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GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

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German-Texan Heritage Society

2009 ANNUAL OPERATING FUND

The Operating Fund Drive is the largest and most vital component of our overall strategic fundraising plan. Now more than ever, we are seeking your continued support for this fund drive, as we aim to weather the financial downturn with as little disruption of activities as possible. Our goal is to continue to provide our members and the general public with the informative and entertaining programs, events, and publications we're known for. We're decreasing expenses where we can, while also doing our best to garner financial support, both from GTHS members and new avenues, such as corporate sponsors for events and ads in the Journal and on our website.

Thank you for your generous support of the 2008 Operational Fund Drive. Despite the economic climate, we raised \$18,025, 90% of our budgeted goal of \$20,000. We ask for your support again this year to help us achieve our goals of increasing membership and visibility for GTHS. We aim to have every Texan of German descent know who we are, and to get the vast majority of them to join!

The thoughtful dedication of your gifts, in memory of or in honor of friends or relatives, enriches the fund tremendously. Please also keep in mind that many corporations have matching donation programs, often for retirees too.

Your continued support and generosity for GTHS and the German Free School Guild are vital in our mission of "promoting awareness and preservation of the German cultural heritage of Texas." Donations at any level are greatly appreciated. We encourage you to pledge at your most generous level and are counting on your strong support.

Sincerely,

Charles F. "Chuck" Kalteyer
Coordinator, Operational Fund

Ewing "Wing" Evans
President, GTHS

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



I wish to support the 2009 German-Texan Heritage Society Operating Fund Drive at the donation level of:

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

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30th Annual Meeting of the German-Texan Heritage Society

OCTOBER 9-10, 2009

**WINGATE (Wyndham) Hotel and Conference Center
Round Rock, Texas**



www.wingateroundrock.com

**WELCOME WILKOMMEN WELCOME WILKOMMEN
WELCOME WILKOMMEN WELCOME**

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE AND PROGRAM

(NEW IDEA)

Friday afternoon, Oct. 9 – Pre Meeting Genealogical Workshops
2-6 p.m.

Some of the Workshop topics will be:

2-3 p.m. "Using DNA for genealogical research," Max Blankfield, Vice-President,
Operations and Marketing,, <http://www.FamilyTreeDNA.com>

"Internet Genealogy "(bring a laptop if possible), Randy Whited , from the AGS

Karen Matheson, Round Rock Family History Center, "LDS Records for German
research." (POWERPOINT with handouts)

"Records for German genealogical research"

Workshop Leaders are coming on board and will be announced after June 15
Directed by Liz Hicks, GTHS, Genealogical Editor, erootrot@usa.net

Let The Meeting Begin.....

Friday, October 9 – 7-10 pm - Reception :

Chorus, Puppet Theater – Westwood HS

**7-8 p.m. - Supper (Abendbrot) with mingling and chatting;
pick up registration packets**

8-9 p.m. - “Meet the German-Texan Authors”.
Bring your book-- read from it, autograph it, sell it!!

SESSION 1

9-10 p.m. PANEL of Ex and Present teachers: MARY EL-BEHERI and others to be added..... TALK ABOUT: "How to use German-Texan stuff in your classroom or in your organization--hands on for use with kids and senior citizens and everybody in between." Some handouts. For example: transcription/translation of old family papers; keeping grave-stones in good repair - adopt a cemetery; how to read the old handwriting (Sueterlin); do a name search in your school or organization, find out who are German-Texans; research for the Texas Historian and join the Junior Historians of Texas; make up scavenger hunts in various places, cemeteries, cities like San Antonio, so people can find out how much German exists; make a website for your group; many other projects.

Saturday, October 10

8-9:00 am Registration

**9-9:30 am Welcome GTHS President; short presentation about
Round Rock area**

SESSIONS 2 and 3

9:45- 10:45 - Slide Show: "A Cape Coder in search of her German-Texan Roots --
Folks of Volks and Schaub's in San Antonio", Cheryl Ryder, Musicologist, Boston, MA

11:00 – 12:00 - "The Afrika Korps in the Lone Star State" – Arnold Krammer, Prof. of History, Texas A&M University: During WW II more than 370,000 German prisoners of war were held in the United States, nearly 70,000 in Texas. They worked to bring in America's harvests, studied English, and escaped with regularity. Every one today recalls those years as being 'the best years of their lives.' A Power Point presentation of original vintage photographs will show American-German cooperation in the midst of a world war.

12:15- 1:15 pm BUFFET LUNCH
Skits: German presentation (with translations)
Awards Presentations – Connie Krause

SESSIONS 4, 5 and 6

1:30–2:30 - Powerpoint: Sarah Reveley: 6th generation German-Texan; Retired commercial interior designer; Taught Interior Design/History at UTSA part time 1987-1992; DRT – Texas Centennial coordinator

Part 1 Saving our Centennial http://www.picturetrail.com/neglected_tx_centennial
Back in 1936 the State of Texas decided to hold a Centennial celebration, and like everything else Texas does, it was the biggest and best celebration the world has ever seen. Almost all of the items from that centennial celebration are still around, and thanks to the recent acquisition of the 1938 book produced by the State of Texas, I can show these items to you. We need your help in finding and saving many of those artifacts.

Part 2 Saving our Cemeteries http://www.picturetrail.com/texas_cemeteries
My travels around Texas have led me to all kinds of old cemeteries, many in need of your help. A grass roots effort is needed to protect them.

2:45 - 3:45 –“OAKWOOD: Austin’s oldest Cemetery, 1839”, Dale Flatt, Austin Firefighter and a member of the Austin History Center and the State Historical Committee

4:00–4:30– '2009 GTHS Scholarship Winners' from the Texas State German Contest: TBA Introduced by Wing Evans, President of the GTHS

4:45 - 5:15– 'GTHS Business Meeting': Closing session with elections and evaluation

7 p.m. - Dinner in Walburg (add-on to Annual Meeting registration. Pre-registration required.)

WELCOME WILKOMMEN WELCOME WILKOMMEN
WELCOME WILKOMMEN WELCOME

8:00 – 9; 9:15 - 10:15; 10:30 – 11:30 P.M. German film :
“Dresden” (2007–DVD) 180 min (mini-series from German TV) In German with English subtitles. This would be a chick flick if it did not have World War II as its background. It won top honors from the “Bavarian TV Awards ” as the best mini-series and the best actress in a mini- series. Plot summary for **Dresden (2006) (TV)**: Like other TV movies of the production company Team-Worx, **Dresden (2006) (TV)** focuses on an extraordinary historic event in connection with a tragic love story of a woman between two men. In January 1945, the young nurse Anna Mauth, working at a hospital in Dresden, becomes engaged to senior physician Benjamin Wenninger. At the same time, an English Lancaster bomber is shot down. The pilot Robert Newman, the only survivor, manages to reach the city severely injured and hides in the hospital's cellar. Anna discovers him incidentally thinking he is a German deserter, but finally decides to help Robert...

