry and Anton Koopmann in 1893. Later the entire Koopmann family moved to Gruenau followed by the Heinrich Straube family in 1896 and the Brandt and Warmuth families in 1897.

The Gruenau Turnverein was organized in 1897 by sons of the early settlers of Gruenau. The word Turnverein denoted a gymnastic or athletic club. The practice for the gymnastic and callisthenic events were held at the nearby Brandt farm where Turn apparatus was located and stored after being hauled from Shiner, Texas. The Turn apparatus included "horses", a trapeze and various mats.

As more settlers moved into the Gruenau community, because no building was available for their social events, the area residents would stage Sunday afternoon gymnastic events, shooting matches and other activities out in the open, many times in the hay meadow at the entrance of the Anton Koopmann farm.

As a result of these Sunday afternoon activities, in May of 1898, the Gruenau Turn and Schuetzen Verein was organized at a meeting held at the nearby Little Chicago store owned by George Langley. Charter members of the Verein were John, George and Adolph Brandt, Anton, John and Willie Koopmann, John Pundt, Arthur Haertig, Henry Buesing and Henry Remmers. Young men such as Gerhardt Brandt, Ernest Haertig Jr., George and Louis Straube, Adolph, August, Charles and Louis Mueller and Anton and John Schmidt who were too young to be charter members were named Zoeglunge (scholars) for the Verein.

One of the first accomplishments of the Verein was the building of a platform. The platform was located on the Anton Koopmann place about one half mile west of the present location. The platform was built in sections so that after each Verein event, the platform could be disassembled and stored in Anton Koopmann's barn until the next dance or Turn exhibition



As a rule of thumb, as soon as possible after a club was formed, the members would set about to acquire a hall spacious enough to accommodate the gymnastics. With this goal in mind, sometime before March of 1900, the Verein built the first hall on this site and this hall soon became the center of community life. Sometime in 1926 or 1927, due in part to the growing crowds that were attending Gruenau events, the Verein decided to build a larger hall for their organization. While plans for the new hall were being implemented, life went on in the old hall as normal.

On Sunday, November 27, 1927 the new Gruenau Hall was opened and dedicated with day long events including a skat tournament, a blue rock shooting contest, a gymnastic exhibition, speakers and a sausage supper followed by a dance.

The new hall was octagon shaped with its extreme width and length being 100 feet. The hall, which was equipped with a hardwood maple dance floor, was 84 feet square complete with such conveniences as a lunch and cold drink stand, a check room and rest rooms. The total cost of the new hall was approximately \$9,000.00.

And so this hall stood proudly in the Gruenau community for 80 years hosting social, business and education events of all kinds. While the fire has certainly destroyed a building that can never be replicated, the role of the hall and its founding organization, the Gruenau Turn and Schuetzen Verein, has not changed. This organization was founded to bring together men, women and children throughout the year to foster a sense of community, that of a larger family. The work, the spirit and the souls of our parents, grandparents and even greatgrandparents linger here.

With this in mind, meetings were held, committees were formed and the movement was on to built the third Gruenau Hall. From the very beginning, the group agreed that the fall and spring feasts should continue as always, so an alternative site was selected and the spring feast in 2007 became the first fundraiser for the new hall.



Under construction, 1927

A website [www.GruenauHaH.com](http://www.GruenauHaH.com) was set up to keep interested parties apprised of new information and upcoming events. Merchandise including tee shirts, koozies, beer mugs etc. were designed and sold with the funds also being used for the building project




On March 8, 2008 the Gruenau Hall Spring Gala will be held at the Nordheim Shooting Club beginning with the social hour at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. with a menu that includes prime rib, smoked salmon and smoked pork tenderloin. For more information about the gala, merchandise or other news consult the Gruenau Hall website or contact Building Committee Chairman Ted Dlugosch at [alwaysbusted6\(tV, gmail.com\)](mailto:alwaysbusted6(tV, gmail.com)) or Building Committee Chairman William Niemeier at [bill\(tV, gruenauhall.com\)](mailto:bill(tV, gruenauhall.com)).

**Gruenau Hall (Continued)**

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**Texas Time Machine**  
**Stories from the archives**  
**of old newspapers.**

By Murray Montgomery

I recently came across an old newspaper article, from 1953, that I found to be quite interesting. The item appeared in The Lavaca County Tribune and the writer wasn't identified.

The author listed several towns in Lavaca County and gave a brief description of how they got their start as well as, some interesting data about each community. The writer gives "The Handbook of Texas" as the source of information. According to the paper, that volume had just been published (1953).

Following is an excerpt from the original story.

**How Breslau and Other Places Originated**

The Lavaca County Tribune - Feb. 6, 1953

Breslau was settled by German immigrants during the Civil War. And it was named for Breslau, Germany. Fritz Ladwig built the first store and gin, also donated land and money for the first public school and Lutheran church. Of special interest near Breslau were the waterfalls, the old crossing over the Lavaca, also the Indian grave in the Lutheran cemetery. There settled also James Lyons, one of the first settlers in these parts. He was killed by the Indians in 1837, and his son Warren kidnapped, returning to his mother ten years later. James Lyon's grave is in the Schulenburg City Cemetery, where evidently it was transferred from its original spot. There are also several other graves of the Lyon's family.

Moravia was named by Czechs (Moravian) immigrants who replaced the first settlers. The first Czechs came in 1859. For some time they were terrorized by outlaws. More than once the Czech pioneers had to resort to their long double-barreled shotguns which proved more effective than the outlaw's six-shooters. The community was called "the Hottentots" because of the desperados who stole cattle and killed the settlers until the Czechs tamed them. Ignac Jalufka built the first store. When a schoolhouse burned in 1878, B. Hollub donated land for a new school built in 1887. The Catholic Church was built in 1892.

Novohrad, a few miles farther to the north, was also named by the Czechs. Frank Migl established a store and gin in 1880. And J.R. Jasek, formerly a botanist for the Austrian government, operated a nursery. Because of rivalry between German and Czech settlers, separate schools were established in 1882, the Greive school for the German children later being consolidated with the Praha community.

Kinkler was originally settled by Anglo-Americans, only to be replaced by German immigrants. It was named for Jack Kinkler. A school called Mule Spring was built in 1880. A new school, built in 1895 about a mile east, was called New Kinkler.

Hackberry, too, settled at first by Anglo-Americans, were replaced by the Germans after the Civil War. Hugo Neuhaus built a two-story rock store and gristmill. He named the place for a grove of hackberry trees nearby. It used to be an important trading post. Today, it's only a ghost town amidst a good farming community.

Submitted by Angelina Kretzschmar—San Antonio

Lavaca County Tribune 6 Feb 1953

## WEATHER MADE STATE IDEAL FOR WWII POWS

(Article appearing in the Austin American Statesman, March 10, 2002 by Jane Greig)

Texas has been the scene of battles and bull rides, movies and microchips, space and supercollider research. But did you know Texas was the locale for 33 prisoner of war camps during World War II with a total of about 90,000 detainees? I didn't -- until I received a letter from a reader with some curious questions. Who can repair a wooden ship carved by a German prisoner of war at a camp in Mexia? What could it be worth? And, "how do I begin to track its provenance?" This reader hopes to track down the carver and go to Germany to meet him and his family.

Texas was a likely place for these camps. "Land, lots of land under starry skies above" was certainly a factor. But oddly, Texas's hotter-than-Hades summers were a plus. The Geneva Convention of 1929 requires prisoners of war to be sent to locales similar to the climate in which they were captured. Germans captured by Allied forces in Africa were sent to Texas. (Here's a geographic surprise: Cairo and San Antonio are located on roughly the same parallel).

Camps held an average of 3,000 to 4,000 prisoners and looked remarkably like military bases -- barracks, footlockers, exercise areas, etc. There were, of course, the telltale barbed-wire fences, guard towers and floodlights.

Smaller installations of fewer than 50 men (called base camps) also dotted Texas. Prisoners worked in fields and factories and were paid the prevailing wage (\$1.50 per day) and allowed to keep most of that wage in canteen coupons. Texas farms and plants were labor starved and the prisoners picked peaches and chopped cotton.

The Geneva convention also decreed that noncommissioned officers were not required to work. For entertainment and a bit of bartering, prisoners made all sorts of crafts.

Texas A&M professor Arnold Krammer, author of "Nazi Prisoners of War in America" says despite the glowing reports of conditions in the camp, not every POW was happy. There were some escape attempts. One made a raft and hoped to float to freedom (or the Fatherland) from the banks of the Brazos River. Another escape was foiled by a Brahman bull. One group headed for what seemed like a friendly sounding town - New Braunfels.

Since the publication of the book, Krammer has found himself as a point of contact for Americans who have paintings or other crafts made by these prisoners. Krammer is working on a new book about the prisoners of war in Texas. Have a photo of a handicraft or a POW in the Lone Star State? Contact Krammer at [apkrammer@aol.com](mailto:apkrammer@aol.com).

How does Krammer advise folks to look for one of the more than 425,000 prisoners of war who spent time in the U.S.? Begin with the National Archives and Records Administration. Lists of the POW's are maintained in the Modern Military Branch, Record group 389. To request information, contact NARA, Room 2400, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740 or inquire [@nara.gov](mailto:@nara.gov) or by FAX (301) 713-7482. Fees are charged for photocopying materials. Include your name, electronic and physical address and telephone number and any information you have, i.e. POW name, camp, year interned, etc. The identity of the boat carver should be somewhere in these records.

Submitted by: Margaret Hitzfeld  
Round Rock →



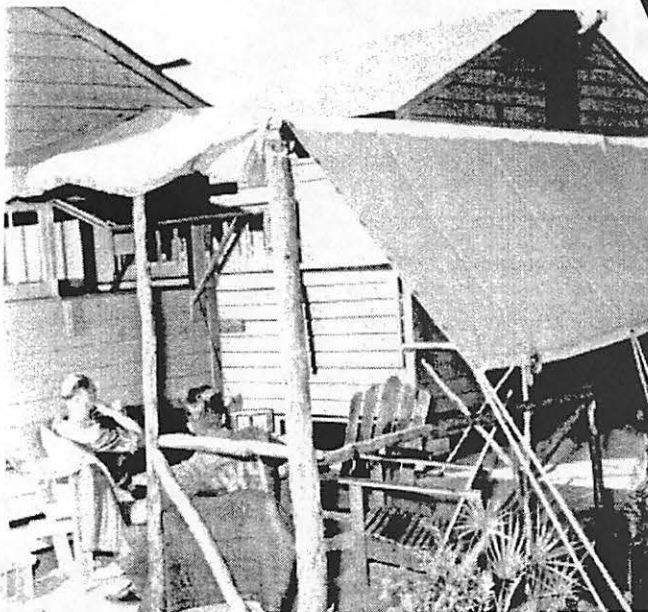
“POWs at Play” was taken in Camp Mexia.

Untitled: POWs picking fruit in the Valley.



POWs at WORK” cutting timber in Pollock, Texas

Frying in the Camp El Paso sun.



POWs at Rest



“Tunis – 1943” shows the capture and processing of the Afrika Korps



“POW FUNERAL” was taken at Camp Swift, in Bastrop.



Thanks to Professor Arnold Krammer, Professor of History, Author of Nazi Prisoners of War in America Texas A&M University, for these wonderful pictures.

## An "almost" Forgotten Cemetery!

by Everett Fey, SS Peter & Paul Archives

Every now and then, when you are researching a historical matter, you accidentally come across something else that turns out to be more interesting. This happened to me about ten years ago when I was studying all the property deed records for SS Peter & Paul Church in New Braunfels.

While reading an 1853 deed where William Merriwether, a Yankee industrialist, sold a tiny strip of land next to the church to the parish, I also found evidence that he had sold them land to be used as a parish Cemetery. The adjacent deed in the records showed that Merriwether also deeded two other tracts of land to the city for use as cemeteries, one for "*Africans and their descendents*" and the other for "*Americans and others*".

My attention was now fully affixed on these three cemeteries, previously unknown to us. A study of their dimensions revealed that they lay adjacent to one another and their outside perimeter appeared as a triangle. Charlotte Boyd, a deputy at the Comal Court House Records, helped me locate a very old tattered map tucked away in a huge safe which seemed quite promising!

I scanned the map, looking for any sign of a triangular outline and "there it was!" The three cemeteries (marked with crosses) were located between what later became Morningside Drive and the Nacogdoches Road and across from the "Verein Kirchoff", later known as the City Cemetery.

The Germans did not espouse slavery but Merriwether himself owned many slaves.. Perhaps he wanted to ensure proper burial places for these individuals. He designated the second cemetery "for Americans". Maybe he felt that, since the Germans had their own cemetery, the "Americans" in the area also needed their own graveyard.

I began to search county death records, sexton records and our Catholic Church burial records. In truth, I did not find evidence of any burials in either the "African" or "American" Cemeteries. The Catholics continued to bury their dead in the Verein Kirchoff until 1886. In 1886 the church records showed two persons buried in the new "Catholic" Cemetery followed by four more in 1887 and six more in 1888.



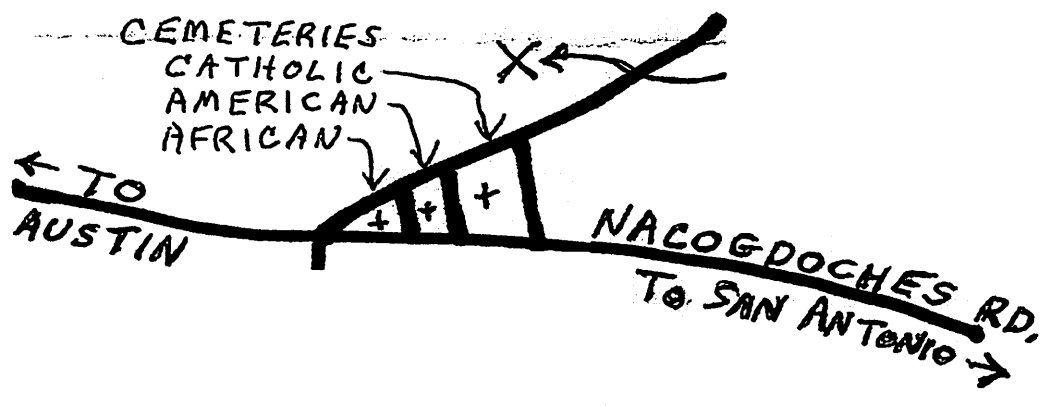
Then, in 1888, problems arose! The "Catholic" Cemetery was located near a plot of land owned by Jacob Jung. Monica Kneuper Fuhrman, our (*IJarish historian emerita*) relates the story. "Almost at once, Jacob Jung protested, asking the District Court for an injunction against the church for the purpose of halting burials, which he claimed caused pollution of his well. The request was refused, since according to the court, graveyards were a necessity and were in short supply."

Mrs. Fuhrman continues "Mr. Jung carried his case to the Supreme Court which overturned the previous ruling and declared the basis of his claim valid. It was remanded to the District Court, where after two days of testimony before a jury on June 20, 1889, Bishop Neraz (our Bishop) and Mr. Jung agreed to settle out of court and the jury was dismissed."

"Mr. Jung deeded to the church four acres of land [actually our present Cemetery in Comal Town) in what he considered a more suitable location, and in return received a deed to the acreage near his farm which was being used as the cemetery. Jung paid the District Court costs, the Bishop paid the expense connected with the Supreme Court."

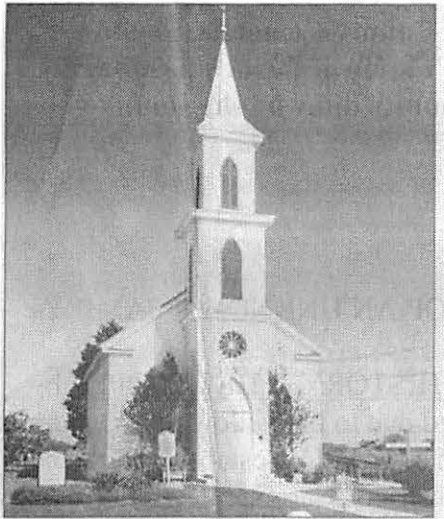
A few Sundays later, the entire Catholic Community followed the disinterred bodies from the first site to the church where there was a service, then on to the new burial ground. The tombstones of five of these graves are still visible, standing majestically in a row in the older portion of the cemetery.

