

THE JOURNAL

Celebrating our 30th Anniversary



VOLUME XXX · NUMBER 3 · FALL, 2008

ISSN 0730-3106 Price: \$5 (members) \$6 (non-members)

GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

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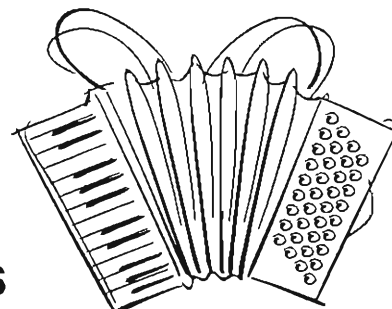
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








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THE JOURNAL OF THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

Volume XXX, NUMBER 3, FALL (SEPTEMBER) 2008

“Zur Erhaltung der deutschen Tradition”

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Acknowledgements

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

Everett Fey of San Antonio
Anna Thompson of Dublin
Eva Barnett of Austin
Anne Stewart of Comfort
Wing Evans of Austin
Mary Whigham of Old Washington
Judith Renker of Temple
Rodney Koenig of Houston
Helgard Suhr-Hollis of New Braunfels
Ed Boehringen of Dallas
Carolyn Heinsohn of La Grange
Daniel Bode of Dayton
Connie Krause of New Braunfels

I enjoyed working on this issue of **The Journal** and I thank all who have helped with this project.
Dan Bode, Guest Editor

Pearl Elley Bethune

1918 – 2008



Pearl Elley Bethune, longtime resident of Austin, Texas, passed away on June 8, 2008.

Pearl was born and raised in Hilda, Guadalupe County, Texas. Her parents were Eugene Louis and Ella (Blumberg) Elley. She was a fifth generation Texan who was grateful for having inherited healthy genes and a spirited, intelligent, strong-willed, fun loving mind from her German immigrant ancestors. She celebrated her happy childhood within a close knit family in verse and photo in her first book, "A Texas Child's Harvest".

As a long-time member of the German-Texan Heritage Society and in support of the Society's mission of "Promoting awareness and preservation of the German cultural heritage of Texas", Pearl arranged with Continental Airlines to have them donate for many years two tickets to anywhere in the world to be raffled off as GTHS fundraisers. This was an annual gift of thousands of dollars.

Pearl graduated from McQueeney High School where she excelled in academics as well as in sports which lead to her lifelong pursuit of education and writing, and also to her fondness of dancing, swimming and staying fit.

Her interest in family history made her work with the diary that her Prussian great-great-grandfather Carl Blumberg had written during his arduous crossing of the Atlantic in 1845. Her cousin E. J. Hierholzer translated the diary and also Blumberg's letters describing the difficult early years in the German-Texan communities. Pearl was the editor and enriched the pages with maps and pictures and articles of her own. Then she started her own publishing business because other publishers did not agree to her high standards of how her book should come out. The resulting book on acid free paper, "Forward to the Past", is highly acclaimed by collectors of German-Texana.

Her marriage to Waford Levi Bethune in 1938 did not last long, but it produced three sons: Jack, Gordon and David. Her sons became her "true love" and her pride and joy and gave her the feeling of "a job well done" as she, as a single mom, helped them grow up and enter successful careers. She tried marriage three more times and decided then, that she would no longer bother any man with her strong will and her desire for independence.

Being the family's breadwinner, she worked in sales as an educational publishing agent and was the first woman in the nation to win the Americana Corporation's Presidential Award in 1960.

In her Ruth Avenue neighborhood in Austin she was like a mother to many kids and animals and is fondly remembered by people who are now grandparents. She had eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren of her own.

Her travels took her to her ancestral Germany several times in the company of her cousin E. J. and to London, Paris and Bremen with her friend Helga. She always insisted on flying first class (usually with Continental Airlines). She also insisted on her coffee being "freshly brewed", whether it was on a flight, at "Long John Silver" or in a French café on the Champs Elysee.

The earthly shell of this one-of-a-kind woman, Pearl Bethune, has been laid to rest next to her parents in the San Geronimo Cemetery in Seguin, Texas

Submitted and written by Helga von Schweinitz with some reference to the obituary published in the Austin American-Statesman.



Richard A. Schenck

Richard Arthur Schenck, better known to his friends and relatives as "Dick", passed away peacefully at his ranch outside of Dripping Springs, on Friday morning, July 11, 2008. He spent his last day with friends and relatives out in the hill country around Cypress Mills.

Dick was born September 3, 1919, in Austin, Texas to Hannah and Botho Schenck. He was the great-grandson of the well-known Texas Romantic landscape painter Hermann Lungkwitz, whose portrait and landscapes have graced the walls of

Governor's mansion in Austin, in addition to being collected by the major museums around the state.

After joining the military twice and being kicked out twice (for being under the required age limit), he was finally accepted by the Texas National Guard in 1937, where he was a member of the 36th Infantry Division at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas. During World War II, Staff Sergeant Schenck was on a European tour with the 878th Ordinance Heavy Auto Maintenance Company from 1940 to 1945, when he was honorably discharged. He received the EAME Campaign Medal with three Bronze stars.

He returned to Austin and worked on the construction of Mansfield Dam for several years.

In 1948, he married Barbara Helen Davis of Austin and enjoyed a happy, colorful marriage with her for 53 years until her death in 2002.

He was employed by the U.S. Post Office as a mail carrier for over 25 years in Austin, while simultaneously working as a ranch foreman and part-time cowboy out in the hill country.

Following in his great-grandfather's footsteps, Dick was a member of the Austin Saengerrunde at Scholz Garten for over 25 years and enjoyed singing and touring with the men's choir for many years. He was also actively involved in the Austin German-Texan Heritage Society, and was featured in their documentary "Off to Texas", based on his ancestors, the artists Hermann Lungkwitz and Richard Petri.

He had a lifelong fascination with World War I airplanes and was a devoted member of the Vintage Aviation Historical Foundation at the Old Kingsbury Aerodrome Airport in Kingsbury, Texas, where he helped restore many classic planes.

He was an excellent artist and a talented harmonica player, who loved hunting and befriending wild deer and foxes on his ranch. Sharing laughter and good stories with his many friends and relatives was the top priority in his life.

He was a romantic, a dreamer, and an extraordinary wit - a wise old soul who was young at heart. In a word - irreplaceable.

He is survived by his sister, Dorothy Terrell of Rosebud; his daughter and son-in-law, Becky and Randy Schmidt, of Austin; and his son, Rocky Schenck of Los Angeles, California. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Dietrich Schmidt of Dallas and Audrey Schmidt of Baltimore, Maryland.

The family will receive friends from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 15, 2008 at Cook-Walden/Forest Oaks Funeral Home. Celebration of Life Services will be held at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, July 16, 2008 in the Chapel of Cook-Walden/Forest Oaks Funeral Home officiated by Bo Henry, Minister.

In lieu of flowers, the family would like contributions made in Dick's memory to the German-Texan Heritage Society, Attn: Helga Von Schweinitz, P.O. 684171, Austin, Texas, 78768-4171, (512) 482-0927, www.germantexans.org.

Published in the Austin American-Statesman on 7/15/2008



Anders Schou Sastrup

Anders Sastrup of Round Top, Texas, passed away Saturday, February 9, 2008, after 78 years of life in his own, inimitable style. Historian, scholar, naturalist, linguist, teacher, philosopher, researcher, editor, and storyteller, he was a true Renaissance man with a bohemian bent.

Born in Holstebro, Denmark, on February 7, 1930 to Sigurd and Elna Sastrup, Anders displayed as a boy the voracious appetite for knowledge and extraordinary memory and recall that would follow him throughout his life. He attended every school within traveling distance, read every book he could get his hands on, and studied Greek and Latin with the local minister in his spare time. His summers were spent as crew on his step-father's freighter in the North Sea. As a young teen he was affected greatly by the 5-year Nazi occupation of Denmark.

After studying comparative literature at the University of Aarhus, Anders attended Askov Folkehøjskole in 1949-50, where he met and fell in love with visiting student Billie Bess Trenckmann of Austin. The two toured Europe on his Vespa scooter, marrying in Rome in 1952 and later returning to Austin. Anders received his Master's degree in Germanic Studies from the University of Texas in 1956. After studying and teaching at Yale University 1957-58, Anders returned to Austin to teach German at The University until 1975.

A gifted linguist, he spoke at least six languages well and dabbled in a handful more. A passionate hobby in botany eventually led to a position as field director of U.T.'s Rare Plant Study Center in the early- and mid-70s, during which time he conducted the first botanical survey of the Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande by raft and canoe. From the '80s on, another hobby in Texas History turned him into one of the foremost experts in field, in particular German immigration to Texas in the 1800s. He served as Senior Editor to the Handbook of Texas, as well as a historical editor to James Michener's book *Texas*.

In the late '80s, after a long association with the Winedale Historical Center, he moved to a farmhouse in his beloved Round Top, where he lived for the rest of his days, authoring, translating, and researching innumerable historical documents.

Along the way Anders cultivated lasting relationships with some of the finest botanists and historians in Texas, and a virtual Who's Who of Texas Democrats in the '50s through the '90s. He took countless camping trips, canoe trips, and field trips of any kind. At the drop of a hat he would drive across the state for a handful of seeds from an endangered shrub or an obscure document from a county courthouse - stopping at every one-horse town along the way for a beer and a bratwurst or a visit with the local museum curator. He eschewed excessive formality or pretense, and was most at home around a campfire with an old friend, a song, and a cold beer - or else alone with a dusty, old book.

Anders is survived by sons Niels, Arne, Steffen, and Paul, and grandchildren Andreas and Mirabella. A campout will be held in his honor the weekend of April 5, contact the family for details.

Arrangements by: Koenig & Strickland Funeral Home, La Grange, TX. (979) 968-3121.

Mr. Sastrup translated Christmas in Troubled Times by William A. Trenckmann.

Permission has been given to reprint this book in the Winter Journal.

Grace Jones

Grace Jones of Salado died Saturday morning, February 16th, in Gonzales, Texas, following a short illness. She is preceded in death by her beloved parents, Juddie Finch Rosanky and William Rosanky, her brother, Bill, and a nephew, Billy. Grace is survived by her nephew, John Rosanky, his wife Rhonda, a great niece, Miki Rosanky and her husband, Kevin Matocha of Salado. Grace is also survived by legions of friends and admirers and other loving family members, including her cousin, Richard Crozier and wife, Barbara, of Gonzales.



Grace, a fourth generation Texan and the great-granddaughter of a German immigrant for whom the town of Rosanky was named, was born in Waelder, Texas. Following her graduation from Smithville High School, Grace attended the San Marcos Baptist Academy and continued her education at Baylor University and the University of Texas.

In 1943, while still a student at The University of Texas, Grace read an article in LOOK magazine about the desperate need for licensed women pilots to become part of the new Women's Army Air Force. With her trademark decisiveness, Grace immediately obtained her private license from Bobby Ragsdale Flying School in Austin. She joined the WASPS, completed her training at Avenger Field in Sweetwater, Texas, and began to ferry military planes. Grace flew all manner and size of aircraft, from AT-6 trainers to B-17 bombers, out of one of the heaviest trafficked airports in the country, Love Field, in Dallas. Later, Grace was commanding officer of the WASPS stationed at Blackland Air Force Base near Waco until the WASPS were disbanded near the end of war. Grace, responding in an interview about handling fear as a pilot, stated "We had to make critical decisions on short notice. There was no need or time for fear or negative emotions." That simple statement epitomizes how Grace Jones lived her entire life.

Having conquered the skies as a pilot, Grace moved to New York and built a successful modeling career with the likes of Mary Alice Rice and John Powers. Grace's marriage to Lt. Col Jack Jones in 1946 led her to Berlin during the tense Berlin Airlift years and to an incredibly rewarding tour of duty in Japan. The Japanese named Grace as one of the five best-dressed women in Japan, and she was the first American to perform the intricate Japanese tea ceremony. President Dwight D. Eisenhower would subsequently name Grace as an "ambassador abroad" to Japan.

In the mid-1950's, Jack's assignment took them to New York. Grace, astutely assessing the future of the newly emerging television industry, steered her career into modeling for commercials - including American iconic giants, Kodak and Ford.

In 1961 Grace and Jack returned to Central Texas and opened "Grace Jones." The rest of the story is well documented history. Grace brought haute couture to Texas and the political and entertainment elite were quick to follow. Grace's success and fame grew, but it did not alter her. To Grace, success was simply another gift to be shared with those around her. As her stature grew, Salado and Central Texas grew in direct proportions. She worked tirelessly developing the "benefit fashion show" format into an art form. Grace's ability to develop funding for causes in which she believed is legendary and the list of recipients is long.

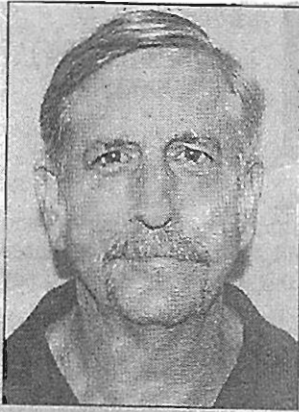
Grace was passionate about her politics and embraced her civic responsibility. She raised money for political candidates of her choice, including Hubert Humphrey and Lyndon Johnson. She befriended each of them, whether they won or lost, and their families throughout her long and illustrious career. Grace served selflessly on countless boards including the University of Texas School of Architecture,

the Scott and White Medical Center, and the Institute for Humanities in Salado. Grace was especially proud of serving, along with her dear friend Lady Bird Johnson, on the board of the National Wildflower Research Center. She also sat on the board of the Salado National Bank, and served Salado as President of their Chamber of Commerce in 1968.

Despite the scope of her accomplishments, Grace will be remembered most clearly and missed most dearly, as a loyal and true friend. She was a devout woman of strong faith, who understood how richly she had been blessed. Grace was a woman of wit and intelligence, energy and determination, bound together by her faith, her beauty, and her ever-present elegance and grace.

A memorial service, with a reception immediately following, will be held Tuesday, February 19th, 2:00 p.m., at the Church of Christ, 217 North Stagecoach, Salado, Texas. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials are to be made to the Institute of Humanities, Salado, Texas or to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin, Texas.

Austin American Statesman
Feb 19, 2008



Charles E. Patrick

Charles E. Patrick passed away peacefully on July 10, 2008, at Gracey Woods on Metric Blvd. in Austin, TX. Charles was born in Pasadena, TX on November 11, 1949 and attended Pearl Hall Grammar School through South Houston High School. He moved to Austin, TX, in 1971 and attended the University of Texas and received his bachelor's degree cum laude in modern language education and minor in business. He was an accomplished linguist and studied many languages and was fluent in German, Russian, Spanish, and French. He traveled to Europe many times in his life and was accompanied by his mother on several occasions, having extended family in Alsace, France.

He wrote several articles for the Elgin Courier and Manor Messenger on his and his mother's travels throughout Europe and North America. He also translated, published and promoted several early Texas German settlers' books and poems into English and was frequently a guest speaker at libraries and at the Texas German Society of Central Texas, where he was a member.

He was also an accomplished professional musician in playing the pedal harp and folk harp and was frequently paired with flutist Sandy Garcia. They both played at many weddings and social events. But his love for music didn't stop there, he also played many other instruments, one of his favorites being the button accordion, which he also used to compose music books on the subject.

His last years were spent as a licensed physical therapist at local nursing homes in Central Texas. The residents enjoyed his musical talents immensely, which he would often play for them until he succumbed to colon cancer.

He is survived by his mother, Effie Patrick, 93, of Manor, TX, and two brothers, Thomas N. Patrick of Bandera, TX, and David L. Patrick of Manor, TX, and many nieces and nephews of the Austin area.

Memorial services will be held at 7:00 p.m. on July 25, 2008 at the East Rural Community Center at 500 W. Carrie in Manor, TX.



Amelia (Mallie) Eckhardt Dennis

Amelia (Mallie) Eckhardt Dennis, beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, passed away on Thursday, June 19, 2008. Born in Rheingold, Texas, on July 3, 1921, Amelia moved to San Antonio when she was 18 and eventually became supervisor of payroll at Kelly Field. In 1948, she met and married C. Ray Dennis of Rotan, Texas. Amelia and Ray moved to Austin in 1949 and began their lives together. Amelia eventually ran the Austin office of the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for 22 years. After retiring, she and Ray enjoyed traveling throughout the U. S. and Europe.

Amelia was especially devoted to Phi Sigma Alpha service sorority, its sisters being dear friends to her. She was also a member of the German Texas Historical Society, and was very proud of her German heritage.

She is survived by her husband of 60 years, C. Ray Dennis; her two daughters, Patricia Witherspoon and husband John McCormick Witherspoon, and Carolyn Dennis-Willingham and husband John J. Willingham. She is also survived by the grandchildren she loved so dearly: Terence Dennis Witherspoon and his wife Jennifer, Lawrence Andrew (Andy) Witherspoon, Rusty Dennis Willingham, and Jonica Lynn Willingham.

Amelia was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, and delighted in being with her family above all else. She leaves behind a legacy of compassion, a legacy of pride, and a legacy of great love for her family.

The family is especially grateful to Amelia's dear friend and caregiver, Stella Hernandez.

Funeral services for Amelia will be at 10:00 a.m., Monday, June 23, 2008, at Weed-Corley-Fish Chapel, followed by a private graveside service for family in Austin Memorial Park.

Memorial donations can be made to Hospice of Austin.

"I have fought the good fight; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith."

Obituary and guestbook online at wcfish.com

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3125 N Lamar, 512/452-8811

President's Message, Fall 2008

Board meeting: Your Board of Directors met Saturday, August 9, 2008. A wide variety of subjects were discussed. Alton Buehring, our director from Corpus Christi, has resigned from the Board. We will miss him.

Local Groups: You are encouraged to have local get-togethers. A lunch might be the easiest - to discuss among yourselves what the GTHS is doing. Then tell us what you think about your Society. We want to hear from the members. Your opinions do matter.

GFS renovation: The renovations that were budgeted and begun last year on the German Free School Building are almost complete. This was a two step (and two year) undertaking to paint the walls, refinish the oak floors plus many smaller details. I hope you can come by and see the results. The building interior is beautiful. While doing this project, we met with the Texas Historical Commission to establish parameters for the maintenance and repair of this historical building. They are particularly concerned with maintaining the exterior authenticity of the building. The house with its unique architecture and the grounds with the two great oak trees are treasures. We are obligated to protect and keep them.

Oktoberfest: We will have Oktoberfest on Oct.4, 2008. It will be from 12 noon to 5 pm and will have food, drink, and music. We will repeat the fabulously successful "Miss Oktoberfest" that you might remember from last year.

Christmas Market: Our annual Christmas Market will be on Dec. 6, 2008, at the German Free School. As usual there will be the Erzgebirge, tree ornaments, cookies and gemütlichkeit. Please come by if you can. There will also be markets in San Antonio, Brenham and Tomball.

Language Classes: Our manifold language classes extend the traditional belief that education is the most important part of our heritage. To that end the GTHS is working hard to expand the language classes to many new locations. If you are interested, search the Web site, or call the office.

Annual Meeting: The Annual meeting in Houston was a great success! In all, almost 180 people were in attendance, including registrants, speakers, special guests, and performers. The program put together by the Annual Meeting Committee, Janice and Charles Thompson, was outstanding. At the business meeting, we elected 5 directors for the Board: Daniel Bode of Dayton (re-elected to his first full term), Charles Frederick of Dublin, Irmgard Pomper Gilliland of Dallas, Hans Micklitz of San Antonio, and Gerri West of Austin (re-elected to a second term). Thanks to everyone who attended and helped out!

Wing Evans

Message from the Executive Director

I hope you all enjoyed yourselves at the recent GTHS Annual Meeting in Houston! At the convention we celebrated our 30th Anniversary as an organization. Let's do our best to grow and thrive for another 30 years!

One of our main goals is to increase membership in GTHS. You are our ambassadors all across the state and can help in this effort by letting your friends, relatives and colleagues know about our mission to preserve the German cultural heritage of Texas. If you'd like to have some brochures on hand to pass along to folks, just let me know and I'll send you some. Keep them in your car so you'll have them handy when you need them!

At the beginning of August our Program Director, Gail Folkins, left us to pursue a full time career elsewhere. After interviewing several very worthy candidates, we chose Melanie Schmidt-Dumont as our new Program Director. Melanie was born in Germany and moved to the US as a teenager. She's a graduate of the UT German department and has excellent organizational skills and experience. Melanie is an artist as well, and has wonderful graphic design skills. She also has a German-Texan connection on her mother's side of the family – so you might be related to her!

Our new statewide outreach program is growing! We have German language classes set up for both children and adults in Brenham starting in September. In Temple, we'll be offering a 6 week children's program that starts in November, and in San Antonio we're in the midst of planning for both children's and adult classes. You can find out more details on the Announcements page elsewhere in this issue. In 2009, we'll be expanding our reach to other parts of the state. If you think your community could benefit from having German language classes, please let us know.

In August, the interior renovation of the German Free School (which was started last year) was completed. We painted the rest of the walls, refinished the floors and fixed the kitchen up a bit. This building has stood the test of time well, and now it's preserved for a good while longer. Thanks to all the donors and volunteers who made this work possible!

I offer my thanks to GTHS Board member Daniel Bode for editing this issue of the *Journal*. It's a huge task, and his efforts are greatly appreciated! Beginning with the Winter 2008 issue, GTHS Board member Mary Whigham will take over as standing *Journal* editor.

You can participate in making the *Journal* great by submitting articles for future issues. Be our ambassadors by scanning your local papers for articles of German-Texan interest. We want to keep informed of what's happening in your communities and share the news with everyone.

mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Eva Barnett
GTHS Executive Director

Leave Your German Mark

Past President of GTHS

Summer is the time of Family Reunions, Class Reunions and the annual meeting of GTHS. When you are reading this, the Houston annual meeting will have come and gone. We will have learned of the Klein Community, the Houston Saengerbund, the Houston Liederkrantz, the Shanty Chor, Christ the King Lutheran Church Brass Band, Old Washington German Cemetery, the Clayton Genealogy Library, First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Houston, Annunciation Catholic Church of Houston, the years 1842 - 1852 and Old German Houston. We will have seen old friends and made new friends.

In my family, we have had the Klaevemann Reunion in Yorktown, the Munke, Laux and Oeding Reunions at Swiss Alp, and the Koenig Reunion is scheduled for November 1, 2008 at my brother Weldon Koenig's Ranch near LaGrange. Part of many family reunions involve getting names and birthdays for new babies, new marriages, new addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and learning of those we have lost. We usually have someone speak of the history of our ancestors, disclosing places, towns and countries they left a number of generations earlier. We try to determine their religion, their jobs, their neighbors and the reasons they left to come to Texas. For example, recently I learned for the first time that my Great-Great Grandmother Maria Greulich Mueller was from Gross Radisch, near Gebelzig, in the vicinity of Bautsen, Germany. My son, J.T. Koenig, is very good at genealogy. He has the persistence and skill to locate many of our "misplaced" ancestors. He recently discovered, at Serbin, Texas, in the Wendish Museum that Maria Greulich (before she married Joseph Mueller in Texas) was from near Gebelzig in what was then Silesia, but now Saxony, Germany. Knowing how to access old maps (often on the internet) can be very interesting in your search for ancestors.

Class Reunions are also often held in summer. We are having our LaGrange Class of 1958 Reunion in August. Out of a graduating class of about 85, we have lost twelve classmates, but the remainder will enjoy catching up on lives, travels, retirement and family. We will remember our missing classmates with a memorial in our reunion booklet.

I often joke now that I am in a constant class reunion. My first grade class at Luck's Country School (Grades 1 – 6) between LaGrange and Flatonia had three students, Wayne Anders, Claude Baumbach and Rodney Koenig. Our teacher in the one room school was Eliza Lackey. Since I am the sole survivor of my first grade class, I am always at my first grade class reunion. I remember and miss Wayne, Claude and Miss Eliza.

How will you leave your German Mark? Tell German stories at your reunions. Write about the German traditions of your parents, grandparents and other ancestors. Leave a memorial to them at GTHS. Leave a memorial in your Will to remember your favorite teacher or favorite grandparent. If anything is to happen, you must take action. For help, please call Rodney Koenig at 713.651.5333 or email me at rkoenig@fulbright.com.

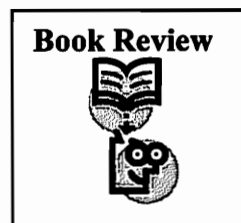
"Oma, tell me about olden times" (in the Gruene Family)

by Roberta Posey Mueller

compiled and edited by Roxolin Bose Krueger

Book Follows German-Texan Stories of the Gruene Family

by Gail Folkins



Most Texans, even those without German heritage, have visited or heard of Gruene Hall, one of the most celebrated historic dance halls in Central Texas. Others may know of Ernest Gruene, founder of the dance hall, who left Germany for Texas in 1845. A book by Roberta Posey Mueller, a direct descendant of Ernest Gruene, sheds additional light on this influential German-Texan family, who originally planned to settle in Fredericksburg and founded the nearby community of Gruene instead. The warm stories Mueller shares in *"Oma tell me about olden times" (in the Gruene Family)* present an engaging and memorable account of this German family's role in early Texas, from their pioneer origins to their current contributions.

Mueller shares her German-Texan history with well preserved certificates and records, several family trees, photographs, and most of all, through her stories. The first chapter reveals the author's preference for storytelling as "the best way to know a family." Many of these stories come directly from conversations between Mueller and her Oma (grandmother), Johanna Gruene Sippel. In addition to specific family history about the Gruene family, Mueller's account shares insights on pioneer life in Texas, from farming, to household chores and artifacts, to favorite foods eaten during this time period. Although the book focuses on narratives, the images Mueller shares provide an interesting complement to her stories, including translated passport information and a photograph of an elaborate necklace Ernest gave his wife.

The first part of the book concentrates on Ernest and his immigration to America. Three weeks after Ernest married Antoinette Kloepper, the young couple set off along with Ernest's widowed mother and a nineteen-year-old servant to Texas. During their trip overseas, Ernest was nearly washed overboard, prompting Antoinette to sew half the gold coins Ernest carried in his vest into the hem of her own skirt. Once in Texas, the Fredericksburg-bound family stopped in New Braunfels after Ernest became ill with cholera. Following his recovery, they agreed to stay in the area, building a family farm in a nearby community that would eventually become their namesake.

The second half of Mueller's account follows Ernest and Antoinette's children, Ernest Jr., Heinrich, and Johanna, as they grow up and raise families of their own. At this point, the pace of the narrative quickens, requiring the reader to follow names and places closely. These later stories bring present-day landmarks into focus, from the family's influence on New Braunfels summer camps along the Comal River, to the Gruene Mansion, originally the house of Ernest's son Heinrich and Heinrich's wife, Bertha. The author includes a photograph and description of the famous Gruene Hall, built by Ernest Gruene for local meetings, social events, and dances.

This compact book, with its inviting design and engaging style, answers many specific questions about the Gruene family along with contributing to a broader landscape of German immigrant history in Texas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEWS

Publication Deadlines

November 1 is the deadline for submitting articles and event notices for the Winter issue of the *Journal*. Send articles to info@germantexans.org. October 15 is the deadline for articles and event notices for the November/December issue of the *Schulhaus Reporter*, the newsletter of the German Free School Guild. Send articles to newsletter@germantexans.org. **Tip from the editor – do not crop newspaper articles closely, this can be done so much more accurately with the computer....**

GTHS & GUILD EVENTS

Austin Museum Day

The German Free School will be open on Sunday, September 14th for Austin Museum Day. Spend the day visiting Austin's museums free of charge. We will be open from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, with refreshments and tours throughout the day. Additional volunteers are needed this year to serve as docents and greeters, as we had many visitors on Austin Museum Day last year. We are also looking for a few folks to bring refreshments. Please contact the GTHS office if you can help.

Oktoberfest

On Saturday October 4th, come celebrate Oktoberfest with us at the historic German Free School in Austin. From noon to 5:00 pm, enjoy live music, folk dancing, delicious food, a biergarten, tours of the building, activities for kids and much more. Admission is free. Bring your family and friends for a fun day of celebrating German culture. Location: 507 E. 10th St. in Austin.