German Miniseries On Dresden Bombing Sets Record Ratings: 7 March 2006 | From Studio Briefing | See recent Studio Briefing news: Part 1 of a two-part miniseries, **Dresden -- The Inferno**, drew the largest audience for a German miniseries in history Sunday night as 12.7 million viewers tuned in. News reports suggested that an even larger audience may have tuned in Monday night. The film, set during the 1945 Allied bombing that flattened the city and killed 35,000 people, is the most expensive ever produced for German television, costing \$13.2 million. It attracted 39 percent of the 14-49-year-old viewers. The film is also reportedly the first to treat the World War 2 event as drama, focusing on a fictional romance between an RAF pilot shot down during the bombing and a German nurse.

OR

8-11:000 pm

LIVES OF OTHERS (2007): ACADEMY AWARD WINNER AS BEST FOREIGN FILM OF 2006

Set in 1980s East Berlin, director Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck's debut feature (which earned an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film) provides an exquisitely nuanced portrait of life under the watchful eye of the state police as a high-profile couple is bugged. When a successful playwright and his actress companion become subjects of the Stasi's secret surveillance program, their friends, family and even those doing the watching find their lives changed too.

East Berlin, November 1984: Five years before its downfall, the former East-German government ensured its claim to power with a ruthless system of control and surveillance. Party-loyalist Captain Gerd Wiesler hopes to boost his career when given the job of collecting evidence against the playwright Georg Dreyman and his girlfriend, the celebrated theater actress Christa-Maria Sieland. After all, the "operation" is backed by the highest political circles. What he didn't anticipate, however, was that submerging oneself into the world of the target also changes the surveillance agent. The immersion in the lives of others--in love, literature, free thinking and speech--makes Wiesler acutely aware of the meagerness of his own existence and opens to him a completely new way of life which he has ever more trouble resisting. But the system, once started, cannot be stopped. A dangerous game has begun.

Call For Papers – there are several slots left!! We need some exciting, innovative presentations about German-Texan topics. If you want to be considered for a Saturday slot, ask me for a presentation form, (if you do not do email, call the GTHS office, they have my telephone number!) contact Mary El-Beheri at melbe@satx.rr.com DEADLINE IS JUNE 15, 2009.

THE JOURNAL OF
THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
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"Zur Erhaltung der deutschen Tradition"

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Vielen Dank to these contributors

Charles Locklin, Austin	Lee Ann Hartmann, La Grange
Mary El-Beheri, San Antonio	Rodney Koenig, Houston
Dean Schertz, Schertz	Doris Koester Rosenbaum, Houston
Marcella Chapple, Austin	Anna Thompson, Dublin
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Charles & Janice Thompson, Houston	Gail Folkins, Austin
Loretta Leonhardt, Red Rock	Tim Pecsénye—Toledo, Ohio
Gail Folkins, Austin	Evelyn T. Saucier, Round Rock
Ed Makowski, Mission	

Do you get the E-Kurier? Send us your email address so you can be put on the list to receive this informative update on things happening with the society and elsewhere

A member (Bill Nienast) posed the following: "We had a discussion several weeks ago about what is the 'German culture' we want to preserve. Here's another thought on the subject. How about asking all the members by letter or Email to comment on the subject or question?" *(Editor's note: Is the Journal a vehicle for such discussions? Let me know.)*

In Memoriam



William Milton Koehler passed away on April 3, 2009. He was born on July 8, 1925, to William Frank Koehler and Julia Hrcir Koehler of Moravia, Texas. After graduating from Schulenberg High School at the age of fifteen, he worked briefly in Houston before attending Texas A&M University. His studies were interrupted by World War II, when he was drafted into the Navy and spent time in Guam as a radio/radar technician in Fleet Air Photo Group Two. Upon his discharge, he returned to Texas A&M and graduated with the class of '46 with a degree in Chemical Engineering.

He joined Humble Oil and Refining Company, now Exxon-Mobil, and retired in 1985 after 38 years. His profession led him into many interesting careers and he spent time traveling around the world conducting training sessions while on assignment to Esso Production Research. These included programs in Libya, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Colombia, and Indonesia. He was a registered Professional Engineer in Texas and California and a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers and the National Association of Corrosion Engineers, of which he was Chairman of the Houston chapter while living in Houston. While working for Humble on the King Ranch, Bill married Ruth Hardt, a long-time friend, on October 24, 1952. They were transferred to Houston, where they raised their two sons, William Alan Koehler and James Brian Koehler.

After retiring to Austin in 1985, Bill and Ruth enjoyed many years of hobbies, including travel, astronomy, and genealogy. They visited the remaining five of the fifty States and traveled to China, Bahrain, and England. During this time, they became interested in genealogy and joined the Austin Genealogical Society. For many years, Bill was Editor of the AGS Quarterly. In 1992, they published a book entitled *Henry Christian Hardt, a Genealogy: 1639-1992* on Ruth's paternal grandfather who came to the Republic of Texas with his father at the age of eighteen. The book was awarded a prize by the Texas State Genealogical Society.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters, Gladys Hrcir and Helen Marie Schornack and husband E.W. Schornack. He is survived by his loving wife, Ruth, two sons, William A. Koehler of Batavia, Illinois and James Brian Koehler, of Pflugerville, Texas, and one niece, Carol Schornack Moore and husband Robert Moore of Bulverde, Texas, and many nieces and nephews.

The family expresses deep gratitude to Dr. Gwendolyn B. Miller, Dr. John Sandbach and the staff at Texas Oncology, and Hospice Austin.

Visitation will be at Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home in Austin at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7, followed by a memorial service at the Weed-Corley-Fish chapel at 2:00 p.m., with Rev. Bill Henderson officiating. Interment will immediately follow at Austin Memorial Park.

Memorials can be made to Texas A&M University, Northwest Hills United Methodist Church, or Hospice Austin.

Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home Web Site
Submitted by Charles Locklin, Austin

In Memoriam



Edgar Henry Leonhardt
Sept. 12, 2008

Edgar Henry Leonhardt, 82, of Red Rock, died at Oak Creek Nursing Center in Luling on Sept. 8, 2008. He was born to Heinrich "H. Y." and Christiana (Kneip) Leonhardt, on Jan. 1, 1926, in Winedale, Texas. The youngest child of a family of eight, having seven older sisters. He grew up in the Winedale area, and attended schools at Winedale and Boundary.

Edgar was baptized and confirmed at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, at Round Top, Texas. For many years he pumped the old pipe organ while his sister, Johanna, played the organ for church services and funerals. He sang in the church choir both in English and in German. Edgar was a Sunday School Superintendent and usher in the church for many years. Edgar's confirmation class was the last to be confirmed in the German language at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Living with his parents and sisters in the Winedale area, he worked on the family farm until he was drafted into the US Army in 1951, serving his country in the Korean War. On Aug. 16, 1953, Edgar and Loretta Hartfield, daughter of Leo and Lina (Bartram) Hartfield, were married at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Edgar worked as a sheet metal worker for J. M. Boyer Metal Fabricators, in Austin, for 37 years. He retired from there in 1987 after suffering a heart attack. Edgar and Loretta made their home in Austin, and then moved to the Red Rock area until the time of his death.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters: Johanna Schulze and husband, Edmund, Clara Rebarske and husband, Willie, Olga Mayer and husband, Leslie, Ellen Hill and husband Stancel, Sylvia Mertz and husband, Albert, Alice Seidel and husband, Ernest, Jr. "Mookie"; brother-in-law, Delphine Hinze, Sr.; and niece, Jane Felder.