This is a map of the "three cemeteries" deeded by Merriwether, the Verein "Kirchhof" and environs:



Everett Fey, SS Peter & Paul Archives  
San Antonio





Freyburg United Methodist Church

## If Walls Could Talk, They Would Speak German

"Wie geht's?" (How are you?) .

The German language will once again ring out in song and worship at the 127-year-old sanctuary of Freyburg United Methodist Church located in the rolling countryside of southern Fayette County at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 23.

This is the second year that the historic little white church will blend the German and English languages for a memorable Heritage Sonntag (Sunday) celebration. The service will be followed by brunch and fellowship on the grounds. Leading the singing of German hymns such as Immer Fröhlich (Always Joyful) will be Sharon Spiess, a teacher from Industry whose roots run deep in the early German Methodist Episcopal Church. Spiess, who will help the congregation learn two verses of each hymn in German followed by two verses in English, is the great-granddaughter of Rev. Friede Bohmfalk, who was pastor at Freyburg from 1898 to 1906. She also is kin to Rev. O. C. Raake, who also served as pastor of the church from 1916 to 1922.

"This service presents US with an opportunity to pay tribute to all the German people who settled Central Texas and founded churches like ours by singing their hymns and repeating their prayers. Many of us grew up hearing our grandparents and parents speak German but aren't that familiar with the language ourselves. On Sunday, Sept. 23, we will celebrate not only our heritage but God's blessings on us," says Pastor Robert White.

Alternating between German and English, the service will appeal to those who are of German ancestry, as well as those who find solace in worshipping in a small, simple country church.

Built in 1879 by a group of farmers who had been worshipping in the local store and school, Freyburg United Methodist Church was completely restored in 2004.

It is both a Texas Historic Site and a United Methodist Church Historic Site. Located in the rolling countryside northwest of Schulenburg at 4520 FM 2238, Freyburg United Methodist Church is handicap-accessible. For more information about the Heritage Sonntag Celebration, please contact: Junette Rodecap, (979) 561-8355 or Elaine Thomas, (979) 263-5630.

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

Fayette County Recorder  
September 21, 2007

**Editor's Note: A story submitted to me for the Washington County Cemetery Book by member Dorothy Rothermel of Brenham. While we don't know if the deceased family was German, we know that a member of the German community did what he could to help.**

#### THE YELLOW FEVER QUARANTINE AND BURIAL OF AN UNKNOWN FAMILY

According to a book published in 1902, FAYETTE CO. - HER HISTORY & HER PEOPLE by Lotto; Carmine was one of the communities in 1897 quarantined due to the yellow fever epidemic. Dr. Peare, a local physician, was appointed to the County Board of Health to establish rules and regulations for a quarantine. The county was divided into four districts. Carmine Ledbetter, Warrenton, and Round Top made up the second district. A local story that relates to this quarantine was the discovery of human bones during a clearing of brush and trees on a local ranch.

A family traveling through the area had to camp on a ranch ~located about one mile west of Carmine on U.S. Highway 290, due to the quarantine. Their camp site was under a large live oak tree. A local family heard that several members of the family were ill with yellow fever. A son of this family, Paul Schoenst, age 8 to 10 years at the time, was sent on horse back to take food and medicine to the family. A woman met him halfway to their camp site in order to receive the food and medicine for the ill family members.

Soon after all died except the woman. She buried them under the live oaks and put large rocks on the graves and carved inscriptions on them. She then left in a wagon, leaving her deceased family. She remarked that traveling was easy, since there was little or no under brush, no fences, lots of grass and large trees to guide her.

The names of this family have never been known.

The story was told by Mabel Schoenberg Schmidt. This burial site was located on the Carmine Charalais Ranch belonging to Nolan and Mabel Schmidt of Carmine.~~

## Our First Outreach Program Funded with 150th donations a success! German Genealogy Seminar Brenham, Texas

### Guest Speakers:

#### Liz Hicks (our own)

The genealogy editor for GTHS, a past President of Clayton Library Friends, past contributing editor for "Tree Talk", the publication of the Cherokee County, TX. Genealogical Society.

#### W. M. von-Maszewski

The manager of the Genealogy and Local History Department at George Memorial Library. He has produced several publications: The Volkfest in Brenham, Texas, A Sojourn in Texas, 1846-47, and Sketches of Texas. On-going projects are the translations of letters and diaries of German-Texan soldiers in the Civil War, of various German-Texan church minutes and church registers, cemetery minutes, and the minutes of the *Houston Turn Verein*

#### Susan Kaufman

Manager of the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research of the Houston Public Library, Susan has been a genealogy librarian since 1987, a Director of the Federation of Genealogical Societies

#### Beth Rothermel

Free School descendant and County Clerk for Washington County

#### Vicki Lehmann

Free School descendant and District Clerk for Washington County

### Email to Liz Hicks from a happy attendee:

*Liz, the presentation on Saturday was wonderful. Thank you. You suggested you might provide me with a web site giving information on Irish genealogy to help me to work on my husband's family.*



Listening with rapt attention

Ach du liebe Zeit!—you must have donuts!



Our past president Teddy Boehm introducing Speaker, Liz Hicks



## All I Know Is Great Grandpa Came From Germany

### (How to research your German ancestor)

*(Handout from Liz at the Brenham seminar—thanks for allowing this reprint)*

**Presented by: Elizabeth "Liz" Nitschke Hicks,**  
Genealogy Editor, GTHS

Pick an Ancestor – start with what you know and work back. Ask relatives for any information (family Bible, recollections/family stories). Keep in mind the information may not be correct, but look for CLUES. Ask yourself, **where was my ancestor, when was he there, and who was he with?** "No man is an island" applies to Ethnic research. Research the neighborhood as well as the cemetery and church records. Consider spelling variations of your ancestor's surname. How did the name sound to a non-speaking German when pronounced.

Records that will provide information on ancestor:

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

Helpful websites: [www.vitalrec.com](http://www.vitalrec.com) (vital record information by state)  
<http://www.deathindexes.com> (online searchable death indexes & records)  
<http://www.vitals.rootsweb.com/tx/death/search.cgi> (after 1968)  
<http://www.ssd.rootsweb.com> (SSDI, birth date, death date and county)  
<http://www.familysearch.org> (LDS site, click on search, IGI, SSDI, more)

**Obituary:** (Houston Chronicle, Denominational, German Language) Look for obit for whole family. May say something like, "Elizabeth came to Texas in 1871 with her Mother, Ernestine Richter, two sisters and a brother".

**Funeral Home Records:** Ask how far back their records go, if not early enough for you ask who might have the records. Request the ledger sheets for the deceased's funeral.

To find a funeral home: "Yellow Book of Funeral Directors"-any present day funeral home  
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~fategenealogy/medterms.htm> (old medical terms)  
[www.funeralhomes.com](http://www.funeralhomes.com) (find a funeral home) and [www.funeralnet.com](http://www.funeralnet.com) (some obits).

**Cemetery Records:** Does cemetery have an affiliation with a church, religious denomination, organization? Check for everyone with same name buried in that cemetery. Who is buried around your ancestor? Look for organization and religious symbols on tombstone.

[www.Deathsearch.org/Cemetery.html](http://www.Deathsearch.org/Cemetery.html) (search by state, death & cemetery records)  
[www.Interment.net](http://www.Interment.net) (find a cemetery-includes Germany, U.K., National Cemeteries)  
[www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) (very helpful, can add your burial records and photos)  
[www.Cyndislist.com/cemetery.htm#Monuments](http://www.Cyndislist.com/cemetery.htm#Monuments) (many links)  
[www.genealogy.about.com/cs/symbolism](http://www.genealogy.about.com/cs/symbolism) (helpful links-cemetery iconography, symbolism, fraternal and grave marker acronyms)  
<http://www.angelfire.com/ky2/cemetery/reid.html> (tombstone art, meaning of symbols)  
[www.usgenweb.com](http://www.usgenweb.com) (go to state, then county, postings of cemetery records and more)

**Census:** The year of immigration question was asked on the 1900, 1910, 1920, & 1930 Federal Censuses. Cluster approach-neighbors and other people in county from same place in Germany, relatives.

AL on census means "Alien" has not filed declaration and is not naturalized  
PA on census means "Papers" (declaration of intent) has been filed  
NA on census means "Naturalized" (declaration and/or naturalization could be filed in any court of record)  
"WPA Index to Texas Naturalizations, Texas State District & County Courts 1846-1939" (microfilm-Clayton Library)

**Passports:** National Archives, or new addition, "US Passport Applications 1795-1925" under US Immigration

Collection at [www.Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com) (not free site, but most libraries subscribe to).

**Church Records:** Baptism/Christening, Marriage, Confirmation, Death, Membership lists. Determine where your ancestor lived from deeds. Use map(s) and look for church within wagon, buggy, horse, or walking distance. Check with County Historical Society, present day church of that denomination, State and National organizations, and Archives (Church and University).

Church records continued :

Denominational Newspapers (*Southern Christian Advocate, Alabama Baptist, Texas Baptist*)  
[www.Cyndislist.com](http://www.Cyndislist.com)

Catholic Archives of Texas, 1600 N. Congress, Austin, TX 78711, (512) 476-6296

Guide to locations of records, general history and gen. links to maps and aids (Catholic Church)  
[http://home.att.net/%7Elocal\\_Catholic](http://home.att.net/%7Elocal_Catholic)

"The Genealogist's Address Book", 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, by Elizabeth Petty Bentley

Texas Lutheran University <http://www.tlu.edu/library> reference or archivist, 1100 W. Court St., Seguin, TX 78155

**Newspapers:** Obits, ship's arrivals, passenger lists, advertisements, letters remaining at Post office, etc.

**City Directories:** Lists residents of that city (ex.:Austin, TX), lists churches, county officials, names of newspapers, Railroads, occupations, much more.

**Organizational Records:** Fraternal (Masons, Sons of Hermann, Knights of Pythias, Odd Fellows, etc.)

Grand Lodge of Texas AF&AM [www.grandlodgeoftexas.org/index.php](http://www.grandlodgeoftexas.org/index.php)

Insurance (Woodmen of the World)

Occupation (Grange-Agricultural society, Railroad)

"The Directory of North American Railroads, Assn., societies, Archives, Libraries, Museums and Their Collections" by Holly T. Hansen

The Railroad Retirement Board, 844 Rush Street, Chicago, IL 60611

Look for enrollment/membership application, and ancestor may have been mentioned in organization's publication or anniversary of membership, or death of member.

**Military Records:** Many records generated by military service

Pension – (any war) be sure to get wife's pension as had to say when and where she married.

Other - Prisoner of War Correspondence, Government documents for artificial limbs, Amnesty Oaths, Adjutant General Office (service records for TX), Camp Mabry, Austin, TX.

The Southern Claims Commission Claims (claims pertaining to Civil War) "Southern Loyalists" by Gary B. Mills

World War I Draft Registration cards (date of birth, place of birth, next of kin, occupation, physical description).

**County Histories:** even if your ancestor is not listed, look for information on his neighbors. Where did they come from? Your ancestor may have been on same ship, or friends or relatives from back home in Germany.

**Family Heirlooms:** Look on back of photos, name and location of photographer. Some regions in Germany had certain customs which may help you to determine region in Germany your ancestor came from.

**How to find Records of all types, books, microfilm, periodicals, newspapers, family papers, Attorney Papers, Church Records, Passengers Lists, everything and just about anything:** [www.worldcat.org](http://www.worldcat.org) (old OCLC search at National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections site "NUCMC", [www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc](http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc)).

Worldcat.org – use search terms such as Sexton Records and Texas, Schneider family, Schneider genealogy,

Passenger Lists, Funeral Homes, Church Records, Tax Lists, Cemeteries and Texas, German Texans.

**Always ask:** What do I know about the ancestor in question?  
What do I want to find out?  
What will solve my question?  
Where do I find the information (records)?

Other helpful websites:

[www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com) (county mailing lists, queries, find others researching the same surname)

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com) (do a search for your ancestor, use “”, example: “Isham Sims”)

# People

## GALVESTON'S MISSING PASSENGER LISTS

### RELEASE FOR PUBLICATION:

*Lawrence H. Konecny grants permission for the publication of the following article in its entirety and with the acknowledgement "by Lawrence H. Konecny" by any non-profit genealogical or historical organization operating within the state of Texas. The right of publication does not constitute the right of ownership that is wholly retained by Lawrence H. Konecny.*

### 1993 LAWRENCE H. KONECNY ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

I was born and reared in Galveston. Tales of Jean Lafitte's buried treasure are more a part of my childhood memories than the stories of Mother Goose. As time passed, I began to question the actual existence of the pirate's buried loot. Maybe, if it does exist, it is of a small amount.

Six years ago I focused my interests on a part of Galveston's nineteenth century history in a venture known today as the *Galveston-Bremen Project*. I started out in a quest to find the so-called *Missing Passenger Lists*. My first chore was to define exactly what is lost. I soon realized that Galveston's missing passenger lists and Lafitte's buried treasure had a lot in common.

I should declare what exists before speculating on what is missing. Microfilm M575, Roll 3, (Quarterly Abstracts of passengers' Lists of Vessels Arriving at Galveston) has various quarterly reports of immigrant vessels arriving at Galveston between the years 1846 and 1871. Many of the quarters are missing, and some years do not exist in their entirety.

Several studies augment the available Galveston passenger lists of vessels arriving before the American Civil War. Works by Chester and Ethyl Geue and Albert Blaha fall into this category.

Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) records, Microcopy 1359 (Passenger List of Vessels Arriving at Galveston, Texas, 1896-1948), list immigrants arriving at Galveston *beginning in September, 1892*. This collection is often described as beginning in October, 1895 or 1896 (as stated above) - which is in error.

With that declaration made, I'll speculate on what does not exist. Galveston's Custom House records documenting immigrant arrivals beginning in 1846 are missing. Some historians believe that the hurricane of September 8, 1900 destroyed these lists. It is possible that these records still survive, "boxed away" with other records used in the Treasury Department's 1893 study on immigration.

The Treasury Department compiled a chart titled *Number of Passengers, 1823-55, and Immigrants, 1856-92, Arriving at Certain U.S. Ports*. The report covers the fiscal years to June 30, 1892. It is highly coincidental that the immigrant records of the INS begin at the point in time (September, 1892) that the 1893 Treasury Department report ends (June 30, 1892).

To simplify the above, official records documenting immigrant arrivals at Galveston from the year 1872 through June 30, 1892 do not exist. This is the period that promotes the most speculation. "Galveston, gateway to the west" and "Galveston, second only to New York in immigrant arrivals" are actual statements printed in newspapers telling about this time period. After all, if there are no records to prove this wrong, what's the harm.

Records were available. I include one such source in Table 1, *Immigrants and Passengers Arriving at U.S. Ports Year Ending June 30*. Table 1 is a small excerpt of the Treasury Department's 1893 report. This table contains only the years 1875 through 1892. I will not discuss the years before July 1, 1875; however, I will give information past June 30, 1892 through June 30, 1896. Augmenting the chart by the INS records for Galveston's Immigrant arrivals (fiscal year ending June 30) we arrive at: 1893, 24; 1894, 6; 1895, 8; 1896, 19 (total of passengers.)

It is clear in looking at Table 1, Galveston's direct immigrant arrivals are very little fish in a great big sea. I stop at June 30, 1896, as that begins a whole new era in Galveston's immigration business.