'Fröhliche Weihnachten Y'all' Christmas Market

Join us on Saturday December 6th, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, for our annual German Christmas Market at the German Free School in Austin. We will have a large selection of handcrafted wooden items imported from the Erzgebirge region of Germany - pyramids, nutcrackers, smokers and more. There will be blown glass ornaments, embroidered linens & much, much more. Enjoy live performances of traditional German Christmas music and songs throughout the day and a special visit by St. Nikolaus. All sales on December 6th are tax-free!

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.

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. Next potluck will be held Sunday, November 9. No potluck in September due to Austin Museum Day.

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. Free admission.

- **September 21** - German wine importer Heike Ward will discuss varieties of German wines and the various wine growing regions.
- **October 19** - Ute Boese, of the German American Connection, presents 'Germany between Tradition and Modernity', a talk on what's happening in the former East Germany.
- **November 16** - Catherine Dwyer will tell us about sculptor Elisabet Ney's history in Austin and her plans to open an art school.

German Film Night – Come watch a German film (with English subtitles) on the fourth Friday of the month at 7:00 pm. Enjoy popcorn and pretzels and pre-film gemütlichkeit. Free admission.

- **September 26** – 'Das Schreckliche Mädchen' (The Shocking Girl); PG-13 (1990). A German high school student decides to write an essay about her town's history during the Third Reich and its resistance to it. As she digs deeper, she must struggle against the town's vocal and violent opposition to her search for the truth.
- **October 24** – Schultze Gets the Blues; PG (2003). Schultze is a retired miner from East Germany and a passionate Polka musician. After hearing a Zydeco tune on the radio, he undertakes a trip into the heart of the music - Louisiana.
- **November 21** – 'Lola Rennt' (Run Lola Run); R (1998). A fast-paced film, with a unique twist, about a young woman trying to help her boyfriend replace the 100,000 German marks he owes to some dangerous men.

GERMAN CLASSES - AUSTIN

Adult German Language Classes

Classes begin the week of September 1st and meet once a week for 12 weeks at the historic German Free School at 507 East 10th Street. Cost: \$65 GTHS members/\$75 non-members.

- Beginning Conversational German - Tuesdays - 7:00 to 8:30pm
- German I - Wednesdays - 7:00 to 9:00pm
- German II - Thursdays - 7:00 to 8:30pm
- Intermediate Conversational German- Wednesdays - 7:00 to 8:30pm
- Advanced Conversational German - Thursdays - 7:00 to 8:30pm
- Accelerated German - Mondays - 7:00 to 9:00pm

Samstagsschule - German Language Classes For Kids

German language classes for children ages 3-13 begin on September 6th at the historic German Free School at 507 East 10th Street. Classes are held Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 am, and run for 12 weeks. Cost: \$150 GTHS members/\$165 non-members.

- Vorschule (ages 3-5)
- Grundschule (ages 6-8)
- Mittelschule (ages 9-13)

GERMAN CLASSES - BRENHAM

Adult German Language Classes

Classes begin the week of September 1st and meet once a week for 12 weeks. Cost: \$65 GTHS members/\$75 non-members.

- Beginning Conversational German – Tuesdays, 5:30 to 7:00 pm; Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library
- German I – Saturdays, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm; Sept 6 – Nov 22, Student Center at Blinn College

Samstagsschule - German Language Classes For Kids

German language classes for children ages 6-12 begin on September 6th at the Student Center at Blinn College. Classes are held Saturday mornings from 9:00 to 10:45 am, and run for 12 weeks. Cost: \$130 GTHS members/\$145 non-members.

GERMAN CLASSES – SAN ANTONIO

Details are still being finalized for German language classes in this area. We hope to offer a few classes later on this fall. Check the GTHS website for the latest information – www.germantexans.org.

GERMAN CLASSES – TEMPLE

We are working to set up German language classes for children in Temple beginning in November 2008. Details are still being finalized. Check the GTHS website for the latest information – www.germantexans.org.

OTHER EVENTS

Kristkindlmarkt

The Beethoven Damenchor of San Antonio invites you to attend their traditional German Christmas outdoor market. There will be hand-crafted gifts, clothing, floral arrangements, decoration, gingerbread houses, pottery, baskets, ornaments, quilts and more! Be sure to visit the GTHS booth too. The event will be on December 6th from 10am to 5pm and admission is free. There will also be food and drink. The event will be held at the Beethoven Halle und Garten at 422 Pereida St. at South Alamo in the King William District. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** to help at the GTHS booth. Please contact the GTHS office if you can help.

Tomball German Christmas Market

Come visit the first annual Tomball German Christmas Market on Saturday December 13, from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm, at Depot Plaza. Vendors will be on hand selling all sorts of arts, crafts, food and drink. GTHS will have a booth with imported crafts from Germany. Enjoy shopping, live music, and kids' area, and much more.

**MINUTES OF THE MAY 4, 2008 MEETING
GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The May 4, 2008 meeting of the German-Texan Heritage Society Board of Directors was called to order at 10:20 a.m. in the German Free School at Austin with GTHS President Wing Evans presiding. Board members present were Ewing Evans, Mary El-Behri, Hubert Heinen, Connie Krause, Gerri West, Mary Whigham, Martha Liehse, Carl Luckenbach, Randy Rupley and Warren Friedrich. Board members absent were Alton Buehring, Daniel Bode, John Siemssen and Glen Treibs. Also present was Eva Barnett, GTHS Executive Director.

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 10, 2008 MEETING

H. Heinen moved acceptance of the minutes of the board meeting February 10, 2008 as scribed by the Secretary, Mary Whigham. with minor corrections. **MOTION APPROVED**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer G. West presented the Morgan Stanley Account values as of March/April and 3 days into May and the recommended re-allocation of funds from the money market account. H. Heinen moved acceptance of her report. **MOTION APPROVED.** Eva Barnett presented a new format to account for the operating budget, 150th club receipts, and specific bequests. Following discussion, there was general acceptance of the new reporting format.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director's printed report dated May 4, 2008 was distributed to board members prior to the meeting. Eva reported a good response to the "last issue" warning on The Journal cover. She detailed the credentials of the new hire Gail Folkins to take the place of Ben West.

CREATION OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

An additional 2nd reading of the constitutional amendment to create a Development Committee was presented by Connie Krause to bring all board members up to speed. H. Heinen moved acceptance. **MOTION APPROVED.**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

W. Evans reported on actions taken by the Executive Committee:
Approval of pay raise for Executive Director, Approval to power wash garden walls for Maifest
Approval to add Jim West to Advisory Board

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

G. West presented the committee report which included recommendations to allocate income from outreach activities to the Operating Budget, financial statements to be included annually in the spring Journal, with reports on special activities as they happen and additional diversification of investments in the American Family of Funds. The report was accepted.

Formal paperwork for the establishment of the Permanent Endowment Fund will be worked on with the help of member attorney Rodney Koenig. C. Krause moved this discussion be tabled until further information available. **MOTION CARRIED.**

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

M. Whigham, temporary chair, reported on the initial meeting that focused on membership development, marketing, partnering opportunities, creation of a strategic plan for financial security. Members present were G. West, R. Koenig, J. Siemssen. At the board's suggestion, M. Whigham was asked to chair the Membership

Committee (Jean Heide, Dan Bode, Alton Buehring and Jim West) with Rodney Koenig to be asked to chair the Development Committee (Gerri West, Van Massirer, Connie Krause, John Siemmsen).

GERMAN FREE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

Warren Friedrich reported that Maifest was a great success and efforts were moving forward to refinish floors, replace appliances with funds already approved. He also reported that movie nights were very successful and that a chair for the speaker series was needed.

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

C. Krause reported a new format for the Ehrenstern Award. Nominations are needed by July 1 so board action can be taken at the August meeting.

AD HOC PUBLICATIONS/SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair M. El-Beheri moved we publish *Lerne Das ABC* by Leoli Tiedt. **MOTION APPROVED.** Additional books being considered are *On To Texas* and a cook book that is being translated from German to English. Preparations are being made for next year's scholarship awards.

OUTREACH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

.In Gail Folkin's absence, Eva reported that German classes were being formalized in San Antonio at St. John's Church, in Brenham at the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library and in the Temple/Killeen area.

DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

M. Whigham and C. Krause were appointed to head up the selection committee that includes M. Liehse and Carl Luckenbach. There are four positions to be filled.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Meeting Report was given by Eva. The Houston Sangerbund is underwriting the event for \$5,000. Details as to registration fee (\$30/50 for member/friend and \$40/60 for nonmember/friend with late fee of \$5.00 if registering after August 1, Student \$25), \$25 for vendor tables and future sites (Greater Austin area/Pflugerville/Georgetown for 2009 and Fredericksburg 2010) were discussed and accepted.

Web Site - Eva reported that the \$500 allocated was not going to be enough. Motion to allocate another \$2500 was made by H. Heinen. **MOTION APPROVED.**

Journal Editor – Efforts to use guest editors has put more work on staff. Mary Whigham volunteered to be the permanent Journal editor starting with the November issue.

Genealogy Seminars – Efforts to present one in the fall in the hill country area will be taken on by C. Krause.

Goals – Top three agreed to were Membership, Marketing and Financial Security. Motion to name Randy Rupley as chair of the adhoc Marketing Committee was made by H. Heinen. **MOTION CARRIED.**

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to create a Leave Your German Mark plaque to honor bequests was made by Mary El-Beheri. **MOTION CARRIED.** She will bring ideas to next board meeting.

Motion to donate \$100 to the German Heritage Center in Washington was made by H. Heinen. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Motion to establish policy that committee positions/terms end in February of the following year so that there will be continuity was made by H. Heinen. **MOTION CARRIED.**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Submitted by Mary Whigham, Secretary

Yes, I wish to become a member of the 150th 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 _____

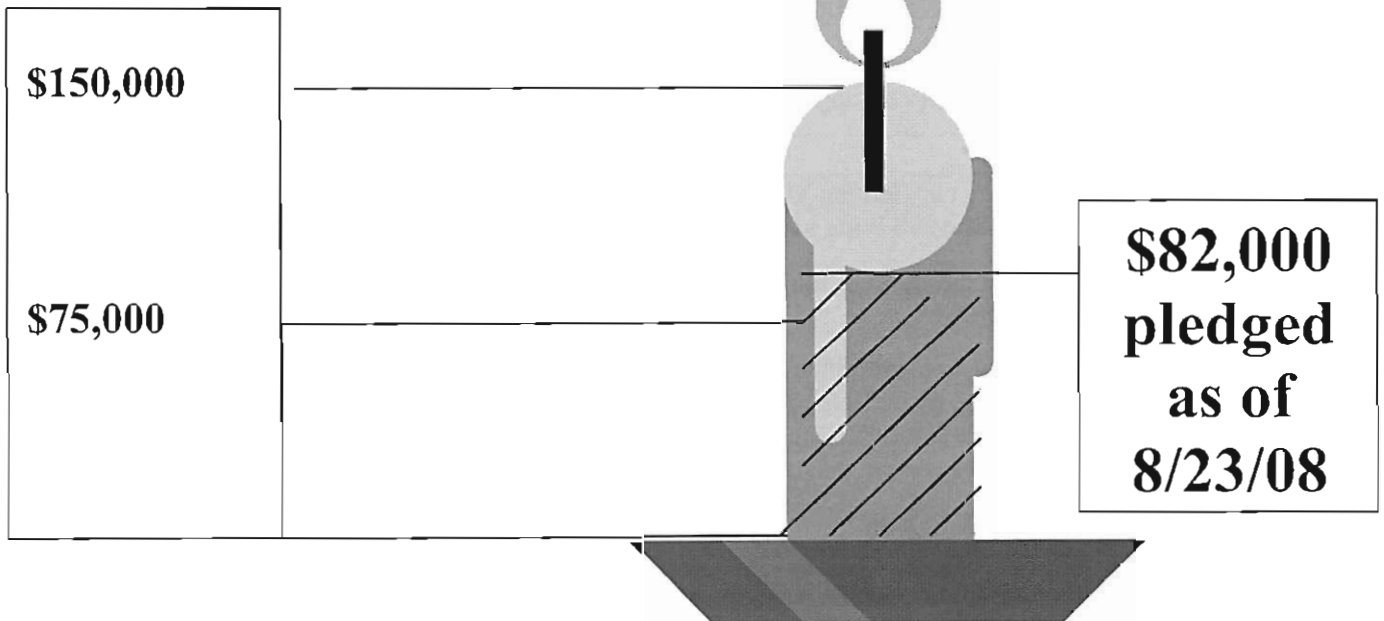
I am a descendant of a German Free School student, teacher, trustee ____ (place check here) Name of GFS Ancestor (s) _____

*** For Deferred Pledges:**

I will begin my three year commitment in _____ (year) for \$_____/year.



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.



TISD educator named teacher of the year

BY DAN FEARSON
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

For the past 30 years, Nella Spurlin has been teaching German and opening up a new world to the students at Temple High School.

In May, after the recommendation of several of her students, THS principal Jason Bullock and a personal friend,

Spurlin became the 2008 Texas Foreign Language Association German Teacher of the Year. She followed that honor by being selected as overall Teacher of the Year.



SPURLIN "I was really surprised and honored," Ms. Spurlin said. "When I think

about how many great foreign language teachers there are in the state, it takes me back a little."

In May, Ms. Spurlin traveled to Corpus Christi, where she competed against five other foreign language teachers who were awarded foreign language teacher of the year awards.

"Five of us interviewed with

judges from the association," said Ms. Spurlin, who competed against Chinese, French, Latin and Spanish teachers. "I didn't expect anything out of it because I was there amongst a wonderful group of teachers."

Longtime friend Sandi Mays, a German teacher from San Antonio, sent the TFLA a letter of recommendation in

February, nominating Ms. Spurlin for the award. Bullock and several of Ms. Spurlin's students also wrote letters of recommendation following her nomination.

"(Ms. Spurlin) has fabulous German skills. She is very impressive in the classroom, and is wonderful with her stu-

Please see TEACHER, 5A

Teacher

Continued from 1A

Ms. Mays said. "Nowadays, a lot of districts have problems keeping a German program. But in Temple, the language has become popular, and that's a tribute to her work."

"Her German program has grown from one German teacher to two and one-half teachers," she said.

Since 1995, Ms. Spurlin has been responsible for coordinating THS's exchange program, which has given several students the opportunities to visit Germany.

"I think the program has become a very valuable tool for the school," Ms. Spurlin said. "It opens up the students to a whole new world when they are actually able to see another country with a first-hand perspective."

Ms. Spurlin is also responsible for the THS German class within its International Baccalaureate program.

According to Ms. Mays, Ms. Spurlin is one of Texas' foremost authorities on Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Story Telling, a foreign language teaching methodology.

"Many years ago, she has shared with me her experience in the classroom of teaching with TPRS," said Ms. Mays. "I cannot thank her enough for that."

"I began to attend workshops and seminars on the method, and it quickly became the way I wanted to teach."

Ms. Spurlin described the TPRS teaching method as one where students learn through reading stories in a foreign language, thus allowing them

to pick up their context, and using the words involved in their daily vocabulary.

"It's a lot of practice and repetition," Ms. Spurlin said. "But I think it works fantastically because the students are able to see the various contexts through which the language can be presented."

Originally from Nebraska, Ms. Spurlin attended school at Wartburg College in Iowa before moving to Texas for work. Ms. Spurlin said her German roots and a high school teacher she described as "phenomenal" inspired her to go into German education.

"Many colleges value students who have foreign language experience when they are looking at applicants," Ms. Spurlin said. "I think that they know students who have taken classes are more academically inclined, and are

open to exploring the world around them."

dfearson@temple-telegram.com

**From the TEMPLE DAILY TELEGRAM
Saturday, June 7, 2008
Submitted by Judith C. Renker**

THE TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY PRESENTS THE 20th ANNUAL WENDISH FEST FEATURING MUSICIANS FROM GERMANY

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society will host the 20th Annual Wendish Fest on Sunday, September 28, 2008, on the grounds of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society Museum and St. Paul Lutheran Church picnic grounds at Serbin, Texas.

The daylong event will begin at St. Paul Lutheran Church at 8:30 a.m. with an English Worship Service featuring the Rev. Jason Soenksen, Professor of Hebrew and Greek and the Old Testament in Concordia University Mequon, Mequon, Wisconsin.

The German worship service, again featuring Rev. Soenksen, will begin at 10:30 a.m. Rev. Paul Hartfield, Pastor Emeritus of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Serbin, will serve as liturgist in the German Worship Service.

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

Deadline for entries in the annual Coffeecake Bake-off is 10:30 a.m. and winners will be announced at 12:30 p.m. A new junior division (for participants 14 years and under) has been added to encourage the next generation of great cooks. Other contests for the adults include the washer pitching (2:00 p.m. with sign-up by 1:30 p.m. sharp), and a cross-cut saw contest for men, women, and mixed teams beginning at 4:45 p.m.

Children's contests will include the klettern pfosten, a coloring contest, and stick horse races. Other entertainment for the younger generation will include the moon walk, train rides, and face painting.

Demonstrations and activities throughout the day include tours of St. Paul Lutheran Church (12:30 and 1:30 p.m.), noodle-making, sausage stuffing, sauerkraut making, and blacksmithing. Kornelia Thor, from Leipzig, Germany, will demonstrate her expertise at decorating Wendish Easter eggs, and many of her decorated eggs will be available for purchase. Also on hand to demonstrate their Easter Egg Decorating techniques will be Michael and Susan Unger of Houston and Sandra Matthijetz of Winchester. There will also be displays of Antique and Classic Cars, antique tractors and farm equipment.

Kovanda's Czech Band will provide live music from 11:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Members of the Blaskapelle Königswartha Band from Zeissig, Germany, will provide the featured entertainment for this year's Fest beginning at 3:00 p.m. A number of the spouses and friends of the band members are planning on making a return trip to Serbin.

We invite you to come to join them in Serbin for the 20th Annual Wendish Fest where you will enjoy all of the usual attractions, demonstrations, food and fun that have become the hallmark of this "celebration of our Wendish heritage."

For more information, contact the Texas Wendish Heritage Society at 979-366-2441 or wendish@bluebon.net.

Serbin is located 5 miles southwest of Giddings via US 77 and FM roads 448 and 2239.

CIVIL WAR LETTER

This letter dated June 29 (no year) was probably written to Joseph Hoelscher by his older brother Anton Hoelscher, Jr. in 1863 during the Civil War. Joseph enlisted in the Texas State Troops – Dixie Rangers, Active Cavalry Company, Fayette County, TX, in June, 1861. Their headquarters were at Fayetteville, TX. He became a First Lieutenant in the 22nd Brigade, Texas State Troops, in May, 1862. Joseph and his family lived at Ross Prairie, northeast of Ellinger, TX.

On January 13, 1863, Anton Holscher, Jr. (Hoelscher) enlisted in Captain Z.M.P. Rabb's Company of Unattached Troops, 22nd Brigade, CSA, stationed at Columbus, TX. He served as a teamster for Messrs. Folsom and Sanborn under Major General Magruder. Anton and his family lived between Live Oak Hill and present-day Ellinger, TX.

The original letter was written in German.

June 29

Dear Brother,

We came back from Braunsvil ¹ three days ago. Thank God we are all well. Bernard's (their brother) wife and children are doing fine. We also have been to your house and they are doing well, too. In Braunsvil we bought a lot of clothes and we gave everybody some. Also to Rob and Beling and for all of us.

Now about our trip to the chaparels ² We were 6 wagons, Joseph with 3, myself, Birkman and your wagon. For half we received 1 bit ³ per pound freight. In Braunsvil, we got to deliver flour to Columbus. Every tenth sack went for the soldiers. Everything under 50 (2 C ⁴ gold and paper) had to go to the government store. Now I think I can count on 3-4 weeks; then I must go once again because everybody under 40 who does not drive for the government do not get a detail anymore and I think your wagon should be licensed for such a trip. Then I will go for half again and your wife will also get something. I would rather stay at home than travel so far, but I would rather drive than be in camp.

Now some news. Alsander resigned; Fricke is a captain. ⁵ While we were driving through Braunsvil the artillery and the infantry regiment where Fricke belonged were marching on their way to Colorado. ⁶ And they did not know anything else. On June 24 we were in Switham. ⁷ The women want to let the cotton stand until the men are able to come home.

Bernard's wife sold 3 young oxen for \$56. Oxen are very expensive. Wilhelm's (their brother) field is all planted like last year. Millet is bad; wheat and cotton are good and everything is *ersted*. ⁸

Things are scarce here, but your family has not been hungry. Bacon, bread and beef are plentiful, so be of good cheer. If you just come back healthy everything will be fine.

Paper money is doing bad, 5 to 1. But it does not make any difference. We have enough to live on and we can still get clothing. If only there would be peace!

Now something else. All our relatives are still healthy. I hope the same about all of you. Wilhelm's wife said yesterday: "If they will only come back by Christmas, then I will be happy."

This is all I know. Patience, my boys, do not lose your courage. God will direct you happily together. This is what I wish for you. It is all I can do. God's blessing. Mary full of grace, help us.

Best regards from Herrman (Beimer – married to Anton's niece Lucy Buxkemper), Elisabeth (his sister, married to Theodore Buxkemper) and mother (Mary Catherine Hoelscher). They were here Sunday and said everyone is still healthy and in the old trot. ⁹ Mother stayed at your house this week. Bernard's people were still healthy 5 day ago. ¹⁰

Your loving brother,
Anton Holscher (Hoelscher)

On page 2 of the letter, four lines are written upside down in the upper margin: "On the 6th of July there will be drafting of those from 18 to 50 years, without exemption of shoemaker and tailor. That is again serious for us. I do not know yet how bad it will result for us and what they are headed for."

- 1 German spelling for Brownsville on Texas-Mexico border
- 2 The "chaparral" is the flat, thorny mesquite-covered land of South Texas.
- 3 1 bit = 12 ½ cents
- 4 2C is probably \$200; C being the Roman numeral for 100.
- 5 This is a clue that the addressee might be Joseph, Anton's brother, since both of them were in the 22nd Brigade. Anton writes as though the addressee would know Alsander and Fricke.
- 6 Possibly referring to Colorado County
- 7 Location of Switham is questionable; it was a two-days' ride from Anton's home near Ellinger, as they had been back three days when this letter was written, and they were in Switham on the 24th
- 8 "erstet" refers to the first plowing
- 9 "in the old trot" is like "in the same old rut"
- 10 Bernard's family lived in the Content area of Colorado County, which was three miles away from present-day Weimar. If Anton saw them five days before the letter was written, it was also on the 24th. Therefore, Switham must have been in that area of Colorado County.

(Submitted by Carolyn Heinsohn, great-great granddaughter of Anton Hoelscher, Jr.)

Submitted by Anne Stewart

Page 8, The Comfort News

Thursday, May 22, 2008

The Life of Ernst Hermann Altgelt

A biographical sketch by Mrs. Ida Altgelt Scheweppe

By Anne Stewart

Life of Ernst Hermann Altgelt, Founder of Comfort, Kendall County, Texas A Biographical Sketch by Mrs. Ida Altgelt Scheweppe is the fifth in the Comfort Historians Series to be placed in the Comfort Public Library's Texana Collection.

During Comfort's 150th Jubilee Celebration in 2004, George Black, President of the Comfort Public Library Board and Anne and Mike Stewart met to discuss the possibility of getting Comfort's out-of-print authors back in to public view. Specifically, the Stewarts thought that too many of the Comfort histories had fallen into the crack and off the horizon.

The focus on each author and his or her book would begin with the best photograph of both that was available, which would be framed and placed in the library. No author could be highlighted until the library owned two copies of the book: one for check out and the other in Rare Books. One copy would also be made available to the Comfort Heritage Foundation as part of the long-going partnership between the two entities in preserving the cultural heritage of our community.

"Those who do not read history are forced to repeat it" was the mission statement for the project. No time line was set other than perhaps one historian a year could be highlighted.

It was agreed between Black, Patti Miles, Library Director and the Stewarts that the following authors would be included in this Comfort Historians Series: Emma Altgelt, Vera Flach, Ferdinand H. Lohmann, Ida Ingenhutt Perkins, Guido Ransleben, Albert Schuetze and Ida Scheweppe. The arrangement is alphabetical, not chronological.



Continued on next page

The Life Of Ernst Hermann Altgelt (continued)

Ida Altgelt Schweppe was born in Comfort, Texas in June 1863. Her father left for Germany about the same time and did not see his baby daughter until he returned at the end of the Civil War in June 1865. Ida always had a special feeling for her father.

When New Braunfels planned to erect a "Pioneer Memorial" honoring the early German settlers, Ida lobbied for her father's inclusion. She wanted him to be honored for founding the town of Comfort. In the spring of 1936, Comfort residents formed a committee to collect donations for the worthy project. Everyone from Mrs. Belsey, editor of *The Comfort News*, to the Comfort Hatchery, to many influential Comfort families donated anywhere from fifty cents to ten dollars to the fund.

Ida decided to write a biography of her father and actions in frontier Texas to impress his significance upon the New Braunfels Memorial Committee. She had twenty-five copies of her effort printed and circulated among the decision-makers. She wrote to her brother, Hermann, mourning the fact that she had "written a far too short piece about their father.

Ida Schweppe's biography of her fa-

ther was well-written. It is the first selection in this compilation of information about Ernst Hermann Altgelt. Two other entries are also written by Ida: "Recollections of an Indian Raid" and a poem written about the Altgelt's home, Wassenberg, near Boerne. Both by Ida.

To round out this tiny book, Anne Stewart wrote a brief review of Mr. Altgelt's eleven years in Comfort and a chronology of Ida Altgelt Schweppe's life. There is a list of other writings by Ida Schweppe. *The Comfort News* article about the donations to the Pioneer Memorial fund and sources of information.

Photographs were almost impossible to track down. Finally, a descendant of Ida's, Dr. Irving Schweppe of Houston wrote to say he had two photos of Ida, one when she was sixteen and the other when she was 60. He generously donated excellent black and white photocopies for the book. Roy Perkins generously made available copies of two photos of Ernst Hermann Altgelt: one as a "dashing cavalier" and the other as an older man.

Comfort Historians and their books in this series that are available at the

Comfort Library are [A Hundred Years of Comfort in Texas](#) by Guido Ransleben, [A Yankee in German America](#) by Vera Flach, [Comfort-1904](#) by Professor Ferdinand H. Lohmann and [Memories of the Comfort Colony](#) by Emma Murck Altgelt. [Life of Ernst Hermann Altgelt](#) by Ida Altgelt Schweppe joins them.

Early Comfort history is packed into these twenty-eight (28) pages. Please schedule time to read these memoirs. Think, only in Comfort.

The Comfort News June 5, 2008

CHF Awards Banquet Monday

By Pam Duke

On Monday, May 12, the Comfort Heritage Foundation membership voted on the 2008 Awards Recipients. Four Awards were chosen. They are: Harriet Gorman for the restoration of the buildings at the old "Armadillo Farm; Frank and Ruth Kiel for spearheading the restoration of the Brownsboro Cemetery; Ignacio Salas Humara for his work on the Comfort State Bank Bldg., and along with his wife Dinah Zike for the restoration of the Flach/Ingenhuett home and grounds; and Tommy Titsworth for writing his book on "Early Comfort, Texas Cabinet

Maker: A History" published in the Fall of 2007.

These people will be honored at the Annual Awards Banquet whose theme this year is "Father Knows Best", on Monday, June 9 at The Comfort Cloisters (corner of 5th and Main). Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased from Harriet Kirchhoff at the Frog and the Dragonfly.

There is a Social Hour and Penny Auction from 6-7 p.m. Auction chairperson Fran King said, "The Penny Auction has given our members a fun way to contribute to the treasury as well as to acquire some delightful

items." Call Fran at 995-2871 or email her at kelsgajo@yahoo.com if you have an item to be picked up or bring your donation by her house at 237 Broadway. The more donated items, mean more fun and more money raised for CHF.

The dinner will begin at 7 p.m. followed by the awards presentation. If you plan to attend please R.S.V.P to Aggie Burgess 995-5163 (leave name and number of tickets needed). No tickets will be sold at the door. You do not have to be a member to attend. Guests are welcome.