Edgar is survived by his wife of 55 years, Loretta Marie Leonhardt; sons, Kenneth Leonhardt and wife, Christi, of Gonzales, and Bruce Leonhardt and wife, Terri, of Belton; daughter Elaine Michna and husband, David, of Dale; sister, Rosa Lee Hinze, of Brenham; grandchildren: B.J. Leonhardt, Kenisha Leonhardt, Kenna Leonhardt, Katie (Leonhardt) Garcia and husband Gabe, Nicholas Michna and Joshua Michna; and one great-grandson, Draidon Garcia.

Visitation will be held on Friday, Sept. 12, 2008, at McCurdy Funeral Home at 5 p.m. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008 at 11 a.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 919 W. San Antonio St., in Lockhart, with burial following at 4 p.m. at Florida Chapel Cemetery near Round Top.

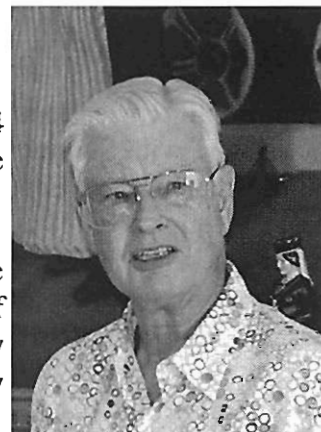
In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to Grace Lutheran Church, 919 W. San Antonio St., Lockhart, Texas 78644. Arrangements under the care and guidance of McCurdy Funeral Home 105 E. Pecan Street Lockhart, Texas 78644 (512) 398-4791.

Submitted by Loretta Leonhardt, Red Rock

President's Notes

The 14th Annual Maifest was a great event. And now that it has been 4 days after Maifest, I am beginning to recover. My sincere thanks to the many volunteers whose hard work made this event possible.

There were many of our old friends on the grounds of the German Free School enjoying the party, and many new ones too. The best part of Maifest this year was the much greater turnout of kids. We had many more activities for them, the word got out, and they came. It seems they managed to bring their parents too.



Don Harms did two shows with his wonderful Marionettes. The Samstagsschule students presented their skit "Snow White" during the intermission. Also there were quite a few craft activities for the kids to keep their hands busy.

For the adults we had food, drink, music, and entertainment. The GTHS probably gained 4 or 5 new members from this Maifest.

The preliminary results are that we made significantly more money this year than we did last year. That is very encouraging.

In February, I presented the scholarships to 5 contestants for the essays they had written. The meeting was in UT's Gregory Gym, and the assembled students were loud and enthusiastic. Mary El-Beheri is the creator of this event. It is clear that this kind of effort will keep our German culture alive and well.

The next big event is our Annual Meeting. It will be in Round Rock on October 9-10. Please put this event on your calendar. The education and entertainment being set up will be outstanding.

We still need underwriters for all of our events. If you know of any company, society, or individual that might be an underwriter for our upcoming events, please make the appropriate request.

Ask your friends who might have a German connection or interest to join us. The GTHS is a fun group.

Wing

Executive Director's Report

Though summer vacations aren't too far around the bend, GTHS will be as busy as ever, with Summer German classes offered now in three locations – Austin, Brenham, and San Antonio. We're also in the midst of planning the Annual Meeting for this fall, and beginning plans for an Oktoberfest and/or a party to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Summer is also the time we plan for the fall semester of German classes and when we order imported craft items from Germany for our Christmas Market.



We've finalized the results of our Maifest and I'm pleased to report that it was quite a success! We had a great turnout, with lots of new faces in the crowd, including many children. The food was excellent, the music and marionette show were entertaining, and the three types of German beer on tap were well received and all kegs were emptied! Maifest cleared a total of almost \$3800 for GTHS. Special thanks go out to the large number of volunteers who made it all possible. Dankeschön!

On that note, I want you to know that we'll be hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Party the third weekend in July at the German Free School in Austin (exact date & time TBA). Everyone who has volunteered for GTHS in any capacity (events, programs, office, library, boards, etc) is invited to attend. We also welcome anyone who is interested in volunteering in the future to join us. We'll provide something to eat and drink. Feel free to bring a guest, and we'll spend an enjoyable afternoon together!

I also wanted to report that GTHS Advisory Board member Van Massirer organized a successful German Genealogy Seminar in the Waco area back in March. By all accounts, the speakers were well-received, and lots of useful information was shared with the participants. GTHS raised over \$800 and several attendees became new GTHS members. We're hoping to make this an annual event, so if you're interested in helping organize a genealogy seminar in your area early next year, please let me know.

I've already mentioned our summer German classes, but I also wanted to let you know that we're planning to offer classes this fall in 5 locations – Austin, Brenham, Fredericksburg, Killeen, and San Antonio. Thanks to GTHS Program Director Melanie Schmidt-Dumont for all her work on this expansion of language classes!

In order to keep you up-to-date on all the GTHS happenings, please send us your current email address and we'll add you to the *GTHS E-Kurier* list – a monthly email newsletter with information on events all across the state.

Last, but not least, we've been working hard on creating a new website for GTHS. It will have more current information, be easier to navigate, and should be online by the time you read this. Please check it out at www.germantexans.org and send me any comments you might have.

I hope each and every one of you has a wonderful and relaxing summer!

mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Eva Barnett
GTHS Executive Director

LEAVE YOUR GERMAN MARK

By Rodney C. Koenig (past President of GTHS)

Our ancestors have left their German Mark in many and varied ways. My great grandmother, Dorothea Dinklage Koenig, left Germany on the SS Trave with her three youngest children, Frieda, John and Charles, in the late 1880s. Staying in Oldenburg, Germany, were her husband Johann and oldest son, Gerhardt. She left her Texas German Mark by coming to Texas with her three youngest children. For a number of years the Texas connection with the oldest son and descendants of such oldest son were lost. One prominent connection was Friedel Koenig (a son of Gerhardt), known in Galveston as Fred King. He came to Texas to live with my father's family and then eventually worked for the Galveston News. He died and is buried in Hitchcock, leaving no children. A brother of Fred's (and another son of Gerhardt) was Georg Koenig, who lived in Bremen and whose two daughters live in Bremen. One of the daughters, Ulli, had two daughters as well. One of such two daughters is Nicole Stuetelberg. Nicole, currently an attorney in Bremen, visited as a teenager with our family in Texas, and visited periodically over the years. Last fall, Mary and I, as well as my brother Weldon, and my son Jon Todd Koenig, and other family members, all traveled to Bremen, Germany, for the wedding of Nicole Stuetelberg to Oliver Buehler. We had a wonderful Koenig family reunion at Nicole's wedding. Both Nicole and Oliver are attorneys in Bremen, Germany. For part of their honeymoon, they came to America and visited with my son, Jon Todd Koenig, in Seattle. The original trip of my great grandmother, Dorothea Dinklage Koenig, left an indelible German Mark on the Texas Koenigs, as well as the Bremen Germany Koenigs.