TABLE 2 - VESSELS WITH IMMIGRANTS SAILING FROM BREMEN TO GALVESTON DURING THE PERIOD 1880 - 1886.						
VOYAGE	VESSEL	FROM BREMEN	TO GALVESTON	CAPTAIN	NO. OF PASS	PASS LIST
1	S.S. AMERICA	08 SEP 1880	29-30 SEP 1880	C. POHLE	619	YES
2	SHIP GEORGE WASHINGTON	04 SEP 1880	10 NOV 1880	J. D. PROBST	42	NO
3	S.S. BRAUNSCHWEIG	24 NOV 1880	20 DEC 1880	C. POHLE	446	NO
4	S.S. KRONPRINZ-FREDERICK WILHELM	13 SEP 1881	06-10 OCT 1881	A. MEYER	929	NO
5	S.S. HOHENZOLLERN	05 OCT 1881	29 OCT 1881	R. SANDER	527	NO
6	BARK GUTENBERG	05 SEP 1881	15-16 NOV 1881	C. AVERDAM	100	NO
7	S.S. HOHENSTAUFFEN	03 SEP 1882	23 SEP 1882	TH. JUENGST	532	NO
8	S.S. HANNOVER	21 SEP 1882	17 OCT 1882	P. BERDROW	494	NO
9	S.S. OHIO	18 OCT 1882	10-13 NOV 1882	H. BRUNS	480	NO
10	S.S. WESER	08 SEP 1883	28-30 SEP 1883	H. BRUNS	1000	YES
11	S.S. HOHENZOLLERN	05 OCT 1883	26-27 OCT 1883	A. MEYER	694	NO
12	S.S. WESER	17 NOV 1883	10-11 DEC 1883	H. BRUNS	298	NO
13	S.S. WESER	05 SEP 1884	29-30 SEP 1884	H. BRUNS	545	NO
14	S.S. OHIO	04 OCT 1884	26 OCT 1884	A. MEYER	367	NO
15	S.S. WESER	12 SEP 1885	03-04 OCT 1885	H. BRUNS	335	YES
16	S.S. HOHENZOLLERN	10 OCT 1885	30-31 OCT 1885	A. MEYER	181	YES
17	S.S. WESER	11 SEP 1886	01 OCT 1886	H. BRUNS	449	NO

Table 2 depicts the *Charter Steamship Era* at Galveston and the end of the *Immigrant Sailing Ship Era*. These 17 voyages represent the major loss of the passenger list records at Galveston from July 1, 1875 through June 30, 1892 - the time that the INS records are available (September, 1892). We reconstructed some of the passenger lists of these voyages using other sources.

It is not the focus of this paper to examine why the direct immigration business at Galveston ceased to exist during those two periods. The point is that it did stop. Galveston was not the major immigration port of entry in this post Civil War era that was stated.

I hope that this brief paper will help others in their search for their ancestors' immigrant ships and passenger lists. I am working with Clinton Machann in producing a book that will detail Galveston's immigration history from 1865 through 1896. I would like to hear from anyone who may have additional information about this topic. Please address correspondence to: Lawrence H. Konecny, 306 Creek Bend, League City, TX 77573-3109. ☆

Editor's Notes: Lawrence H. Konecny, A Czech-Texan and historian by hobby, has spent the last six years detailing the Post Civil War Immigration Industry at Galveston. His studies concentrate on the transportation systems used in this highly organized effort. In previous lectures titled "*Ship Voyage Research Using Newspapers in Microform - Post Civil War Czech Immigration To Texas*," he not only described the immigration system,

but also gave a hands-on tutorial in reconstructing an immigrant's ship voyage during an 1881 crossing.

He is the Author of *Saved by an Angel - The Liberty Legend Retold* (c. 1990), which is being revised by Clinton Machann and is scheduled to be released this year under the title, *A Tale of Courage-Forever Saved*. This historical account documents the travels of eight families immigrating to Texas from northern Moravia in 1873. Disaster struck on their voyage across the Atlantic as their ship was wrecked and subsequently broke apart. Earlier research documented the arrival of these Czech immigrants at New Orleans on the coastal steamer Liberty, however none had ever managed to ascertain the identity of the shipwrecked vessel. Mr. Konecny has personally interviewed the children and grandchildren of the survivors and compiled these oral histories with his research in presenting this fascinating account.

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**Mr. Konecny will be  
our Guest Speaker at the  
PGST Meeting March 27, 1993.  
Mark your calendars----  
you don't want to miss this one.**

---

I have spoken to him on the telephone several times and I am astonished at the vast amount of knowledge that he has on the subject matter. He is definitely a subject matter expert. He has given me several sources to research on my current projects.

Mentioned at the seminar by Von, Liz Hicks has provided this piece from the Polish Genealogy Society of Texas, (periodical once called the *PGST News*, but now called *Polish Footprints*), Volume X, #1, 1993

**TABLE 1 - IMMIGRANTS AND PASSENGERS ARRIVING AT U. S. PORTS  
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30**

	YEAR	NEW YORK	BALTIMORE	NEW ORLEANS	GALVESTON
1875	1875	130,994	6,055	2,132	135
	1876	82,373	5,093	1,669	60
	1877	72,942	3,923	1,801	53
	1878	72,163	3,612	2,449	2
	1879	99,224	4,713	1,834	18
1880	1880	263,726	17,934	2,663	7
	1881	400,871	40,017	3,284	1,278
	1882	502,171	41,739	3,142	1,351
	1883	406,697	35,690	1,707	1,535
	1884	354,702	35,507	4,093	1,958
1885	1885	287,223	15,928	2,325	964
	1886	266,370	13,500	1,648	560
	1887	376,005	36,098	2,031	462
	1888	418,423	33,297	2,962	79
	1889	338,784	29,704	3,706	40
1890	1890	364,086	27,178	3,878	22
	1891	448,403	40,694	3,963	65
	1892	489,810	55,820	3,817	26

The *Galveston-Bremen Project* concentrated on organized immigration ventures in this era. Using several sources we compiled a list of the immigrant voyages to Galveston 1865-1896. We found that from 1865 through June 30, 1896, no immigrant ships arrived at Galveston from Antwerp, Belgium or Hamburg, Germany- only a few arrived from Liverpool, England. The lion's share arrived from Bremen, Germany (Bremerhaven inclusive). Dr. Adolf Hofmeister, archivist at the Staatsarchiv Bremen states (as translated from German):

The monthly reports from the *Bureau for Bremen Statistics* (1901 the Bremen Statistic Office [Bremisches Statistisches Amt], since 1922 the Provincial Statistics Bureau [Statistisches Landesamt] are available for 1880-1924.... The originals are in the archives of the Bremen Chamber of Commerce in the form of vouchers for the emigration bureau (inventar der Quellen zur Geschichte der Wanderungen..., #5105.) The state archive has microfilms available for the same. The monthly reports (since 1865) are in the same format as those generated by the Senate Emigration Committee [Commission des Senats für das Auswanderungswesen].

We have the original harbor account books for Bremerhaven [Bremen's outer seaport] for 1830-1911

separated by incoming or outgoing vessels (Inventar #1210-1259). They list all departures from Bremerhaven and are very useful for exact departure dates.

According to the Bremen statistics, there were no departures of emigration vessels for Galveston in the years 1887-1895 (and later.) For the years 1865-1879 there is no additional information to that which you already listed in your charts. For the years up to 1874 the German Emigration Newspaper (Deutschen Auswanderer-Zeitung) gives a lot of detailed information, but you already incorporated that information into your report. According to the statistics, there were no departures of emigration vessels for Galveston during the time of 1875-1879.

This simplifies the search. We know by the Galveston Daily News, the 1893 Treasury Department report, the harbor account books at Bremerhaven and the reports of the Provincial Statistics Bureau at Bremen that Galveston's organized immigration business stopped for the years July 1, 1875 through June 30, 1880 (5 years) and July 1, 1887 through June 30, 1896 (9 years). The period July 1, 1880 through June 30, 1887 is covered in Table 2.



# Frau Sisler

## Memorial High's Susan Sisler is Texas' top German teacher

Longtime Memorial High School foreign language instructor Susan Sisler was recently named German Teacher of the Year by the Texas Foreign Language Association.

Susan, or Frau Sisler as she is affectionately known, has taught German to hundreds of Memorial High graduates during the past 26 years. The school's foreign language department chair, she is a past president of the Houston chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German, where she was twice named Houston German Teacher of the Year.

Memorial High students begin with her as freshmen. Many stay for all four years and finish in Advanced Placement German, where some students earn up to 18 college-level credits in language and literature.

Every two years, Susan introduces about 15 of her students to Germany life and culture through a trip abroad sponsored by the German American Partnership Program.

In 2001, as a Fund for Teacher winner, she used the fund's personal development grant to visit five different states, or regions, in the former East Germany during a rambling, scenic summertime bicycle trip.

The Illinois native earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in German literature, and later earned her teacher certification from Northwestern University. She knew – even as a student teacher – that the classroom was her calling.

She taught in Illinois, Iowa and Louisiana before finally finding her Memorial High home by "random luck."

"The minute that I walked into my first classroom, I felt at home. That was it for me," she says. She encourages students to learn one foreign language, be it German, Spanish or another language.

Memorial High graduate Kristen Gorman was one of several former students who recommended her for the award. "I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this honor," Kristen told the Texas Foreign Language Association. Kristen is in her second year at Tufts University in Boston and plans to double major in International Relations and German literature.

"If it were not for Frau Sisler's presence in my life, I would not be pursuing either of these subjects. She has guided me intellectually and emotionally as a teacher and friend throughout the past six years. Susan Sisler has had an unbelievably profound influence on my life."



*Ein nettes Pflanzchen  
(A pretty young thing)*



JOHN DAVENPORT/STAFF

Gordon Zunker, 75, plays the trumpet with the Cloverleaf Orchestra this week at Wurstfest in New Braunfels. Zunker has been a part of the group for 50 years and is about to retire.

## Polka icon playing his last Wurstfest

Zunker has been to all 47 of New Braunfels' sausage tributes.

By **ROGER CROTEAU**  
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

**NEW BRAUNFELS** — In 1961, Gordon Zunker was at the very first Wurstfest, playing trumpet for the Cloverleaf Orchestra, a seven-piece polka band.

Zunker and the band have been back every year since. That's 47 Wurstfests in a row.

But when the band takes the stage to close the festival on Sunday evening, it will be his last. At age 75, Zunker is hanging up his trumpet.

"I've had a good ride and I figured I'll quit while I'm ahead," he said, citing health issues.

Zunker joined the Cloverleaf Orchestra in 1957, after he got out of the military. The band was formed in 1952 but there are no original members still in it.

A rancher, Zunker said he always viewed the band as a hobby, even when they played more than 80 shows a year and toured Europe in 1978 and 1980.

These days the orchestra still plays about 20 shows a year.

"We were fortunate and always had a good group who got along with each other," he said. "I always enjoyed playing and entertaining people."

"I just loved the polka music," he said. "Polka people are fun people."

Zunker said he's probably played The Beer Barrel Polka more than any other song and he fondly recalls the years before Wurstfest moved to Landa Park, when the band played at

>> [MYSA.COM](http://MYSA.COM)

**Keyword: ENVideo**

Watch as Gordon Zunker tells his story — and plays his horn.

The Rathskeller, a burned-out department store basement on the Plaza.

Glenn Herfurth, who will be promoted from second trumpet to first trumpet after playing behind Zunker for 23 years, said he's always enjoyed Zunker's company.

"He's a real easy-going guy and he loves playing music," Herfurth said.

The band will take the stage to close out this year's Wurstfest at 5:30 p.m. Sunday in the Wursthalle.

Grounds tickets to Wurstfest are \$8, with admission for children under 12 free.

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

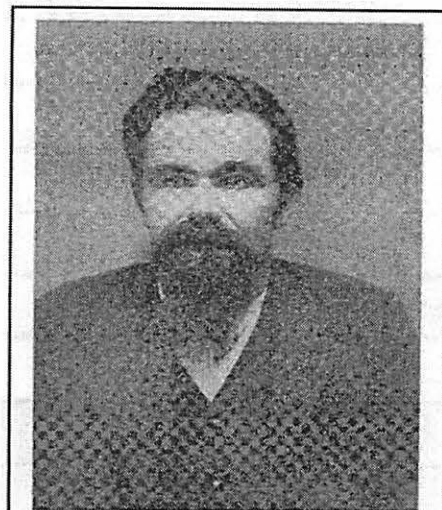
San Antonio Express News, November 9, 2007

## Former Texas Ranger to be Honored with Grave Marking Ceremony

Victoria, Texas  
November 7, 2007

In a ceremony scheduled for Friday, April 4th 2008 near Raisin, Texas, The Former Texas Rangers Association will place a marker at the grave site of Carl Kobitz, who is buried in the family cemetery on his ranch. The event will take place at 2:00 PM at the Kobitz Family Cemetery in Victoria County (between Victoria and Goliad, Texas - map attached)

Carl Kobitz was the son of Joseph Kobitz and Theresa Stanig Kobitz, immigrants who came to Texas from Grottkau, Prussia, in 1851. Carl was nine years old when he first set foot on Texas soil at Indianola. The family bought land on Coletto Creek near the towns of Raisin and Coletoville, and began the Cross K ranch, later the Cross K 6 ranch.



Carl Kobitz, circa 1880's

Following the Civil War, and during the early 1870's when Texas was emerging from Reconstruction, the state was permitted to form various "state militia" organizations to help combat the lawlessness that existed.

Actions such as the Taylor-Sutton Feud, raids by invading Mexican bandits, and Indians attacks, caused Governor Edmund J. Davis to pass laws to form Ranger companies and local militia units for protection of the citizens of Texas. These combined Ranger and militia units were known as the Frontier Forces. Carl Kobitz served in Company F of the 61 st Regiment (Victoria County) under Ranger Captain Edwin Phelps. After his Ranger service, he was a rancher and built the family's land holdings to several thousand acres in both Victoria and Goliad counties. He was also instrumental in founding the first school in Coletoville.

The Former Texas Rangers Association was founded in 1897 by Ranger Captain John S. "RIP" Ford. The purpose of the organization is to preserve and perpetuate the true history of the Texas Rangers, and to provide for social interaction between former Texas Rangers and their families.

The organization supports a museum and several benevolent and historical activities, including the placement of special grave markers with a cross and the Texas Ranger badge at the grave sites of former Texas Rangers. Officers of the association have participated in grave markings all over the state. These are very impressive and touching ceremonies, honoring great men who helped to make Texas great.