**From *The Comfort News*
Submitted by Anne Stewart**

Titsworth's book on Comfort Cabinetmakers a gem

By Anne Stewart

When Esther Wiedenfeld encouraged Tommy Titsworth to write a book about Comfort's handmade furniture, she was not certain it would happen. Never the less, she kept telling Tommy she knew he could do it. And she was correct. Early Comfort, Texas Cabinet Makers: A History of Hill Country Furniture came out in October 2007. Tommy mailed a copy to Esther and she heartily approved of his final effort, as well she should.

Tommy took every photograph in the book. They catch wonderful details like dovetailing and bookcase ends featuring a bearded man pouring over an open book (see page 84) and an ancient, primitive milking stool. More than two dozen cabinetmakers are featured, some of whom were professional builders and others who built what was needed. (See Chapter 2: Mama Needs It . . . Papa Makes It, page 58) Over eighty-five pieces of furniture are documented.

Tommy Titsworth's personality is apparent on every page. His respect for and admiration of the Comfort cabinetmakers and the handmade pieces they



Tommy Titsworth with a copy of his book on Early Comfort, Texas Cabinetmakers.

produced is quickly discerned. Tommy's sense of humor, jokes and philosophy of life spills out of the book and draws the reader inside looking for more. Tommy assured each person whose furniture appears in the book that the ownership would be kept private and undisclosed. Antique dealers and collectors wanting to buy family treasures would be unable to locate and pestle family members. It is a pleasure

to deal with a person of integrity in today's world.

Tommy's wife, Sylvia, supported him every step of the way through the long and wearying process of producing a book. People whose furniture appears in the book welcomed the couple into their home and tell stories of the fun they enjoyed and how much they learned about their own possessions.

Sylvia describes the book as a "labor of love." She encourages those fortunate enough to own a handmade piece to "treasure your old works of art." She also advises that every bit of history, known about the piece be written down and given to the next generation so they will be aware they are "guardians of a large part of Comfort history."

A few copies of Early Comfort, Texas Cabinet Makers are still available. Contact the author sooner rather than later. Join us at the CHF Awards Banquet Monday evening, June 9, 2008 at the Comfort Cloisters honoring award winners Harriet Gorman, Ruth and Frank Kiel, Ignacio Salas-Humara and Dinah like and Tommy Titsworth. Ticket information is available from all CHF members.

The Little Room that “grew”!

by Everett A. Fey, SS Peter & Paul Archives

When the Catholic colonists arrived in New Braunfels with Prince Solms, they were not as well organized as their Protestant Brethren. Prince Solms had met several times with Bishop Odin, the Catholic Prelate of Texas, but no priest could be found for our community. Thus, priests from San Antonio, Castroville and even Frelsberg were enlisted to visit, on occasion, to celebrate Services for the Catholics.

In 1847, a “provisional hut of wood” was completed on the corner of Bridge and Castell Streets. It served as a temporary church for two years but even the Bishop realized that this building was too small and not adequate for Services.

In the Summer of 1849, Bishop Odin was able to arrange for the building of our first permanent church ... the Black Walnut Church! Dedicated on Sept. 9th of 1849, it was only 35' by 25' but it allowed the Catholics to hold their worship services in a more dignified place. To complete the joy for that year, Father Gottfried Menzel, arrived in Galveston and was immediately assigned to New Braunfels. Thus the parish had a resident pastor and a new church in 1849!

The Walnut Church, dedicated to “St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles”, served the congregation in the decade before and during the Civil War. Then, with a growing congregation, it became evident that a larger Church was necessary.

The Zeitung of June 30th, 1871, stated that the Bishop came to town on June 25th to dedicate the cornerstone of the new Stone Church. It related that the new Church was being built around the old church so that services could continue, on an uninterrupted basis, during the entire construction of the new Church.

Three years later, in the Sept. 25th, 1874 issue of the Zeitung, we read (since the new church is now completed for use) that the wood from the Walnut Church will now be sold at auction in the church-yard on Oct. 19th, 1874. [In the 1940s, these plans were confirmed in a college thesis when the pastor, Msgr. John J. Robling, was quoted as saying “... that’s where the saying came from - ‘they carried the old church out the front door of the new church’ ”!

Mass, Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages and Burials were thus continuously performed in that space within those Walnut Church walls – and in 1874, that space became larger and extended to the present side walls and the front wall of the new church. The Church was now dedicated to both Saint’s Peter and Saint’s Paul patronage. There was no interruption in the Services ... but now, “the little Room of 1849 had grown larger!”

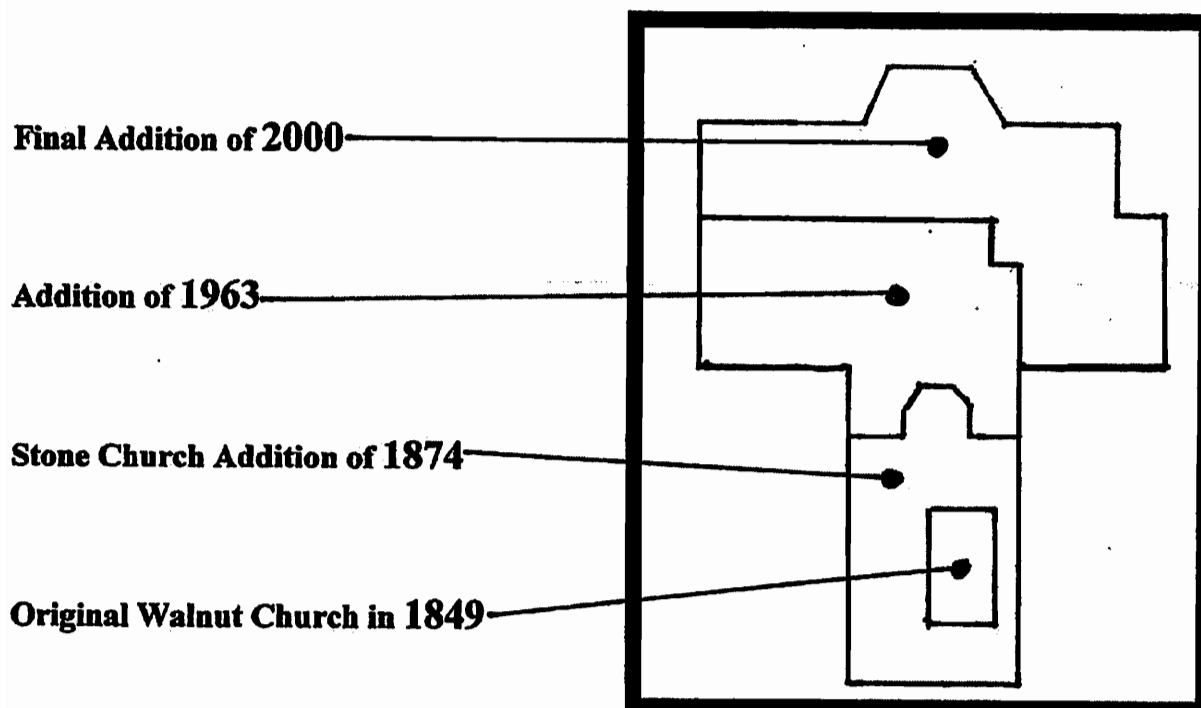
Over the next three decades, the pastors added Altars from the Sievers Co. in San Antonio, Stained Glass windows, a new interior ceiling and Organ and other amenities as were proper in a House of God. It also became a "painted Church".

By 1963, the Congregation had grown to the extent that more space was needed. The parish decided to keep as many of the original walls as possible and simply added more space to the front of the church, thereby doubling the size of the Church. For us, at its completion, the interior looked much the same, but ... "the little Room of 1849 had again grown some more!"

In the late 1990s, it was realized that more room was needed and in 2000 the final renovation was complete. Again ... "the original Room of 1849 had grown once more" ... this time it became many times its original size.

Today, as I visit the Church on a quiet week day, I kneel where my great, great, great-grandparents, Stephen and Margaretha Klein, knelt – then I move up a few feet and stand where my grandfather, Theodore Wenzel, was the Sacristan – next I move further up to the spot where my brother, Frederic Fey, was ordained a Deacon – and finally, all the way to the last addition where my daughter, Janice, was married last year! What memories from this "the little room of 1849 that grew".

A Diagram of "the little Room of 1849 that grew"



From USA TODAY
Friday, Oct. 6, 2006
 Submitted by Anna Thompson

10 great places to toast German heritage

More than 60 million Americans trace their roots back to German-speaking countries. So it's no surprise large quantities of bratwurst and lager will be consumed during German Heritage month (October) and German-American Day (today). **William Gilcher**, media director of the Washington, D.C., office of the Goethe Institute (goethe.de), shares his favorite German-American places and German-made icons with **Ayesha Court** for USA TODAY.

New Ulm

Minnesota

This small Midwest city was founded by German Turners, "idealistic revolutionaries" who migrated to America after the failed 1848 German Revolution, according to Gilcher. Featuring an 1897 statue of German hero Hermann, who defeated the Romans in the first century AD, a Glockenspiel and a German-Bohemian monument in German Park dedicated to the town's settlers, the town also "celebrates Oktoberfest in great style," Gilcher says. 888-463-9856; newulm.com.

San Francisco landmarks

California

Next time you zip up your jeans, thank Bavarian immigrant Levi Strauss, who founded Levis here in 1853 to supply "hard-wearing pants to prospectors" searching for California gold, Gilcher says. Two of San Francisco's best-known landmarks were built by Germans: Joseph Strauss designed the 1937 Golden Gate Bridge, and Bernard Maybeck, son of a German immigrant, designed the Palace of Fine Arts. 415-391-2000; onlyinsanfrancisco.com.

The Brooklyn Bridge

Brooklyn, New York

"For a thought-provoking and fun way to think about German-American heritage, take a walk — not a drive — across the Brooklyn Bridge," Gilcher says. Designed and built between 1869 and 1883 by John Augustus Roebling and his son, it was originally meant for pedestrians. "There's no more beautiful view of New York" than from this American icon, and it's a "proud example of what German-born engineers and architects brought to this land." greatbuildings.com/buildings/Brooklyn_Bridge.html.

Amana Colonies

Eastern Iowa

From 1855 to 1932, one of America's longest-running utopian communities thrived in these seven villages encompassing more than 20,000 acres. "I go crazy when I visit here — the architecture is beautiful, the woolens are handsome and sturdy, and the food is to die for," Gilcher says. Make sure you "try a glass of rhubarb wine called Pie-Stengel." 800-579-2294; amanacolonies.com.



Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Ephrata Cloister: The Saal, or meeting house, at the cloister near Philadelphia.

Cincinnati

"You can't miss the German-style buildings and another beautiful bridge by (John) Augustus Roebling," Gilcher says of the John A. Roebling Suspension Bridge here. But with what organizers claim is the largest North American Oktoberfest — more than 500,000 attend each year in mid-September, consuming 80,500 bratwurst and 64,000 sauerkraut balls among other German delicacies — it's also "worth going and helping folks deal with all that food." 513-579-3124; www.oktoberfest-zinzinnati.com.

New Braunfels

Texas

In 1846, a year after German Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels founded this eponymous Texas town, many of the second wave of German immigrants here were wiped out by disease and the Mexican war. "It's one of the great stories of pioneers, hardship and perseverance," Gilcher says. The town now is also famous for its 10-day November Wurstfest, and the local Sophienburg Museum details the town's unusual history. 800-572-2626; wurstfest.com.

Ephrata Cloister

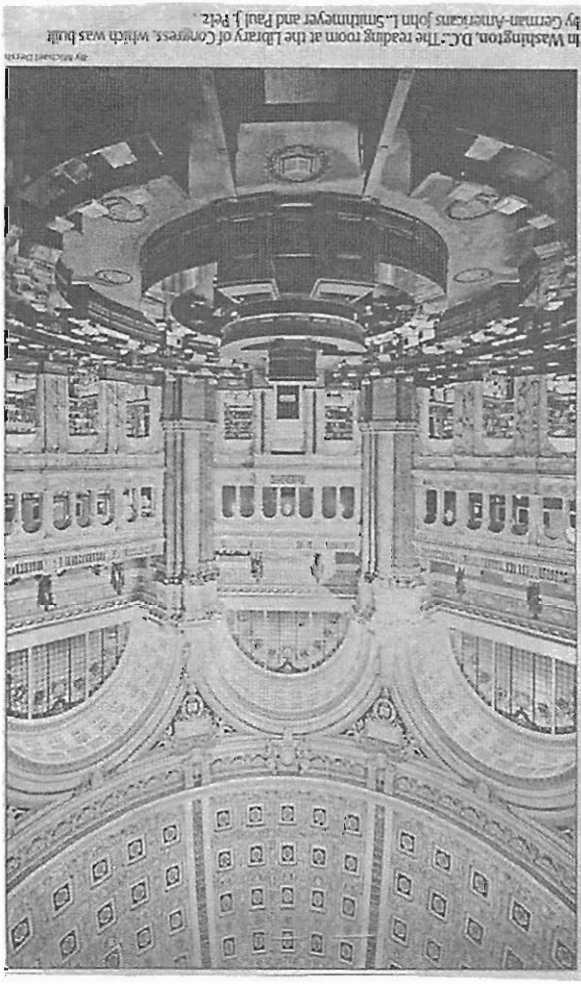
Ephrata, Pa.

Founded in 1732 by Conrad Beissel and his Pietist followers after being banished from Germany, Ephrata is "one of the strangest, most beautiful and best-preserved sites of 18th-century German life," Gilcher says. Famed for its graphic arts and musical traditions, this rare Protestant cloister near Philadelphia is "imbued with a sense of mysticism." 717-733-6600; ephratacloister.org.

Cincinnati
 "You can't miss the German-style buildings and another beautiful bridge by (John) Augustus Roebling," Gilcher says of the John A. Roebling Suspension Bridge here. But with what organizers claim is the largest North American Oktoberfest — more than 500,000 attend each year in mid-September, consuming 80,500 bratwurst and 64,000 sauerkraut balls among other German delicacies — it's also "worth going and helping folks deal with all that food." 513-579-3124; www.oktoberfest-zinzinnati.com.

Adolf Cluss architecture
 Washington, D.C.
 After the Civil War, German-American architect Adolf Cluss "transformed and modernized" the nation's capital, says Gilcher. "For German-American day, have lunch and a beer at Eastern Market" — the 1870s Capitol Hill public market Cluss built — and visit the Library of Congress built by German-Americans John L. Smithmeyer and Paul J. Pelz. "Or stroll through the Smithsonian's Arts and Industries Building," also Cluss-built 800-422-8644; adolf-cluss.org.

New Paltz
 New York
 "A delightful town in the Hudson Valley" with "handsome old stone buildings," reminiscent of Europe, Gilcher says. Visitors to historic Huguenot Street can view seven original homes built by French Huguenots who had sought refuge in Germany's Palatine region. Forced to flee the French army again, they honored their adopted German home, Paltz, by naming their final home in America the way they pronounced it, "Paltz." Not long afterward, a second wave of German immigrants from the region arrived here, and their architecture and culture is still visible. 845-255-1660; his-newpaltz.org.



AP/WIDEWORLD PHOTOS
 In Washington, D.C.—The reading room at the Library of Congress, which was built by German-Americans John L. Smithmeyer and Paul J. Pelz.

Deutsche Haus-Athenaeum
 Indianapolis
 Once one of America's largest social clubs, the 1898 German-style Deutsche Haus-Athenaeum at the Indiana University-Purdue University here is "not only a beautiful spot," Gilcher says, "it's also a wonderful research center" for German-American history as it now houses the Max Kade German-American Center. You'll find "great people to talk with — especially the directors, Eberhard and Ruth Reichmann, who will talk your ears off about the rich history of Germans in Indiana and America." 317-464-9004; www.uib.indupui.edu/kade.

BERLIN AIRLIFTS REMEMBERED



From the *NEW BRAUNFELS HERALD*,
Submitted by Helgard Suhr-Hollis

June 24, 2008 edition.

Local residents were children when Soviets blocked access to Berlin 60 years ago this week

By **Mitzie Stelte**
The Herald-Zeitung

Sixty years ago, Helgard Suhr-Hollis looked to the sky. "You could see a plane on the horizon every minute," Helgard said. "It was really amazing."

The New Braunfels resident was a small child living outside Berlin when the Allies came to the aide of two million West Berliners in the world's largest humanitarian effort.

On June 24, 1948 — three years after the defeat of Adolph Hitler — the Soviet Union instituted a blockade of West Berlin trying to force out the Americans and the British.

Two days later, 32 American planes began bringing in 80

tons of supplies including powdered milk, flour and medicine.

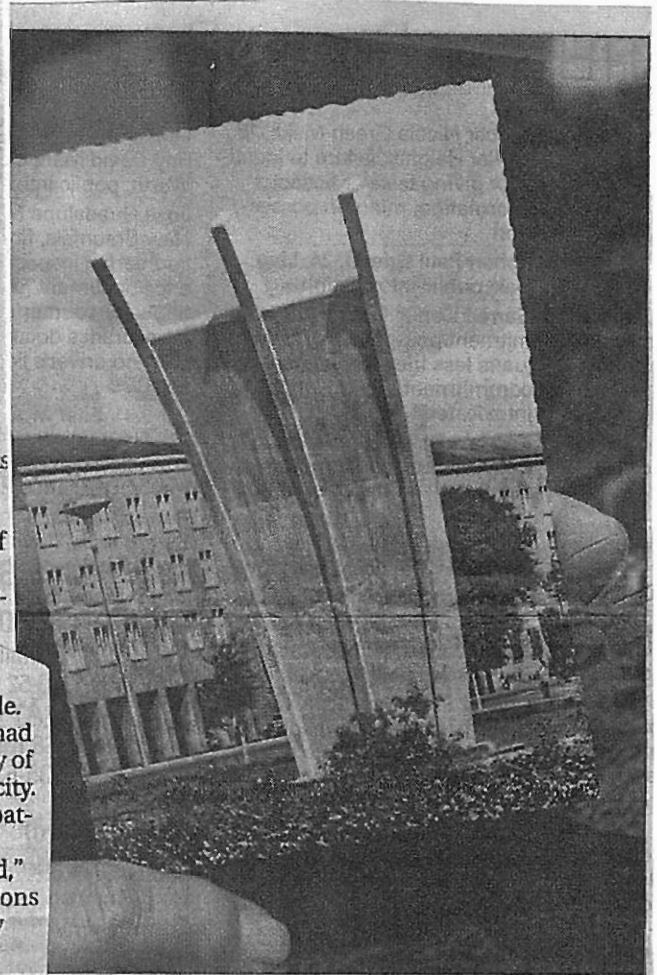
During the around-the-clock airlift which lasted more than 11 months, some 277,000 flights were made from airports in Hannover, Frankfurt and Hamburg. Many of the flights were at three minute intervals.



Helgard Suhr-Hollis

Helgard said times in post-war Berlin were horrible. Many of the men had died and it was up to many of the women to rebuild the city. The blockade only exacerbated the situation.

"Berlin became an island," she said. "They saved millions of lives by flying over every day."



LAURA MCKENZIE/Herald-Zeitung

ABOVE LEFT: Marlis Coons sits beside her husband, Darryl, as she shares memories of growing up in West Berlin on Thursday in New Braunfels. ABOVE: Helgard Suhr-Hollis holds a postcard of the Airlift Monument at the Berlin Airport.

continued on next page

Berlin's Airlift Remembered (con't)

Fellow New Braunfels resident Marlis Coons, was an infant in West Berlin during the Airlift, which she attributes to the kind treatment her family received from Soviet soldiers who had taken over their apartment building.

"They liked children," said Marlis. "My mother said the

soldiers would come in and play with me and give me chocolate.

"That's why they left her alone," she said.

Marlis' mother told her how she didn't sleep through the first year of her life because of

AIRLIFT

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Local residents were children in Berlin during airlifts

sirens constantly going off and having to run to cellars and bunkers, and she said she can't imagine how devastating it must have been.

"It was a lifesaver," said Marlis of the Airlift. "I don't know how many people got food and were able to survive."

Just prior to the Soviet Union's lifting of the blockade on May 12, 1949, and the end of the Airlift, an average of 8,000 tons of goods were being flown in daily. In total, than 2 million tons were delivered.

Years after the humanitarian effort, both Helgard and Marlis moved to Texas.

Marlis' husband, Darrell, was in the army and stationed in Berlin from 1966

to 1969 gathering information from the Soviets during the Cold War. They met and she moved with him to Texas.

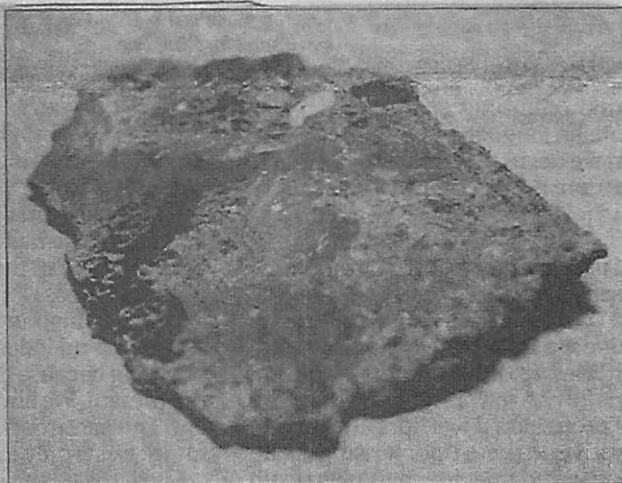
Helgard met her husband, Patrick, after arriving in Texas in 1962 with a friend from school with an uncle in San Antonio. She described Texas as a place where it "never rained and never snowed."

The two friends came to New Braunfels because of the German heritage and worked at Eden Home. Helgard met her husband and stayed, while her friend returned to Germany two years later.

"We're lucky here in the states," said Helgard, as she described the past devastation done to Berlin.

She then shook her head, pointing out similarities between then and today, as the U.S. spends billions repairing the bombing carried out in Iraq.

"History repeats itself," she said.



LAURA MCKENZIE/Herald-Zeitung

Marlis Coons was able to get this piece of the Berlin Wall when she returned to Germany in 1990.

From the AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMEN, Sept. 30, 2006

Submitted by Anna Thompson

Heirlooms are abloom in autumn

An old garden favorite, oxblood lilies explode with color after the season's first showers

By Julie Bonnin
SPECIAL TO THE AMERICAN-STATESMAN

All over town, oxblood lilies (*Rhodophiala bifida*) have been signaling the arrival of fall, poking their brilliantly colored heads from the ground, grateful for rain showers. Their sudden appearance after being dormant all summer is always a pleasant surprise.

The slender green stalks topped with rust-red blooms in my garden were a double surprise, because I had the mistaken impression that the bulbs I had planted were rain lilies. I'd stumbled across a stash of bulbs scattered on the ground at the site of an abandoned homestead in South Austin last spring, not knowing whether they'd been unearthed by animals or vandals. Couldn't just let them lie there, wasting all that potential. And because the only bulbs I'd seen blooming at this spot were white or pink-tinged rain lilies (*Zephyranthes*), I assumed that was what these were.

The bold red flowers are also known as schoolhouse lilies, because they typically bloom about the time that school starts, and they've been a sign of autumn in Austin and other Central Texas towns for more than 100 years. In his book "Garden Bulbs for the South," Scott Ogden writes that the bulbs, natives of South America, were introduced by Peter Henry Oberwetter, a German naturalist (and florist) who settled in Comfort in the 1840s and later lived in Austin.

Tough but beautiful, these old-fashioned heirlooms (like rain lilies) are members of the amaryllis family, and can be seen blooming at places such as the Austin Museum of Art at Laguna Gloria gardens and older neighborhoods. (A recent check at the location where I originally found the scattered bulbs revealed a small stand blooming among the more prevalent rain lilies.)

Oxblood lilies are not sold



Bill Scheick

Oxblood lilies, also called schoolhouse lilies, are South American natives that are well-adapted to Central Texas.

through most plant nurseries and are most commonly acquired from gardeners willing to divide and share after the blooms and leaves have long faded. But they're worth seeking out: You can't get much more low-maintenance than a flower that blooms without any care after one of the toughest summers on record.

Saving native plants

When the bulldozers roll, native plants don't have to be lost. Neighbors in the Bull Creek area are making sure of that today with a native plant rescue at a future construction site near RM 2222 and Jester Boulevard.

Several hundred plants such as live oaks, red oaks and a few Escarpment black cherry seedlings; agarita, Zexmenia, and little bluestem and other native grasses will be carefully removed from designated areas and potted up. Eventually they'll be replanted in schoolyard wildlife habitats and city parks and reserves, says Dale Bulla, a member of the Bull Creek Foundation and the Native Plant Society of Texas Austin chapter and a habitat steward with the National Wildlife Federation.

"We want to raise awareness with people that when a site is

being bulldozed we ought to be thinking about removing and reintroducing the plants back into our ecosystem," Bulla says.

The developer, Champion Partners, agreed to the native plant rescue and other conservation measures on the 60-acre site, which is zoned for mixed use retail and office space. A portion of the site will be left in its natural state. Ryan Nelson of Champion says the cooperative effort is a first for the Dallas-based company.

"We're really excited about it and hope to do it again in the future. There really isn't any cost to anybody other than the time from the volunteers. It's something the neighborhood wanted to do and it takes advantage of a beautiful site," he says.

Garden photography

Prepare to be inspired: The American Horticultural Society is offering a two-day seminar Oct. 26 and 27 on "The Art & Science of Garden Photography" at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. The event is part of the society's Garden School series. It features Brian and Shirley Loflin, the Texas naturalist/photography team behind "Grasses of the Texas Hill Country"; Van Chaplin, senior garden photographer for

Southern Living magazine, and Mark Simmons, restoration ecologist at the wildflower center. Field studies and lunch are also included. Registration is through the society at www.ahs.org or (703) 768-5700, ext. 137. Fees run from \$435 to \$465.

Schools and gardens

Anyone who's ever witnessed the thundering herds of children in a Marathon Kids run knows the value of this home-grown program designed to get kids out and moving. Now the annual RunTex event, which will involve 40,000 youths in Central Texas alone, has partnered with the Sustainable Food Center. The center is offering to help schools start a Marathon Kids 5-a-Day Schoolyard Garden. Children will plant and water the seeds in these edible gardens and eat the food they grow. Schools that sustain a garden for six months will receive a special award at the Marathon Kids Final Mile medal celebration in February. To learn more, or to volunteer, contact the Sustainable Food Center, 236-0074, Ext. 8.

Fall fire ant alert

Like many of us, fire ants have been lying low (deep underground, in their case) during the hot, dry summer months. But moisture and cooler temperatures bring the pests back to the surface, where they may already be building their mounds and staking out territory in your yard.

According to Texas Cooperative Extension entomologists, dry baits are effective in eliminating fire ants, but can take a long time to work. Applying them now increases the chances of destroying the colony before spring. Also, ants tend to stock up on food in the fall, so they're more likely to take the bait.

Ants are most active when high temperatures are in the upper 80s to low 90s and low temperatures are in the 60s or higher, so now's the time to spread the bait around the yard. For faster results, individual mounds may also be treated with a drench; both organic and inorganic options are available.

Brewer banking on beer budgets

"There are certain things in life people don't want to cut back. You can't take all the fun out of life. When you have to spend vacations at home, you at least want to drink some good beer."

Dennis Wehrmann, German-born beer brewer and owner of Franconia Brewing Co.

Franconia tries to build following despite economy

By ANGELA SHAH
Staff Writer
ashah@dallasnews.com

McKINNEY — Dennis Wehrmann may have one hedge against a broad economic slowdown: His business is beer. Beer consumption can be resistant to the ups and downs in an economy, a crucial advantage for his Franconia Brewing Co., which opened in February.

"There are certain things in life people don't want to cut back," he said. "You can't take all the fun out of life. When you have to spend vacations at home, you at least want to drink some good beer."

As Mr. Wehrmann began filling his kegs, prices for ingredients soared. Bulk grain shot to 45 cents a pound from 19 cents in October. A pound of hops jumped from around \$12 to \$58 in the same period.

He had to quickly alter his business plan to cut costs, including scuttling a tasting room. Still, he said, he's pleased with the response to his brews, an orange-golden lager and a citrusy ale, now on tap at about a dozen North Texas restaurants and bars.