While the Koenigs were coming to Texas, my wife, Mary MacDonald Koenig, had an Irish great aunt named Bessie MacDonald who was a wonderful opera singer. She sang in the 1890s in Paris, London, and Dublin. While she was singing in Paris in 1896, a young German Freiherr, Rudolph Von Hirsch, saw her and started a four-year courtship, which culminated in the marriage of Bessie MacDonald to Freiherr Rudolph Von Hirsch in 1900. On the same trip that we saw the marriage of Nicole and Oliver, we visited with descendants of Bessie MacDonald Von Hirsch in Planegg, a suburb of Munich, Germany. The current Freiherr, Dr. Hubert Von Hirsch, resides in Schloss Planegg, which Mary and I visited after the wedding in Bremen. We spent five days with Mary's second cousins who were very proud of their German-Irish connection. They live in a wonderful castle outside of Munich and are proud not only of their German heritage, but also their MacDonald heritage. This group has MacDonald cousin reunions periodically. Mary and I hope to make one of these German-MacDonald reunions in the future.

Finally, on the same trip in which the Nicole and Oliver wedding occurred and the MacDonald-Von Hirsch visits occurred, we joined Houston Liederkrantz and Houston Shanty Choir on a choir trip throughout Germany. We sang and visited the Mosel River, the Rhine River, the Hamburg area, the Cottbus and Dresden area, as well as Prague. The Houston Liederkrantz and Houston Shanty Choir is leaving its German-Texan Mark through its singing in Texas and Germany.

How will you leave your German Mark? Consider joining German travel groups to go back to visit Germany. Consider researching your ancestors to find the connection to ancestral families that still reside in German or German-speaking areas. Consider helping the Texas German dialect project at the University of Texas in Austin, which Professor Hans Boas is currently running. Consider leaving a portion of your estate or a percentage of your 401(k), IRA, or life insurance policy to GTHS or some other worthy German-Texan charity. For further information on leaving your German Mark, please call Rodney C. Koenig at (713) 651-5333, or email me at rkoenig@fulbright.com.

Genealogy Inquiries: Liz Hicks, Genealogy Editor

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

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

**BRENNER (Query continuation from Spring "Journal")**

Ellen Dinges, 300 Clubhouse Dr., Fairhope, AL 36532, email ellendinges@hotmail.com
Seeks final resting place for Henry Brenner who was in the construction business in Houston, TX.

Reply: Using the City Directories for Houston, I found Henry Brenner listed 1905-1911. His son, William is listed 1910-1913. Therefore, assuming Henry died between 1911-1912, I went looking for a death certificate, and burial in a Houston cemetery. Death Certificate for a Henry Brennam, who died Feb. 12, 1911, born Germany, burial Hollywood Cemetery, seems to fit. I went to Hollywood to view their plot and burial books to see if the name was Brennam or Brenner. It is Brennam in their records. This Henry is in a single grave, not a family lot. It is still possible this is your Henry.

GROTE

Jane Williamson, 704 Willow Creek Dr., Woodway, TX 76712, e-mail: jwilliamson18@hotmail.com
would like to communicate with descendants of Charles A. Grote, pioneer Methodist clergyman to the German-Texans. My line is through his son, Friedrich Adolph (Fritz) Grote, Mathilde Grote Leifeste, and Florence Ida Leifeste Walker. Does anyone know the circumstances of C.A. Grote's conversion to Methodism after his 1845 arrival in Galveston, and subsequent appointment as a Methodist minister? What education or training did he receive either in Germany or Texas for his profession?

Reply: This sounds like a very good question to ask the reference desk at Southern Methodist University. Just fyi, my grandmother's sister married in the Methodist church as there was not yet a Lutheran church in Austin when she married.

HUCK – SEITHERS

Pastor Rogers Huck Meredith, P.O. Box 961, Meeker, CO 81641, e-mail: paleodoxy@yahoo.com is seeking information on Judge Heinrich (Henry) Joseph Huck, especially the family in Germany. His parents were Hieronymus and Gertrude nee Seithers von Ottenhoffen, Baden-Baden, Germany in 1822.

Reply: May I suggest you are reading the information you have incorrectly. Ottenhoffen appears to be correctly spelled Ottenhofen (umlaut over the second "o"). I also think the reference you have means Gertrude Seithers from Ottenhofen, not that she was a Von Ottenhofen? However, once you have the correct town, you will need to see if the parish records have been filmed by the LDS. Use Henry's date of birth to look for a baptism record to confirm his parents. Henry Joseph Huck born Aug. 3, 1822, died Dec. 18, 1905, Travis Co., TX, is buried in Sec. 2 Lot. 496 Oakwood Cemetery, Austin, TX. I suggest you contact the Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe, Austin, TX 78701 to see if they have a family folder on the Hucks. Also, an obit for Henry may include "where from" in Germany. On the census, Henry gave his year of immigration as 1845. Possibly, a passenger list would confirm the spelling of "Ottenhofen".

KLAUS – CLAUS – SCHMIDT

Randy Klaus, 4921 Joe Wilson Rd., Midlothian, TX 76065, e-mail: rklaus@bop.gov Is looking for his German ancestors, Gottfried and Caroline Klaus, Frelsburg, TX in and around 1840-1895. Any information will be helpful.

Reply: According to "New Homes In a New Land" German Immigration to Texas 1847-1861 by Ethel Hander Geue, Gottfried Claus from Bernburg, arrived in Texas 1854 aboard the ship "Neptune". He married Caroline Schmidt Feb. 6, 1861 in Austin Co., TX (Book D page 83). I checked the abstracted records of Trinity Lutheran Church, Frelsburg, Colorado Co., TX for your Klaus/Claus. "Gottfried Klaus of Anhalt, Bernburg, Deutschland; date of death: Frelsburg, 2 July 1894; date and place of burial: Frelsburg, 3 July 1894; survivors: wife, Caroline Klaus, children: Hermann, Carl, Otto, Wilhelm, and Fritz Klaus". Checking the cemetery, I found on Caroline's tombstone: "Carolne [sic] Klaus gebor. Schmidt 26 Jan. 1832 (yr. hard to read) in Coselitz, Germany.... Coselitz is misspelled. It should be Koselitz, Anhalt, Germany. Bernburg and Koselitz are not that far apart in the Anhalt region of Saxony. Use www.familysearch.org to see if the Lutheran parish records have been filmed by LDS. The baptismal records for Gottfried and Caroline will give you their parents.