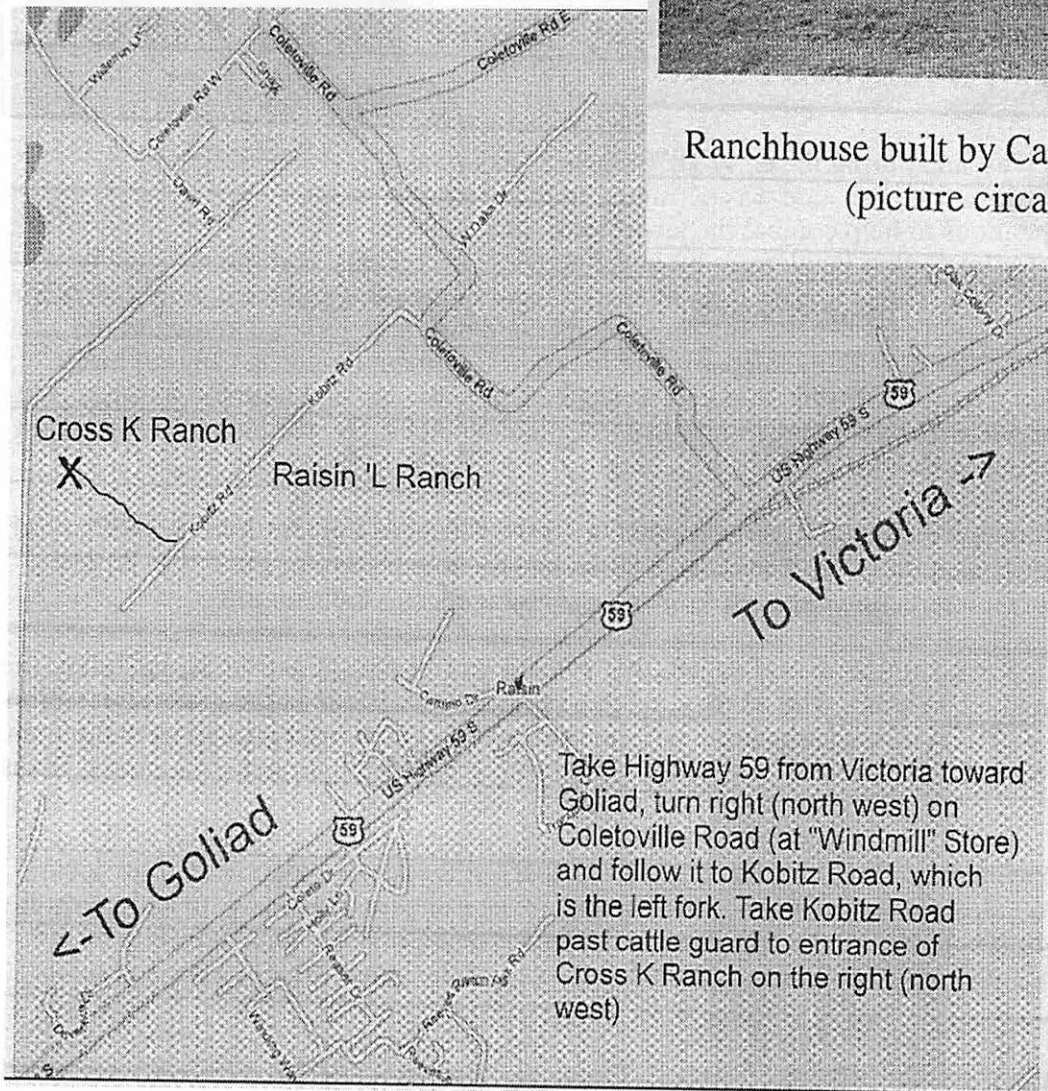
The ceremony on April 4th 2008 will be attended by members of the family, members of the local historical community, area law enforcement officers, and Texas Rangers. Anyone with an interest in the Texas Rangers, or the history of the region around Victoria and Goliad, is encouraged to attend. Activities will include the grave marking ceremony and a tour of the house built by Carl Kobitz in 1873.

For more information on the Event: Contact: Frank R. Brown - (972) 475-0387 or email [ke5r@tx.rr.com](mailto:ke5r@tx.rr.com)

On May 25th 2001, the House of Representatives of the 77th Texas Legislature adopted House Resolution #1065 honoring the Former Texas Rangers Association for its great service in preserving Texas history and recognizing it as the oldest official Texas Ranger Organization. For more information on the Former Texas Rangers Association: Contact Joe Davis - 1-830-895-2262 or email [frf@ktc.com](mailto:frf@ktc.com) or visit the website at <http://www.formertexasrangers.org> →



Ranchhouse built by Carl Kobitz in 1873  
(picture circa 2002)



## **TEXAS GERMANS IN THE CONFEDERATE SERVICE** (The Civil War Service of Henry J. Meyer)

The majority of German immigrants in Texas in 1861 were, at best, lukewarm supporters of secession and the Confederacy. In the state-wide vote to confirm the decision of the Secession Convention, Gillespie County (Fredericksburg) voted 400 to 17 against secession; Fayette County, although less than 30% German at the time, opposed secession 626 to 580. Frelsburg, a German enclave in heavily secessionist Colorado County voted 154 to 22 against secession. Although Comal County (New Braunfels) supported secession, this support was probably evidence more of a commitment to the concept of state's rights than to the idea of slavery. Comal County did enlist three companies for the Confederate service, and Edmund Kreuzbauer raised a battery of artillery in Fayette County among German immigrants, but these units saw limited action and did not serve outside of Texas.

It was only in the Second Texas Infantry Regiment that many Texas Germans saw much hard and sustained combat in the Confederate cause. Company F of the Second Texas was recruited in Galveston almost entirely of German immigrants by Captain John Muller. Muller, although German, was an early advocate of secession, belonging to the "Committee of Safety" organized after the election of Abraham Lincoln to the Presidency to popularize the idea of secession. Prior to recruiting Company F, John Muller was elected as a delegate to the Texas Secession Convention from Galveston County. Captain Muller paid the full price for his secessionist zeal; he was killed on October 4, 1862, along with the Second Texas Infantry Regimental Commander, Colonel William P. Rogers, storming Battery Robinett at the Battle of Corinth, Mississippi.

Another German in the Second Texas Infantry Regiment was Henry J. Meyer. Henry J. Meyer, a private in Company B of the Second Texas, was born Heinrich Johann Meyer at Wardenburg in the Oldenburgerland, Germany, on February 11, 1836. He apprenticed as a shoemaker and then came to America in 1857. He stayed one year with his half brother, Dietrich Bolling, in St. Louis and then came to Houston. In September 1861, he enlisted in the Confederate Guards from Houston and Harris County, having somewhere along the way anglicized his name to Henry J. Meyer. Shortly thereafter, the Confederate Guards, raised and commanded by William C. Timmons, was redesignated as Company B, Second Texas Infantry Regiment.

Henry J. Meyer's motivation, as a German immigrant, in volunteering for the Confederate Infantry are unknown. He did not live among Germans; perhaps, he was influenced by American friends with Southern sympathies. Nevertheless, he served proudly as a Confederate soldier. His service with the Confederate Army is best described in his own words. The following narrative is from *Reminiscences of the Boys in Gray, 1861 - 1865*, a fascinating 904-page book by Mamie Ann Yeary of Farmersville, Texas, published in 1912. Miss Yeary compiled the written memoirs of every Confederate veteran living in Texas whom she could locate, regardless whether he had served with a Texas unit or not. As most of the narratives were submitted in written script, a certain element of error was unavoidable, particularly if Miss Yeary was unfamiliar with the word. This is probably why Henry Meyer's birthplace is given as Quedenberg, instead of Wardenburg. Henry Meyer's memoir is on pages 513 to 515 of *Reminiscences of the Boys in Gray*.

*HENRY MEYER, La Grange, Texas—Born Dec. 11, 1836, near Quedenberg, Germany. Enlisted in the Confederate Army in September, 1861, at Houston, Texas, as private in Company B, Second Texas Infantry, Moore's Brigade, Maury's Division, Sidney Johnston's Corps, Army of the West. My first Captain was Timmons, and first Colonel was*

*Moore. Was never wounded. Was taken prisoner at the fall of Vicksburg. Was in the battles of Shiloh, luka, Corinth and Vicksburg. We left singing "The Girl I Left Behind Me," and were as fine a body of patriotic young men as ever took up their country's cause. Our first stop was at Beaumont, where we camped and were organized into regiments and brigades, were furnished our ammunition and a kind of uniform. Our regiment became the Second Texas. With much marching and lugging of our accouterments we reached Alexandria on Red River where we took boat and steamed down to the Mississippi and then up to Helena and were then ordered to Memphis and then to Shiloh. Not one of us realized how close the enemy was. We slept with gun in hand, that is when we slept, and Sunday morning were formed in line of battle. The spring day was fine but we were gloomy. Just then we heard a cannon boom and the Colonel rode up and said, "boys we have no time to cook so we will eat breakfast in the Yankee camp." Then came the command, "Shoulder arms, guide right, double quick," and we were in a fight. The first blood that we saw was a milk-white horse, charging through the lines all splattered with blood, but with no rider. Next a cannon ball took off my side man's head and he was the first man (Farney) to fall in Company B. This young man had a presentiment that morning that he would be killed and told me to inform his dear mother. By this time our artillery took part and the Yankee's first line was broken. We were ordered forward and soon got up to the line of the Blue Coats when one man called out, "We can not stand to be fired at." Then we raised a yell like wild Indians, fixed our bayonets, and charged. This was too much for them and they ran. It was not 6 o'clock when we entered the Yankee camps and we followed them and had several hot scraps that day, but they always ran. On we went till 3 or 4 o'clock when Gen. Prentiss surrendered.*

*At Corinth it seemed we were to have another heavy battle but all this picket fighting and throwing up of breast works was only a feint as most of the men had been sent to Virginia, and it seemed that Grant never found it out till Corinth was evacuated, and then he saw that the bird had flown. We then went to Tupelo, Miss., where we camped. An armistice was declared and both Congresses met to negotiate for peace and could not agree, but the Fifteenth Amendment was passed and the ball opened again. The next battle was at luka and after some days Rosecrans thought he would capture Price's Division, but "Old Pap," as we called him, found a place for us to get out, the Second Texas covering the retreat. On our retreat the first stop was at Holly Springs. Here the Federals were met by Waul's Legion, fresh from Texas.*

*After the surrender of Vicksburg, picking up a canteen and piece of blanket, all I had left, I told them that I was going back to Texas and fight them till the war was over. I started down the river marching to my own tune. I bought a skiff from a Yankee soldier for 50 cents in silver. Now I was the owner of a marine and charged four Arkansas fellows \$20 apiece to put them across, which took me all day. I picked up a companion at Berwick Bay and started for New Orleans. We got along very well till we got to the mouth of the Big Black where we found a gunboat. Being unacquainted with United States Marine regulations I paid no attention to their signals and a shot was fired across my prow and as I did not stop others were fired and as I had no white flag I held up my oar as a signal of surrender and pulled back to the boat. I showed my parole. Was then instructed as to how to respond to signals and was allowed to go. We kept afloat till we reached Natchez where the boats got too thick and I made enquires as to how far it was to Alexandria on Red River. I went across there. Traveling on foot the rest of the way.*

*I finished my service on the gulf coast. In the summer of 1864 yellow fever was brought to Galveston and it became a terrible epidemic and all the soldiers were removed from the city except those who volunteered to remain. The Second Texas was among those to take the last chance, and many a citizen succumbed to the terrible disease. We were torn*



up by the yellow fever, but Gen. Banks was torn up by Gen. Greene's forces at Mansfield and Pleasant Hill. Gen. Banks was relieved his command, and the frost relieved Galveston of the yellow fever and soon we had a new year, 1865. The blockade runners from the West India Islands came in almost every week and were a great help to the citizens, but it took several hundred dollars to buy a calico dress and a pair of boots were worth \$800.00 in Confederate money.

*Four of the best years of my life were spent in the war, but I do not regret it. When the bugle sounds its last "tattoo" and the officer of the guard calls, "Lights out," then we shall meet again in the last reunion.*

Henry Meyer's memoir is selective and limited to the viewpoint of a private soldier. He mentions nothing of the blood bath of Corinth, or the horrors of the Vicksburg siege. Likewise, his knowledge of peace negotiations and Constitutional Amendments is somewhat skewed to say the least. Nevertheless, these are the utterings of a man proud of his Confederate service.

After the war, Henry Meyer returned to Houston, married Antoinette Wessels, the daughter of a sea captain from Bremen, Germany, and operated a shoe shop. In 1867, he arranged for his parents, Johann Heinrich and Maria Meyer and his two brothers and two sisters to emigrate from the Oldenburgerland to Galveston, where they arrived on December 17, 1867. Henry further arranged for his family to be transported by rail as far as Columbus, then the terminus of the railroad. He contracted with a fellow Oldenburger immigrant, George Herder, a merchant and entrepreneur then living in High Hill, Fayette County, to meet the family at Columbus and transport them by ox wagon to the Swiss Alp Community in Fayette County, where Dietrich Bolling, Henry's half brother, was now living on a farm. Dietrich Bolling was Maria Meyer's son by a previous marriage. The entire Meyer family settled in the vicinity and engaged in farming. Henry's younger sister, Helena Katherine Meyer, who later married Bernhard Warnken, also an immigrant from the Oldenburgerland, was the writer's great-grandmother.

In 1874, Henry and Antoinette moved to the Ammansville Community in Fayette County and lived there on a farm until Henry's death in 1913. He and Antoinette had nine children. Henry maintained an interest in Confederate veterans' affairs throughout his life. He is mentioned in the *La Grange Journal* of November 19, 1891, as one of the participants in a meeting of ex-Confederate soldiers who were attempting to organize a Fayette County Chapter of the United Veterans of the Confederacy. Whatever Henry J. Meyer's reasons were for supporting the Confederate cause, he carried his dedication to the "Stars and Bars" to the grave with him — as his gravestone in the United Evangelical Lutheran Church cemetery, indicates.



Gravestone of Henry J. Meyer in the United Evangelical Lutheran Church Cemetery located in the Swiss Alp Community, just west of USH 77 between La Grange and Schulenburg in Fayette County, Texas.

Submitted by Herbert C.  
Hertel, McLean, Virginia

## Memories of a German Texas

### *Das Licht Scheinet*

# The light shines

By JAMES K. MANN  
St. Paul Lutheran Church

She was lying on her side as I entered the room at the care center. Pillows were under her right shoulder and the covers were pulled up. She seemed more comfortable than the last time I had visited. She seemed clean and fresh.

The blinds were half way up and she was facing out the window looking on the lawn and the fields beyond. She was asleep, but when I called her name she woke easily. "Are you pastor?" she asked.

There was the usual German sound to her voice. Today she partially recognized me. Other times she thought I might be her doctor. We began to talk. She liked to talk. She thought the view was pretty. She was feeling pretty good. She began sharing stories about growing up in Walburg. She liked talking about her father. "Papa" she called him. Sometimes she would share stories about her mother.

I asked if she would want to have communion. She didn't seem to understand and thought maybe not. Next visit would probably be different. So I sang: "So nimm denn meine haende..." and she began to sing along as best she could. There had been a day visiting in her apartment when her voice was strong and she sang every word, but not today. Every few words I could hear her singing. She informed me that this was not her confirmation hymn, but her children like it so she knew it.

"I sang: "Mude bin ich..." I stopped after the first verse. She sang the second on her own. There were a few words spoken weakly but she was

PASTOR'S  
CORNER



strong on "Christi Blut"—she trusted the "blood of Christ" for her forgiveness. As we prayed I ended by saying the Our Father in German. "Vater unser, der du bist in Himmel..." Again, she picked it up and prayed along, strong this time. It is hard for us to forget this prayer learned in our "heart language"—her's is German.

With a touch to the shoulder and an "Aufwiedersehen" I left her bedside. She settled back down on her pillows, looking out the window. She would soon be sleeping again.

Leaving, I was struck again by how the childlike faith can be so marvelous. It emerges from our old, confused minds like a simple beam of light in a dark room. That faith is given to all believers "once for all" across all generations. Jude 1:3 "Beloved, Although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints."

I was comforted by how the light of God's love can shine in the dark places of life. John 1:5 "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

We must all finally rest alone in the bright grace of God shining in our darkness through our Savior Jesus who died and rose for all of us together and for each of us individually.

God bless us as we continue our pilgrimage in peace and love.

Am enclosing an article that I read over the weekend while visiting my sister in Rockdale. It appeared in the Jan. 10 edition of *The Rockdale Reporter*, her local paper. I was moved by the article as it brought back memories of a German Texas that is, sadly, rapidly fading. ....It is from the "Pastor's Corner" of the paper and was written by Pastor James K. Mann of St. Paul Lutheran Church Thorndale, Texas.

Melvin r. Rosenbaum—Houston



## THE POEMS OF CHRISTIAN DIERS

In the process of doing more genealogy research on the family of my grandfather, Frederick (Fritz) Oltmann Diers, I was lucky to find a distant relative, Warner Harms, of Rastede, Germany, who was a tremendous help particularly with the information from Germany. He took us to the site of the farm where my grandfather lived in Nethen before he left Germany in 1896. Here I was able to see the "linden trees and the well cover" that my grandfather often wondered if they might still be there.

During the brief time that we corresponded before his death, Harms sent me a book of poems written by Christian Diers of LaGrange. How and why the manuscripts turned up in Germany from Texas is unknown, but Harms had the poems printed and bound in a book. In the forward to the book, Harms mentioned that Christian was 80 years old when he wrote the poems, and it took five years to do so. Christian left Germany on September 20, 1872 sailing from Bremerhaven on the "Hannover," and he arrived in New Orleans on the 12th of October 1872. From New Orleans he went to Galveston and then by train to Fayette County..