Named after the area in Bavaria that Mr. Wehrmann calls home, Franconia joins a small fraternity of independent breweries in the state, including a

handful in North Texas. Though the state is ranked third in overall beer consumption, Texas is only middle of the pack in beer production, according to the Brewers Association in Boulder, Colo.

Brock Wagner said when he first opened his Saint Arnold Brewing Co. in Houston in 1994, "Texas drinkers did not embrace craft beer on a large scale." Many of his contemporaries' breweries didn't make it, he said.

But about six years ago, the investment banker-turned-brewer began to notice that the average age of his customer was dropping.

"Instead of being about 30, they were in their mid-20s," he said. "Now we see people in their early 20s."

See **BREWER** Page 6D

Green beer

Dennis Wehrmann aims to make his brewery as green as possible. Here are a few parts of his eco-friendly program:

Used mash is sold to a local dairy farmer to use as feed.

Recycled water is used to make the beer.

Recycled materials were used in constructing the brewery.

The upshot: His monthly energy bill is about \$750.

SOURCE: Franconia Brewing Co.



Dennis Wehrmann scoops up a handful of malt at his brewery, which he runs with an eye toward being environmentally friendly.

Sizing it up

A majority of the 1,500 breweries in the U.S. are craft brewers. Here are the different types of breweries:

Brew pub: Produces 15,000 barrels a beer or less and sells 25 percent or more of what it makes on site.

Microbrewery: Produces 15,000 barrels or less but sells 75 percent of what it produces off site.

Regional craft brewery: Produces 15,000 to 2 million barrels. It must have independent ownership.

Large brewery: Produces more than 2 million barrels.

continued on next page

Brewer taps beer budgets

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owner, and by July 2003, Mr. Wehrmann was Two Rows head brewer.

Once the Wehrmanns decided last year to open their own brewery, they applied for a \$1.5 million loan for the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Not a surprise, then, that beer has long run through the veins of Mr. Wehrmann's family. His great-grandfather began brewing in 1845, and it's his likeness that graces the brewery's icon. Mr. Wehrmann completed rigorous coursework and apprenticeships in Germany and now essentially has a doctorate in beer.

In fact, only Mr. Wehrmann's father, a detective with the German national police, has carved out a different professional path from the family. "He still drinks beer, though," Mr. Wehrmann said.

About five years ago, he and his U.S.-born wife decided they wanted to live in the United States. They didn't know where exactly, so they took two three-week vacations, traveling around the nation. In summer 2003, they came to North Texas — Mrs. Wehrmann spent part of her childhood here — and stopped at Two Rows restaurant in Addison.

A conversation with the brewer led to one with the owner, and by July 2003, Mr. Wehrmann was Two Rows head brewer.

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Continued from Page 10

The growth of the foodie movement in the United States also has boosted the fortunes of craft beer, said Julia Herz, the association's craft beer program director. As the American palate has become more sophisticated, "we all want more flavor and diversity," she said.

Mr. Wehrmann approaches beer-making with a chef's dedication to detail. "Hops is the spice to the beer," he explains, fingering the seedlike grain, "like salt and pepper to soup."

Mr. Wehrmann and his sole employe, Gavin Sechl, brew each batch themselves, starting by creating the mash out of barley and water, and choosing the hops. Lagers are fermented cold for up to seven days, while ales ferment more quickly in warmer temperatures, in two to three days. The McKinney brewery's 21 stainless steel vats can brew as many as 15,000 kegs annually.

Once the kegs are filled, they sit in cold storage — up to six weeks for lagers — to age. Each Wednesday, the men personally make beer deliveries. Mr. Wehrmann's wife, JoIne, helps in the office when she can.

"It's pretty fun," Mr. Wehr-

will do that?" he asked. hour. "How many distributors ery himself — no matter the away and will make the deliv- Mr. Wehrmann is only a call If a client runs out of beer, er service. product and solicitous custom- cusing on the basics: a quality In the meantime, he's fo- able in about a year. retailers. He hopes to be profit- facility so Franconia can sell to mann wants to build a bottling end. And someday, Mr. Wehr- room could be open by year- best. The delayed tasting seasonal brew in time for Okto- style dark beer along with a he hopes to add a German- nomic environment right now, Despite the difficult eco- loan was for a brewery," he work. "Maybe it was because the considering all of the paper- cess surprisingly easy, even man said he found the pro- hampering lenders, Mr. Wehr- tion. Despite a credit crunch Small Business Administra- lion project through the U.S. \$1.5 million loan for the U.S. own brewery, they applied for a cided last year to open their Once the Wehrmanns de- head brewer. Wehrmann was Two Rows owner, and by July 2003, Mr.

**THE FAMILY OF
WILHELMINE HAFERKAMP MEYER
AND HEINRICH MEYER**
By Daniel Bode

MARIE WILHELMINE ENGEL HAFERKAMP was born in Haldem, Westphalia, Germany, on 12 September 1840. *Tante Wilhelmine* is the sister of my great-great-grandfather, Henry Haferkamp, and recently, I found out she is the great-grandmother of my 4th grade reading teaching, Mrs. Maureen Moore—just shows how small the world is! Wilhelmine Haferkamp was baptized 20 September 1840, and confirmed 15 April 1855, in the Lutheran Church parish of Dielingen, Westphalia, Germany.

Wilhelmine's father was "**Kurt**" **Cord Heinrich Wilhelm Haferkamp**, who was born in Arrenkamp, Westphalia, Germany, on 7 Nov. 1812, and he died at the age of 41 years in Haldem, Westphalia, on 8 Feb. 1854. Wilhelmine's mother was **Marie Elisabeth Lucie Hantker**, who was born in Brockum, Westphalia, on 10 May 1813, and she died at the age of 56 years in Haldem, Westphalia, on 31 March 1870. Wilhelmine's parents were married 20 July 1838 in Dielingen Lutheran Church parish.

Wilhelmine's parents had six children in all—they were:

1. **Wilhelm Heinrich David "Henry" Haferkamp** born 7 Dec. 1838, in Haldem, Westphalia; was baptized 16 Dec. 1838, and confirmed 10 April 1853, in Dielingen Lutheran Church parish. Henry married **Margarethe Engel Agnes Gaskamp** on 13 March 1866, in Dielingen Lutheran Church parish. Henry and Agnes Haferkamp left Germany in Oct. 1871 and moved to Washington County, Texas, where they lived until about 1905 when they moved to McLennan County, Texas. Agnes died 7 April 1912, at Riesel, Texas. Henry died 28 March 1928, at Riesel, at the age of 89. Henry and Agnes are buried at the Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery neat Riesel.
2. **Marie Wilhelmine Engel Haferkamp** born 12 Sept. 1840*****
3. **Charlotte Louise Engel Haferkamp** born 30 Aug. 1842, in Haldem, Westphalia. She was baptized 18 Sept. 1842, in Dielingen Lutheran Church parish. This child died 13 Nov. 1842, in Haldem.
4. **Caroline Louise Sophie Haferkamp** born 26 March 1848, in Haldem, Westphalia. She was baptized 2 April 1848, in Dielingen Lutheran Church parish. This child died 25 Feb. 1849, in Haldem.
5. **Johann Friedrich Wilhelm Haferkamp** born 14 March 1851, in Haldem, Westphalia. He was baptized 23 March 1851, in Dielingen Lutheran Church parish. This child died 28 March 1851, in Haldem.
6. **Friedrich Heinrich Carl Haferkamp** born 14 March 1851, in Haldem, Westphalia. He was baptized 23 March 1851, in Dielingen Lutheran Church parish. This child died 22 May 1861, in Haldem, at the age of 10 years.

.....
I know life was far from easy for Tante Wilhelmine as she lost her father when she was only 13 years old, plus having to deal with the loss of her younger siblings. I'm sure she worked hard from a young age to help her mother keep the household going and to help her brother Henry with tasks that needed to be done to support the family.

According to the records of the Lutheran Church of Dielingen, Westphalia, **Wilhelmine** had two children born to her while she was still a single woman. The first was a son, **Friedrich Heinrich Haferkamp**, born 13 April 1868, in Haldem, Westphalia. This child was baptized 19 April 1868, in Dielingen Lutheran Church parish, and he died 18 July 1870, in Haldem. The second child was an **unnamed infant** that was born and died 17 May 1871, in Haldem. **Wilhelmine's** mother died in March 1870, and in Oct. 1871, her brother Henry and his family left Germany for Texas. Apparently, **Wilhelmine** lived alone in her family home until her marriage. On 4 October 1872, **Wilhelmine Haferkamp** married a young widower, **CHRISTIAN HERMANN HEINRICH MEYER**, in Dielingen Lutheran Church parish. **Christian Hermann Heinrich Meyer** was born 12 October 1838, in Haldem, Westphalia. He was baptized 21 Oct. 1838, and he was confirmed 10 April 1853, in Dielingen Lutheran Church parish. **Heinrich Meyer** was the son of **Friedrich Heinrich Meyer** (born 1806; died 1842) and **Marie Margarethe Engel Bomelman** (born 1799; died 1861). **Heinrich Meyer's** first wife was **Catherine Margarethe Louise Gokemeyer**. She was born 11 Nov. 1833, and died 29 May 1871, in Haldem. They were married 2 March 1866, in Dielingen Lutheran Church parish. **Wilhelmine** and **Heinrich Meyer** lived the first years of their marriage in Haldem where their first five children were born. In 1881, the Meyer Family left Germany for Texas, where they settled in the Zionsville Community of Washington County. **Wilhelmine's** brother and his family were living in this community. The Meyer Family became members of Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville, and their sixth and last child was born in Washington County in 1882. **Wilhelmine** and **Heinrich Meyer** also suffered the heartbreaking loss of two of their children in 1882. About 1907-08, **Wilhelmine** and **Heinrich Meyer** left Washington County and moved near Riesel, Texas. They became members of the Trinity Lutheran Church, located in the Perry Community in Falls County, near Riesel. **Wilhelmine's** brother, **Henry Haferkamp** and his wife, **Agnes**, and several of their children had also settled in this area. **Heinrich Meyer** died at Riesel, Texas, on New Year's Day, 1 January 1916, at the age of 77 years. Eight years later, **Wilhelmine Haferkamp Meyer** died at Riesel on 2 Nov. 1924, at the age of 84 years. **Heinrich** and **Wilhelmine** are both buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery near Riesel.

The six children of Heinrich and Wilhelmine Haferkamp Meyer:

I. Henriette Wilhelmine Louise Meyer was born 29 December 1872, in Haldem, Westphalia, Germany. **Henriette** was baptized 12 January 1873, in Dielingen Lutheran Church parish, and she was confirmed 18 April 1886, at Zion Lutheran Church in Zionsville, Washington County, Texas. **Henriette Meyer** married **Wilhelm Heinrich Klander** on 3 Nov. 1892, in Zionsville, Texas. **Wilhelm Klander** was born 31 July 1871, in Zionsville; he was the son of **Heinrich Klander** and **Wilhelmine Eickenhorst**.

Henriette and **Wilhelm Klander** lived the first years of their marriage in Washington County before moving to Riesel. About 1925, the Klander Family moved to Houston. **Wilhelm Klander** died in Houston, Texas, on New Year's Day, 1 January 1927, at the age of 55 years. His body was taken to Washington County and buried. After his death, **Henriette** continued to live in Houston until moving back to Riesel some years later.



**Heinrich
and
Wilhelmine
(Haferkamp)
Meyer**

**Henriette Meyer Klander,
the oldest daughter of
Heinrich and Wilhelmine**





Henriette Meyer Klander with three of her children. Her son, Alvin Klander, and the daughters are Alma Arthur (left) and Ella Cheek (standing right). Photo taken at Cheek home in La Grange, Tx.



Henriette Meyer Klander with her son, Alvin Klander, and his wife, Selma Gaskamp Klander La Grange, Tx.



Henriette Meyer Klander with her daughter, Alma Klander Schroeder Arthur, and her husband, C. A. "Art" Arthur La Grange, Tx.



Henriette Meyer Klander with her daughter, Ella Klander Cheek and her husband, Alton Cheek. La Grange, Tx.

Henriette lived her final years with her youngest daughter, Ella Cheek, in La Grange, Texas. Henriette Meyer Klander died in a hospital in Austin, Texas, on 9 June 1960, at the age of 87 years. Her funeral was held in Brenham and she was buried beside her husband in the St. Peter's Lutheran Cemetery at Gay Hill, Texas.

Henriette and Wilhelm Klander had five children:

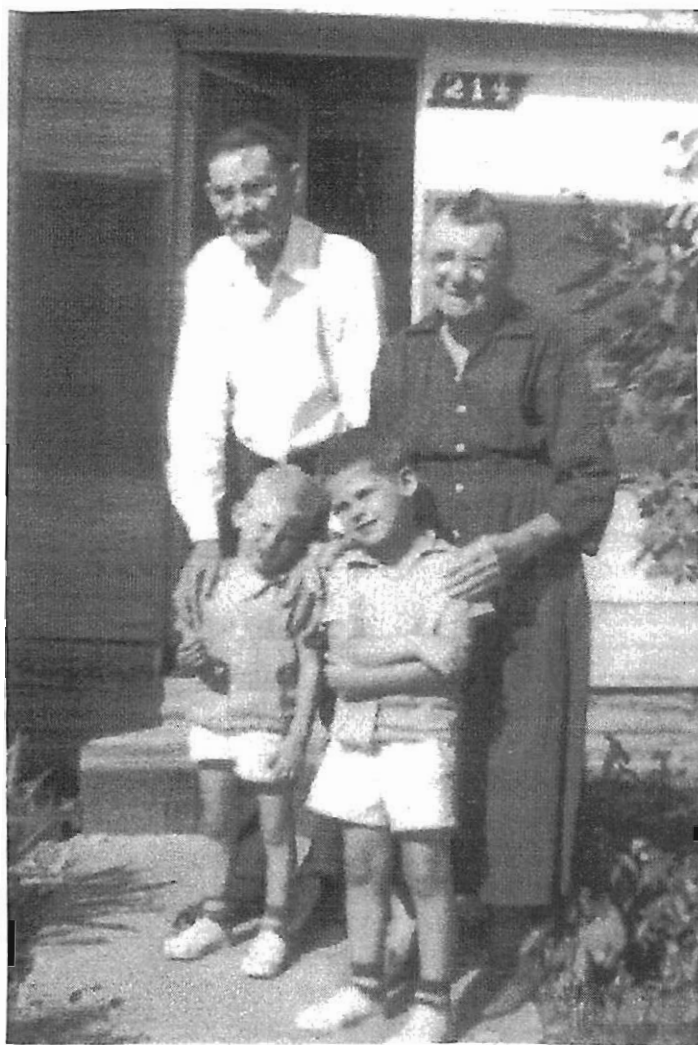
1. **Minna Wilhelmine Charlotte Klander** born 30 Dec. 1893, in Gay Hill, Washington Co., Tex. She was baptized 30 Jan. 1894, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Gay Hill. This child died 12 May 1894, at Gay Hill, and she was buried in the St. Peter's Lutheran Cemetery at Gay Hill.
2. **Albert Heinrich Klander** born 29 June 1897, in Gay Hill, Tex. He was baptized 15 Aug. 1897 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church at Gay Hill, and he was confirmed 31 March 1912, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel. Albert Klander married Alma Ella Schroeder on 3 Oct. 1919, at Riesel. Alma was born 16 May 1898, at Riesel. Albert and Alma Klander lived in Houston where Albert was employed by Southern Pacific Railroad. Albert Klander died in Houston on 23 Oct. 1974, at the age of 77 years. His wife, Alma, died in Houston on 21 June 1975. Albert and Alma Klander are buried in the South Memorial Park Cemetery in Pearland, Tex. Albert and Alma had four sons: **Louis Albert** (born 1920; died 2000); **Reuben Frederick** (born 1922; died 1983); **Albert Fritz Alvin** (born 1924; died 1984); and **Jimmie Lee** (born 1926; died 1971).
3. **Alma Louise Ida Klander** born 20 Oct. 1902, in Gay Hill. Alma was baptized 14 Dec. 1902, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Gay Hill, and she was confirmed 16 April 1916, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel. Alma married #1. **Wilhelm Herman Pick** on 27 Dec. 1921; #2. **Friedrich Heinrich Herman Schroeder** on 24 Nov. 1923, in Riesel; and #3. **Claude Anthony "Art" Arthur** on 7 Nov. 1952, in Waco, Tex. "Art" Arthur was born 27 March 1904, in Comanche, Tex., and he died in Waco, Tex. on 10 April 1966. After his death, Alma moved to San Antonio where she died shortly after on 5 June 1966, at the age of 63 years. Alma and C. A. "Art" Arthur are both buried in the Riesel Cemetery in Riesel, Texas. Alma and her second husband, Mr. Schroeder, had two children: **Sherman** (born 1924; died 1997) and **Frances McGilvary**.
4. **Alvin Gustav Klander** born 26 Aug. 1909, near Riesel, Tex. Alvin was baptized 3 Oct. 1909, and he was confirmed 25 March 1923, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel. Alvin Klander married **Selma Henriette Else Louise Gaskamp** on 28 Nov. 1934, at Zion Lutheran Church in Zionsville, Washington Co., Tex. Selma was born 1 Dec. 1913, at Zionsville; she was the daughter of George Gaskamp and Minna Kohring. Alvin and Selma Klander lived in Houston until they moved to Riesel and purchased a farm and made their living from their farm. Alvin and Selma had no children. Alvin Klander died in a hospital in Waco, Tex. at the age of 79 years on 28 January 1989. After his death, Selma moved to Waco where she died in a nursing home on 9 Nov. 1999, at the age of 85. Alvin and Selma Klander are buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery near Riesel.
5. **Ella Lydia Laura Klander** born 20 July 1913, near Riesel, Tex. Ella was baptized 10 Aug. 1913, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel, and she was confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church in Houston. Ella married **Alton Cheek** on 12 Oct. 1932, in Houston. Alton Cheek was born 11 Aug. 1908, at Mt. Pleasant, Texas. Alton and Ella Cheek

lived in Houston before moving to La Grange, in Fayette Co., Texas, where they purchased a farm. Alton Cheek died in La Grange on 14 Dec. 1976. Ella Klander Cheek died in a hospital in Humble, Tex. on 16 June 1990, at the age of 76. Ella and Alton Cheek are buried in the La Grange City Cemetery in La Grange. Ella and Alton had one daughter: **Maureen Moore** (born 1934).

II. Louise Sophie Henriette Meyer born 5 July 1874, in Haldem, Westphalia, Germany. Louise was baptized 19 July 1874, in Dielingen Lutheran Church parish, and she was confirmed 25 March 1888, in Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville, Washington Co., Tex. Louise Meyer married **Gustav Heinrich Wilhelm Lehrmann** on 1 October 1897, in Caldwell, Burleson Co., Texas. Gustav Lehrmann was born 26 May 1877, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Tex; he was the son of Christoph Lehrmann and Karoline Wehmeyer. Louise and Gustav Lehrmann lived the first years of their marriage in Washington County until moving to the Riesel area in 1905 where they lived until moving to Mart, Tex. in 1958. Louise Meyer Lehrmann died at her home in Mart on 11 June 1966, at the age of 91 years. Gustav Lehrmann died in the Hillcrest Hospital in Waco on 5 January 1967, at the age of 89 years. Louise and Gustav Lehrmann are buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery near Riesel.

Louise and Gustav Lehrmann had nine children:

1. **Lydia Wilhelmine Maria Lehrmann** born 3 Jan. 1898, in Wiedeville, Washington Co., Tex. Lydia was baptized 6 Feb. 1898, at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Wiedeville, and she was confirmed 9 April 1911, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel. Lydia married **Heinrich Wilhelm Schroeder** on 30 Nov. 1918, at Riesel. Henry Schroeder was born 2 April 1898, and he died 7 March 1978, in Waco. Lydia Lehrmann Schroeder died in Waco on 7 May 1995, at the age of 97 years. Lydia and Henry Schroeder are buried in the Riesel Cemetery in Riesel, Tex. Lydia and Henry Schroeder had 10 children: **Esther Perry** (born 1919); **Ervin** (born 1920; died 1994); **Hertha Ingold** (born 1921); **Raymond** (born 1924); **Leona** (born & died in 1929); **Edwin** (born 1930; deceased); **Ruby Kocian** (born 1931); **Della Reznicek** (born 1932); **Evelyn Huschka** (born 1934); and **Gilbert** (born 1936).
2. **Adolph Heinrich Wilhelm Lehrmann** born 16 June 1900, in Wiedeville, Washington Co., Tex. Adolph was baptized 5 Aug. 1900, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Gay Hill, and he was confirmed 5 April 1914, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel. Adolph Lehrmann married **Erna Kunkel** on 20 Nov. 1919, at Riesel. Erna was born 13 March 1900, at Otto, Falls Co., Tex. Adolph and Erna farmed in the Otto and Riesel areas and also for a time, they lived at Hubbard, in Hill Co., Tex. Adolph Lehrmann died at his home in Otto, Tex. on 14 May 1962, at the age of 61 years. Erna died 19 Nov. 1983. Adolph and Erna Lehrmann are buried in the St. Paul's United Church of Christ Cemetery in the St. Paul Community, north of Marlin, Tex. Adolph and Erna Lehrmann had six children: **Irene Miller** (born 1921); **Ted** (born 1925); **Clarence** (born 1927; died 2006); **Roy** (born ?); **John** (born ?); and **Earl** (born 1939).



Louise Meyer Lehrmann and her husband, Gustav Lehrmann, at their home in Mart, Tx. with two of their great-grandsons, Ronald and Calvin Schroeder. Louise is a daughter of Heinrich & Wilhelmine Meyer

Sitting is Herbert Lehrmann, a son Louise & Gustav Lehrmann. Standing to the right is Herbert's wife, Agnes Haferkamp Lehrmann. Standing to the left is Agnes' first cousin, Lydia Bode Grudziecki.



Riesel. Texas. June 1992

3. **Reinhard Christoph Heinrich Lehrmann** born 5 Aug. 1902, at Wiedeville, Washington Co., Tex. Reinhard was baptized 28 Sept. 1902, at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Wiedeville, and he was confirmed 16 April 1916, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel. Reinhard Lehrmann married Frieda Sophie Mathilde Buck on 12 Feb. 1925, at Riesel. Frieda was born 4 May 1901, at Wiedeville, Washington Co., Tex; she was the daughter of Wilhelm Buck and Minna Heckmann. Reinhard and Frieda Lehrmann lived most of their married life in McGregor, Tex. They had no children. Reinhard Lehrmann died at Camp Val Verde, near McGregor on 7 March 1956, at the age of 53 years. Frieda Buck Lehrmann died in McGregor on 4 Jan. 1968. Reinhard and Frieda Lehrmann are buried in the McGregor City Cemetery in McGregor, Tex.
4. **Hulda Caroline Wilhelmine Lehrmann** born 15 March 1905, near Riesel, Tex. Hulda was baptized 16 July 1905, and she was confirmed 13 April 1919, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel. Hulda Lehrmann married Hugo Plagens in 1923 in Temple, Tex. Hugo Plagens was born in 1907. Hulda and Hugo Plagens lived their married life in the Riesel area where they farmed. Hulda Lehrmann Plagens died of Leukemia in the Hillcrest Hospital in Waco on 29 Nov. 1958, at the age of 53 years. Hugo Plagens died in Marlin, Tex. on 20 Aug. 1965. Hulda and Hugo Plagens are buried in the Riesel Cemetery in Riesel, Tex. Hulda and Hugo's children were: an infant (born & died in 1925); Allen (born 1931; died 1984); and Betty Hogg (born 1938).
5. **Gustav Louis Adolph Lehrmann** born 6 Oct. 1907, near Riesel. Gustav was baptized 29 Dec. 1907, and he was confirmed 20 March 1921, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel. Gustav Lehrmann married Selma Minna Emma Haferkamp on 15 Jan. 1931, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel. Selma was born 3 Jan. 1914, near Riesel; she was the daughter of Charlie Haferkamp and Annie Buck—sister of Frieda Buck. Gustav and Selma Lehrmann lived most of their married life in the Riesel and Mart area where they farmed. For 10 years, they lived in Bryan, Tex. where Gustav worked at Texas A&M as a poultry caretaker. Selma Haferkamp Lehrmann died of cancer in a hospital in Waco on 24 Dec. 1982, at the age of 68. After her death, Gustav moved to Rockdale, Tex. where two of his daughters were living. Gustav died in Rockdale at the age of 82 years on 8 January 1990. Gustav and Selma Lehrmann are buried in the Riesel Cemetery in Riesel, Tex. Gustav and Selma had four children: Shirley Kunkel (born 1938; died 2007); Mary Ann Royder (born 1942; died 1990); Harold (born 1946; died 2003); and Darlena Clark (born 1948).
6. **Herbert Wilhelm Hermann Lehrmann** born 3 March 1910, near Riesel. Herbert was baptized 10 April 1910, and he was confirmed 5 April 1925, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel. Herbert Lehrmann married Agnes Minna Anna Haferkamp on 23 Oct. 1930, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel. Agnes Haferkamp was born 5 Oct. 1912, at McGregor, Tex; she was the daughter of Charlie Haferkamp and Annie Buck. Herbert and

Agnes Lehrmann lived their married life in the Riesel and Mart area where they farmed and Agnes raised her gardens. They were married 63 and a half years when Herbert died in the Hillcrest Hospital in Waco on 19 April 1994, at the age of 84. Agnes Haferkamp Lehrmann died in the nursing home in Mart, Tex. on 20 June 2003, at the age of 90. Herbert and Agnes Lehrmann are buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery near Riesel.

Herbert and Agnes had one son, **Robert** (born 1940).

7. **Nora Louise Lehrmann** born 16 March 1913, near Riesel. Nora was baptized 20 April 1913, and she was confirmed 10 April 1927, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel. Nora died 8 Nov. 1930, at the age of 17 years. She is buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery near Riesel.
8. **Albert Reinhard Heinrich Lehrmann** born 20 January 1915, near Riesel. Albert was baptized 21 March 1915, and he was confirmed 24 March 1929, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel. Albert Lehrmann married Delva Behringer on 3 Dec. 1936, at Riesel. Delva was born 11 March 1920, at Riesel. They are both still living in the Mart/Riesel area. Albert and Delva had at least three children: **Lois Aline Lehrmann** (born 1937); **Corrine Jane Lehrmann** (born 1939); and **Lorraine Estella Lehrmann** (born 1941);
9. **Otto Albert (Jack) Lehrmann** born 2 Feb. 1917, at Riesel. Jack was baptized 8 April 1917, and he was confirmed 13 April 1930, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel. Jack Lehrmann married Esther Koehne on 10 Nov. 1937, at Riesel. Esther was born 17 March 1917, in Falls Co., Tx. Jack and Esther lived in Mart, Tx. where Jack worked for the City of Mart. Jack Lehrmann died in a hospital in Waco on 28 Feb. 1995, at the age of 78. Esther died in Mart on 21 Sept. 1998. Jack and Esther Lehrmann are buried in the Mart Cemetery in Mart, Tx. Jack and Esther Lehrmann's children were: **Donald** (born 1943; died 1999); **Darrell** (born ?) and **Cherilynn** (born & died in 1952).

III. Sophie Louise Gertrude Meyer born 24 March 1876, in Haldem, Westphalia, Germany. Sophie was baptized 2 April 1876, in Dielingen Lutheran Church parish. Sophie Meyer died 27 October 1882, in Zionsville, Washington County, Texas, at the age of six years. She was buried 28 October 1882, in Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery.

IV. Heinrich Friedrich Wilhelm Meyer born 25 April 1878, in Haldem, Westphalia, Germany. Henry was baptized 5 May 1878, in Dielingen Lutheran Church parish, and he was confirmed 10 April 1892, at Zion Lutheran Church in Zionsville, Washington Co., Tx. Henry Meyer married **Henriette Ida Vahrenkamp** on 16 November 1899, in Washington Co., Tx. Ida was born 12 December 1880, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tx; she was the daughter of Wilhelm Vahrenkamp and Henriette Spreen. Henry and Ida Meyer lived the first years of their marriage in Washington County before moving to the Otto and Riesel areas where they farmed. Henry Meyer died in the hospital in Marlin, Tx. on 14 February 1959, at the age of 80 years. Ida Vahrenkamp Meyer died at the home of her daughter, Elsa Abel, in Riesel, Tx. on 8 July 1962, at the



The wedding picture of
Henry & Ida (Vahrenkamp)
Meyer, 1899, in
Washington County, Tx.
Henry is the son of
Heinrich & Wilhelmine Meyer.