WACHTER – WAECHTER - THURM

Jason Eckhardt, 45 St. Nicholas Rd., Flat 10, Brighton, BN1 3LP, United Kingdom, e-mail: jeckhardt1@msn.com would like to know when his ancestor, Friedrich August Waechter came to Texas. He married Louisa Thurm Feb. 25, 1866, Austin, Travis Co., TX. F.A. brother, T. Robert Waechter was living with him on several censuses.

Reply: August Waechter was interred in Oakwood Cemetery, Austin, TX, Aug. 2, 1897. He was naturalized in Travis Co. Aug. 1, 1868. Wonder where he filed his declaration of intent? I would look for his declaration of intent as it may give place of origin, and for his obit. Do you know if your August Waechter was related to Bernhard/Bernhart Waechter who appears as early as 1855 in Austin, Travis Co. records? Not all passenger lists for Galveston survive. So far, I have not found a passenger list for a Waechter/Wachter of the right age to be F.A. or his brother.

German-American Friendship Award

The German Government is showing its appreciation of the friendship between Germany and the U.S.A., and our efforts to work towards a continuing good relationship, in a special little ceremony in Austin. The German Consul General in Houston, Rainer Münzel, and the Honorary Consul in San Antonio, Ben Buecker, came to the Old German Free School on 507 East Tenth Street in Austin on Thursday, May 7, to present the German-American Friendship Award to GTHS member, Helga von Schweinitz. Congratulations, Helga!



SAARLANDERS Looking for SAARLANDERS

Dear Mrs. President of the German Texas Heritage Society!

This is Volker Bertel from the Saarland, Germany. I am a retired German Army Colonel who spent a lot of time in the U.S. and I have a dream. On the internet, I learned about the German Texas Heritage Society. Please, would you be so kind to spend a couple of minutes with me.

My vision is to establish a nationwide network of Saarlander and Saarland Friends closely linked to the home of their ancestors. My mission is to find out Saarlander, descendants of emigrants and friends of Saarland in all 50 federal states including D.C.

"Where do my ancestors come from?" "Are there still living relatives in Germany?"

"How can you support me to find my past?" "How can I complete my family tree?"

"How can I establish personal contacts to Germany?"

"How can I find internships for my daughter/my son in Germany?"

"Where do I get original Saarland cooking recipes from?"

"How can I develop business contacts with the Saarland?"

"Who can help me to organize a very special trip to an extraordinary region of Germany?"

I was repeatedly asked these and many other questions while staying in the U.S. Now, as a retired Colonel of the German Army, I would like to return some of the hospitality I received in the U.S. I am happy to be able to answer these or other questions to you. Very personal, very individual. I preferably like to help persons whose roots lie in the Saar-region or persons who have a special relation to this region. I am working not on my own. I am supporting a private charity organization, the SHS Foundation.

"Saarlander Helping Saarlander" - under this slogan the Foundation brings together people, institutions, companies and knowledge of Saarlander, descendants of Saarlander, emigrants and friends of the Saarland worldwide.

Contacts are possible in all sectors of life, such as individual, family, economic, business, cultural, sports.

The love for their native country connects all of them. Mutual and direct support keeps them together, both in real life and virtually (such as "Saarland Groups" in Facebook, XING and others). This network exists between 37 countries already. Unfortunately, there are very little contacts to and among Saarlanders in the U.S.

Now, may I ask you for a big favor? Could you help me to spread my vision? Could you help me to find descendants of Saarland emigrants, or

- people who feel a special relationship with the Saarland, or***
- people who just want to have contacts to the Saarland?***

I appreciate any information you could provide on this subject. For more information visit us on our homepage www.shsfoundation.de. I am planning an information tour to the U.S. in fall of this year. If you need some more information personally, I am prepared to adjust my travel plan.

Thank you for spending your time with me. Looking forward to your response, I send you best greetings from the Saarland.

Sincerely yours, Volker Bertel, SHS-Foundation, Vice President for International Relations

150th Club Update

Deadline to Participate is Fast Approaching (2009 Year End)

Our goal for the 150th Anniversary Club is to raise \$150,000, to be split evenly between the State-wide Outreach Program, an Operating Endowment, and German Free School Renovations. To date we have had pledges totaling \$82,487.76. You can help us reach our goal by joining the 150th Club today! Your commitment can be spread over the next three years. We welcome Christina Gilliland to the list of 150th Club members.

150th Club Funds to be used for:

Fund the development of outreach programs beyond the Austin area. Genealogy seminars, German language classes sponsored/conducted by GTHS	\$50,000
Begin the funding of an operating endowment for the German-Texan Heritage Society	\$50,000
Fund needed renovations/upgrades to the German Free School building and grounds (all that were necessary done—all others on <u>Hold</u> due to the sagging economy)	\$50,000

Levels of Giving:

Platinum Sponsor:	\$5,000/year for 3 years, total \$15,000*
Gold Sponsor:	\$1,500/year for 3 years, total \$4,500*
Silver Sponsor:	\$500/year for 3 years, total \$1,500*
Bronze Sponsor:	\$150/year for 3 years, total \$450
Pewter Sponsor:	\$50/year for 3 years, total \$150

You will be a Charter member of the 150th Anniversary Club, Mention in The Journal

**At these funding levels, name included in plaque to be hung at the German Free School*

Yes, I wish to become a member of the 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.

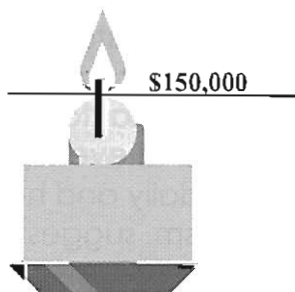
I wish my donation to be in memory/honor of _____

Please send acknowledgement to _____

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

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.

Pledges continue to come in – we have raised over 60% of our goal of \$150,000. A great way to leave your German Mark!!



Picture your name or your ancestor's name on this bronze plaque to be displayed on the German Free School Building

Looking Back Thirty Years of the GTHS Journal

By Mary El-Beheri

It had a pink outside cover. It was called the "Newsletter" and actually it came as a very short folded edition followed a few months later with a normal sized edition. This has been the size ever since Volume I, Number 1 came out in the Spring of 1979. It was called the "Newsletter" the first ten years or so. But the format stayed the same into the "Journal" years. **Ann Thompson**, had the printing done, folded and stapled each one and took them to **Dona Reeves-Marquardt**, who sorted them and mailed them on the SWTSU mail permit. This was a true labor of love. We did it this way **for all** the years I was editor.

Everything was typed with those old fashioned instruments known as typewriters and assembled by actually cutting and pasting. It took days to get every piece put in its proper place. The uniqueness of the GTHS from the very beginning was the news and the ideas the readers of the "Newsletter" sent for publication. It was always exciting for me to open every envelope to see what interesting article would pop out. I was never disappointed. Sometimes the copies were messy or illegible but that could be fixed. It was the spirit and enthusiasm that always came through. In the twelve years I edited, I was never empty-handed at deadline time. Maybe I should show you some of the things I got out of those long ago opened envelopes.