There are forty poems in the book dealing with his decision to leave Germany, the journey to Texas, his marriage to Meta Renken, their life on the farm, and some of his philosophical thoughts. They serve as another view of the life of German immigrants in Fayette County during the nineteenth century.

The poems have been translated to share with others, and two are presented here. A. (August) Tredemeyer named at the end of "The Ram" was my great-grandfather.

Submitted by Joan Druesedow Griggs—Chappell Hill



Christian Diers



Meta Renken

heiratete

am 7. Januar 1875 in Rutersville, Texas

gest am 11. November –1938

gest. am 13. Mai 1930



## THINGS THAT HAPPEN ON A FARM

## The Ram

Oh so lovely and peaceful  
do we sleep together,  
But how annoying  
if sleep will not come.  
We might tell stories  
from our early youth.  
And you torture yourself,  
turning from one side to the other,  
You say good night and fall asleep  
and dream sweet dreams.  
Sometimes I read  
as if it happened already.  
But what happened this night  
has never happened before, ever.  
One always wants to teach the farmer,  
I might even listen to good advice,  
But a good advice  
might also have its loopholes.  
It's always written  
the youth should remain on the farms.  
Buy them what they want to have,  
they will then enjoy the animals and the fields.  
So I did not give it a second thought  
and bought the kids a lamb.  
The things this ram did,  
during one of the nights.  
A Negro woman lived not too far away.  
Sometimes we felt sorry for her,  
she raised six children,  
and to feed all was hard for her.  
She was in dire need  
To provide the daily bread.

## Was auf der Farm passiert

## Der Bock

Ja, so lieblich und so friedlich  
schlafen wir zusammen,  
doch zuletzt wird man verdießlich,  
wenn der Schlaf will garnicht kommen.  
Wir mögen dann erzählen  
aus der frühen Jugendzeit.  
Man muß sich manchmal quälen,  
legt sich dann auf die and're Seit,  
sagt gute Nacht und schläft dann ein  
und träumt manch süßes Träumelein.  
Manchmal habe ich gelesen,  
als wär's schon dagewesen.  
Doch was in dieser Nacht geschah',  
war noch nie und nirgends da.  
Den Farmer will man stets belehren,  
ich mag auf guten Rat auch hören.  
Doch so mancher gute Rat  
auch seine Mucken hat.  
Immer läßt man wieder schreiben,  
Jungens sollen auf der Farm doch bleiben.  
Kauft doch, was ihnen auch gefällt,  
sie haben dann Freude an Vieh und Feld.  
So hatte ich auch kein' Bedenken,  
den Kindern jetzt ein Lamm zu schenken.  
Viel Freude hatten sie daran,  
doch was aus einem Lamm doch werden kann.  
Was dieser Bock vollbracht,  
geschah in irgendeiner Nacht.  
Eine Negerfrau wohnte nicht weit.  
Sie tat uns manchmal leid,  
hat sechs Kinder um sich her,  
die zu ernähren fiel ihr schwer.  
Sie hatte ihre liebe Not,  
zu beschaffen das täglich Brot.

The Ram, continued

Dear children, behave,  
I'll get something this night,  
we'll get a sackful of wheat from the farmer's  
crib.

Poor woman, you did not have any luck.  
And then, in this dark night,  
she sneaked around, very quiet and softly.  
The ones who want to steal, are also full of  
fright,

and this is what happened.

The woman had a vision earlier of a horrible  
picture,

the devil with horns, so terribly wild.

Poor woman, now hurry,  
otherwise disaster will catch up with you.  
She had not yet filled her sack,  
there he appeared, not only as a picture.

The ram raised on his hind legs  
looking wildly into the crib.

And when the woman saw the horns,  
she thought the devil had arrived.

She screamed frightfully,

oh mister, mister, the devil will catch me.

The ram was frightened by her yelling  
and passed the woman with a jump.

The woman was trying to get away through  
the window,

because she had seen the dreadful ghosts.

In the meantime I arrived,

I knew they did not have anything to eat,

I helped her in her need

and gave her grain for the daily bread.

The ram became dangerous by day and night.

A. Tredemeyer soon butchered him.

Liebe Kinder, gebt euch man,  
ich hole diese Nacht was ran,  
hole Sack voll Korn aus Farmers Kripp',  
arme Frau, hattest kein Glück.  
Und dann, in dieser schwarzen Nacht,  
schlich sie heran, ganz leis und sacht.  
Wer stehlen will, hat selber Bangen,  
und das ist nun so zugegangen.  
Die Frau sah früher ein schrecklich Bild,  
wie der Teufel mit Hörnern, so grausig wi  
Arme Frau, nun mache schnell,  
sonst ist das Unheil bald zur Stell'.  
Den Sack hatte sie noch nicht gefüllt,  
da kam er wahrhaftig, und nicht bloß als  
Der Bock stellt' sich auf die Hinterbein  
und sah ganz wild in die Krippe hinein.  
Und wie die Frau die Hörner sah,  
dachte sie, der Teufel ist da.  
Und nun sie ganz furchtbar schrie,  
oh mister, oh mister, the devil cash me.<sup>+</sup>  
Der Bock bekam Angst durch so'n Geschrei  
und sprang an der Frau vorbei.  
Die Frau wollte gleich durch die Fenster,  
weil sie geseh'n so greulich Gespenster.  
Ich kam dann unterdessen.  
Ich wußte, sie haben nichts zu essen.  
Ich half ihr dann in ihrer Not  
und gab ihr Korn für's tägliche Brot.  
Der Bock wurde gefährlich bei Tag und bei  
A. Tredemeier hat ihn bald geschlacht'.  
Nicht

<sup>+</sup>der Teufel fängt mich

## Curriculum Vitae

God, the Father gave me life,  
His Almighty strength did this  
God's blessing accompanies me  
on my life's path.

Soon I was christened,  
they gave me the name Christian.  
Children ran once towards Jesus who  
welcomed them with love.

My mother sang beloved songs,  
when she put me to sleep.  
Well, this time will never return.  
Blessed, O blessed, to be still a child.

My parents provided for me,  
always, so late and early.  
Even though they died some time ago,  
I'll never forget them.

At the age of six  
I walked the first time to school.  
My mother made a sandwich  
and her eyes followed me full of hope.

I was to learn a lot in school,  
but I never went far,  
because I preferred to play  
during the happy times of my youth.

And then to sit quietly,  
how hard was that for us children, our  
slacks were often torn, which annoyed  
our dear mother.

I had to memorize a lot of bible verses  
and so many songs.  
I did not like it at that time,  
however, I never forgot any.

Often I was slapped,  
And it really did some good,  
It's better for the children  
Than to spoil them.

Many times my wise teacher said,  
children, do your duties now,  
and in my olden days,  
I never forgot this.

When I was 10 years old - still so small,  
I had to leave my parents' house  
to be with strangers in summer times,  
to watch their livestock.

The time came at age fourteen  
when the minister confirmed us,  
and took a promise from us children,  
to remain true during all of our life time.

Where may all the children be,  
with whom I went to school.  
Some may sleep in the earthen chamber,  
many are in foreign countries.

Again, I had to leave my parents' house,  
how hard it is to say good bye. .  
Sundays I went in and out,  
and sometimes my tears came.

It's not good to be with strangers,  
many made that experience.  
How often is one sad,  
but you are told, you have to preserver.

They yelled at you, you don't earn your  
money, then chased you around,  
but that's the way of the world,  
who hears the poor people's complaints?

I had to serve like this many years,  
to stay with strangers.  
There is always work,  
and on Sundays one was always alone.

When one is caught in the stream of life,  
you'll smarten up.  
It was probably not in vain,  
and they meant well.

Once I had a good master, he was  
very satisfied.  
I also liked the pretty girls, but was  
never true to any.

With 20 years, I was old enough  
to become a soldier.  
The bosses told me I wasn't fast  
enough, and that they'll chase me  
back home.

I finally got smart, I thought,  
when I was twenty-two. You better  
travel to another country and start  
getting ready for your travels.

It might be beautiful in your own  
country, I don't deny that,  
but I did not have a lot of luck,  
so I left as soon as possible.

I wanted to travel to America  
(1872), , easy said!  
When I said good bye to my loved  
ones, they cried and moaned.

Why do you want to leave,  
please stay with us.  
A lot of nice things were said, so  
sweet, I can't describe all of it.

You want to leave your parents'  
house, we'll miss you dearly.  
You want to go into the big world,  
God may bless you.

So give me your hand for the  
parting, the hour has come.  
You'll have to leave your homeland,  
and go to Bremerhaven.

The ship was waiting,  
laughter and singing could be  
heard. Hopefully, no one. will regret  
this journey, soon the sounds we  
heard changed.



The North Sea brought terrible storms,  
and the ship went up and down, and  
some groaned horribly,  
and had to throw up.

We stopped in Le Havre,  
don't trust the Frenchmen.  
They looked askance at us  
because we beat them in 71.

Then we left to cross the  
ocean and did not see land  
nor people, only the sun and  
at night the stars and some  
of us became food for the  
fish.

There amid the large ocean  
some felt fearful.  
The Almighty's power could be felt so  
close when the storms were howling.

Three weeks on the ocean,  
then we sighted land.  
A far way to go  
from the German fatherland.

Then we rode along the Mississippi  
and landed in New Orleans.  
Say thanks to the Almighty  
that the journey went so well.

It's different now then it was 60 years  
ago when I first came to this land.  
It was different then,  
we were dearly welcomed.

Then we rode on a "train"  
Into the primeval forest,  
and what you could see there,  
what could it be.

What was hanging from those trees  
in the bright moon shine.  
I guess you can pick that,  
it must be cotton.

Another ship was awaiting us  
which took us to Galveston,  
we had to sleep side-by-side at night,  
and many complained about it.

Then we arrived in Galveston.  
Many Germans lived there,  
they picked us up at the ship  
and served us fine food.

Then we continued by "train" again  
deeper into the country.  
There was so much to see,  
I didn't enjoy all of it.

Ragged Negroes, large and small,  
the cattle with immense horns.  
It could not be safe here, for sure  
there were robbers and murderers.

This is supposed to be the praised land,  
the land of the free and the brave.  
It was a lot more beautiful in Germany,  
I almost felt sorry I left.

Finally we embarked,  
the village was named Ledbetter.  
It looked pitiful, ~  
there in the Post Oak forest.

I was picked up with wagons drawn by  
oxen which must have been fashionable  
at that time, then it went up and down  
hills, to my friend's door.

There you are, my friend,  
I welcome you.  
Now you are in America,  
the journey has come to an end.

How is our homeland,  
they asked.  
As far as I know,  
no one has any complaints.

Then I had to stay with a farmer again,  
I did not like the food.  
Always cornbread, bacon and molasses,  
that's what we had most of all.

I thought, you can't always be alone,  
I got up in the years.  
Find a girl, pretty and fine, because  
everyone pairs up.

I did find a girl, pretty and fine,  
like the most beautiful rose in the  
garden. Dear girl, will you be mine,  
I am awaiting you tenderly.

She was friendly and sweetly said,  
yes~We then kissed softly.  
And what we promised to each other,  
you know, dear people, you don't  
want to know.

Then we consummated the holy  
union, the holy union of marriage,  
stayed together till death did us part,  
no matter what would happen.

Then we founded our home,  
lived happy and satisfied.  
O, if every family could be like this. I  
wish this for all of you, my dear.

In a log cabin, at Rutgerswill Road  
we lived the first years. Even though  
we worked hard for our daily bread,  
these were happy years.

Healthy and happy to work  
we lived through the years,  
and then it happened,  
God blessed us with a boy.

After two more happy years,  
when I think about it now,  
a girl added to our joy,  
which GOD gave us as a gift.

Small children make work and sor-  
row, you don't mind that  
Big ones step on parents' hearts,  
the small ones only on their feet.

Now we were looking here and there  
to find a good place to live.

The most beautiful place is one where  
you can make your home.

Always leasing is not the way,  
you want to advance in your live,  
so that you can say - this *is* mine. No  
one remains young and happy all the  
time.

So we purchased a farm,  
close to Lazington *it* was,  
and instead of becoming rich, we  
were poor again, that's how life often is.

We were missing a lot of things, were  
sick, and did without.  
And all the hard earned money  
was lost.

We returned to Fayette County,  
we had lost so much  
but there was also happiness,  
a little girl was born.

God does what is right,  
even if we went through hard times.  
He leads us to the right path  
though we have to carry our crosses  
and suffer.

We moved into a small house,  
and risked a lot,  
but it was clean,  
and we could not lose our courage.

We leased for a long time again,  
we had enough of buying.  
I guess we both felt smart now, I  
thought, and so did the wife.

How nice is it to own your own house,  
you often hear.  
Hopefully, we will not make the same  
mistake again if we dare to buy again.

Then we bought another farm,  
close to Ruterwill.  
The land was poor,  
and it did not bring us any blessings.

"

However healthy and happy to work,  
we remained there for three years.  
And then it happened,  
another girl and boy were born.

To sell the farm might be best,  
I'll tell them all  
It's better to be a lessor  
instead of being in debt.

We were lucky when we sold,  
soon someone came looking.  
We got all of our money back,  
sometimes one just has to be lucky.

Now, we were at the point again  
where we needed to lease.  
But if ever I buy again,  
I'll pay attention to the details.

It does not always go the way you  
want it to, often you'll have to bend.  
As you can see from our dealings,  
finally it all worked out.

So we leased again for another year.  
The years passed.  
Always being dependent is no fun ei-  
ther, we have to have our own home.

Then we' leased the last year,  
the last year it was.  
And another happiness occurred, we  
greeted another son.

Then we bought another farm  
and asked again for God's blessings.  
We did not wind up in the poor house  
again, we were lucky all the way.

We were living good now,  
and could buy again.  
Wife and children all helped, inside  
and outside the house.

So the debts decreased.  
Indebtedness invites sorrow.  
Friend, if you want to be happy, forget  
about borrowing.

We then built a beautiful home.  
People were wondering about it.  
How does it look in the country now,  
Ours is much more beautiful than it  
was before.

Once, a dear friend told me,  
how many kids do you want.  
One half dozen, the same number of  
each, three girls and three boys.

How far did you get,  
did you become famous.  
Each child loves and respects us,  
they'll take care of us.

As the proud Roman lady says, what  
are joy and sorrow.  
Forget about your earthly goods  
as long as the children stay.

So we had joy and pains, the sorrows  
did not miss us,  
and with time,  
we grew. old and gray.

A deep grief happened later,  
when our dear mother passed away  
(1922). She was always so good to us,  
we would not forget her.

We are now grandparents,  
that's the way it goes on earth.  
We have daughters- and sons-in-laws,  
and love them all.

Humans live about 70 years, that's  
how it is written in the bible,  
and if it lasts 80 years,  
it has been trouble and work.

Old age is still nice,  
belief, hope and love.  
You may not enjoy follies,  
but still the best remains with me.

Everything is *in vain*, Solomon once  
said, the *old ones* can understand that,  
because *all beauty* and youth, →

how soon does everything vanishes.

The old and young ones, both mean well,  
only the intentions differ.  
If one respects the other,  
they can live content.

O dear friend, the time comes  
how good is it if you can say  
I lived all the time  
the way I wish now I lived my life.

Young man, don't waste your youth, don't  
waste the best years,  
if something breaks in your old age,  
you'll regret it.

The children built their own homes,  
and did not remain with us.  
It might be best now  
to sell the farm again.

Now we moved to town,  
to buy something there.  
Who has enough, can eat everything there,  
otherwise he better stay away.

We lived very well in the city,  
however, only a few years.  
Some things change fast when you are old,  
we noticed that soon.

A golden wedding anniversary - that  
happens seldom, a real God's blessing. .  
Do you remember the year  
when the first wedding vows were said.