Henry & Ida Meyer's
50th wedding anniversary,
1949, Riesel, Tx.
They were married 59 years
before Henry's death in
Feb. 1959.

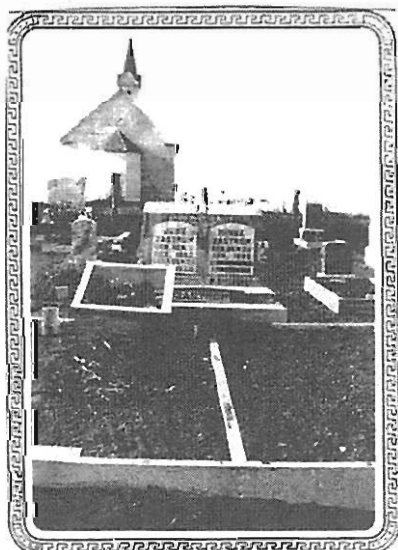


age of 81. Henry and Ida Meyer are buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery near Riesel. **Henry and Ida Meyer had six children:**

1. **Albert Friedrich Wilhelm Meyer** born 19 June 1900, in Wiedeville, Washington Co., Tx. Albert was baptized 16 Sept. 1900, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wiedeville. His date and place of confirmation has not yet been located. Albert Meyer married Clara Wilhelmine Luise Studtmann on 14 Nov. 1923, in Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel. Clara was born 13 Oct. 1902, in Crowley, Louisiana; her father was Rev. Henry Studtmann, who served as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church from 1904 to 1926. Albert and Clara Meyer lived their married life in the Riesel community. Albert died in a hospital in Waco on 13 January 1975, at the age of 74 years. Clara died 24 March 1989. Albert and Clara Meyer are buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery near Riesel. Albert and Clara had three children: **Leonard** (born 1925; died 2004); **Earl** (born 1928); and **Ellen Ruth Paar** (born 1937).
2. **Elsa Wilhelmine Henriette Meyer** born 23 July 1902, in Wiedeville, Washington Co., Tx. Elsa was baptized 28 Sept. 1902, in Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wiedeville, and she was confirmed 16 April 1916, in Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel. Elsa Meyer married Edward Ewald Abel on 4 Dec. 1924, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel. Edward Abel was born 28 Aug. 1899, near Riesel. Edward and Elsa Abel farmed in the Riesel area until retirement. In 1983, they moved into Waco. Edward Abel died in Waco on 6 January 1987. Elsa Meyer Abel died in Waco on 9 May 2001, at the age of 98 years. Edward and Elsa Abel are buried in the Chapel Hill Memorial Park in Waco. Edward and Elsa Abel had two children: **Erwin** (born 1928) and **Dorothy Paar** (born 1931).
3. **Lydia Emma Wilhelmine Meyer** born 24 Oct. 1906, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tx. Lydia was baptized 9 Dec. 1906, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill, and she was confirmed 28 March 1920, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel. Lydia married Paul August Fleischhauer on 14 Nov. 1929, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel. August Fleischhauer was born 7 March 1907, at Otto, Falls Co., Tx. Lydia and August Fleischhauer lived their married life in the Riesel community. August Fleischhauer died at Riesel, Tx. on 7 Oct. 1985. Lydia Meyer Fleischhauer died in a hospital in Waco, Tx. on 30 April 1992, at the age of 84 years. Lydia and August Fleischhauer are buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery near Riesel. Lydia and August Fleischhauer had three children: **Wilburn** (born 1931); **Marilyn Mott** (born 1935; died 1965); and **Milton** (born 1941; died 1983).
4. **Rosa Anna Bertha Meyer** born 19 April 1909, in Otto, Falls Co., Tx. Rosa was baptized 20 June 1909, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel. Rosa Meyer died 24 May 1911, at Otto, Tx. at the age of two years. She was buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery near Riesel.
5. **Clara Henriette Wilhelmine Meyer** born 4 Aug. 1911, in Otto, Falls Co., Tx. Clara was baptized 22 Oct. 1911, and she was confirmed 5 April 1925, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel. Clara Meyer married Otto Heinrich Klawitter on 14 Nov. 1931, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel. Otto Klawitter was born 14 Nov. 1906, near Riesel; he was the son of Robert Albert Klawitter and Henriette Auguste Emilie Gaskamp. Clara and Otto Klawitter lived their married life in the



The wedding picture of
John & Minna (Meyer) Zastrow,
1915, Riesel, Tx.
Minna is the youngest daughter
of Heinrich & Wilhelmine Meyer.



The Zastrow tombstone in
the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery
near Riesel, Tx.
This photo was taken after
John's death in 1930.
This photo gives a back view of
building that served as the
third Trinity Lutheran Church that
was built in 1893 and was
replaced by the current church
building in 1937.



Minna Meyer Zastrow

Riesel community. Otto Klawitter died at Riesel on 14 June 1972. Clara Meyer Klawitter died in Waco on 2 Oct. 1998, at the age of 87 years. Clara and Otto Klawitter are buried in the Waco Memorial Park in Waco. Clara and Otto had two children: **Louis** (born 1937) and **Edna Schmedthorst** (born 1939).

6. **Selma Henriette Louise Meyer** born 14 March 1916, near Riesel, Tx. Selma was baptized 23 April 1916, and she was confirmed 13 April 1930, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel. Selma Meyer married Anton Bernhard Heinrich Koester on 5 Nov. 1936, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel. Anton Koester was born 10 April 1914, near Riesel; he was the son of Otto Koester and Laura Berg. Selma and Anton Koester lived their married life in the Riesel community where they farmed. Selma was known for her gardens and raising her zinnias, or "old maid" flowers—this eyewitness can testify to that. Anton Koester died in Waco on 20 May 2007, at the age of 93. Selma died two months later on 23 July 2007 at the age of 91 in Waco. Selma and Anton Koester are buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery near Riesel. Selma and Anton Koester had son son: **Roy Gene** (born 1942; died 1951).

V. August Wilhelm Heinrich Meyer was born 29 April 1880, in Haldem, Westphalia, Germany. August was baptized 17 May 1880, in Dielingen Lutheran Church parish. August died on New Year's Day, 1 January 1882, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Tx. shortly after his family's arrival in Texas from Germany. He was buried in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery on 2 January 1882.

VI. Anna Sophie Minna Meyer born 20 April 1882, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Minna was baptized 4 June 1882, and she was confirmed 29 March 1896, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Minna Meyer married **John Zastrow** on 24 August 1915, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel. John Zastrow was born in the Posen area of Germany on 2 December 1882. The Zastrows had no children. John Zastrow died at Riesel on 25 January 1930, at the age of 47 years. Minna Meyer Zastrow died of a heart attack at her home in Riesel on 7 September 1952, at the age of 70 years. Minna and John Zastrow are buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery near Riesel, Tx.

Sources: *Records of Washington Co. Courthouse, Brenham, Tx; Burlison Co. Courthouse, Caldwell, Tx; Falls Co. Courthouse, Marlin, Tx; and McLennan Co. Courthouse, Waco, Tx.*

Church records of Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville, Washington Co., Tx; St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Gay Hill, Washington Co., Tx; Immanuel Lutheran Church of Wiedeville, Washington Co., Tx; St. John's Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tx; and Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel, Falls Co., Tx. Microfilm records of the Lutheran Church of Dielingen, Westphalia, Germany, obtained through the Church of Latter-Day Saints.

Correspondence and discussions with Mr. Erwin Abel, Mrs. Maureen Cheek Moore, Mrs. Gertrude Lehrmann Schroeder (retired Washington Co. Clerk), Mrs. Agnes Haferkamp Lehrmann, and my great-aunt, Lydia Bode Grudziecki, who first told me that her grandfather Haferkamp had a sister buried at the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery near Riesel.

Trinity Lutheran Church Celebrates 125 Years

On Sunday, June 15, Trinity Lutheran Church celebrated 125 years in central Texas. The full day of activities started with a breakfast buffet at 8:30. An inspirational worship service followed in which Rev. Gerald Kieschnick, president of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, was the guest speaker. A barbecue meal was served at noon. The afternoon worship service was conducted entirely in German, with Rev. Eldor Harmann, emeritus, from Woodway as the guest speaker and Rev. Harold Heckmann, emeritus, from Houston assisting. Numerous members and friends of the congregation provided special music for the services. Approximately 500 members, friends, former members, descendants of former members, and descendants of former pastors and teachers attended one or more of the day's activities. Former pastors who previously served the congregation were also in attendance: Rev. G. D. Loudenback (1980 – 1984) and family from Odessa, Rev. Stephen Linck (1989 – 1997) and family from Florida, and Rev. and Mrs. Al Gallmeier (1999 – 2005) from Smithville. The occasion was enjoyed by many who live nearby as well as those who traveled from throughout the state to worship, to visit, and to remember the past. Following the afternoon worship service, a reception with dessert and punch concluded the day's activities.

This announcement about the 125th anniversary of Trinity Lutheran Church of Riesel, Texas, was prepared by members of the congregation for publication in *The Riesel Rustler*. This announcement was sent to me by Gilbert Londenberg, a member of Trinity Lutheran Church.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF RIESEL, TEXAS

Submitted by Daniel Bode

The Trinity Lutheran Church, located in the Perry Community, southeast of Riesel, in Falls County, just below the McLennan County line, has a rich history in Central Texas. Trinity Lutheran celebrated its 125th anniversary on June 15, 2008. The church's history would cover more pages than what I can provide, but here in a synopsis of the church history beginning with the pastors who have served the Trinity congregation:

Rev. John J. Trinklein (Dec. 2, 1882-1884); **Rev. F. Wunderlich** (Oct. 1884 – Feb. 1904); **Prof. H. Studtmann, D.D.** (May 1904-May 1926); **Rev. E. A. Heckmann, D.D.** (Aug. 1926-Jan. 1946); **Rev. A. F. Michalk** (1946-1948); **Rev. P. Braner** (Nov. 1948-Oct. 1950); **Rev. L. Boriack** (June 1951-Nov. 1956); **Rev. E. A. Sanders** (Jan. 1958-1959); **Rev. Robert Kass** (June 1960-Nov. 1963); **Rev. L.C. Castens** (Feb. 1964-Sept. 1974); **Rev. C.H. Mutschink** (Jan. 1976-Nov. 1979); **Rev. G. D. Loudenback** (June 1980-Aug. 1984); **Rev. H. Schreibeis** (July 1985-Dec. 1988); **Rev. Stephen Linck** (June 1989-April 1997); **Rev. Al Gallmeier** (July 1998-Aug. 2005); and **Rev. Robert Kitson** (Aug. 2005-present).

The Southern District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod began the work of organizing scattered Lutherans of Texas into congregations. To open these new mission fields a notice was placed in "*Der Lutheraner*", asking all readers to relay to the newly organized Mission Board the names and addresses of Lutherans living in Texas but not served by a pastor.

The first missionary-at-large to be called was John J. Trinklein. He was to receive a salary of \$40.00 per month plus his living expenses. In his memoirs, he stated that he actually received \$25.00 per month. He spent three to five nights a week on a train, traveling up and down the length of the Houston & Central Railroad. The president of the railroad gave Rev. Trinklein a free pass because he knew towns usually formed around church congregations. It was known that Rev. Trinklein was a man of extraordinary skills and possessed great stamina and passion for his calling. These two attributes served him well when he began his journey to Texas where he braved cold, storms, floods, and traveled on virtually impassable or nonexistent roads. He came from Frankenmuth, Michigan on August 23, 1882. Initially he was assigned to work out of Hockley, about 35 miles west of Houston. There he made the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Scherer his base and covered the rural areas to the west, northwest, and southwest of Houston. By 1885 Rev. Trinklein had reached out to the scattered Lutheran groups in over a dozen different areas of Texas, including a small gathering of Lutherans near Riesel, then known as *Friedens Au*, which translates to Meadow or Prairie of Peace. Rev. Trinklein first arrived in Perry, Texas on a cold December 2, 1882. He spent the next three days busily searching out prospects in the Perry area to invite to a church service at the home of Mr. Gottfried Ebner on December 5, 1882. On this date the first divine services were held in the Ebner home. About fifty people sat in the two large front

rooms of the house. The liturgy was sung by the pastor and responded by the congregation. Church services continued to be held in the Ebner house till May 1883. During this time, arrangements for building the first church were taken care of by the members. The name of this church was **TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AT FRIEDENS AU.**

In 1886, Rev. Trinklein ended three years of hard work in the mission field and accepted a call to Trinity Lutheran Church in Houston where served until 1889. He died in January 1947 at the age of 87.

The first full-time pastor at Trinity was Rev. F. Wunderlich, a native of Klein, Texas. As the first resident pastor of Trinity, Rev. Wunderlich knew the value of a Christian education. In 1884 a room was added to the back of the church building to accommodate the growing number of students at Trinity parochial school. Eventually, Rev. Wunderlich served as the school's full-time teacher. Rev. Wunderlich believed that the youth are our future and he started a youth organization along with the school. The early Youth Society participated in the choir and various other functions of Trinity. The youth also created their own activities. This Christian fellowship came in the form of meetings that included a call to order, a prayer, and Bible study. Socials were held that consisted of a meal, a party, or skating. The skating parties were usually held at the Perry Gymnasium on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon.

During Rev. Wunderlich's tenure, Trinity's congregation grew so much that a new sanctuary was needed. In 1891 church members began planning for a second church building to be built. The plans were lofty indeed. They called for two rows of pews at the floor level and a raised altar and pulpit section which would be equal in height to the balconies which surrounded the interior of the church on all sides. The choir would sing from the balcony, while communicants would kneel at one side of the altar rail to receive the bread (the body of Christ). They would then walk to the other side of the altar and kneel at that rail to receive the wine (the blood of Christ). The church had a beautiful spire steeple which was visible for miles across the rural landscape. This new church building was dedicated in October 1891, but sadly, the beautiful new sanctuary was destroyed only a few months later in May 1892 by a violent windstorm. Despite the tragic loss of their building, the members of Trinity were not deterred and refused to let this tragedy hinder their worship to God. Almost overnight, a third church building arose on the previous site. Its design was much like the second church, having a towering steeple that was visible for miles. Balconies surrounded three sides of the church. One balcony served as the place for the choir to sing. Another balcony served as the place for the organist and organ. The last balcony served as an extra seating area for the smaller children of Trinity. This church served the congregation for 45 years until its membership simply outgrew the church building.

Rev. Henry Studtmann was installed as Trinity's third pastor in May 1904. Rev. Studtmann was born in Chicago in 1875, the son of a German cabinetmaker. He prepared for his theological training at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, where he graduated in 1897.

During Rev. Studtmann's early years at Trinity, the Christian Day School became too large for one person and so a full-time teacher, Mr. Herman Schmidt, was hired. Also in 1906, the Texas District of the Missouri Lutheran Synod was realized at the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's convention in Houston that summer. Rev. Studtmann served

the Texas District as its first secretary, later as its vice-president, and finally as president for seven years. Rev. Studtmann was a man of many talents which served him well as pastor, educator, and administrator. He was also keenly interested in music and was a respectable carpenter. He displayed his love of music during worship and frequently directed the choir, in addition to delivering the sermon.

During these years Trinity had a band. This group of young men met to practice music, not for the pay, but for the love of the musical harmony and the friendly association of fellow band members. The instruments they played were well-used, but the musical sounds were enjoyed by all. They played famous old marches and waltzes such as "*The Blue Danube Waltz*". Many of the band members either rode horses or walked, carrying their instruments to practice. They played for the annual church picnics and other community activities when they were invited to play. As a rule, the principal of the parochial school was the church musician and also directed the band.

Rev. Studtmann left Trinity in 1926 and accepted the call of being the first president of Concordia College in Austin. He served in that capacity until his "semi-retirement" in 1949. Rev. Studtmann died in 1964.

Rev. Heckmann was installed as Trinity's new pastor by Rev. Dr. Studtmann on Aug. 8, 1926. During his many years in the ministry, Rev. Heckmann baptized more than a thousand babies. In those days, confirmation classes were large and often meant packing 20 – 30 children into the vestry in the back of the church. The largest number of confirmands in any one class at Trinity was 37. This class was confirmed in 1930 by Rev. Heckmann. In 1927, Rev. Heckmann organized a Young People's Bible Class. In 1937, this organization joined the International Walther League. Meetings were held twice a month to have Bible studies and "topic" discussions. Occasionally, softball games were played with other Cen-Tex leagues. The group presented comic plays, such as "Simple Simon Simple", and earned a few dollars for League projects. These plays were put on in the Riesel High School Auditorium. In 1939 a large contingent of Trinity Leaguers attended a Walther League Rally at Thorndale, transported there in a roomy seed truck borrowed from a local cotton gin. At church meetings and parties it was not unusual to see 60 or more of the youth playing on the spacious lawn. One big event for the youth every year was the New Year's Eve Party. It naturally included the ringing of the church bell to welcome the New Year and a "warming" snack of hot cocoa and cookies.

In the summer of 1929, Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid was organized under the guidance of Rev. Heckmann. Also in 1929, Trinity opened a second Christian Day School in the nearby community of Otto in hopes that Trinity's members who lived in that area would eventually become the nucleus of a new congregation. Zion Lutheran Church in Otto was organized as a self-sustaining church. It immediately sent out a call for a pastor. On Feb. 12, 1933, Rev. Wm. Hannusch was installed. Rev. Hannusch completed his theological studies at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis the spring before his call to Zion. The new congregation reaches its highest membership in 1937 with 199 baptized members and 130 communicant members. Rev. Hannusch left the Otto church in 1939, and the congregation was served by Rev. Martin Sonntag and Rev. Herbert Driessner. Rev. Driessner left in 1946. After a series of "one year men" and a continued drop in membership, Zion Lutheran Church of Otto ceased to exist in 1952.

By 1937, Trinity's church roll consisted of 640 baptized and 440 communicant members. A new facility simply had to be built. Many members, former members, and friends of Trinity who were baptized, confirmed, or married in the third church were on hand to write **FINIS** to the third church building. The overflow crowd filed out of the third structure for the final time on Aug. 1, 1937. The following day, the beginning of the demolition of the chapel began under the management of the building committee, and the building was razed by members of the congregation. The work progressed and by Saturday night the building was demolished. On Aug. 9 work began on the foundation of the present structure and on Aug. 22, 1937, the cornerstone from the third church was laid in what was to become the front of the fourth church, before a large gathering of members and friends of the congregation. The entire cost of the new building, including inside furnishings, but not the new organ, had already been paid for, in full, by members of the congregation. And some money was left over for the new organ. During the weeks of construction, the Trinity congregation conducted services in the Riesel Fair Park building, thanks to the courtesy of the Riesel Fair Association. The pews from Trinity were moved into that building and everything possible was done to make it comfortable and convenient for those who wished to attend. The auditorium was frequently filled to near capacity. After colder weather set in, Riesel High School authorities permitted the use of that school's gymnasium for services.

On Sunday morning, Dec. 19, 1937, the new Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Riesel was dedicated to the service of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. With appropriate ceremonies, the doors of the church were opened by Rev. E. A. Heckmann. Dr. Studtmann, at that time the president of Concordia College in Austin, preached the dedicatory sermon in German. An English language service was held at 3:00 in which Rev. Studtmann was also the guest speaker. A large crowd attended both services.

In 1941, the Trinity Lutheran Men's Club was organized after the men of the congregation formed a fellowship. In April of that year, this group became a member of the Lutheran Laymen's League of the Missouri Synod. The group organized mission projects for the area, which usually involved helping other members. The Men's Club also met for fellowship with other area Men's Clubs and formed a dart league. The Trinity Men's Club took an active part in this fellowship until the organization dissolved in 1964.

The start of World War II brought many changes to Trinity. America was at war with Germany. While the war was in progress, the German church services were discontinued. Following the end of the war, the German services resumed for a period of time.

Trinity Lutheran Church marked its 60th anniversary on June 20, 1942. It was a day of great rejoicing, even in the face of World War II.

The largest convergence of Texas Lutherans at Riesel was the Texas District State Convention held in July 1945. The convention was hosted by Rev. Heckmann, who was District President at the time. Three hundred pastors, teachers, and lay delegates attended. Two pages of *The Riesel Rustler*, the preceding week, were devoted to the history and organization of the church.

In January 1946, Rev. Heckmann accepted a call to St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Waco after serving Trinity Lutheran nearly 20 years.

Trinity Lutheran Church of Riesel has a full and rich history. In 1951, Rev. Boriack translated the church constitution from German to English.

In 1955, the first school bus for Trinity School was purchased and two years later, a second bus was purchased. However, Trinity School closed its doors in 1965 after 80 years in operation.

Trinity Lutheran celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1958, and just in time for the celebration, a new 3000 square foot Parish Haus with restrooms was added. This Parish Haus served the congregation until a new Parish Haus was built and dedicated in 1980. On June 19, 1983, Trinity Lutheran celebrated its 100th Anniversary. A Divine Service was held in the morning. Guest speaker was Rev. Harold Fleischhauer, a son of the congregation. The attendance was so large that the overflow crowd sat on chairs in the aisles and outside the church. Following the morning service, a noon barbecue lunch was served. After lunch Rev. Loudenback held a dedication of the State of Texas Historical Marker, currently located on the lawn in front of the church. One of the honored guests at the 100th anniversary celebration was Rev. E. A. Heckmann, the third pastor of Trinity. At age 94, he took to the pulpit as guest speaker for the afternoon worship service and stated in a loud voice, "STILL HERE!" Upon hearing these two words, the congregation rose and gave a standing ovation which lasted for several minutes. Rev. Heckmann led the singing of the common doxology in German. This service was conducted entirely in German to celebrate the German Heritage of Trinity Lutheran Church and the surrounding area. Trinity finished the day of celebration with an evening service of praise and thanksgiving. This service was conducted by Rev. Glenn O'Shoney, president of the Texas District at the time.

Trinity Lutheran Church of Riesel bore fruit to become the seed from which several new congregations sprang up. Among these daughter congregations are St. Mark's Lutheran Church of Waco, Grace Lutheran Church of Marlin, Grace Lutheran Church of Mart, and St. John's Lutheran Church of the Battle community near Riesel. St. John's Lutheran of Battle later merged with Grace Lutheran of Mart.

The Trinity Lutheran Cemetery is located behind the church. When Trinity was organized, a plot of land was set aside for a cemetery. The earliest dated tombstone in the cemetery is that of August Conrad Schulze, who died July 12, 1882, at the age of 62. The cemetery grew around this grave in a somewhat disorderly fashion. In 1918 another section was added to the cemetery. A road was added between the two sections, and it became the boundary line between the two sections. In 1974 the cemetery was enlarged again when a section was added to the north side. The Cemetery Committee oversees the expenses of the cemetery. In 1973 Trinity established a perpetual care fund for the cemetery. Zion Lutheran Cemetery at Otto was included in the operation of the church cemetery in 1987. The committee now oversees the operation of both cemeteries.

***Trinity Lutheran Church of Riesel, Texas, celebrating 125 years in Central Texas—
"Making Disciples of all peoples—Beginning with the hearts of Texans"***

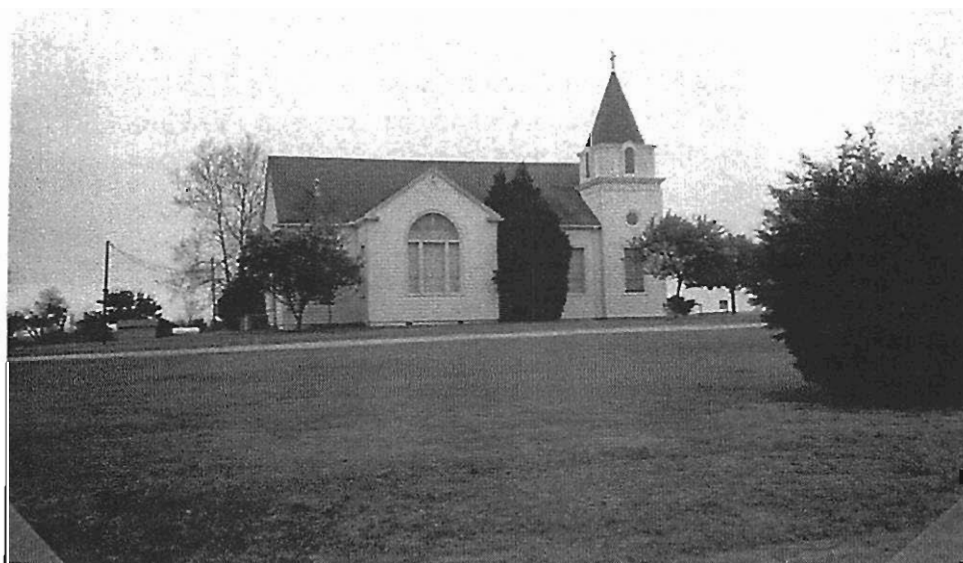
Source: **A Might Fortress is Our God** pages 6 – 35—a history book prepared by the congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church in preparation for the church's 125th anniversary.



Second Church
October 1891 – May 1892



Third Church
June 1893 – May 1937



Fourth Church 1937 – Present. This photo was taken in 1990. I have a connection to Trinity Lutheran as I have a set of great-great-grandparents, Henry and Agnes (Gaskamp) Haferkamp, buried in the church cemetery.
Daniel Bode

Comfort's Old Spanish Trail:

By Anne & Mike Stewart

In the interest of accuracy the title to this essay should probably read "Comfort's Portion of the Old Spanish Trail." As Lew Kaiser was careful to point out in his earlier article, the Old Spanish Trail, the O.S.T., branched out many times while changing directions and names.

Spanish explorers in search of the Seven Cities of Gold rode through here either coming or going. Comanche Indians and Texas Rangers are said to have encountered each other at the Guadalupe River crossing near Comfort. Bonnie and Clyde may have driven across it on their way to eat lunch at the Rathskellar. We're talking serious history here.

Comfort's first German settlers walked from the coast where they landed at the port of Indianola to New Braunfels which was the jumping off point at that time for German West Texas. They also walked with ox and wagon from New Braunfels as they made their way to their new homes in Comfort. That they crossed or utilized some portion of the Old Spanish Trail as they trudged inland is quite possible.

Ernst Allgelt founded Comfort September 3, 1854. His survey party lived on the banks of Cypress Creek for the wet summer months of July and August while platting the town of Comfort. The town was laid out at the confluence of the Guadalupe River and Cypress Creek. Without water people could not survive.

Allgelt's survey party camped on Cypress Creek just below today's intersection of 2nd and Water Streets. Their near neighbors were Delaware Indians. This small nomadic group was in temporary residence just across the creek, nestled beneath the crest of the hill. Hunters from the tribe and the hunter employed to provide the survey party with meat both probably used the trail across the Guadalupe River like the Spanish, the Comanche and Texas Rangers before them.

In the earliest days, the town of Comfort's population was centered on 7th Street between High and Main Streets. It was a "shingle camp." The great majority of the young men were self-employed as shingle makers. Before they could even begin manufacturing shingles, they felled the enormous cypress trees and cut them into manageable pieces. Only then could they begin the laborious process of splitting the rough lumber into shingles. The federal government ordered many loads of shingles from Comfort to be delivered to Camp Verde. Other finished shingles were sold in New



Camels came to the Hill Country by way of the Old Spanish Trail.

Braunfels and San Antonio. Now Comfort used the Old Spanish Trail.

Freighters used ox and wagon to haul the shingles to market. According to Professor F. Lohmann's 50th anniversary book, *Comfort—1904*, "in good weather the trip took more than a week and in bad weather, at least two weeks." And often this amount of time was one way. The freighter selling the shingles, collected the money, brought necessities ordered by the Comfort residents and began his return home. Floodwaters complicated the entire process. Lohmann wrote: "One had to halt for days at the river swollen due to days of rain."