In those days we had columnists who wrote in nearly every issue. Here you can read the very first columns by **Glen Lich** and **Lera Tyler (Lich)** with their *Grassroots Commentaries*, **Julia Mellenbruch's** charming *Opa's Rumpelkammer* and an amazing article by **Gilbert J. Jordan**, *Gathering German Heritage Materials*. We couldn't go back to 1979 without including a poem from **Lisa Kahn** and some bits of information from me, **Mary El-Beheri**.

The following pages include articles from issue number one.

Here's a little update about those writers in 1979. As many of you know **Glen Lich** was brutally murdered several years ago. It is a shame to have lost this young, energetic, gentle German-Texan voice. His wife Lera is living outside of Comfort and still writes. **Julia Mellenbruch** is active in the Austin GTHS and was given the Ehrenstern Award in 2008. **Gilbert Jordan** remains with us through his writings and none of us will ever forget this handsome, loveable gentleman. And of course **Lisa Kahn** has recently published a book and never stops writing. And I am retired from teaching German (after 42 years), but am still directing German contests, serving again on the BOD of the GTHS and doing many wonderful things in my life.

If you like "Looking Back", let us know at the GTHS office or you may write to me personally at my email address: frauelbeheri@yahoo.com

Calling All German-San Antonians **VISIT: <http://www.germancontest.org/germansa/>**

The Mac Arthur High School advanced honors students from 2001 invite you to visit their German San Antonio web site. It includes: biographies or people, information about buildings, photographs, puzzles, questions, trivia, tour map of San Antonio German sites of interest, a bilingual walking tour guide, and eventually interviews with interesting German San Antonians. The site is being built daily and hopefully it will never be finished. The students ask for your feed back, criticism, suggestions, comments and assistance. *Please visit us!!*

POINT/COUNTERPOINT

Musical Museums?

Submitted by Timothy Pecsénye

It would be a safe bet that most of our clubs state as their reason for existence something about the preservation and furtherance of German cultural traditions. Obviously, for our choirs, that means Germany's musical traditions. But, that is a pretty big topic. So, what exactly are we to preserve and further? Is it all German musical traditions, or just some of them? Is it only the musical traditions of certain eras, or the music of certain regions of Germany? Is it only the wonderful traditional German folk music, or the fun beer-drinking songs for which Germany is famous? Does it include classical music of the great German composers of the past, or the music of Germany's current composers and arrangers? Since traditions are formed anew from generation to generation, should we be interested also in furthering and celebrating Germany's current musical traditions? I've asked these questions frequently, and I get varied responses. The most frequent are akin to: "we exist to sing the music 'I' grew up with", or "the music from 'my' region of Germany", or "the songs that 'we' have always sung because 'we' love singing them" or some similar answer. Some even suggest our role is to sing any songs we like from any other culture too, as long as the words are translated into German. One particularly interesting answer was that the role of our choirs is to serve as museums for the old German songs our club founders and their forefathers loved to sing a century ago. Another club said they were dedicated to preserving the beautiful German Männerchor traditions. Perhaps our clubs have not existed to preserve all of Germany's musical traditions, but only those dear to some of our present and past club members' pasts. This all makes sense. Most of our clubs were founded decades ago by and for German immigrants who came here in numbers enough to fill multiple clubs and choirs in every part of this country. They rightfully wanted, as do many of today's members, a place to celebrate and preserve the beautiful traditions they left behind. But now, with the numbers of German immigrants in our clubs naturally decreasing with the passage of time, what must our clubs and choirs do to be able to continue to preserve the musical artifacts in our museums? We can't expect any sizeable influx of new German immigrants to fill and sustain our clubs and choirs of the future. Descendants of our club founders, having grown up as true German-Americans, enjoy their own musical traditions from the world in which they have grown and lived. Our communities have become increasingly multi-cultural, adding myriad unique and wonderful traditions to celebrate and enjoy. Faced with a very different world from when our clubs were founded, how can we now manage to preserve and further our beautiful German traditions?

The task of keeping our museums in operation for the next decades will rest with the widely varied populations that make up today's and tomorrow's communities. They will be Germans, Americans, German-Americans, and people of all cultural and musical heritages who will, or could, become valued members of our clubs and choirs. Are there ways to get this new population more involved for the future? I tried explaining to a young German exchange student about the types of music we are told it is our mission to preserve. Her response was clearly that no one in her age group in Germany, nor her parents or relatives, would know any of the songs we sing, and furthermore would never be interested in knowing them, let alone choose to sing them. Does her message have implications for our clubs and choirs in this country? Is it too much of a stretch to think that maybe other potential new singers of any age group from our local communities might shy away from our choirs because they feel the same as that exchange student does about the types of music that often consume our choir repertoire? If so, how do we plan to get tomorrow's members into our clubs and choirs to keep them vital and alive, so that we can share with them the beauty of the musical artifacts in our museum?

Can we not keep the best of the old German musical traditions alive while also singing music that may be meaningful to and interest today's pool of future singers? That may mean singing more of the exciting music of the past and the present from Germany and America, or music of the many other cultures

whose people share our communities, or music of our modern eras as well as of the past, or music from popular as well as classical, folk or sacred genres. After all, museums constantly need to expand the artifacts they exhibit so they can attract broader groups of populations, or risk shutting down. Our museums for old German music similarly could cease to exist unless we do the same thing – reach out to today’s world and tomorrow’s singers through our choices of music to perform. An esteemed colleague once said that we always must keep German culture and German music as the “backbone” of our clubs and choirs. I couldn’t agree more. And to stay alive, the body surrounding that backbone needs a balanced diet that feeds and interests those who could be our future members and singers. If we fear we will lose our German musical traditions *unless* we fill our choir’s diet only with our forefathers’ songs, consider that we may lose our clubs and choirs completely if we don’t balance our musical diets enough to attract singers of varying types of musical interests. Without healthy, vibrant and growing clubs and choirs, we soon may not be there to preserve or further *any* German cultural and musical traditions. Broadening our music repertoire just might keep our current *and* future singers and audiences more interested, enlivened, enthused, inspired, entertained, challenged, and wanting to come back for more. It could even cause some to choose to join our choirs. Along the way, we just might discover some new musical treasures that all of us could enjoy singing for years to come. Many decades have passed since our clubs were founded. As generations change, the needs and interests of our societies also change. If we choose only to serve the musical needs of past generations, we may not be here to serve future ones. Doing all that we can do to ensure our clubs and choirs stay vital for decades to come will allow us to continue to preserve and further, and share and enjoy, the German cultural and musical traditions of our founders and forefathers. After all, that is the reason our clubs and choirs were founded.