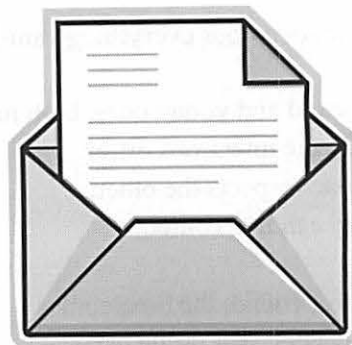
But joy and luck seldom stay long,  
a many of us experience that. \Our dear  
mother took ill  
and died two years later (1930).

Dear mother, how that hurt,  
when you departed.  
You always believed in God and were so  
good during your whole life.

While I write this, I feel lonesome,  
oh, how does my heart aches.  
You dear Mother, Minna, both  
dear God, you took from me.

Soon I have to leave too,  
Leave behind everything I owe,  
But my belief in God  
I'll take with me to the grave

## An Unusual Request from a Member:



### Burial Customs for Suicides

A recent suicide in my community apparently triggered a flood of memories for many older people who recalled such happenings from the past. A recurring theme in much of the reminiscing that followed was that funeral services and burial customs for those who took their own lives were quite different 60 or more years ago. A typical example involves caskets lifted over the cemetery fence rather than being carried through the gates. In some cases, burials were outside the cemetery or in a corner of the cemetery where there were no other graves.

The stories that I heard piqued my interest in the subject, and a subsequent e-mail to approximately 20 persons brought a variety of additional stories. If you know of cases in German Texan communities where suicides were handled differently from those who died of natural causes, I would appreciate hearing from you. Please send your information either to [vmas-sirer@yahoo.com](mailto:vmas-sirer@yahoo.com) or to 124 Canaan Church Road, Crawford, TX 76638. I don't want names of the deceased, but dates, places, and what actually happened would be helpful. If there are adequate responses, I will assimilate the information and publish it, perhaps in *The Journal*.

Thanks,

Van Massirer—Crawford

### Editor's Note:

In keeping with the topic of burial customs, I went on line and found the following compiled by two students whose assignment was to learn about funeral homes and burial customs in Germany:  
Some Excerpts:



## DEATH AND BURIAL CUSTOMS IN GERMANY

Two students enrolled designed to teach them about life on their own after high school are learning about funeral homes and burial customs. They are also to compare our rites in the USA with those in another culture. They would like to know what Germans do after the death of a family member.

RonR

Since my wife's father passed away while we were in Germany in the summer and we had to plan the funeral, I do have some first-hand information! Now, this happened in the Rheinland, close to Bonn. There may be other traditions in other places.

First of all, it is always of interest to North Americans that cemeteries only "rent" the graves for 20 years. If you do not renew the contract, the remains (which are really nothing because the coffins are NOT placed into a concrete vault, as in North America) are removed. Just before the time is up, a sticker is placed on the headstone that the contract time is running out. In double graves, people are placed on top of each other. When the second body is added, the 20 years start over again. Once, when we visited a cemetery we saw a little backhoe digging up a grave! !!! All graves have a stone border around them and are planted with flowers or plants. After cremation, people are not allowed to take the ashes home or even drive them to the cemetery. (This is a point of discussion now in Germany). Small plots are used to bury the urn.

Funeral homes do not have "visitation"; the body is not normally on display. Sometimes, I understand, the body will be displayed in a church. I know this from my brother-in-law, a photographer. He used to get assignments where he had to take pictures of the deceased!

Death notices are mailed, as well as being placed in the paper. Funerals can take place only Monday to Friday. In 1997 My mother-in-law died during Karneval and due to a backlog had to wait 13 days to be buried. My father-in-law died in August, and again there was a long wait. Why? "Ferienzeit" we were told. The pallbearers were workers from the funeral home. The church service (Lutheran) was short and to the point. The closed coffin was in the church, and the minister did the eulogy and picked the music. After the service in the church, we walked behind the coffin to the cemetery. The coffin is lowered right into the grave. The minister said some words, and then he threw down the first shovel of dirt. The oldest daughter then throws down a bouquet of flowers. That was my wife. Then it was my turn to throw down a small bunch of flowers, and then everybody present threw down one of those little bunches which were supplied by the funeral home.

Normally, the family provides "Beerdigungskuchen" which is a kind of Streuselkuchen and Coffee afterwards. However, since we were only a small group, we took everybody out to a restaurant.

Everybody wears black! Since we were on our vacation, I did not have black clothes with me and had to go out and buy some. My young brother-in-law (the photographer) wore jeans and stuck out like a sore thumb.

The hearse (Leichenwagen) is silver. We also learned that graves are not repossessed even if the grave does not get paid for! What a relief!

Carolyn T

There is a really funny (remember, I admit I'm weird) movie called *Ein Mord liegt auf der Hand*, which is really a German version of a story by Oscar Wilde. In it are scenes of several family meals after the death of various family members.

Also, in Heinrich Böll's *Und sagte kein einziges Wort*, the narrator talks about going to funerals of people he doesn't even know and about going to the dinners afterward.

Maybe it is a regional thing, but where I am from, you can renew plots as often as you want.

"Funerals" is actually a topic in my Gennan classes because the customs here (San Diego) are so different from the ones in my little home town in Gennany. Here, people RARELY visit the cemetery. The grave is marked by a flat, little stone. Back at home, there are these little "lots" someone described. My parents' elderly neighbors consider it a labor of love to take care of my parents' graves because my sister and I live too far away. Hiring a gardener is considered heartless. Flowers bloom almost year-round,

and often people visit daily. Since Gennan small-town cemeteries are in the center of town, everyone crosses them daily on the way to the bank and the store, so people don't think anything about it.

In my town it is still the custom that neighbors and friends dress the dead person (a custom I can do without, to tell you the truth) and there is a viewing at the dead person's home. Only then is the body brought to the morgue. The actual funeral is a major "Staats act." The whole town shows up; traffic stops, shops close. There is a procession through the town. The three churches ring their bells and stop at the exact second the casket is lowered into the grave. (I don't know how they do that.) It is "feierlich" and heartwarming.

My dad passed away in southern Austria when we all were on vacation two years ago. I suggested cremation; the older people in my town almost fainted. I was told that you cannot cremate a relative unless that person put that in writing at some point in his or her life. And none of this ashes scattering business. My sister and I had my dad's body driven from southern Austria to northern Gennany. Once he arrived back home, I was lovingly told that I had picked the wrong casket in Austria. I had picked one with a "Corpus" on it, and my dad was Lutheran, and one simply doesn't pick a casket with a "corpus" for a Lutheran. (Find me a lutheran casket in southern Austria.) I had also requested that the funeral home in Austria dress him in his favorite Hawaiian shirt from Maui and that caused an uprising in my Gennan town. (Yes, they asked "was hat der Papa denn an?") I love the people in that little town dearly, but at that point, I was ready to get on the next plane, and my sister promised to come with me. :) The younger people use funeral homes, by they way, much to the older generation's chagrin.

There is also the custom that you send flowers on birthdays and major holidays to be delivered to the grave. I don't participate in that. On my parents' birthdays and on some holidays, I sent flowers to the people who take care of my parents' graves. They think I am a little weird, but they appreciate the gesture, and everyone is happy. These are really nice people. This whole Grabpflege doesn't mean much to me, but it means a lot to them, and I appreciate what they do.

My mom, a frequent visitor to the US, loved Nordstrom (what's not to like) and had joked that she wanted to wear Nordstrom clothes at her funeral. Little did we know, but she died shortly thereafter. My dad and my sister and I tried to get the neighbors to dress her in Nordstrom clothes; they wouldn't do it. (It wasn't black.)

\*\*\*\*Morbid Alert\*\*\*\*

Particularly the older people have a "different" approach to funerals. They'll casually mention funeral details ("Wisst ihr noch wie heiss es war, und der Sarg roch schon...") at the dinner table that will leave me and my poor American husband speechless. I guess when you are old enough to have participated in so many funerals, you'll get used to anything.

GregS

On the topic of flowers, a somewhat morbid-humorous story. We were at our friend's in Giessen for my wife's birthday. It being late in the night, we were still celebrating, when the neighbor (from a block away) shows up, as per usual, around 12:00 a.m. He knew it was my wife's birthday and not wanting to show up empty handed, decided to stopover in the graveyard to pick a flower to present to her. We were delighted at his thoughtfulness, though we all agreed, we hoped the original owner of the flower didn't come looking for it!

For our German Day video several years ago my students emailed a flower shop and had a short albeit useful emailing activity to food out about flowers that they suggested and arranged for funerals. Real dialogue with a native was a great motivator for them. They also learned the Unser Vater in Gennan and Old English to say at the mock funeral they put on.<sup>20</sup> It got them into one of our local cemeteries which has a multitude of Gennan language headstones.

Susan B

Where my family is from, family is "kindly urged" to give up a plot at a time that the church deems appropriate. My mother, for example, had a child stillborn in 1949 buried in the town cemetery as well as a brother who died as a child in 1943. The church approached her in the late 80s, and felt it really was time to free the plot. I've always understood this as an issue necessitated by limited space in Gennany. What I've always wondered though is what's done with the remains. I've been to ossuaries in Europe, but those contain intact bones, certainly not ones removed from graves. *Does anyone* have a clue as to where they go?



RonR

Yes, graves are re-used because the space is limited. Years ago, I wrote to some Gennan funeral home to find out what is done with the remains. It was eXplained to me that there is usually nothing left. The burial time is different according to soil conditions. So they know how long it takes for a body to de-compose. If there is something left, it gets buried in a different section of the cemetary.

Also, I remember a mend who wanted to buy a grave that was protected, under "Denkmalschutz." She could have buried her parents there, but she could not have a headstone or anything with the new name on it. They would have to be buried in the grave of "Margarete D" with no sign that somebody else occupied the grave.

Another interesting thing is that the mailed death announcements have a black border around them. These are only used by the household where somebody died. If you get an envelope with this kid of border, you know it is bad news. When we did the mailing in the summer, we inadvertendly put too little postage on some. When we realized our mistake we were horrified to think that somebody would have to pay postage due and the penalty. A couple of phone calls later, we realized that they went through. I guess, the German mailmen have some compassion. They did not say: "If you want to know who died you have to pay 1 DM."

Oh yes, another thing. One of my nieces was working that summer. She did a kind of internship at a company, (which I should not name, because it is a US finn), not a high paying job, more for experience. When she asked for the day off to go to the funeral, she was told: " You can only get time off if your parents die, there is no time off for grandparents." As I said, I learned a lot this summer!

**Do You Have An Unusual Burial Experience/Practice you would like to share?**

# OPERATIONS

## GTHS and German Free School Guild Calendar of Events - 2008

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### March

- 9<sup>th</sup> - Potluck Dinner (GFS)
- 11<sup>th</sup> - Guild Board Meeting (GFS)
- 16<sup>th</sup> - Speaker Series (GFS)
- 28<sup>th</sup> - German Movie Night (GFS)

### April

- 8<sup>th</sup> - Guild Board Meeting (GFS)
- 15<sup>th</sup> - Schulhaus Reporter deadline
- 18<sup>th</sup> - German Movie Night (GFS)
- 20<sup>th</sup> - Speaker Series (GFS)
- 26<sup>th</sup> - Maifest (GFS)

### May

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Journal Deadline
- 4<sup>th</sup> - GTHS Board Meeting (GFS)
- 11<sup>th</sup> - Potluck (GFS)
- 13<sup>th</sup> - Guild Board Meeting (GFS)
- 16<sup>th</sup> - German Movie Night (GFS)
- 18<sup>th</sup> - Speaker Series (GFS)

### June

- 10<sup>th</sup> - Guild Board Meeting (GFS)
- 15<sup>th</sup> - Schulhaus Reporter Deadline
- TBA - Summer Samstagsschule (GFS)

### July

- 8<sup>th</sup> - Guild Board Meeting (GFS)
- 13<sup>th</sup> - Potluck Dinner (GFS)
- TBA - Summer Samstagsschule (GFS)

### August

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Journal Deadline
- 9<sup>th</sup> - GTHS Board Meeting (GFS)
- 12<sup>th</sup> - Guild Board Meeting (GFS)
- 15<sup>th</sup> - Schulhaus Reporter Deadline
- 23<sup>rd</sup> - Annual Meeting, Houston, Crowne Plaza West

### September

- 9<sup>th</sup> - Guild Board Meeting (GFS)
- 14<sup>th</sup> - Potluck (GFS)
- 21<sup>st</sup> - Speaker Series (GFS)
- TBA - German Language Classes (Austin, Brenham, San Antonio, Temple/Killeen)

### October

- 4<sup>th</sup> - Oktoberfest (GFS)
- 14<sup>th</sup> - Guild Board Meeting (GFS)
- 15<sup>th</sup> - Schulhaus Reporter Deadline
- 19<sup>th</sup> - Speaker Series (GFS)

### November

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Journal Deadline
- 9<sup>th</sup> - Potluck (GFS)
- 11<sup>th</sup> - Guild Board Meeting (GFS)
- 16<sup>th</sup> - GTHS Board (GFS)
- 16<sup>th</sup> - Speaker Series (GFS)

### December

- 6<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Market (GFS)
- 9<sup>th</sup> - Guild Board Meeting (GFS)
- 15<sup>th</sup> - Schulhaus Reporter Deadline

(GFS) denotes activities held at the German Free School in Austin. Other events have their location listed. Please visit our website, [www.germantexans.org](http://www.germantexans.org), for the most up-to-date information.

## BULLETIN BOARD

### NEWS

#### Airline Ticket Drawing

Due to cutbacks, Continental Airlines was unable to provide us with two airline tickets for our annual drawing at Maifest. We are pursuing other options for obtaining donated tickets, and will hold the drawing at this year's annual meeting in the Houston area in late summer. Forms for purchasing drawing tickets will be mailed to all GTHS members in early summer.

### GTHS & GUILD EVENTS

#### 13<sup>th</sup> Annual MAIFEST at the German Free School in Austin

Mark your calendars for this year's Maifest, held on Saturday, April 26, from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. We'll have a fun day of celebrating our German culture in the gardens of the German Free School. Enjoy great food, cold beer, live music, folk dancing, wrapping of the Maypole, activities for kids, a book sale and a rummage sale. Please join us and bring your friends and family.

#### Attention Bargain Hunters – Maifest Rummage Sale

There will be a Flea Market/Garage Sale booth at Maifest this year. We all love the thrill of finding that fantastic "buy", don't we? In order for this to be a success, we need your help in donating "gently used" items to fill the booth, so start cleaning out those closets and garages. Some suggestions would be: vases, decorated plates, dishes, glasses, small lamps, small tables and chairs, picture frames, electronics, children's toys, games and books. Keep in mind that all donations must be in good condition (something you might buy as well). I will also need volunteers to help staff the booth. Please contact the office to sign up. Bring items to the GFS no earlier than April 7th. Let's make this a fun activity for the whole family! *Arlene Burges*

#### GTHS Annual Meeting & 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Help celebrate GTHS's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an organization at this year's Annual Meeting on Saturday August 23<sup>rd</sup> in Houston. We'll have a great selection of speakers and presentations, delicious food and exciting entertainment. There will be a silent auction, as well as the airline ticket drawing. All the details and a registration form will be in mailed to you later this spring, as well as being printed in the Summer Journal. To be held at the Crowne Plaza West.

### ONGOING GERMAN FREE SCHOOL EVENTS

**Open House** – The German Free School is open for guided tours every Thursday from noon to 4:00 pm. (except holidays).

**Stammtisch** – Come practice your German language skills every Thursday from noon to 1:00 pm.

**Speaker Series** – Enjoy a speaker or musical performance at 3:00 pm on the third Sunday of the month. The series ranges from book signings, to wine tastings, to craft demonstrations, to classical music performances. (Held January – May and September – November)

**Movie Night** – Come watch a German movie (with English subtitles) on the fourth Friday of the month at 7:00 pm. Enjoy popcorn and pretzels and pre-film gemütlichkeit. (Held January – May and September – November)

**Potluck** – Make new friends in the German-Texan community at 4:00 pm on the second Sunday of every other month. Bring a dish to share and the beverage of your choice. (Held January, March, May, September and November)

### GERMAN FREE SCHOOL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

#### Communications Director Needed

The German Free School Guild is in need of a media savvy person to write and distribute press releases as well as cultivate media coverage of events and our historic building. This volunteer position also requires computer knowledge and the ability to meet deadlines, as well as working with the Webmaster, the Schulhaus Reporter Editor(s) and the GTHS staff. For more information, contact the GTHS Office at 512-482-0927 or write to [info@germantexans.org](mailto:info@germantexans.org).