Ernst Allgelt, Comfort's founder swept a newly arrived emigrant from Germany off her feet, married her and whisked her away to his "new town" on the far Texas frontier. Emma Murck Allgelt was a gift to our community, then and now, because she wrote about every detail of living in Comfort from July 1855 to the late spring of 1866, when Ernst moved his family to San Antonio.

In Emma's journal, the most interesting item pertaining to the Old Spanish Trail was the passage of camels from Camp Verde through Comfort. Emma wrote that the townspeople could hear the camel "bells toll rhythmically" as

Thursday, May 22, 2008

A follow up.
(Part 1)



they plodded on their maneuvers. Children and adults alike were fascinated with the strange beasts. The camel train crossed the Guadalupe River at the low water crossing, the Old Spanish Trail.

Camels from Syria, Turkey and Saudi Arabia in German West Texas, are hard to visualize. Living in Comfort with oxen, milk cows, the occasional donkey, horses, chickens, dogs, cats and wild varmints did not prepare the populace for these exotic middle eastern animals. Camels smelled bad. They made awful sounds. They spit at people and sometimes bit them. The soldiers assigned to manage them hated their job and called the camels cantankerous and mean spirited.

These camels were part of the Camp Verde Camel Experiment, the purpose of which was to try out these "ships of the desert" in the American west. It is easy to imagine boys following the camel caravan down High Street where they could watch it cross the Guadalupe River at Comfort where today we have the High Street low water bridge.

Continued next week.

Thursday, May 29, 2008

Old Spanish Trail

Cont'd from page 4...



Comfort's low water bridge sunk in the Guadalupe River, late 1980's.

continued on next page

Guido Ransleben, in his centennial history, **A Hundred Years of Comfort in Texas**, told a story of romance and danger concerning this river site. From 1854 to 1856, Theodore Goldbeck and his brother, Fritz, operated a mercantile store and post office on 7th Street. You can see their cabin today. It is a combination fachwerk and log cabin, now the property of August Falin.

Theodore Goldbeck also served as the town's Justice of the Peace. Among other things, he was authorized to assess fines, make legal pronouncements and conduct marriage services. One local young man ready to tie the knot found he could not bring his bride into town. The Guadalupe River was on one of its many rises. The bride and groom were stranded. They could not travel to the individual who could legalize their union. A message was conveyed to Goldbeck that his presence was needed at the low water crossing at the Guadalupe, except it wasn't a crossing and it wasn't low water.

Goldbeck arrives at the scene, wet, muddy, curious. He could see the young couple standing on the east bank. "Sir, we wish to be married," the young bridegroom yells. "Can you do it?" Goldbeck agrees to the unorthodox circumstances and begins reciting the marriage lines. The bride and groom say I do. The knot is tied and the groom throws Goldbeck his fee across the floodwaters. The newly weds go on their way and Goldbeck returns to 7th Street, a few bucks better off, still wet and muddy. He'd done his official job and a good deed in the bargain.

Comfort flourished in the years preceding the Civil War. Money from New Braunfels and San Antonio for the shingles and Federal funds from the establishment of Camp Verde flowed into the town. A starch factory owned and operated by Otto Ludwig opened for business in 1861.

The "starch was produced from wheat." The start of the war and transportation problems across the Guadalupe River low water crossing following the O.S.T. proved too much for this early industry. Lohmann again wrote: "The huge transportation difficulties from Comfort to San Antonio...made the product too expensive" to sell. This time the Guadalupe River triumphed over progress.

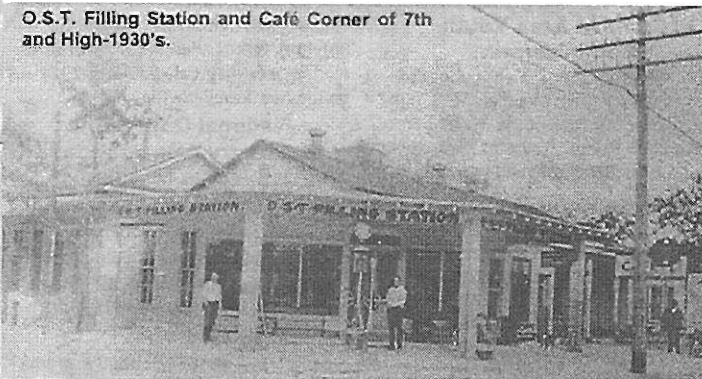
Trail ride wagons and horsemen cross at Comfort, Feb. 10, 1983, on their way to San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo.



Stephen Quinon, the man who financed the building of Hillcrest Sanatorium (the current residence of Joyce Dwight Bolton on 5th Street) for his daughter, Alice, a nurse kept a diary of life in Comfort for some twelve years. To read more of his observations and experiences, you may stop by the CHF Archives any Tuesday 9:00—Noon and read their copy.

Beginning in 1914, Quinon's journal is full of entries regarding outdoor activities at the Guadalupe's low water crossing. Many people suffering from tuberculosis or consumption who came from Comfort for the fresh air lived in

O.S.T. Filling Station and Cafe Corner of 7th and High-1930's.

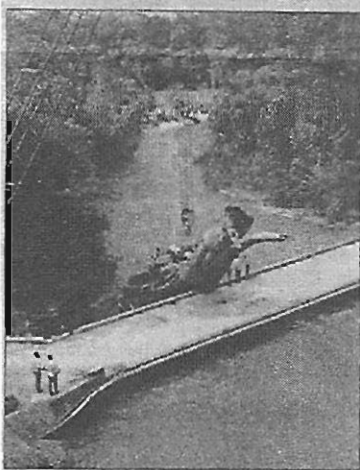


Cars on the O.S.T. Guadalupe River Low Water Bridge, Comfort, TX July 4, 1932.

Continued on next page

tents near the riverbanks. Citizens of the town fished, picnicked, camped out over night and hosted parties on this site. In fact, "Moonlight" Parties were a long-standing tradition. They could be held to honor someone's "natal day" or to benefit a local civic organization. Many of these were held near the low water crossing site.

Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow met in the Dallas home of a mutual friend. From that January 1930 to May 1934, the two were inseparable. Bonnie wrote poetry about the Barrow Gang's exploits. Everyone in America knew about the couple and their bank robbing adventures. They were dubbed "Robin Hoods."



Cypress tree trunk and roots lodged against the low water bridge across the Guadalupe River, Oct. 20, 1986.

From *The Comfort News*, submitted by Anne Stewart



The Rathskeller in the early 1930's.

Late in 1933, a young local resident who lived with her family about two miles north of town heard rumors that Bonnie and Clyde were in the area. The rumor went on to say that the pair had been seen eating hamburgers at the newest restaurant in town, the Rathskeller, now the property of Rusty and Jan Busby. As famous as Mexican food has always been at this site, it is odd that the rumor did not specify enchiladas.

The rumors persisted and this eight-year old girl and her younger sister felt uneasy walking to school fearing they might encounter Bonnie and Clyde, the dangerous robbers. What if they drove around town? What if the girls got shot.

"Nonsense," said their father. "That is nonsense. Those people aren't coming to our part of Texas." Never the less, "Nonsense" to the contrary, it was spoken of in Comfort, Texas, that Bonnie and Clyde drove across the low water bridge in one of their many "getaway" cars. Furthermore, they did stop at the Rathskeller and order ham-

Continued next page

burgers. The story varies on the details: did they go inside to eat, eat their food outside in their car, served by a carhop or if the hamburgers were a "to go" order. Too bad. Rusty should put up a plaque to that effect.

Photos of historic events concerning the OST crossing (the low water bridge) include a July 4th, 1932 photo of several cars stalled on the bridge during a moderate rise on the Guadalupe. Another photo dated February 10, 1983 shows two trail ride wagons crossing the low water bridge on their way to the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo. A third photo dated October 1986 shows a huge Cypress tree lodged against the low water bridge after a major flood.

Businesses in the Texas Hill Country existed then and now that are named for the famous Old Spanish Trail. Two

"O.S.T." businesses in Comfort were the O.S.T. Service Station and the O.S.T. Café, both located where Nancy Billingsley's shop, Antiquities On High, stands today at the North East corner of 7th and High Streets.

In the early 1930's, the O.S.T. Café promoted itself as "The Home of Good Coffee." Some scant three years later, the OST Café touted a new keg beer on tap. It was the famous Schott's Lager Beer, brewed from an old German recipe and aged in the famous Schott's underground cave. This beer was advertised as "a slenderizing beer." Comfort residents could read all about it in *The Comfort News*.

Gregory Krauter wrote about the low water crossing for *The Comfort News*. In his best work, "A Troubled Bridge Over Water," Krauter gave the bridge site's history. Lew Kaiser invested many hours researching the history of this site and Precinct 4 commissioners have worked towards preservation and restoration of the bridge.

Most recently, Sunday, April 27th, 2008, the bridge was dedicated by a group of Comfort residents. Music and memories floated in the air. Short speeches were given. Pink champagne dedicating the bridge filled the air, which just happened that afternoon to be a "blue norther." The land on the southwest side of the bridge is privately owned so please heed the No Trespassing signs.

Lew Kaiser was correct when he urged people to walk or drive across the bridge. You can also bicycle across. Take your pets and children and visiting family members on an historic trail. Walk east on High Street, cross the bridge and you're on High Street Road. Think Native Americans riding horseback into Mexico Texas Rangers hot on their trail, Bonnie and Clyde enjoying a meal on the run at a local restaurant and Moonlight Parties on the riverbanks. Think, only in Comfort.

ITALIAN · CHINESE · ZULUS · INDIAN
PORTUGUESE · CAMBODIAN · SCOTS
ENGLISH · TURKISH · · GUATAMALIAN
INDONESIAN · SPANISH · BRAZILIAN
ASWATI · DANISH · LAOTIAN · IRANIAN
ARABIAN · TUNISIAN · PANAMANIAN
VENEZUELAN · LIBERIAN · PERUVIAN
PAKISTANI  **FULANI · HAITIAN**
AUSTRIAN **1980** **KOREAN · BANTU**
HUNGARIAN **YUGOSLAVIAN**
JAPANESE *winning* **JEWISH**
MEXICAN *essays* **DUTCH**
IRISH *on family* **GREEK**
CUBAN *history* **TIGUA**
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by students of
AUSTIN, TEXAS

Submitted by Anna Thompson

These are essays submitted by students of Anna Thompson to the
 Austin Ethnic History Association's Contest, April 1980

Lori Hielscher
Mrs. Anna Thompson

Crockett High School
Junior Historian

PETER SCHUCH - EARLY TEXAS PIONEER

Peter Schuch, the great-great-grandfather of Lori Hielscher, was born on March 1, 1845 at Ober Kostens, Coblenz, Germany, where he lived for the first seven years of his life.

After hearing glowing stories about Texas from the first pioneers who settled in New Braunfels and Fredericksburg, Henry Schuch, Peter's father, decided to sell his holdings in Germany and take his family to the land of plenty. On April 11, 1852 Peter, his father, Henry, his mother, Maria Katharina, his brother, Jacob and his sister, Maria, joined a group of people to come to America to start a new life in the land that was known as the "wunderland" - a land of great opportunity and a great future. They crossed the high seas in a sailboat, which proved to be a long and rough encounter and landed at Galveston, Texas. They were transported to Indianola, Texas and then to New Braunfels by teams of oxen and wagons. After spending some time in New Braunfels, the family moved to Fredericksburg, Texas where they made their home sometime during 1853.

Peter grew up and learned the trade of blacksmith in his early manhood. At the age of seventeen he answered the call of the Confederacy and joined Company E, 1st Texas Cavalry, fighting in the War between the States. Old records show that he was enrolled May 1, 1862 in Fredericksburg, Texas by Capt. Frank V.D. Stucken and his mounted Company of Volunteers. Peter mustered into service on May 7, 1862 at Ft. Mason and took with him his horse valued at \$95.00 and equipment valued at \$30.00. His tour of duty was to be for a three year period.

There is a discrepancy as to whether his company actually disbanded or if Peter deserted but his soldier's application for Confederate Pension states that his company disbanded in May 1865. Official records from the War Department in Washington also show that he was paroled at San Antonio, Texas on October 5, 1865 as a private but no date of capture is given.

When Peter returned to Fredericksburg, he resumed his trade as a blacksmith. He also was a freighter and an old trail driver. He acquired approximately 210 acres of land and had a home built on it in the Cherry Mountain community eight miles north of Fredericksburg. Around 100 wagon loads of limestone rocks were gathered from the land and hauled to the homesite to build the house. Twenty four inch thick rocks were used to construct the two story house. Although it is close to being 100 years old, it is still in good condition and is occupied by one of Peter's sons, Otto, his son and daughter-in-law. Peter lived there until 1904 when he moved to Fredericksburg.

On March 1, 1866 Peter Schuch became a naturalized citizen of the United States by the naturalization of his father. Peter was duly

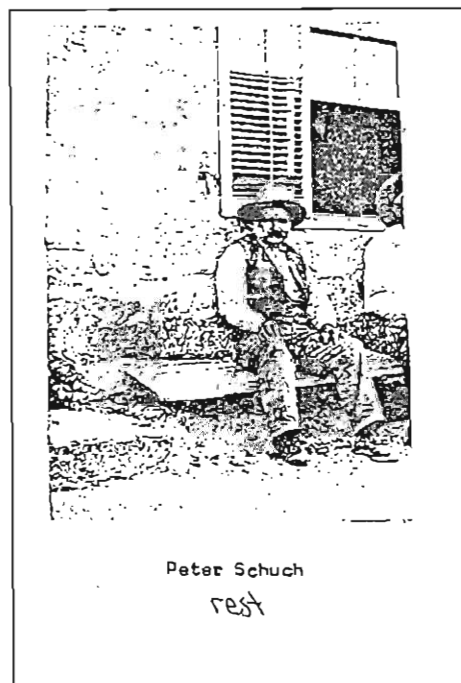
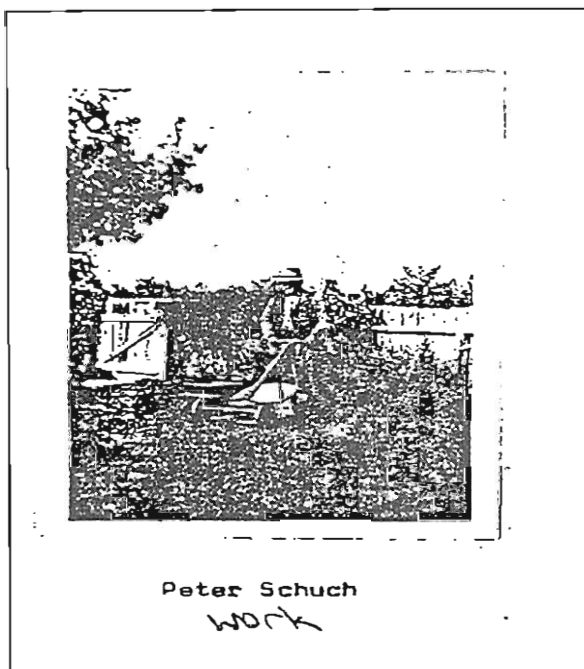
registered as a qualified Elector of Gillespie County (No.128) on August 13,1867.

He married Dorathea Ahrens on June 27,1868. To this marriage were born nine children - Henry,Frances,Emma,Louise,Willie,Mathilda,Sophia, Lina and Mary. His first wife,Dorathea, died on April 13,1884 and two daughters, Lina and Mary, also preceeded him in death.

On October 2,1887 Peter married his second wife,Mrs. Hulda Ahrens (nee Roeder). She had seven children by her first marriage - Peter,Lina,Louis,Rudolph,Dora,Mary and Clara Ahrens.After their marriage,Peter and Hulda had four more children - Albert,Otto, Charlie and Ida, making a total of twenty children that Peter helped raise.

After the death of his second wife on September 24,1919 Peter Schuch made his home in Gonzales,Texas with his daughter,Ida. This was to be his last home,for it was there that he died on May 5,1934 at the age of eighty-nine years. He was buried at Cherry Mountain in the Schuch family cemetery between his two wives.

Peter Schuch was the last survivor of Company E,1st Texas Cavalry. At the time of his death he also had a total of 101 descendents living and eight dead.





Dorathée Ahrens



HENRY SCHUCH, SR.

Born April 8, 1819

Died Feb. 14, 1903



MARIA KATHARINA SCHUCH
nee OCHS

Born September 4, 1822

Died January 16, 1913

Mark Robbins
Mrs. Anna Thompson

Crockett High School
Junior Historian

FAMILY HISTORY

I am doing this report on my family history because it is interesting to learn about your ancestry. My great, great grandfather, Adolph Carby, came to the United States when he was just a boy and we know he lived a happy life. Not much is known about my great, great grandparents, but what is known is in this report.

Adolph Carby was born on March 13, 1833 in Saxon, Germany. When Adolph Carby was just a boy (no information on what age Adolph was at this time) he and his family traveled to the United States. Adolph married Teresa Jenull Carby. Teresa was also born in Germany in the country of Austria. Teresa came to the United States at the age of 8. Adolph and Teresa both died at the age of 64 and both are buried at Blackjack near La Grange, Texas. Adolph died in 1897 and Teresa died in 1912. Undoubtedly they had several children. One of them was Frances (Franzisk) Elise Carby. Later she married Christoph John Balko.

Frances was born at Blackjack, Texas on February 24, 1869. Christoph was born in Germany on February 12, 1863 (town unknown). When Christoph was 7 years of age his family migrated to the United States because his parents thought they could make a better living here, and also Christoph could not be drafted into the youth army. His parents bought 375 acres of land for a good price in Fayette County where they settled. Christoph had very little education and only completed the 3rd grade. But somehow Christoph taught himself how to read and to write English. When Christoph's father died, his two sons each received 125 acres to farm. Christoph at the age of 29 married Frances Elise Carby in 1893. From their marriage they had 4 boys and 3 girls of which 4 are still living.

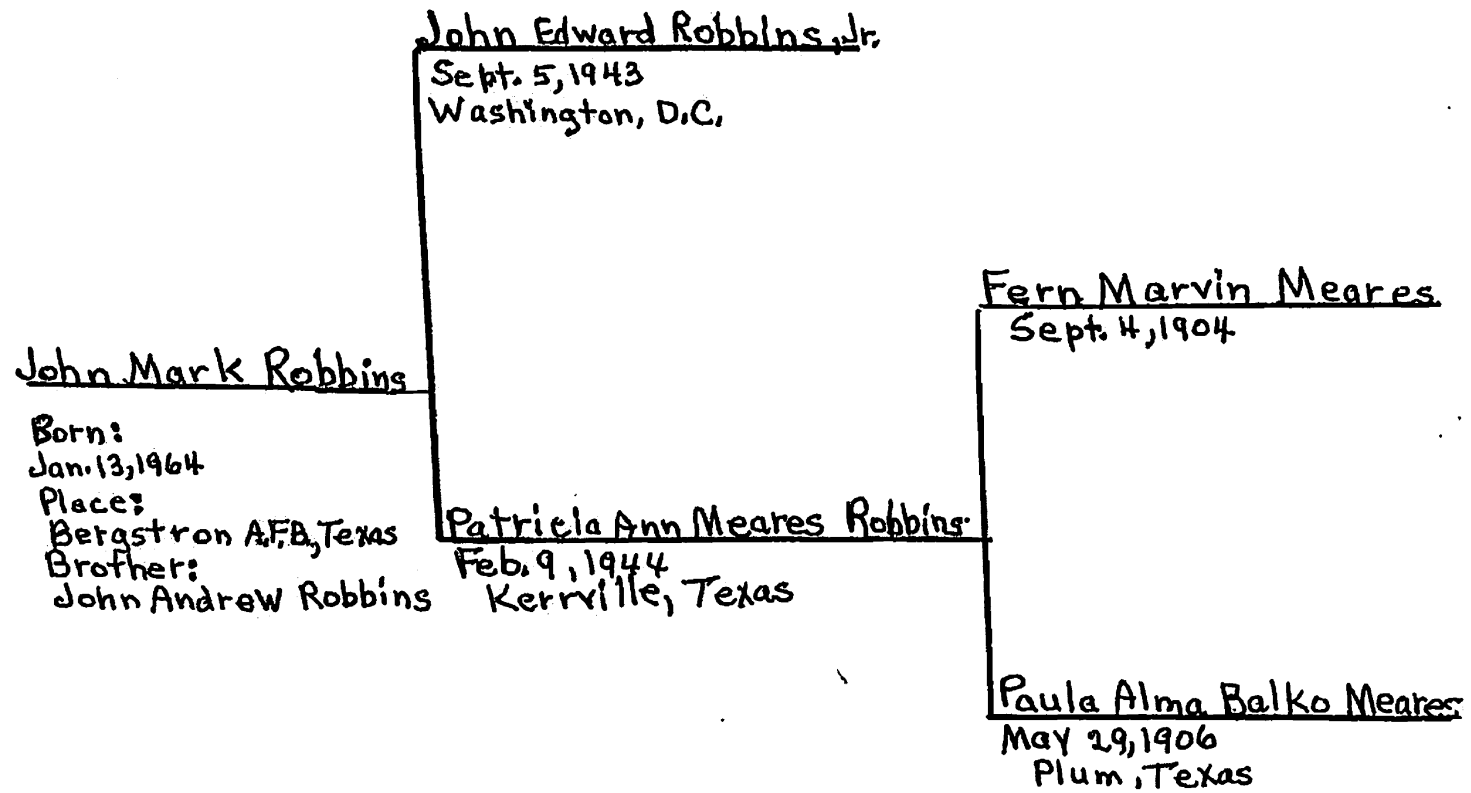
As a father Christoph was very self-disciplined. So, when he married the strong morals and discipline reflected on the children. Christoph taught himself how to play the violin, and was very good. The violin is still in the Balko family. He also served as peace officer at dances and was very active on the jury. The Balko family was very close and Christmas was a big occasion. The children were sent to the store and when they returned the parlor door had been opened and a big Christmas tree would be decorated with presents underneath. When they awoke on Christmas morning their stockings were filled with candies and cookies. Still life was not easy, for they had to get a sled to feed the stock in the winter.

Christoph died at the age of 85 but his wife Frances Balko went on to live to the age of 105 years, 6 months and 4 days. She died

on August 28, 1974. Frances outlived all of her 10 brothers and sisters except Menetta Germany. She still attends church and will be 102 next September 21, 1980.

One of the Balko's children was Paula Alma Balko. She remembers her parents hitching the horse and buggy on Saturday nights so the family could go to Plum, Texas for the dances.

Paula Balko married Fern Marvin Meares and they had two children, Marvin Neal Meares and Patricia Ann Meares. Patricia Ann Meares married John Edward Robbins, Jr. Patricia is my mother. I have one brother, John Andrew Robbins. I was born at Bergstrom A.F.B., Austin, Texas on January 13, 1964 and my brother was born December 7, 1964.



Christopher John Balko

Feb. 12, 1863 1948
Germany

Fronzisk Elise Carby Balko

Feb. 24, 1869 Aug. 28, 1974
Blackjack, Texas

Jacob Balko

Feb. 22, 1817 Oct. 14, 1904

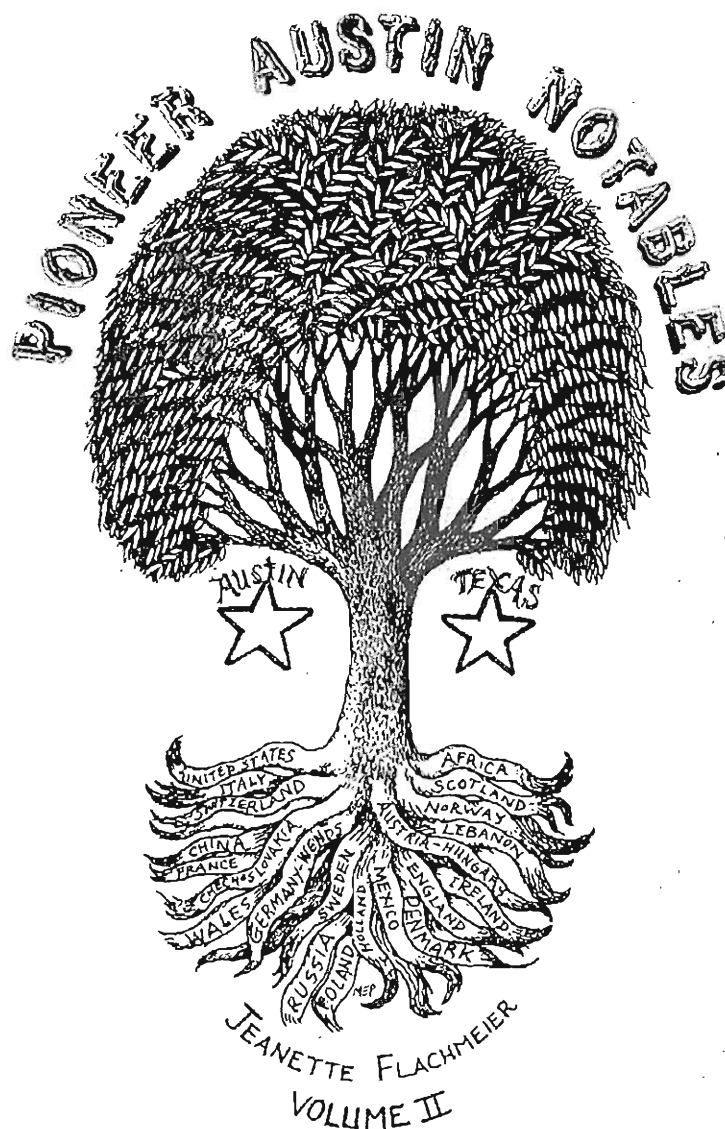
(At time of immigration,
Jacob's name was Jacob
Mickisch. Balko means carpenter.)

Adolph Carby

March 13, 1833 1877
Saxon, Germany

Teresa Jenull Carby

1846 1912
Austria, Germany



Mrs. Flachmeier, the author, was a member of GTHS. She died in the 1980s. I worked with her on another book where she published winning essays on family history (1980).

Anna Thompson
Dublin, TX

PETER HENRY OBERWETTER, GERMAN AMERICAN

Who taught Austinites to appreciate the beauty and wonders of flowers?

Peter Henry Oberwetter, son of Nobleman and Mrs. Bishop Oberwetter, who was born in Dornberg, Westphalia, Germany, on January 8, 1830, was that extraordinary person. He received his formal education in the schools of Germany - in all likelihood Bielefeld. At an early age, probably in his teens, Peter fell in love and married a peasant girl, Marie (Mary) Schade, several years older than he. Because of family opposition to his marriage and his own dislike for compulsory military service, he came to America, the great land of wonderful happenings. He embarked on the CANAPUS, a ship that left from Bremen, Germany, and landed in New Orleans in 1848. From the port city he completed his journey to Texas, and landed at Indianola on December 3, 1849. With a group of German immigrants he made his way to New Braunfels and later established his home in Comfort, Kendall County.

Just when his bride came to Texas has not been definitely determined, possibly around 1854. According to an account, he smuggled his wife on a ship, probably the same one on which he sailed, that was bound for America. According to the records Oberwetter, his wife and family lived in Comfort from about 1854 to the 1860's. Wherever Peter went he pursued his scientific interest in beautiful plants, shrubs and bulbs. On February 19, 1862 he enlisted with the Comfort Militia to protect homes of families whose husbands and sons were in the Confederate service. Because of his opposition to military service, he left his family in Comfort and went to Mexico where he carried on his business of searching for new plants and bulbs and exporting many different kinds of plants - both new and some from Texas - to various parts of the world.

At the end of the War between the States Oberwetter returned to Texas. About 1870 he and his family moved to Austin, where he secured work as a printer in a print shop, perhaps the old Von Beckman Jones' print shop and at the American Statesman's office. He assisted in landscaping the Texas Capitol grounds and served as Gardener for the Texas School for the Deaf (then called Texas Deaf and Dumb Institute) from 1866 to 1874. In Austin he continued his exporting and importing business with plants and bulbs. Evidently, he had many contacts with nurserymen of the United States, South America and other countries who realized that he was a very special creative person.