Ernie Flamm, 1/27/09

COUNTERPOINT:

A few points on the essay “Music Museum?” by Ernie Flamm, made by Wolfgang Erber, high school teacher and church musical director in Freiburg, Germany: Some people may dislike the term “Museum” - but in reality, all musical artists are somehow museums-employees, without whose work any musical pieces of art would collect dust or rot. Every museum has the duty to preserve culture and keep it alive. For this reason I do not see any negativity in the term “Museum”. This is true particularly in the cultivation of “Volksmusik”, which regrettably is on the verge of becoming extinct. In countries like Latvia and also Switzerland this kind of music is treated and appreciated a whole different way. If there would not be any Gesangsvereine (Choruses) here in Germany, much of this culture would have been forgotten long ago. There is even a possibility, that exactly in choruses like yours in the Americas, where these songs are sung with much more devotion as here, might become a “habitat”, far from the place where they were created. The sad thing in this country is the constant dissolution of choruses of your type, while other clubs are springing up with younger people, where English pop songs are predominant. I see it as problematic that the creative work in “Volksmusik” is stagnant in our time. Perhaps the phenomenon of the German folksong is connected to the sentimental and spiritual feelings around the 1800s and 1900s, that at this time a further evolution of this line cannot be expected.

It may be interesting for you to know is the fact that the German Folksong Archive is located here in Freiburg. (<http://www.dva.uni-freiburg.de>). Sometimes I go there with my students, who are always surprised to find a huge amount of folksongs and how they are stored. Finally, a small anecdote: A few years ago, as 11th-graders of my school returned from an exchange with Polish students, they reported that on the last evening the Polish students began singing Polish folksongs. After a while they asked the German students to return the honor. These were hugely embarrassed when they had to admit that they did not even know one. Immediately I had them study systematically German folksongs, which they enthusiastically did. I will make a printout of Ernie Flamm’s essay and discuss it with my current students who are just before their final exams, who enjoy folksongs, for them it is also a wonderful English practice.

Wolfgang Erber

BOOK REVIEW:

The Sowing, Book Two of the Adelsverein Trilogy by Celia Hayes
Strider Nolan Media, Inc.

Women Characters Shine in Book Two of German-Texan Historical Fiction Trilogy
by Gail Folkins

Author Celia Hayes, writer of the frontier and the American West, takes her dual interests in storytelling and research to Texas with *Adelsverein*, a trilogy of historical fiction based on German settlers of the early-to-mid 19th century.

The Sowing, second book in the series, brings Hayes' main characters, the Steinmetz, Vining, and Becker families, into an era immediately following early German settlement of the region, subject of *The Gathering, Book One*. Among the families Hayes recreates in vividly detailed explorations of this period, it is the women, narrator Magda Vogel Becker in particular, who command attention and help bring the region's unique Germany heritage to life.

In a story-within-a-story format, Hayes frames historical events through an elder Magda Becker, who shares her life as a young pioneer woman with her daughter and great-grandchildren. The stories Magda shares, scenes of German-Texan history captured through precisely rendered character depictions and events, provide the heart of the story.

While *Book One, The Gathering* follows new settlers to the Hill Country and their treaty made with the Comanches, *The Sowing, Book Two*, captures the story of early German settlers coping with the Civil War. The Becker family in particular struggles between their predominately Union sympathies and the Confederacy in their own backyard. In telling her story, Magda Becker shares the dangers she and her family experience from "the hanging band," a Confederate lynch mob targeting Union sympathizers. As the war progresses, family members split along Confederate and Union sides, providing additional family hardships.

The final book of Hayes' trilogy, *The Harvest, Book Three*, follows a new generation of the Becker and Vining families rebuilding their lives in the period immediately following the Civil War. All three volumes of Hayes' *Adelsverein* series offer those interested in German-Texan history, along with those anxious to learn more, poignantly recreated moments from a very real place and time.

OUTREACH

Submitted by Lea Ann Hartmann,
La Grange

Winning Essay - GTHS's Scholarship Program

"Sharpshooter" by Caitlin Morgan, La Grange High School

Ding! The sound of a bullet hitting dead on the metal bull's eye of the target echoes, signals a perfect shot. The Schuetzenfest, a one-hundred and thirty six year-long tradition in the small town of Round Top has begun.

The tradition originated in 1873 when German immigrants moved into the area and began the Schuetzen Verein (Charter). To begin the club, the original charter members purchased about ten and a half acres from the Graf family (Sacks). The construction of a dance hall, bandstand, outdoor kitchen, and fencing led the land to be known as "Schuetzen Park," or Sharpshooter's Park (Charter). The Schuetzen Verein officially changed their name to the Round Top Rifle Association in 1923, but the traditions of the club still remain (Charter). The Rifle Association is the oldest active shooting club in Texas (Krause). Today, the original bandstand and weather vane still stand on the same grounds that were purchased, making them well over a hundred years old. Even today the band stand still calls members to come and enjoy song and dance with modern day bands such as the Round Top Brass Band and the Round Top Jam Session (Sacks).

The original organization consisted of all men and today's membership is still exclusively male with nearly one-hundred members (Weishuhn). To be inducted into the club, a prospective member must first be eighteen; then he must complete an application and participate in an interview; thereafter, current members vote (Sacks). Back in the early days, when a current member did not approve of the applicant, he would throw in his black ball, and the applicant would not be admitted (Sacks). Now, a potential member's application is simply approved and the member accepted by a two thirds vote (Sacks).

Nowadays, preparing to be a shooter in the contest begins in October and November when as many as thirty-five contestants can come to the same original ten and a half acres to hone their shooting skills (Weishuhn). Crunch time for the contest begins conventionally on the third Sunday in September (Sacks). Looking through the eyes of an expert rifleman, the thrilling day commences at nine o'clock sharp; every shooter knows concentration and skill is the key to winning the title of Scheutzen Verein Koenig.

Ronny Sacks, a former Schuetzenfest Koenig, said, "I began shooting at the age of eighteen. It took me twenty years to finally receive the honor of being king. It is not very easy. Everything has to be right with you that day, and luck plays a big part in the game." He also recollected that, "The sun was in a spot that could make the silver dollar size bull's eye seem more like penny-sized."

With the sun coming up to challenge the competitors, the participants wait in line for their turn to shoot at the black target sixty yards away (Krause). The best marksmen are recognized for being closest to the bull's eye and acquiring at least twenty-nine points after three shots (Krause). Competition is fierce in the shooting contest, and winning is a great honor. Ding! Somebody has hit the metal target, and "killed the rooster"; a trigger rigged to the metal bull's-eye pops a rooster up behind the target signaling the successful

Places First at State

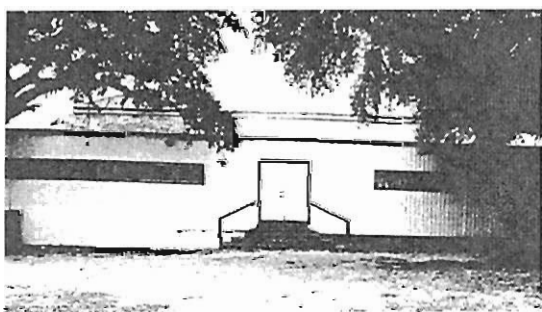


slaughter of the chicken. An antique itself, the target is a metal octagonal design with twelve black rings (Harris). As the sharpshooter's game continues, the pressure to consistently hit the target overcomes some of the contenders. Consequently, some rank, within the lowest scores among the shooters which knocks them out of the race to become shooting Koenig. As the first round ends, the second and most important round begins: the fight to become the next Schuetzenfest Koenig.