#### Librarian Needed for Trenckmann Memorial Library

The Trenckmann Library at the German Free School needs a Librarian. This volunteer position requires a reading knowledge of German, a love of books and membership in GTHS. Librarian skills are a big plus, but not required. The library is currently cataloging the entire collection of books, papers and other donations on a new system. Duties include sorting book donations; coordinating Used Book Sales at Special Events, attending monthly Guild Board meetings and coordinating library volunteers. Retiring Librarian Doug Wixson will assist in an advisory role. For more information, contact the GTHS Office at 512-482-0927 or write to [info@germantexans.org](mailto:info@germantexans.org).

#### Speaker Series Coordinator Needed

Are you interested in German Texan history? Do you find yourself sharing stories of fascinating people you have just met? Do you yearn to share these experiences with others? Then we have a position for you! The German Free School Guild's Education Department needs a speaker series coordinator to help with arranging presenters for the upcoming months. If you are interested or have questions, contact Karen Morgan at [svnorsk@austin.rr.com](mailto:svnorsk@austin.rr.com) or at 487-5179.

#### Seeking Web Design Consultant

The GTHS website, [www.germantexans.org](http://www.germantexans.org), will be re-designed in the coming months. We are just beginning the planning process for the new site, and are looking for anyone *within our extended community* who has expertise and can help us with the design. For more details, please contact Eva Barnett at [eva@germantexans.org](mailto:eva@germantexans.org).



**OTHER EVENTS & NEWS****Austin Genealogical Society Annual Seminar**

The Austin Genealogical Society 2008 Annual Seminar takes place on Saturday, April 26, 2008 at 9:00 at the Norris Conference Center. Susan Kaufman, Manager of the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research in Houston, is the presenter. She will speak on Newspapers, Convicts to the Colonies, PERSI, and The Allen County Library. Early registration is \$40 and includes lunch, materials, and a full day of genealogical camaraderie. For more information visit: [www.AustinTxGenSoc.org](http://www.AustinTxGenSoc.org) or e-mail [pat@theoxleys.com](mailto:pat@theoxleys.com).

**GERMAN LANGUAGE****German Immersion Weekend**

If two hours of German weekly are not enough for you, then how about spending a whole weekend conversing in German? Join the UT Department of Germanic Studies at Bastrop State Park on the weekend of April 4-6. Register by March 5 for \$30 or afterwards for \$35. The deadline is March 24<sup>th</sup>. This event is NOT for students only; over the last couple of years many individuals, families and all kinds of people have attended so don't think you will not fit in. For more information, please click here: <http://gmc.utexas.edu/immersion/>

**German Radio**

In case you aren't already a listener, there is a German internet radio website that streams German folk music around the clock. Visit [www.Alpenmelodie.de](http://www.Alpenmelodie.de) to hear for yourself!

**PBS IS CALLING**

I just received a notice that the PBS show "History Detectives" is looking for story ideas. If any of you have an idea of some item we own that may have an interesting historical background (American history) for them to unravel, please let me know. The first thing that came to my mind was one of the gym equipment pieces we recently received, but perhaps they're not old enough to be of interest. Please send me your ideas, and let's get on this show and receive some publicity! See below for more details. —Eva

**VACATIONER FROM AUSTRIA LOOKING FOR DUDE RANCH**

This person is requesting information on dude ranches in Texas for a vacation from Austria. She'd like to participate in daily chores, take riding lessons, etc. Do any of you have suggestions for her? - EVA at Headquarters.

## The Outreach Program

2008 is the year that GTHS will begin to reach out to German-Texans all across the state by offering events, activities and educational opportunities.

The German-Texan Heritage Society has been offering German classes to adults and children in the Austin area for over five years now. While those in Austin are happy with the program's success, those outside the Austin area have not had the opportunity to take advantage of our classes. In the coming months, GTHS intends to fix this problem.

Starting in September, the German Language Program will be offered in three new areas: Brenham, Temple-Killeen, and San Antonio. Each new area will have at least two adult classes (beginning and experienced) and San Antonio will have a *Samstagsschule* (Saturday morning class for children). This program will grow and be offered in other areas over the coming years as our Outreach Program gains momentum and as we host other events during the months in between. GTHS is very excited about expanding the German Language Program as a means of reaching out to GTHS members across Texas.

As our program grows, we will need help coordinating with teachers, students and classroom hosts. If you know someone who is willing and able to teach German for a few hours a week (yes, it is a paid position!) or students who are eager to learn or churches, schools or businesses that are willing to let us borrow some space – please let us know.

Extending our German Language Program is not the only component of our outreach program. We are also eager to host genealogy seminars, participate in German related community events and arrange for informal get-togethers for those interested in learning more about the German-Texan Heritage Society. Keep us informed on what's going on in your community, let us know if you'd like to host a German-Texan themed event in your area and we'll help you arrange it.

The German Language Program has become popular in Austin because of the hard work put in by our dedicated members and there is no reason why this program can't enjoy the same success in other towns across Texas. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Ben West, Outreach Coordinator



**Thoughts from Development Committee Chair, Mary Whigham  
(Facts and figures are based on 2007 revenue/expenses)**

- Do you know that membership has remained fairly steady for several years?
- Do you know that membership dues (Guild & GTHS) provided 23% of our operating expenses (\$120,921)?
- Do you know that the operational fund provided 18% of our operating expenses?
- Do you know the cost to “operate” the building (i.e. utilities, insurance, grounds maintenance, etc.) of \$14,285 represented 12% of our operating budget? (This does not include renovation expenses from specific funds.)
- Do you know that the revenue generated from the language classes at the school (\$20,924) less expenses of (\$11,154) generated a return on our efforts of some 88%?
- Do you know that Maifest (\$8640 in revenue vs. \$2269 in expenses) returned more than 2 1/2 times on our efforts—**(the airline tickets were the draw)**
- Do you know that the Christmas Market (\$13,968 in revenue vs. \$10,250 in expenses) generated a return of 36% on our investment.
- Do you know that the annual meeting in 2007 generated \$2,549 over expenses.
- The Journal at \$16,745 represented the largest expense excluding staff...
- Do you know that administration costs of \$43,318 represented 35% of expenses.
- Do you know that we came in under budget for 2007 by some \$5,000?

These are some of the considerations my committee must take into account as we look to recommending a long range plan for the organization. Clearly we are blessed with giving members. But one of my goals will be to put the organization on a financial footing that does not require so much underwriting/donations from the membership (hidden in many of these numbers are dollars donated generously by some members to provide funds for the event). The endowment for outreach efforts established by the 150th Anniversary Club participation is one such focus. Expanding German language classes throughout the state seems to be a good choice as those in Austin generate a very good return on those efforts. What about the German Free School...as our headquarters and centerpiece, it is clearly a bargain. How should we use it? Can we look to build next door? What should we build? Keeping in mind our mandate to “promote awareness and preservation of the German cultural heritage of Texas”, how can that best be accomplished? Can we develop Pot Luck Suppers in various areas to provide a place for membership to enjoy their heritage and language as they do in Austin? My committee will be meeting this year to bring to the organization a plan of action. Give us your ideas, your thoughts for the future of the organization. Our email addresses are inside the front cover of *The Journal*.

Mary Whigham, Chair,  
Gerri West, Van Massirer, Connie Krause, John Siemmsen, Rodney Koenig

### German-Texan Heritage Society Revenue and Expenditure Statement - January through December 2007

		Jan-Dec 2007	D I V I D E N D	2007 Budget	% of
		Actual		rev. 11/11/07	Budget
<b>REVENUES</b>					
1	Dues - GTHS	\$ 22,067.50	A	\$ 23,000.00	96%
2	Dues - Guild	\$ 5,715.00	A	\$ 5,000.00	114%
3	Annual Meeting	\$ 5,040.00		\$ 5,000.00	101%
4	Operational Fund	\$ 21,515.32		\$ 20,000.00	108%
5	Maifest	\$ 2,794.19		\$ 2,962.15	94%
6	Maifest Drawing	\$ 5,890.00		\$ 5,890.00	100%
7	Christmas Market	\$ 13,967.89	B	\$ 15,500.00	90%
8	German Classes	\$ 20,924.00		\$ 17,000.00	123%
9	Misc. Gifts and Memorials	\$ 1,629.24		\$ 1,300.00	125%
10	GTGS Book sales & Royalties	\$ 931.83		\$ 600.00	155%
11	Gift Shop & non-GTGS book sales	\$ 2,074.77		\$ 1,500.00	138%
12	Library Income & Donations	\$ 369.75	C	\$ 200.00	185%
13	Other Events - Threepenny Opera	\$ 3,227.50		\$ 3,228.00	100%
14	Miscellaneous	\$ 1,058.88		\$ 1,000.00	106%
15	Investment Income (realized)	\$ 23,518.60	D	\$ 13,500.00	174%
16	<b>Sub-Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 130,724.47</b>		<b>\$ 115,680.15</b>	<b>113%</b>
17	Specific contributions & Grants				
18	Grants - Samstagsschule	\$ 4,000.00		\$ 4,000.00	100%
19	150th Anniversary Club fund drive	\$ 20,560.00	E	\$ 5,000.00	411%
20	Advertising in Journal	\$ -		\$ -	n/a
21	Special Project Income/150th Anniversary	\$ 14,357.00	F	\$ 5,000.00	287%
22	<b>Sub-Total Specific Contributions</b>	<b>\$ 38,917.00</b>		<b>\$ 14,000.00</b>	<b>278%</b>
23	<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 169,641.47</b>		<b>\$ 129,680.15</b>	<b>131%</b>
<b>Report of Projected Dividends (not included on line 15)</b>					
24	Investment Income (unrealized)	\$ (14,452.75)		n/a	n/a
<b>NOTES</b>					
A	The total of all dues received is about \$200 less than all dues budgeted.				
B	Income was lower due to a shortage of nutcrackers & all markets occurring on the same day.				
C	The majority of this comes from used book sales.				
D	Includes \$9766.39 in Capital Gains. \$9003.66 of the total investment income was reinvested.				
E	Original \$5000 budgeted represented the Blue Bell donation. This was moved to the 150th/Oktobertfest revenue to reflect their underwriting of the event.				
F	This includes the \$5000 Blue Bell donation, all other underwriters and event sales.				
G	\$19,255 of this profit is attributable to 2007 dues collected in 2006.				
<b>REVENUE/EXPENDITURE SUMMARY</b>					
25	Total Revenues (line 23)	\$ 169,641.47		\$ 129,680.15	131%
26	Total Expenditures (line 61)	\$ 145,871.13		\$ 149,687.30	97%
27	Profit / (Shortfall)	\$ 23,770.34		\$ (20,007.15)	477%
28	Balance Forward - 2006 profit carried forward	\$ 33,148.27		\$ 33,148.27	
29	Total including 2006 & 2007 profit	\$ 56,918.61		\$ 13,141.12	

### German-Texan Heritage Society Revenue and Expenditure Statement - January through December 2007

		Jan-Dec 2007	2007 Budget	% of
		Actual	rev. 11/11/07	Budget
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
30	Administration Staff - Executive Director	\$ 37,110.50	\$ 37,287.00	100%
31	Administration Staff - Office Assistant	\$ 5,231.28	\$ 5,250.00	100%
32	Other Administration	\$ 977.47	\$ 1,000.00	98%
33	Supplies & Equipment	\$ 3,994.21	\$ 3,600.00	111%
34	Telephone & Internet	\$ 1,514.91	\$ 1,500.00	101%
35	Utilities	\$ 5,366.46	\$ 5,500.00	98%
36	Insurance House / Liability	\$ 2,985.49	\$ 3,500.00	85%
37	Officers, Board & Auto coverage	\$ 1,559.30	\$ 1,469.30	106%
38	Worker's Comp	\$ 181.18	\$ 300.00	60%
39	Building Maintenance, Repair & Security	\$ 4,418.86	\$ 4,000.00	110%
40	Yard Maintenance	\$ 4,180.61	\$ 4,000.00	105%
41	Professional services	\$ 500.00	\$ 4,000.00	13%
42	Bank Fees	\$ 1,486.88	\$ 1,200.00	124%
43	Fund Raising	\$ 899.53	\$ 500.00	180%
44	Annual Meeting	\$ 2,491.14	\$ 5,000.00	50%
45	Maifest	\$ 2,269.28	\$ 2,270.00	100%
46	Maifest Airline Tickets	\$ -	\$ -	n/a
47	Christmas Market	\$ 10,249.58	\$ 9,500.00	108%
48	Other Events - Threepenny Opera	\$ 1,527.66	\$ 2,000.00	76%
49	German Classes	\$ 11,154.47	\$ 12,000.00	93%
50	Outreach/Comm. Involvement	\$ 963.01	\$ 750.00	128%
51	Journal	\$ 16,745.01	\$ 15,750.00	106%
52	Schulhaus Reporter	\$ 405.33	\$ 350.00	116%
53	Library expenses	\$ 934.39	\$ 500.00	187%
54	GTGS Books	\$ 283.87	\$ 500.00	57%
55	Gift Shop & non-GTGS books	\$ 1,572.25	\$ 2,300.00	68%
56	Miscellaneous	\$ 1,918.63	\$ 1,200.00	160%
57	<b>Sub-Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 120,921.30</b>	<b>\$ 125,226.30</b>	<b>97%</b>
58	Special Projects - 150th Anniversary	\$ 9,868.99	\$ 7,461.00	132%
59	Special Projects - GFS Renovation	\$ 10,830.00	\$ 13,000.00	83%
60	Reserve Fund - security upgrade, lot steps, etc	\$ 4,250.84	\$ 4,000.00	106%
61	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 145,871.13</b>	<b>\$ 149,687.30</b>	<b>97%</b>

**NOTES**

- H The original amount was raised by \$355 to allocate more hours for 150th tasks, and then by \$1200 to increase Ben's hours worked (\$600 of this comes from the outreach project budget).
- I Includes \$400 to purchase a floor safe.
- J This is slightly lower than budgeted because an increase in property coverage is waiting on a house contents inventory and possible appraisal.
- K This is slightly higher because we added auto coverage for all employees and Board members.
- L This includes a refund of \$112.
- M This includes \$1014 in water line repairs.
- N \$300 of this is extra monies used for side lot clearing.
- O Budgeted amount included funds for an audit, which will be carried over to 2008.
- P Includes \$414 early withdrawal fee for Wells Fargo CD (due to problems with getting proper signatures).
- Q 150th Club costs are shown here, along with Operating Fund drive costs (incl supplies, copying, postage).
- R This figure includes about \$1500 in leftover stock.
- S \$407.19, half of the decal expense, was posted here for promotional use. Also \$67 for Guild appeal.
- T This figure is higher than expected due to postal and printing price increases.
- U This figure is higher due to an extra mailing to non-Guild members.
- V A display case was purchased. The allocated Library expense is \$200 plus any income from used book sales.
- W Includes Morgan Stanley fee, Greenlights membership, Volunteer appreciation party, bulk mail permit & sales tax expense.