While he was enjoying his work with Texas and imported flora, he realized that the needs of his family were important, too. Just when he became an Austin business man is uncertain. According to the record in 1877-78 he and his family conducted a business of groceries, provisions, tin, wood and willow ware from his rock home at 1505 Sabine Street. Perhaps, his wife and children were in charge of the business while he was busy continuing his hobby, his first love - his creations of different kinds of bulbs and plants and his export and import affairs. Near his home was an improvised greenhouse where he tenderly cared for his plants and carried on his experiments. Imagine his excitement and joy in roaming the

hills of the Austin area in search for new plants for his works. By 1883 he was recognized as an important botanist of the area and from about 1889 to 1896 he had a "Florist Shop" with an appropriate greenhouse for all of his wonderful, exotic plants and bulbs.

No only was Oberwetter recognized as an important experimenter with plants but also as a writer concerning his botanical research for yearbooks and magazines dealing with plants and plant life. During 1878-79 he wrote three important papers for Mechan's ,THE GARDENER'S MONTHLY on "Amaryllis and Orchids" and two articles on "Care for Texan Ants". In 1883-84 he wrote for Schuetz's YEARBOOK FOR TEXAS (YARRBUCH FÜR TEXAS), an article called "A Few Remarks about Beautiful Trees, Shrubs and Ornamental Plants in Texas" ("Einige Bemerkungen ueber die Schoenster Bacume Straeucher under andere Zuerplantzen in Texas"). During the same years he was engaged in making collections of living and dried plants on the Frio River, near Knippa, west of San Antonio. He sold his collections of various plants and bulbs to nurserymen of the northern states as well as to ones of other countries.

Probably, Oberwetter was the first person to import the Amaryllis John Johnsona as well as the Habranthus miniatus into the United States. Certainly, he was the pioneer who reproduced the Amaryllis in Texas. With his many successful experiments he became the Amaryllis expert who was able to produce many beautiful varieties by cross breeding the plants. An example was the crossing of Van Eden's "Fidelis" and "Count Cavour" which created a number of hybrids, perhaps not very colorful, but abundant bloomers well adapted to the Texas climate. The strain which had a long neck with six to eight strap leaves and a trumpet shaped flower may still be imported from Brazil as Oberwetter did so many years ago. The pure white Texas Rain Lily was one of his chief exports together with native bulbs and those of his own creations whereas he imported many rare and exotic bulbs and plants.

During the time in which he was busy with his floral endeavors and experiments his family and the business grew and prospered. His home and his greenhouse were the center of his activity. In the course of time he and his wife Marie had six children, 4 boys - Emil, Oscar, Herman and William - and 2 girls - Bertha and Anna - who enjoyed a happy and contented home life. The children were educated in the schools of Austin and went on to higher institutions of learning. The children were interested in books, the source of much exciting knowledge. In their home education was highly esteemed. The children received religious training by example and word of mouth from their parents. Even though Oberwetter was sometimes gone for a period of time, Marie and the children knew that he would return happy for he had spent his time in a worthwhile endeavor - the finding of new plants.

The family learned the value of a good sound business from the time of the grocery store with its extra activities. Marie carried on the business affairs and probably raised some of the produce sold. The children helped in many ways. The family surely missed his guidance when he was away pursuing his own activities but they knew that he was doing what he did best - providing more

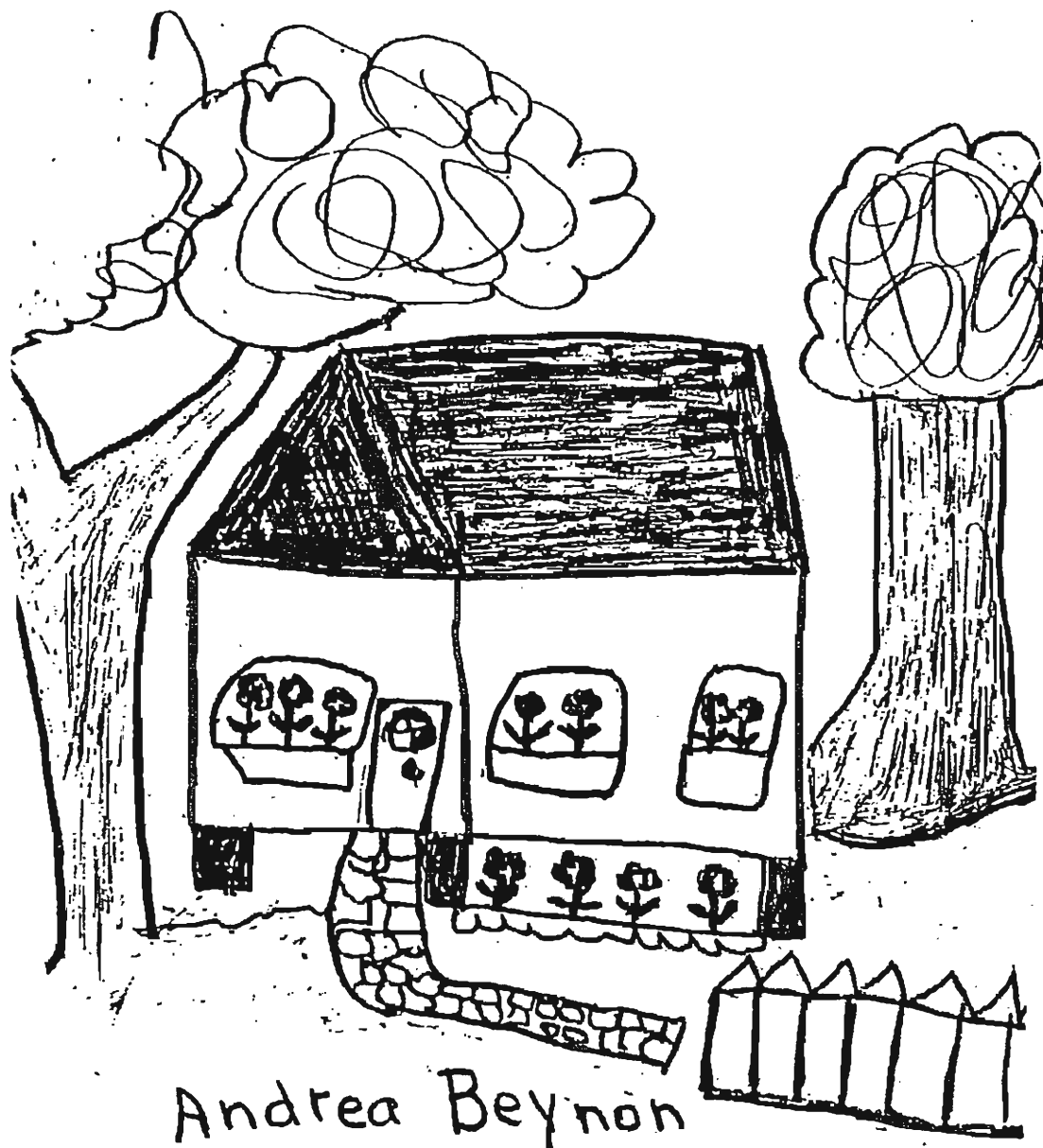
exciting and interesting plants for Texans and Austinites. He was intrigued with experimenting and intensely dedicated to the work in which something new might be discovered at any moment. Certainly, his most prized possession was his greenhouse. Try to imagine if possible how this expert of crossing plants and creating new varieties must have felt when he really produced a new strain! Even in his retirement years, when he had to give up much of his activity, he still worked with and enjoyed his plants.

On May 21, 1915 Peter Henry Oberwetter died at his home on 1505 Sabine Street - now the location of the Special Events Center. He was buried in Oakwood Cemetery beside his wife, Mary, and his son, Oscar, who had been killed by lightning on a cattle drive. He was survived by three sons - Emil, Herman and William and two daughters - Bertha Schuelda and Anna Smith.

During the 45 years in which Oberwetter worked and lived in the Austin community, he created and scattered throughout the world, the United States, Texas and Austin beauty as illustrated in colorful plants, bulbs and shrubs - native and imported ones. In his special way he helped to satisfy the human longing for beauty in nature. Three varieties of the Amaryllis may serve as a memorial to his life: the Lycoris - from his own garden - , the pure white Texas Rain Lily - of the summer months - and the bright red Habranthus - Red Soldier of the fall season. His combined love of the beauty and usefulness of plants and bulbs with his botanical skill produced a unique scientist for Austinites long to be remembered. The beautiful creations of his flowers may be seen not only in the yards of flower-loving Austinites but also in those throughout the nation and the world. Whenever plant-beauty lovers view extraordinary lovely blooms and unusual plants, the name of pioneer Peter Henry Oberwetter springs into their minds. In 1935 Dr. C.W. Hall, an amaryllis specialist himself, honored him by writing an article on his life and work called "A Texas Amaryllis Pioneer" in the AMERICAN SOCIETY YEARBOOK. On May 14, 1977, a Texas Historical Marker was placed on the grave of this pioneer scientist, who lived for the creation of beauty on earth, at Oakwood Cemetery. The contributions of this unique florist, horticulturist and amateur botanist to the state and city of Austin live through the lives of his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren in their occupations and professions.

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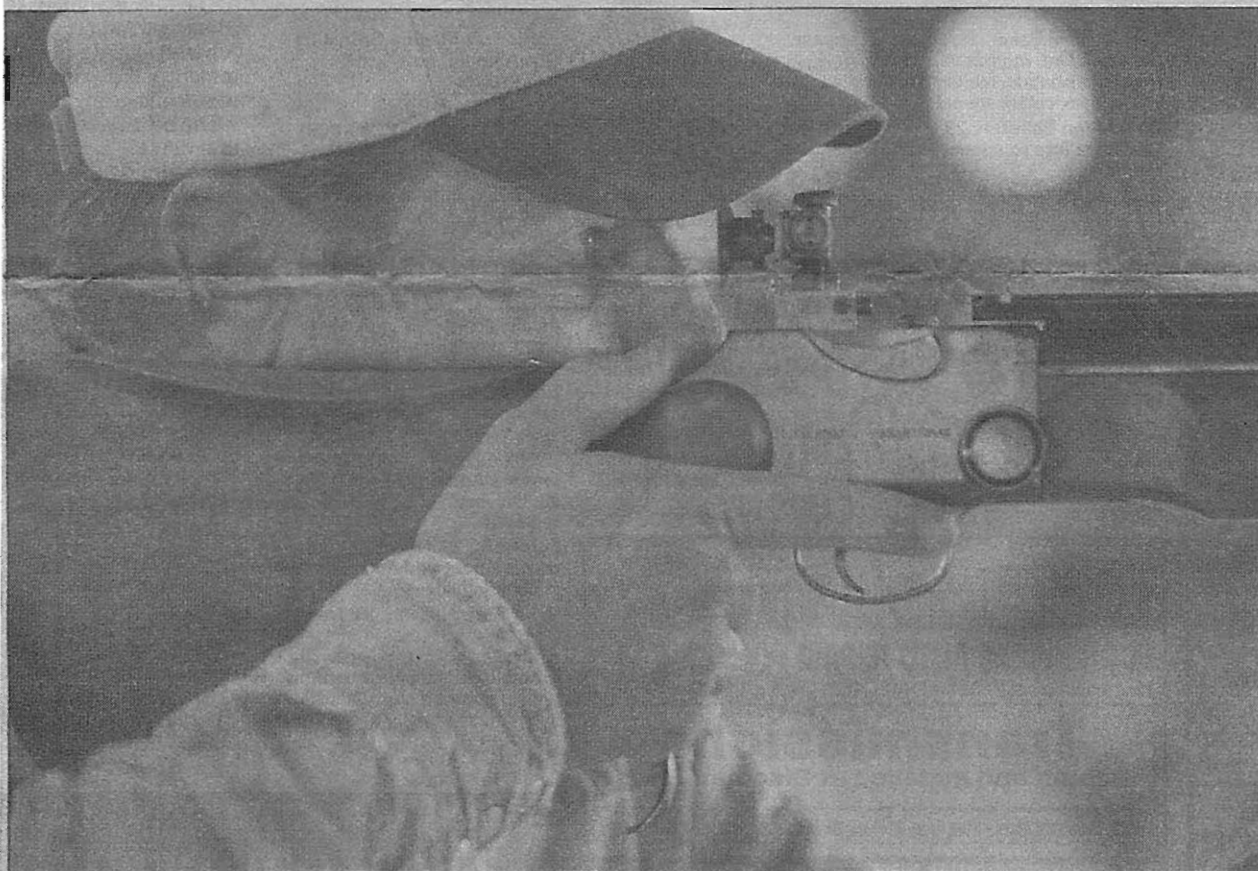


Andrea Beynon

New Braunfels

HERALD-ZEITUNG — Wednesday, August 13, 2008

TEXAS' OLDEST GUN CLUB



LAURA MCKENZIE/Herald-Zeitung

Matt Carter lines up his shot while target shooting Friday with his Martini rifle at the New Braunfels Schuetzen Verein.

Tradition is cherished at club that predates the Civil War

By Andrew Martinez
The Herald-Zeitung

In 1849, 14 local residents began the New Braunfels Schuetzen Verein (shooting club) and almost 160 years later the club is as strong as ever.

About 100 members belong to the Schuetzen Verein and

MORE INFORMATION

■ Call (830) 237-2376 or (830) 560-2125 or go to www.nbsv.org

meet twice a month to shoot .22 caliber rimfire cartridges at targets 100 yards away. The club's calendar revolves around its

participation in four annual competitions hosted by its members and other local shooting clubs.

What makes the club stand-out is not the competitions they have or the ammunition they shoot, it's the Schuetzen Verein's rich tradition and history.

"This club was formed on July

4, 1849, so we believe it's not only the oldest gun club in Texas but the oldest in the nation," said Scott McCash, the club's president. "We also think it's the oldest club of any kind in New Braunfels."

Lining the walls of the club's

See **GUN CLUB**, Page 10A

submitted by Helgard Sauer

who came over to start the city and its something that's been passed on," she said.

The club has moved between five different locations during its 159 years, and has changed its name once in its history.

"During the time of anti-German sentiment around World War II the club's name was changed to the New Braunfels Shooting Club," Merkel said. "After the war it was changed back," she said.

McCash said he revels in the club's history, even though he is not used to it the way some other participating families are.

"The history of our club is very traditional," they got from their dad or their granddads; it's the same gun that they use now their raising their children to shoot, Merkel said. "Many are shooting because their parents have members who shoot very closely to history and growth of New Braunfels," she said. "I think that should be preserved and people should know that we still here, it came over with those

newly built clubhouse are members of the club's past. Trophies and medals won in team and individual competition are encased behind glass. Scorebooks from the 19th century and mature books from other local shooting clubs that have long since folded are kept in bookcases that themselves date back more than 100 years. The club even has managed to keep the letter given to it by the government of Germany in 1846. The letter gave the club's founding members, German immigrants, the permission to start the club.

Club secretary Yvette Merkel said for many families the club is more than just shooting rifles and having fun.

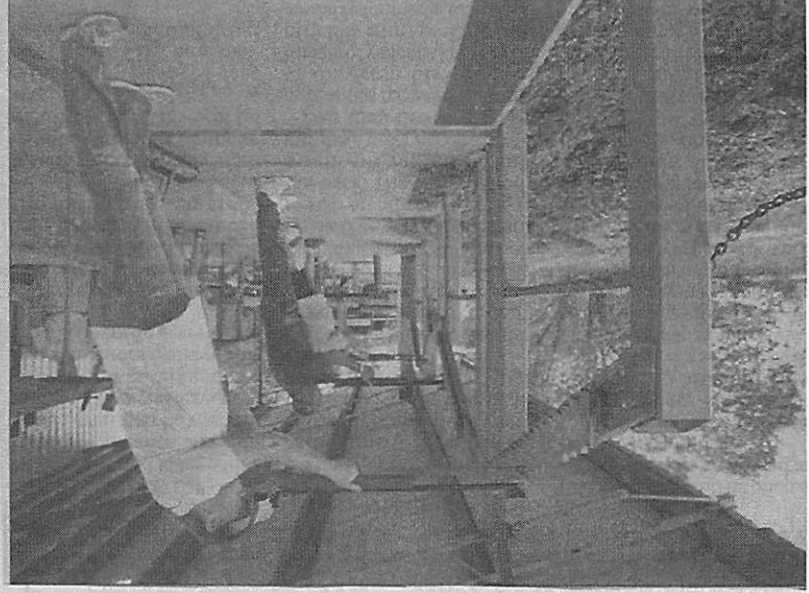
"We have members who shoot because their parents shot and their granddads shot and now their raising their children to shoot," Merkel said. "Many are shooting with the same gun that they got from their dad or their granddads; it's very traditional."

Schuetzen Verein
has stood test of time

CONTINUED FROM Page 1A

GUN CLUB

Laura McKenzie Herald-Zeitung
Club treasurer Jean McLean practices target shooting with her Anschutz rifle on Friday evening. The New Braunfels Schuetzen Verein is the nation's oldest gun club.



Laura McKenzie Herald-Zeitung
Jessica McLeod, 15, talks about her duties as a pointer on Friday at the New Braunfels Schuetzen Verein. Jessica and other children were responsible for marking targets and communicating with shooters and scorekeepers using various signals.



THE FIRST CATHOLIC CHURCH IN FAYETTE COUNTY

By Carolyn Heinsohn

In the early 1850s, settlers in the Ross Prairie area of Fayette County, who were primarily of German and Czech origins, were gathering together in their homes for religious services. In spite of their language and cultural barriers, these early settlers joined together to find comfort in God's Word. They felt that God had not only provided them with the courage to make the drastic change of leaving their homelands for an unknown future, but also the opportunity to achieve a better life in the New World. In spite of having undergone countless adversities in taming their new land, including difficulties in providing food, shelter and clothing for themselves, hostilities from Indians and weather extremes, they were still thankful for their newly-found freedoms and ability to acquire land.

Two priests, Reverends. J. Anstaett and Peter Victor Gury, were recruited by the Bishop of Galveston to serve the needs of the early immigrants in Central Texas. Rev. Gury helped found many churches, especially in Fayette and Colorado counties. Both priests celebrated Mass in the homes of the Zapalac, Hoelscher and Scheel families, who were early settlers in the Ross Prairie area. It was decided that a church should be built, so 28 ½ acres were acquired by Bishop J.M. Odin of the Galveston Diocese from Carl Hillman and his wife. A small log church, named St. Joseph, which these families built, was dedicated on May 10, 1855. It has the distinction of being the first Catholic Church in Fayette County.

A cemetery was established near the church, most probably soon after the first church was built. A few of the early parishioners were buried in this cemetery, including Anton Hoelscher, Sr., who died circa 1857, and possibly his teenage son, Franz. The names of other burials are unknown, although Hoelscher family recollections indicate that several graves were still evident prior to World War II. This small cemetery also has the distinction of being the first Catholic cemetery in Fayette County.

Anton Hoelscher, Sr. and three of his four sons, Anton, Jr., Josef and Wilhelm, who emigrated from Westphalia, Germany to Texas in 1846, all owned land at Ross Prairie, where they were hoping to establish a town. According to family tradition, Anton, Sr. had drawn up plans for the town, which included a church, school and businesses essential to support the needs of the local residents. The population in the area increased, so by 1859, the settlers felt that it was necessary to replace the crude log church with a small frame church. However, it seems that the visionary plans for a town ended with the death of Anton Hoelscher, Sr.

Charles Ehlinger, an early settler in the area, had set up a sawmill, blacksmith shop, gin and general merchandise store at Live Oak Hill, two miles south of Ross Prairie, so some members of St. Joseph's parish decided that it was not advantageous for their future to remain at that site. After the decision was made to relocate the church circa 1861, Charles Ehlinger moved the church to the top of Live Oak Hill, a beautiful site with a wonderful view of the surrounding countryside. In October 1864, Charles Ehlinger, for a consideration of \$275.00 and 28 acres of the original land at Ross Prairie, sold approximately 33 ½ acres of land to St. Joseph's Church at Live Oak Hill, which is still the land on which the present church and cemetery are located. The one-half acre on which the cemetery was located at Ross Prairie was not included in the transaction.

Earlier deeds of transactions for the surrounding acreage always excluded that one-half acre as a Catholic cemetery, but by the 1920s, it was never mentioned again. The Hoelscher family marked the burial site of Anton Hoelscher, Sr., presently located on private land, with a tombstone placed there in 1954, as well as erecting a marker on Wecheta Road in 2006, commemorating their immigrant family's contributions toward establishing St. Joseph's Church and settling the area.

As the Catholic population continued to increase, the small frame church that was moved from Ross Prairie became inadequate. It was replaced by a larger church that was completed in 1865. The first parochial school and home for the nuns were built in 1866, followed by the first rectory, which was constructed in 1872.

More businesses were established at Live Oak Hill, including a post office, which was located at the foot of Live Oak Hill. The community was eventually named Ehlinger after its founder, Charles Ehlinger, a prominent businessman and benefactor. After the railroad was built two miles to the west in 1881, the station was named Ellinger, a variation of the name Ehlinger, due to a clerical misspelling in some legal transaction. All of the businesses from the foot of Live Oak Hill were moved adjacent to the railroad and became the present town of Ellinger. The church, rectory and school remained at Live Oak Hill.

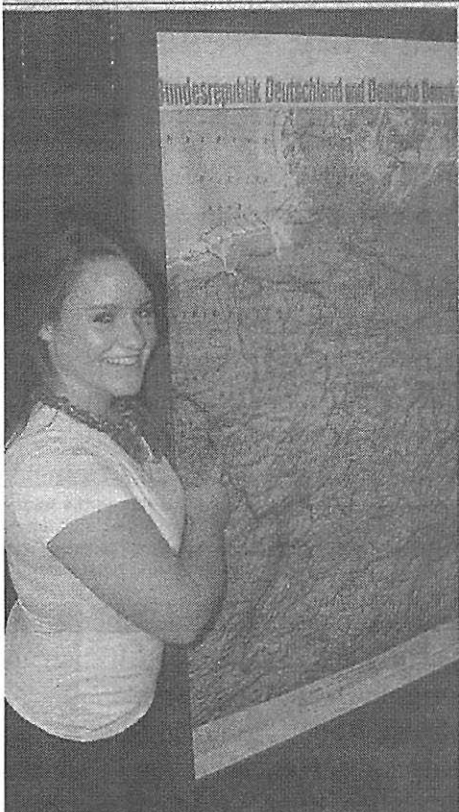
As more Moravians moved to the area, they began to call the beautiful hill where the church was located "Hostyn Hill", after Hostyn in Moravia, a pilgrimage place dedicated to the Virgin Mary, the most revered of all their holy places. This site closely resembled the original Hostyn, so the settlers originating from that area lovingly attached the same name to this hill. Later, this proved to be confusing when Rev. Paul Kaspar changed the name of the community of Moravan, located six miles southwest of La Grange, to Hostyn in 1925 for the same reason – its resemblance to Hostyn in Moravia. Thereafter, the original Hostyn was referred to as Hostyn Hill near Ellinger.

The Catholic population continued to grow, so St. Joseph's Church was replaced by a larger, more elaborate church in 1879, which was dedicated to the Immaculate Conception. This church was destroyed by fire on Easter Sunday in 1905. While a new church was being constructed, a severe storm almost completely demolished the building, leaving only the tall tower and steeple standing. The parishioners, undaunted and determined, completed another church by the fall of 1906. Eventually, the name Immaculate Conception evolved into St. Mary's Church near Ellinger.

Throughout the years, changes were made to the interior and exterior of the church, most notably to the steeple, which was lowered due to instability. Several years ago, the parishioners restored the church to its original splendor, as well as restoring a shrine built in 1928, which was a replica of one of the Stations of the Cross at Hostyn Hill in Moravia, Czech Republic. The old school and rectory are no longer there, but the beautiful church sitting high on a hill in southeast Fayette County still serves as a reminder of the dedication and faithfulness of the early Catholic settlers in this part of Texas.

*Sources: The History of St. Mary's Church near Ellinger, Texas
 Recollections of Hoelscher family traditions
 Fayette County Deed Records. Researched by Carolyn Heinsohn*

The Fayette County Record, Friday, June 27, 2008



Sara Hajek points out Wuppertal, her home base in Germany for nine months beginning in August. The map of Germany is courtesy of Winedale.

A Year In Germany: Das Leben Ist Schön

By H.H. HOWZE
The Fayette County Record

Sara Hajek just graduated from La Grange High School. Now she's going to repeat the 11th grade.

This time in Germany.

Hajek is one of only two of this year's long-term (nine months plus) Rotary Youth Exchange students from the Austin district.

She leans forward over an iced tea at Latte on the Square, eyes sparkling with anticipation. "I just learned that they have clay tennis courts near my first host family's home in Wuppertal and I'm so excited."

Besides being an enthusiastic tennis player, Hajek is a poised young woman who knows how to go after what she wants.

"There was a lengthy written application and a series of interviews with her and her parents," said local Rotary Club liaison Ann Rogers. "When Sara heard about the program, she just went after it."

Exchange students live with host families who provide meals and housing. The program provides an

85 Euro per month (\$115) stipend.

Language shouldn't be much of a problem.

Hajek was president of the high school German Club in her senior year. "I'm half German and half Czech" she said. Her mother, Nancy's, "name from home" is Hensel.

She will spend nine months studying in a German *gymnasium* [gim-nah-zium] – the equivalent of a U.S. high school.

But there are some differences.

"I think they will put me in the 11th grade," she said. "They have 13 grades, but 12 and 13 are all about preparation and taking of the 'abitur'" – the German graduation exam which determines whether a student goes on to a university or takes a vocational track.

Hajek will start her adventure July 28 with a flight to Berlin using frequent flyer miles donated by former Delta flight attendant Norma Webb.

After a week of sight-seeing in Germany's famous and vibrant capital, she heads for the city of Dus-

Please turn to back page

Continued from Page A1

seldorf on the Rhein River in the west central state of Nordrhein Westphalen. There she will meet the first of three host families and travel with them to a place more in keeping with the scale of home – the town of Breckerfeld, population 11,000. It's near the larger city of Wuppertal.

This is a continuation of the local Rotary Club's involvement with the international service organization's long-running Youth Exchange program.

Hajek is part of the out-bound program. Last year an in-bound student from Italy, Ricky Betteghella, spent a school year at La Grange High School. His hosts were Dan and Angela Beck.

Another La Grange student, Nick Sanford, is currently in Germany on the long-term program.

Youth Exchanges take place in almost all of the 200 countries and geographical areas where Rotary clubs exist. About 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 32,000 clubs worldwide, creating an extensive network of volunteers to provide the necessary support for the program.

As for additional in-bound students, Rogers said, "We need some local families to step up and volunteer to be hosts." The program prefers at least two host families per student for variety.

Hajek is already planning for her return. She will attend the University of Texas at Austin and wants to major in German and Russian. She thinks she would like to work as a translator at the United Nations some day.

But tennis hasn't been forgotten. "I can just imagine being in Paris in May," she enthused.

And as Lyle Lovett sings in a recent song, she's "not talking about Texas." Hajek means the French Open on the red clay courts at Roland-Garros.

Don't be surprised if she gets there.

HALSTED, TEXAS – A LITTLE TOWN THAT DISAPPEARED

by Carolyn Heinsohn

The community of Halsted in Fayette County was located about six and one-half miles east of La Grange near the Fayette Power Plant. The fertile Colorado River bottom is located a short distance to the south. The Halsted area was first settled in 1824 by George Duty, a member of Stephen F. Austin's Colony, who was granted the land by the Mexican government. Other early settlers were Placide Heller and Batiste December, a relative of Joseph Biegel, a German-speaking immigrant from Alsace-Lorraine, who founded the nearby community of Biegel. Although many of the early settlers of Biegel and Halsted, including Heller and December, were of German-French extraction from Alsace-Lorraine, most of them had German cultural patterns. Therefore, Joseph Biegel is credited with founding the second German community in Texas, since Germans from Prussia and the German-Rhineland area soon started arriving in the area; the first German community was Industry in Austin County. The community of Biegel is now covered by the waters of the power plant cooling lake.

In 1839, R.E.B. Baylor, a Baptist minister, judge and congressman, named the developing community Halsted. Although many of the early settlers were of Alsatian and German extraction, some later settlers were of Czech origin. In addition to those mentioned, other early settlers were C. Halfinger, L. Struve, Robert Pohl and Mrs. A. Wolle. Later arrivals included the Leglers, Huebels, Nitschkes, Hattermans and Polaseks.

After marrying Mary Heller, the daughter of Placide Heller, John Wessels, a German immigrant, acquired land in Halsted and built a general store in 1896. It was located next to the railroad and had an attached concession stand between the store and a dance hall, which he also built. The Wessels also owned and operated a saloon located on the north side of the railroad and a lumberyard, gin, seed house and blacksmith shop on the south side of the tracks in the area of the mercantile store and dance hall.

John Wessels also built a thriving gravel business, employing thirty men. His gravel pits were located on 500 acres of land where the power plant is now located. Gravel was shipped by the MKT and Taylor, Bastrop and Houston Railways. In the early years, the railroad gravel cars were loaded by means of a scraper full of gravel being pulled up a ramp by mules and dumped through a trap door into the rail cars. The mules were then taken down the other side of the ramp to reload the scraper. Wessels owned twenty teams of mules that were used to load gravel into railroad gondolas. In later years, a dragline was used.

Halsted had a post office in 1900 located in the Wessels store, a telephone connection and daily mail, plus railroad freight and passenger service. The post office was discontinued in 1906 when rural route mail delivery was begun. Garland Wessels, the oldest son of John Wessels, was the first and only train master of the Halsted depot, which he first operated from the general store. The actual depot was built in 1914 on the north side of the railroad; it closed twenty-two years later.

Land for a school was also donated by John Wessels. The teachers taught only German. After the turn of the century, children from the Biegel Settlement also came to school at Halsted. There were approximately 18-20 students.

John Wessels and his wife Mary built a beautiful two-story home in Halsted in 1894. Mary always had a very nice yard with a greenhouse filled with many unusual plants. They acquired over 900 acres of land and leased additional acres to bring their cultivated acreage to over 1000 acres; sharecroppers, living in tenant houses in the river bottom, raised cotton and corn.

In 1896, Wessels was elected County Commissioner and later served in the Texas Legislature as the Representative from Fayette County for two terms, 1921-1924.

In 1925, a hurricane damaged the store, which was rebuilt. Unfortunately, two devastating fires later destroyed all of the businesses in Halsted. The dance hall and gin were lost in the first fire. Around 1940, the lumber yard and general store were destroyed in a second fire. A smaller mercantile store was built on the site of the saloon after the second fire; it now stands in ruins. The old Wessels' home, which was spared in the fires, has been renovated and is now a private residence. The depot, which was moved behind the old Wessels' home, has been renovated as well. These three structures are the only remnants of a bustling little town that was literally wiped off the map by the devastating destruction of natural disasters. There is a sign on Highway 71 indicating the road to Halsted, but it is misspelled "Halsted". An old photo of some of the buildings in Halsted shows a sign on one of the buildings that clearly validates the correct spelling of the town name.

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Submitted by Rodney Koenig, The Fayette County Record, June 27, 2008

Tiedt Reunion Held June 8 In La Grange

The descendants of Fritz and Annie (Marquart) Tiedt held their annual reunion on Sunday, June 8, at the VFW Hall in La Grange. There were 89 members and several guests in attendance.

A family style dinner was served at 12:30 p.m. Weldon Tiedt of Houston said the blessing. A moment of silence was held for deceased members.

In the afternoon a fund-raising auction was held. Randy Freudenberg, Craig Prause and James Baca, all of La Grange, conducted the auction. Assisting were Melanie Prause and Lorri Freudenberg of La Grange and Barbara Tiedt of Austin.

The oldest member present was Thelma Baca, 92, of La

Grange. The youngest was Ayden Kathleen Powell, two month old daughter of Justin and Tish Powell of Frankston. Weldon and Lil Tiedt of Houston were married longest (48 years). Don, Audrey and Ken Fitzgerald of Frankston and the Powell family of Frankston traveled the longest distance.

Everyone sang "Happy Birthday" to three members with recent birthdays, Thelma Baca, Edgar Tiedt, and Buck Tiedt.

Other members attending came from Houston, Austin, Holland, Manor, Flatonia, Wimberly, and La Grange.

James Freudenberg, Carolyn Prause and James Baca organized the reunion.

The next reunion will be on Sunday, June 14, 2009.



Round Top's Rifle Hall will host this award-winning "Blasmusik" band performing traditional tunes.

German Band Plays Saturday

By H.H. HOWZE

The Fayette County Record

"Eins, zwei, zuffa! (one, two, drink!)," as they sing at the German Oktoberfest. It's time again for German brass band music in Fayette County.

Blasmusik (German for "wind band") Texas, the Texas All-State German Band, will perform at the Round Top Rifle Hall from 6:30-8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 2.

This will be the group's sixth appearance in the part of

Texas once known as *Klein-deutschland* (little Germany), according to band member Ronny Sacks of Round Top.

Blasmusik Texas consists of 35-40 musicians from all over Texas, who come together a few times a year to perform polkas, waltzes and marches from Germany and other central European countries.

Herbert Bilhartz, former director of the U.S. Army Band at Heidelberg, Germany, is the conductor.

Performing with the band are local musicians Glenn Davis from La Grange (tuba), Michael Sacks (trombone), and Ronny Sacks (fluegelhorn), both of Round Top.

A traditional German meal, consisting of *kassler rippchen* (smoked pork chops), grilled sausage, sauerkraut, German potatoes and tea will be served beginning at 5 p.m. for \$7. A cash bar will be open the entire evening. Concert admission is free.

Submitted by Rodney Koenig

The Fayette County Record, Friday, August 1, 2008

Local man reads Steilschrift to benefit Rainbow

The Boerne Star, July 15, 2008

Submitted by Connie Krause

BY BRIAN CARTWRIGHT
Editor & Publisher

When Boerne's Rudolf Scheffrahn was growing up in post-World War I Germany, he never imagined the German writing style known as Steilschrift he learned as a child would, decades later, benefit descendants of German-Americans in the Texas Hill Country and others.

By initiating "Rudolf's Translations," Scheffrahn hopes citizens from the area will bring their old "Steilschrift" to him to translate so he may donate the proceeds from this service to the Rainbow Senior Center's capital campaign to build the new Kronkosky Place.

Loosely translated to mean "steep writing," Steilschrift was the writing style used in Germany until the early 20th century. Scheffrahn, 90, has parlayed his knowledge of this style by translating old family documents and writings of German immigrants who settled the Boerne area beginning in the mid-1800s.

"Thanks to the excellent education I received while growing up in Germany, I am able to read, understand and translate into the English language everything written or printed

in German during the past two centuries, perhaps even further," Scheffrahn said.

Boerne residents Juanita Chipman and Joyce Rust can testify to Scheffrahn's depth of knowledge of the writing style after he translated documents that were meaningless to them before.

Chipman's great-grandmother, Eda Kampmann Herff, kept a diary that Scheffrahn read and deciphered for her.

"Rudolf was the right person to find. He and his late wife, Lia, translated it for me. It is now a part of my family history that was missing before," Chipman said. She paid Scheffrahn for his services, which he promptly donated to the Boerne Village Band, the Benedictine Sisters water aerobics program and the Cibolo Nature Center.

Rust connected with Scheffrahn through the Rainbow Senior Center, leading to the translation of her grandmother's baptismal certificate issued in 1856 in Helstorf, Germany. "Many people say they can read or speak German, but he's the only one I know who is able to translate this," Rust said, referring to the certificate's Steilschrift style. Rust's payment to Scheffrahn was donated to the senior center.

Not many people in their 90s start new businesses, but Scheffrahn, who drives himself around town, is spry and focused on sharing his skill in order to benefit others. "Getting up in years, I will be too happy to do the needed translations. Hopefully this new service will result in many happy participants. The ladies and gentlemen in this area, finally, will be able to learn the contents of their old papers, written or printed in German. And, our Rainbow Senior Center will be the most deserving recipient of the incoming donations, 100 percent."

Scheffrahn attended the Herzog-Albrecht Schule (school) in Rastenburg, East Prussia, Germany. "It was an excellent school. It prepared me well for life," he said.

Scheffrahn, his wife Lia and their first son emigrated to Indiana, where they lived for five years. They moved to California, residing there for 28 years. Scheffrahn and his wife relocated to Boerne in 1983. He joined the Boerne Village Band and played trombone in the popular group for many years.

To contact Rudolf's Translations, call Carolyn Stauss or John Green at the Rainbow Senior Center at 830-249-2114.



Joyce Rust, left, Rudolf Scheffrahn and Juanita Chipman look at a copy of Rust's grandmother's birth certificate that Scheffrahn translated.

The Boerne Star, July 11, 2008
Submitted by Connie Krause

Historic bowling alley faces challenging future

BY ELENA TUCKER

Staff Writer

It's around suppertime at the start of a Boerne weekend, and 19-year-old Jamie Mix slides a bowling ball down the Turn Verein lane just like she has every Friday for as long as she can remember.

"I've been coming here since I was a little kid," she said. "Friday nights basically my whole family comes. I'm probably related to half or more of the people here."

Mix represents three family generations who've gathered under the private

club's roof. In the Turn Verein, time hangs in the air, drifting and clinging like the scent of old woodwork and new smokes.

Not one of the several who're cradling icy bottle necks at the old bar seem to remember a time when the Turn Verein wasn't a steady and important part of their lives. But these days, home happens to be poised at a crossroads.

"Well, to me, back in my younger days, it was kind of like home," said a soft-spoken club president, Jerry Collins.

See HISTORY, page 5A



Above: Jamie Mix warms up before the crowd hits as her family comes together for their generations-long, Friday-night bowling time at the historic Turn Verein. At right, Vintage fittings and the sense that the calendar ceased to turn a half-century ago infuse the Boerne Turn Verein with rare appeal.

HISTORY FROM PAGE 1A

Collins joined the Turn Verein — German for “athletic club” — and often seen as one word rather than two — in 1952 when he was a teenager. He’s been coming once or twice a week for the half-century that’s since intervened.

Located steps off Boerne’s Main Street on East Theissen Street, the club officially celebrated its 100th birthday last year.

But its actual beginnings, according to genealogy database Texas GenWeb Project, date to 1878. The State of Texas’ online handbook advises that Boerne’s club began in order to promote gymnastics, exercises that were originally held in the old Dienger hall, later moving into the Phillip House now under renovation at 706 S. Main St.

Texas turnvereins that managed to endure did so by discarding the never-too-popular gymnastic theme. Some clubs became dance halls and community centers, but the Boerne Turn Verein eventually organized around the sport of bowling, buying its present site, and adopting a charter in 1906.

“The bowling alley has been my life,” said 38-year-old past president Aaron Pfeiffer. “I grew up there. I worked there. I met my wife there and we actually had our wedding ceremony there. We have all of our kids’

birthdays there.” As well, Pfeiffer fondly recalls being served his first beer at the patina-rich bar when he “turned of age.”

It is that kind of history in the community that was recently recognized by RUDAT consultant Joe Miles as a place that generates “social capital.”

But even as civic leadership begins turning its attention to the importance of this traditionally blue-collar meeting place, the Turn Verein is itself struggling to identify precisely who and what it is.

As Boerne begins a plan to define its future, so the Turn Verein struggles to identify what it will become.

These days it’s impossible to discuss Boerne’s bowling club without mentioning how change may be afoot. The aging, no-frills locale should put up a For Sale sign, according to some club members.

One such member who wished to remain anonymous, has been coming into the Turn Verein since before grade school.

“I think it’s inevitable,” the member said. “Nobody around here wants to see things change, but once we start passing the hat around to these tight Germans, there’s not a chance of raising enough money.”

It would take a quarter of a million dollars, according to this member, to save the building.

Many, though, are firmly set against seeing their beloved bowling club forced into an era where they feel neither it nor they belong.

They want to stay put, physically and philosophically.

“The Methodist church is interested in the property for their expansion,” Collins said. “I’m old enough now that I have a lot more years behind me than I do ahead of me. I’m not leaning one way or the other.”

New facilities and updates would be advantageous, Collins said.

“We’ll just see how it goes. It’s not a slam-dunk that this thing is for sale,” he said.

However, members like Pfeiffer, whose kids are now the family’s fourth generation to bowl under the Turn Verein roof, can’t believe that such thoughts could be entertained.

“Yes, there are lots of things that need to be done,” Pfeiffer acknowledges about the physical state of his much-loved building.

Nevertheless, the structure is a critical part of what the Turn Verein has meant in his life. He can’t imagine life without the small building.

He’s not the only one feeling that way.

“Even when they change one little thing,” Mix said, “when I walk in here I know right away.”

Comments by UTSA historic conservationist, Bill Dupont offer scholarly authentication to the young bowler’s feelings.

“Layers of history in a building, the patina of time cannot be reproduced on command,” Dupont said. “Older buildings feel a certain way because of the

way they were built and then worn in by their users. The feel of the floor, sounds of life bouncing off the walls, quality of light, smells and other sensations one experiences in a historic building are unique to that place. Even simple buildings become extraordinarily special when they’ve been used and loved by the community for decades.”

The ebb and flow of decades have bleached Boerne’s Turn Verein into the familiar background of the town’s fabric. It exists without splash or prominence.

Some of the membership believe they know just how the Turn Verein should stay — centrally located and unchanged.

“Right now it’s the only other family-oriented place besides the YMCA,” said Pfeiffer. “Basically I spent my entire life at the club.”

Deep Ellum: a cool secret

Re: “Haven for the down and out,” by Clay Dove, Friday Letters and “Big D, big disappointment,” by Liz Condit, June 6 Letters.

With all the complaints about downtown Dallas, including panhandlers, I feel I must let you in on our little secret: Deep Ellum. Yes, I’m sure you’ve heard of it. Well, it’s home to a lot of great restaurants, art galleries and cool bars. And coming soon, two new DART stations, so you won’t even have to drive to get here. And there are new lofts throughout Deep Ellum.

I have not encountered a panhandler in Deep Ellum in months. I hope to see you in Deep Ellum real soon. Stop by for a cold drink and a sample of our panhandler repellent. It works.

Greg Fussell, Dallas



FILE 2001/Staff photo

The Sons of Hermann Hall is a familiar venue in Deep Ellum.

German Immigrants Succeeded in Schulenburg

The Two Brothers Saloon

By EUGENIA REEVES

Fayette County Historical Commission

Known throughout Fayette County as the "Two Brothers Saloon," the two story brick building owned by Charles and Gustav Sengelmann, was quite elegant. The large front hall, with a high ceiling, was supported by massive pillars and visitors dropped in for refreshments, a game of dominoes, billiards

Footprints Of Fayette

or pool or to read county newspapers. The brothers were the first who introduced a fine line of newspapers for their patron's reading pleasure.

In connection with the bar, a short order cafe was located in the rear which was operated by John and Louise David and later by Fritz Thoelke. A schooner of beer for five cents entitled customers to eat all the sandwiches they wanted that were always on the bar.

Many people believed the stove in the cafe caused Schulenburg's great fire in 1893. The fire on October 10, 1893 burned a part of the west half of the downtown block along Upton Avenue from North Main to Anderson Street. The fire burned the Rud. Seydler's "Centennial Hall" Saloon, Sengelmann's "Two Brothers" Saloon, Joe Russek's "Sun Sea" Saloon, Ignatz Russek's General Store and Dr. Henry P. Overby's office and residence and all sheds and warehouses in the back.

Paul Breyman's stone and brick drug

store saved the east half of the block.

In 1894, the "Two Brothers" Saloon was rebuilt with an added first-class, second floor which served as a place for public balls, meetings, weddings and theatrical performances. It had an elegant hardwood, polished floor and measured 50 by 85 feet.

Charles and Gustav Sengelmann were leading dealers in choice wines and spirituous liquors. Sons of Hans Henry Sengelmann, Sr., they were both born, reared and educated in Spreng, Holstein.

Hans Henry Sengelmann, Sr., was born in Germany on October 26, 1820 and died on January 14, 1907. He took an active part in the revolution of 1848 and was one of the five survivors of the war in his locality. He reared five children—Henry, Johanna, August, Charles and Gustav.

August and Charles immigrated to Texas and first located at Columbus, where they were employed by their uncle, Henry Ilse. They saved their money and in 1876 settled in Schulenburg.

In 1885, August Sengelmann returned to Germany to visit his father and, on returning to America, brought back with him his brother, Gustav, to whom he sold his interest in the business in 1888. He went



Standing behind bar, wearing bowtie, is Gustav Senglemann.

back to Germany and became proprietor of one of the leading hotels of Kiel, a seaport of Schleswig Holstein. He carried on a large and profitable business until meeting his death in an automobile accident on July 13, 1905.

Charles Sengelmann married Elizabeth Arnim, native of Moulton, Lavaca County, Texas, daughter of A. A. and Von (Schaste) Arnim. They were the parents of nine children: Henry, Wally, Minnie, Molly, Charles, Lillie, Alexander, Klondike and Hester.

Like his brothers, Gustav Sengelmann received an excellent education in Germany. As previously mentioned, he came to the United States with his brother, August, in 1885, succeeded him in business and became an active member of the firm known as the "Two Brothers."

Gustav Sengelmann's wife was formerly Bertha Sommer, who was born in Schulenburg and was the daughter of Ferdinand and Augusta Sommer. Her parents were both natives of Germany. Five children were born to Gustav and Bertha—Gustav, Jr., Silva, Wilbur, Ruth and Eunice.

Both Charles and Gustav Sengelmann were members of the Sons of Hermann and were recognized leaders of Schulenburg society. They stood well socially and financially, and had a high reputation for reliability in the county.

Excerpts taken from the "Legacies and Legends" column printed in the Schulenburg Sticker and Fayette biographies on www.rootsweb.com.

Photographs and family history contributed by Patricia Cox Mary, Eileen Cox Smith, Hugh and George Cox, grandchildren of Gustav Sengelmann.



The Two Brothers Saloon was one of Schulenburg's finest and most popular.

Submitted by Rodney Koenig
The Fayette County Record, July 27, 2008

Kristkindlmarkt ²⁹⁵

Sponsored by Beethoven Damenchor

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

Saturday, December 6, 2008

10 AM - 5 PM

Free Admission

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



Bistro und Konditorei

Erbensuppe (Split Pea Soup)

Bratwurst mit Sauerkraut

Kaffe und Kuchen

Gluehwein Bier Heisse und Kalte Getraenke

**Beethoven Halle und Garten
422 Pereida Street at South Alamo
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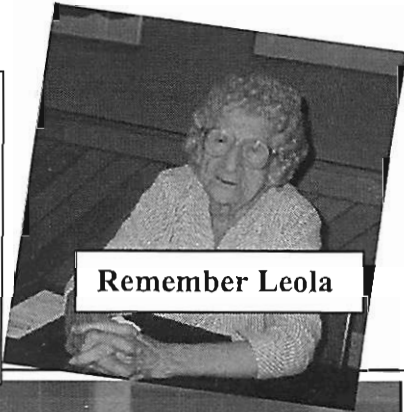
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Limited number of vendor spaces available - Please apply soon

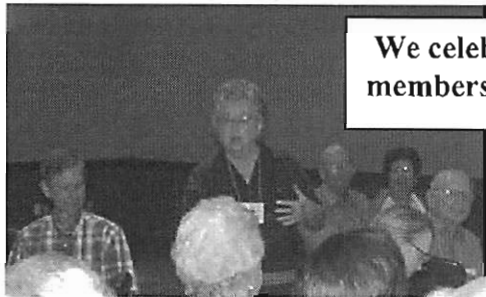
Scenes from the Annual Meeting



**Founding members
Anna Thompson,
Dona Reeves
Marquardt, board
member Mary
Whigham and
Mary El-Beheri**



Remember Leola



**We celebrate our past,
members and memories**

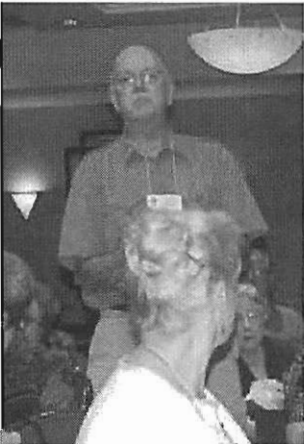


Joycine Hanath remembers playing "Snow White"

Then: Love those bonnets



Teresa Gold Remembers



(You Know Who) Remembers



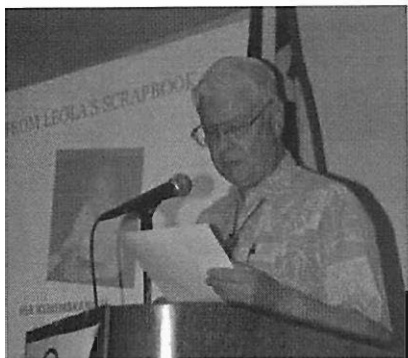
Then: We were thespians!



Lewis Marquardt Remembers



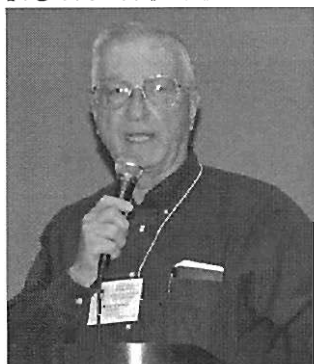
Then: We gather at Fredricksburg



NOW: We are called to order



We pledge to the flag



We learn



We visit



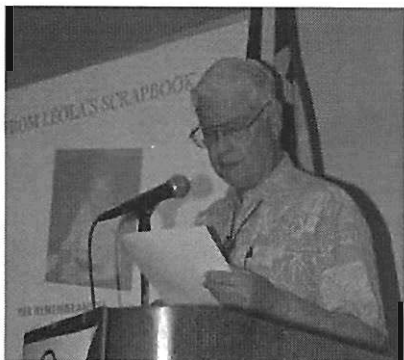
Young People!



I'm supposed to be where?



We Are Entertained



NOW: We are called to order



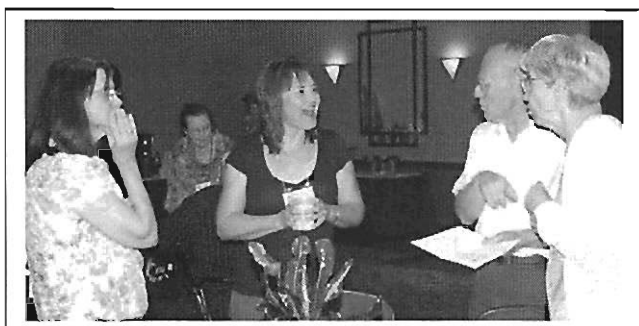
We pledge to the flag



We learn



We visit



Young People!



I'm supposed to be where?



We Are Entertained

GERMAN-TEXAN INTERESTS

- Genealogy
- History
- Culture
- Speaker Series
- German Interest Tours
- Language Classes
- Education & Research
- Volunteer Projects
- Maifest
- Christmas Market
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- Adv Fluent

*Thank you for joining GTHS
and the
German Free School Guild*

HERZLICH WILLKOMMEN

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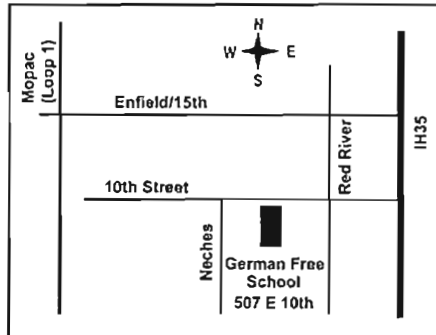
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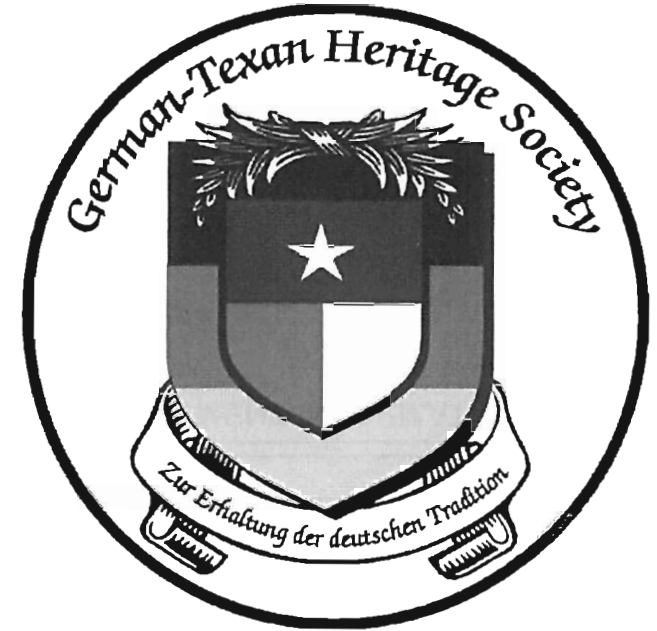
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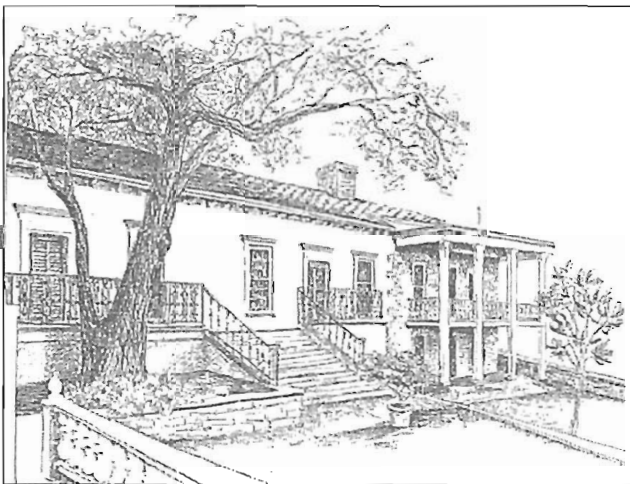
TEXAN SPOKEN HERE

Promoting awareness and preservation of the German cultural heritage of Texas.

The German-Texan Heritage Society is renowned for the books it publishes, the cultural events it sponsors, and its unique collection of immigrant and historical books, including the complete collection of *Texas Vorwaerts*, an all-German Texas newspaper. Founded in 1978, GTHS is a non-profit organization dependent upon the generosity of friends and members who support its mission.

EDUCATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

In 1858, the German Free School Association opened Austin's first chartered school in the building pictured below. Since 1991, the German Free School has served as our headquarters. Learn to read and write German here, research German-Texan history in our Pioneer Library, and come participate in our numerous cultural events.



GTHS ANNUAL MEETING

Each year members and friends of GTHS gather to listen to speakers, participate in workshops, visit German heritage sites and build new connections. See the Summer *Journal* or the GTHS website (www.GermanTexans.org) for more information.

MEMBER BENEFITS

Membership is based on a calendar year and open to anyone interested in the German heritage of Texas. You do not need to speak German to be a member of GTHS.

- Free Advice on Genealogy Research
- Discounts on Classes and Events
- Informative Member Publications
- Monthly Email Newsletter

THE JOURNAL

Your annual GTHS membership brings you an issue of the Society's *Journal* every three months. Each issue contains over 100 pages of family history, genealogy, inquiries from GTHS members seeking information about their German heritage, articles about GTHS members and their families, and statewide news of German-Texan events.

In each *Journal* you will find book reviews and articles about our German-Texan culture and history written by GTHS members or taken from other publications and newspapers.

THE GUILD

The German influence in Texas is a living legacy. Through Guild membership in the GTHS, our members are promoting and preserving their cultural heritage for the generations to come. Guild members host and organize the many programs offered at the German Free School, including German language classes, a monthly speaker series and annual traditional German events.

As a GTHS Guild member, you will receive (6) issues of our bimonthly Guild newsletter, the *Schulhaus Reporter*, which includes a calendar of events.

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Permanent Editor beginning with December 2008 issue: **MARY WHIGHAM**

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, or info@germantexans.org

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING MATERIALS TO THE JOURNAL?

NEXT ISSUE

SPRING (MARCH 2009)
SUMMER (JUNE 2009)
FALL (SEPTEMBER 2009)
WINTER (DECEMBER 2009)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

February 1, 2009
May 1, 2009
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Materials sent for The Journal will not be returned. All materials must include contributor's name, a source and date. All submitted manuscript articles must be typed single space on 8 ½ x 11" white paper with right and left, top, bottom and side margins no less than .7 inches. Electronic versions are preferred. Newspaper clippings should NOT be cropped closely as this can be done more accurately with our computer. 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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