X \$260 for lot steps was covered by a donation. Also includes \$175 in equipment purchases (mic & speaker)

## GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY 2008 Approved Budget

REVENUE	2008 Budget
Dues - GTHS	\$ 24,000.00
Dues - Guild	\$ 6,300.00
Annual Meeting	\$ 5,000.00
Operational Fund	\$ 20,000.00
Maifest	\$ 4,000.00
Maifest Drawing	\$ 6,000.00
Christmas Market	\$ 15,000.00
German Classes - Austin	\$ 20,000.00
Misc. Gifts and Memorials	\$ 1,500.00
GTHS Book Sales & Royalties	\$ 1,000.00
Gift Shop & non-GTHS book sales	\$ 2,000.00
Library Income & Donations	\$ 200.00
Outreach Program: Classes & Seminars - NEW	\$ 8,484.88
Other Events	\$ 5,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,000.00
Investment Income	\$ 13,500.00
<b>Sub-Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 132,984.88</b>
<b>Specific Contributions &amp; Grants</b>	
Grants - Samstagsschule	\$ 2,000.00
150th Anniversary Club	\$ 50,000.00
Special Project Income (150th)	
Other - Bequests, etc.	\$ 25,000.00
<b>Sub-Total Specific Contributions</b>	<b>\$ 77,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 209,984.88</b>

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Administrative Staff - Executive Director		\$ 36,945.48
Administrative Staff - Program Director - NEW		\$ 16,793.40
Other Administration		\$ 1,500.00
Supplies & Equipment		\$ 4,000.00
Telephone & Internet		\$ 1,800.00
Utilities		\$ 5,500.00
Insurance	House	\$ 3,500.00
	Officers and Board, Auto coverage	\$ 1,500.00
	Worker's Comp	\$ 417.01
Building Maint.& Repair & Security		\$ 4,500.00
Yard Maintenance		\$ 4,500.00
Professional services		\$ 4,000.00
Bank Fees		\$ 1,200.00
Fund Raising		\$ 1,000.00
Annual Meeting		\$ 3,500.00
Maifest Costs		\$ 2,500.00
Christmas Market costs		\$ 10,000.00
Other Events - Oktoberfest		\$ 5,000.00
German Classes - Austin		\$ 12,000.00
Outreach/Community Involvement - general		\$ 2,000.00
Outreach Program - NEW		\$ 6,490.53
Journal		\$ 17,500.00
Schulhaus Reporter		\$ 500.00
Library expenses		\$ 500.00
GTHS Books		\$ 500.00
Gift Shop & non-GTHS books		\$ 2,500.00
Miscellaneous		\$ 1,500.00
Scholarship Program - NEW		\$ 2,000.00
	<b>Sub-Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 153,646.42</b>
Special Projects - GFS Renovation		\$ 16,666.00
Reserve Fund		\$ 4,000.00
	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 174,312.42</b>
<b>REVENUE/EXPENDITURE SUMMARY</b>		
Total Revenues		\$ 209,984.88
Total Expenditures		\$ 174,312.42
Projected Profit		\$ 35,672.46

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 10, 2008 MEETING  
GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The February 10, 2008 meeting of the German-Texan Heritage Society Board of Directors was called to order at 10:00 a.m. in the German Free School at Austin with GTHS President Wing Evans presiding. Board members present were Wing Evans, Hubert Heinen, Connie Krause, Gerri West, Mary Whigham, Glen Treibs, Martha Liehse, Alton Buehring, Daniel Bode, John Siemssen, Carl Luckenbach and Warren Friedrich. Board members absent were Jean Heide and Mary El-Beheri. Also present was Eva Barnett, GTHS Executive Director.

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 11, 2007 MEETING

H. Heinen moved acceptance of the minutes of the board meeting November 11 as scribed by the Secretary, T. Smart. with minor corrections. **MOTION APPROVED**

REPORT ON HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

Wing Evans requested each board member report on their assignment to detail his or her goals for the organization. Expand membership, reach younger members, better advertising of the organization's events, community outreach programs such as language classes, genealogy seminars outside of Austin, financial stability were ideas shared.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director's printed report dated February 10, 2008 was distributed to board members prior to the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

H. Heinen moved that the Treasurer's Report for January through December, 2007 be accepted as presented by G. West. **MOTION APPROVED**

It was noted that much time can elapse before funds received can be invested because the board only meets four times a year. Glen Treibs moved that the Financial Committee be empowered to make investment decisions, following the investment policy of the organization, reporting to the board after the fact. **MOTION APPROVED**

RECOGNITION OF NEW DIRECTORS:

President Evans welcomed new directors Dan Bode, Alton Buehring, Carl Luckenbach and pointed out that two other positions needed to be filled by the board. Nominated were Randy Rupley and John Siemssen. The motion to appoint was made by H. Heinen. **MOTION APPROVED.**

DATES SET FOR 2008 BOARD MEETINGS:

May 4, August 9 and November 16 were selected.

APPROVAL OF A PROGRAM DIRECTOR STAFF POSITION

H. Heinen moved that the position of program director be created with 15 hours allocated to coordination of programs outside Austin, 10 hours for programs in Austin. **MOTION APPROVED**

APPROVAL OF PAY INCREASE FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It was noted that an increase in pay for Eva was brought up in November meeting but not voted on in open session. H. Heinen moved a pay increase The motion was amended to start the pay increase January 1, 2008. **MOTION APPROVED.**

ACTION ITEM ARRIVING OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION TO BE REPORTED IN OPEN SESSION BY THE PRESIDENT.

Motion made by C. Luckenbach. **MOTION APPROVED**

2<sup>nd</sup> READING ON THE CREATION OF A DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

As required, the proposed amendment was read in open session. It was moved by H. Heinen that the board postpone their vote for 30 days to allow newest board members their time allotment to make the decision. **MOTION APPROVED**

(8.8F Development Committee. The Development Committee will plan for and oversee the fundraising for the GTHS. It will recommend goals and will implement goals approved by the Board of Directors.)

150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CLUB

Pledges to date were reported as \$78,187 from 46 participants with \$23,137 collected to date. M. Whigham will continue to solicit from businesses and individuals.

ESTABLISHMENT OF ENDOWMENT ACCOUNT

Motion to designate \$300,000 from the Kelly Stevens bequest along with the recent Seffel bequest of \$25,000 in a separate "endowment" account with legal paperwork to follow was made by Glen Treibs. These monies will be held specifically as an endowment for the German Free School. Treasurer G. West was instructed to set up appropriate accounting. **MOTION APPROVED.**

APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARIAN

President Evans appointed M. Whigham and C. Krause to share responsibilities until someone else could be found.

OUTREACH COORDINATOR REPORT

Ben West reported on plans for German classes to be held in San Antonio, Brenham and Temple/Killeen.

## APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

President Evans appointed the following:

- Executive Committee (bylaws require President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer)
- Budget & Finance – G. West, H. Heinen, M. Whigham, Carl Luckenbach, John Siemmsen, Charles Thompson
- Activities – Connie Krause, Martha Liehse, Dan Bode with Carl Luckenbach as adhoc to the annual meeting committee
- Membership – Jean Heide, Dan Bode, Alton Buehring, Jim West
- Development – Mary Whigham, Gerri West, Van Massirer, Connie Krause, John Siemmsen, Rod Koenig
- Publications – Mary El Beheri, Glen Treibs, Randy Rupley, Donna Reeves-Marquardt, H. Heinen
- Old German Free School Committee – Warren Friedrich, H. Heinen, Wing Evans, Helga von Schweinitz, Jim West as consultant
- Annual Meeting Committee – Charles and Janice Thompson, Dan Bode, Mary & Rodney Koenig, Dorry Shaddock, Flora von Roeder and Carl Luckenbach, Matt Tippens (proposed), Mary Whigham (30th Anniversary Planning), Eliane and Richard Wilson (pending)
- Advisory Committee - Michael Krause, Rodney Koenig, Van Massirer, Chuck Kalteyer, Hans Micklitz, Helgard Suhr-Hollis, Charles Thompson, Janice Thompson, Helga Von Schweinitz, Linda & Henry Wolff, Charles Thompson, Teddy Boehm, Velma Rice, Bob Neely, with liaison to the board, Van Massirer (Some were yet to be contacted or accept as of board meeting).

### GERMAN FREE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Warren Friedrich reported on additional needed renovations to the interior, i.e. the kitchen and hallway. He also discussed needed work on the exterior, i.e. painting, replacement of rotten wood, etc. Motion to proceed with the replacement of cooktop, refrigerator, and microwave was made by Glen Treibs. **MOTION APPROVED**

### EVENTS REPORT

Maifest - April 26  
Annual Meeting – end of August, 1st of September (to be decided)  
Oktoberfest – October 4  
Christmas Market – December 6

It was reported that Continental Airlines will not be donating tickets to Germany. The motion to delay the raffle of tickets until the annual meeting was made by M. Whigham to give time for soliciting elsewhere and to be a special event honoring the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization. **MOTION APPROVED.** Motion to purchase tickets if there was no donor was made by M. Whigham. **MOTION APPROVED.**



BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

2008 BUDGET

A revised 2008 budget was presented by the budget committee. Following discussion, G. West moved acceptance of the report. **MOTION APPROVED.**

G. West reported 2007 Income of \$169,641 with expenditures of \$120,921.30

OLD BUSINESS

MANUALS FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

C. Krause passed out manuals for new board members.

EHRENSTERN AWARD

C. Krause announced that guidelines for the Ehrenstern Award have been prepared and no further action has been taken.

GTHS COOKBOOK PROJECT

C. Krause announced too few recipes have been received for a proposed GTHS cookbook. She will try to wrap the project up this year.

WEB SITE

Motion to allocate \$500 for redo of web site was made by G. West. **MOTION CARRIED**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Secretary

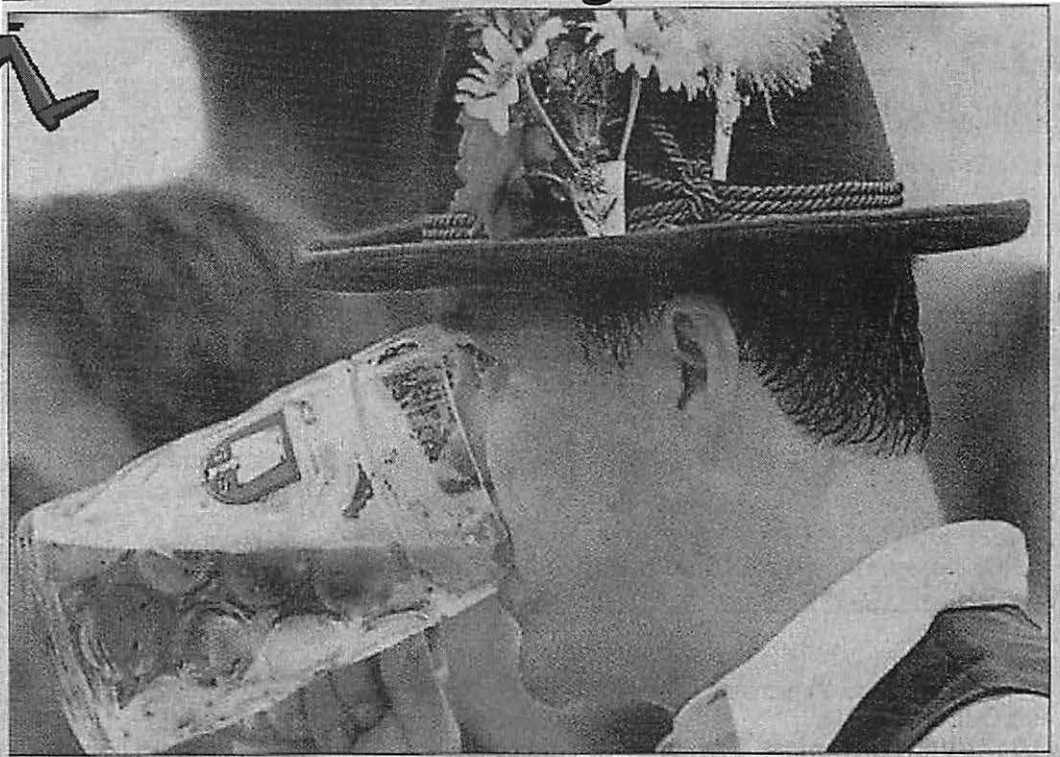
Submitted by Mary Whigham,

Your Board At Work—this end of the table    A N D    that end of the table





## And On the Lighter Side



AP PHOTO

Bavarian men might want to rethink their annual Oktoberfest revels in light of a new study.

# There's trouble brewing, guys

You have to hope that this study is flawed, but the evidence seems irrefutable. Several months ago, scientists at Europe's annual human reproduction conference suggested that the results of a recent analysis revealed the presence of female hormones in beer, and suggest-

ed that men should take a look at their beer consumption. The theory is that drinking beer makes men turn into women.

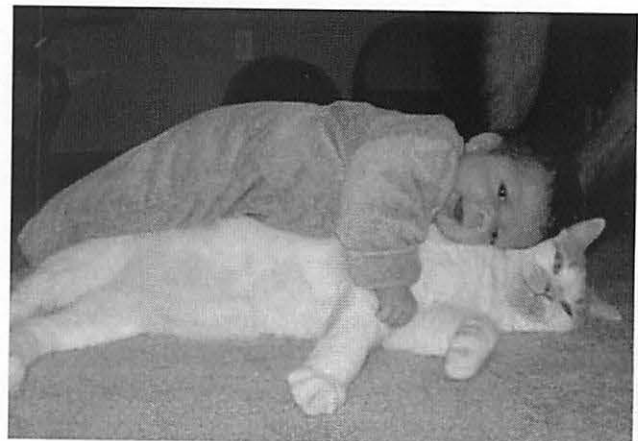
To test the theory, 100 men were each fed six pints of beer within a one-hour period. It was then observed that 100 per cent of the men gained weight, talked

excessively without making sense, became overly emotional, couldn't drive, failed to think rationally, argued over nothing, had to sit down while urinating, couldn't perform sexually, and refused to apologize when wrong.

No further testing is planned.



Last night my sister and I were sitting in the den and I said to her, 'I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle to keep me alive. That would be no quality of life at all, If that ever happens, just pull the plug.' So she got up, unplugged the computer, and threw out my wine.



Zufriedenheit.

**ADVISORY BOARD FOR 2008**

**TEDDY BOEHM**, Brenham  
**CHARLES KALTEYER**, Austin  
**RODNEY KOENIG**, Houston  
**MICHAEL KRAUSE**, New Braunfels  
**VAN MASSIRER**, Crawford - *liaison to  
GTHS Board*  
**HANS MICKLITZ**, San Antonio  
**ROBERT NEELY**, Bellville

**VELMA RICE**, League City  
**HELGARD SUHR-HOLLIS**, New Braunfels  
**CHARLES THOMPSON**, Houston  
**MATTHEW TIPPENS**, Spring  
**HELGA VON SCHWEINITZ**, Austin  
**HENRY WOLFF**, Victoria  
**LINDA WOLFF**, Victoria

**BOOK REVIEW EDITORS**

Two new book review editors have been nominated. More details in the Summer *Journal*.

**GTHS LIBRARIAN**

**POSITION VACANT** – If you're interested in taking this on, please contact the GTHS office.

**GENEALOGY EDITOR**

**LIZ HICKS**, Houston

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](mailto:erootrot@usa.net)

**JOURNAL EDITOR**

Guest Editor of March 2008 Issue: **MARY WHIGHAM**,  
Guest Editor for June 2008 issue: **SARA SCHMIDT**

**WHERE DO YOU SEND THINGS FOR THE JOURNAL?**

Send materials for the Journal (announcements, articles, news of reunions, clippings, and other information) To GTHS, PO Box 684171, Austin, TX 78768-4171

**WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING MATERIALS TO THE JOURNAL?**

NEXT ISSUE

SUMMER (JUNE 2008)  
FALL (SEPTEMBER 2008)  
WINTER (DECEMBER 2008)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

May 1, 2008  
August 1, 2008  
November 1, 2008

**POLICY STATEMENT**

Materials sent for The Journal will not be returned. All materials must include contributor's name, a source and date. All submitted manuscript articles must be typed single space on 8 ½ x 11" white paper with right and left, top, bottom and side margins no less than .7 inches. Electronic versions are preferred. 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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