Around mid-morning, the participants who qualified for the next round continue their shots. They shoot three more shots, and whoever has the highest score is named the winner, or Schuetzen Koenig around eleven in the morning (Krause). Throughout the entire history of the Schuetzen Verein, the most first place pendants won by a single person has been six, and they were not consecutive; this goes to show how hard it is to win the revered title (Sacks). Never tarnishing, made out of 22K gold, and costing five hundred dollars a piece, the first-place pendant is no cheap trophy but a prized possession (Sacks). Each adornment is customized with the original insignia of the Schuetzen Verein of the 1800s (Sacks).

To end the long day of festivities, a public celebration is held inside the dance hall for the crowning of the new king (Krause). The former king must make a crown for the new king out of cedar branches; a method that has been used since the beginning of the Association (Krause). The Rifle Association members then lead a procession into the dance hall with the organization's flags, the new and former king, and members of the club while the band plays. Finally, the new Koenig is literally tossed into the air three times while the band plays "Hoch soll Er leben!" to confirm the coming of a new king (Krause). The Koenig receives his uniquely hand-made cedar crown and must give a celebration and acceptance speech. Winning does not come at a cheap price though, because the new Koenig must buy a keg of beer for all to drink at the party (Sacks).

The Schuetzen Verein has made a lasting impression on the town of Round Top. Annually, the Schuetzenfest brings fun and entertainment to the community. Compared to other clubs, the Round Top Rifle Association is different because they do not just have meetings, but they interact with one another and the community in a fun filled day of affable contest.

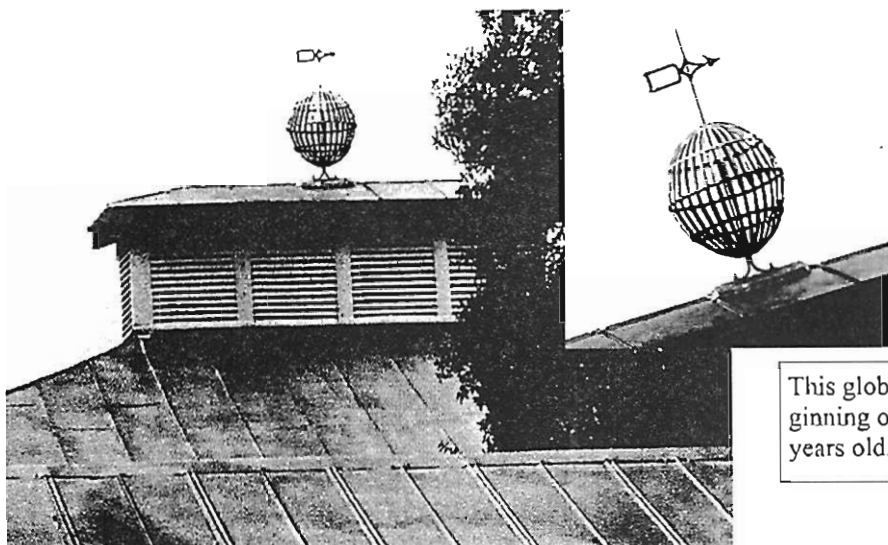


With its double doors, the Rifle Association dance hall looks very welcoming. Both the dance floor and roof date back to the early 1900s when the dance hall was built. When the original building was built, square wooden nails were used in the structure. The dance hall has required some renovating, but many of these square nails still remain embedded in the structure

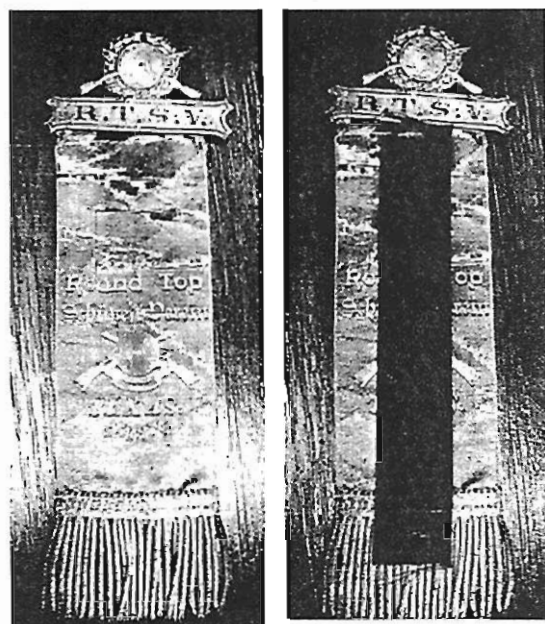
Tradition has stayed within the Schuetzen Verein with the use of the same insignia for the organization. On the Koenig pendants, this same insignia is customized in gold for the winner of the shooting contest. The association logo is located in front of the dance hall.



The metal bull's eye is still the original that was used in the 1800s. Unfortunately, a shooter dented the bull's eye and so it had to be repaired. The original center piece was able to be recovered for many more decades of use. The black target is located near the kitchen area.

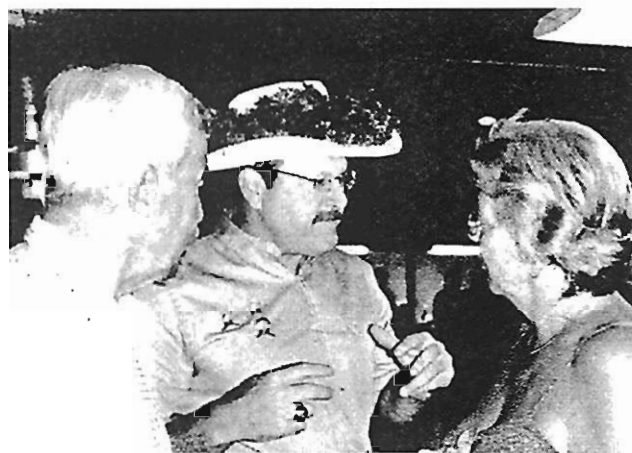


This globe-like weather vane dates back to the beginning of the 1900's making it over a hundred years old. This antique sits atop the dance hall roof.



This is the medal given to all members of the Schuetzen Verein from 1873. Notice the insignia on the ribbon is the logo that is still used today. A black strip of silk fabric is laid across a member's medal at his funeral.

The original band stand still remains from the 1800's calling people to dance along to the music being played.



The Schuetzenfest Koenig of this year (Koenig Weishuhn) socializes with people at the celebration. He is wearing the cedar crown which officially makes him the new Koenig. The pins on his shirt are the first-place pendants won by the Koenig. The three on his shirt show that he has been Schuetzenfest Koenig three times.

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Waltzing Across Texas: The German Texan Dance Halls

By Alexis Antolak Clark, Westwood High School, Austin

Texas State German Contest Winner

Upon the walls of these antique shelters, you might see words like "Wilkommen" and "Verein" ushering you into the space. You might see the setting sun shine upon youth and elderly alike, waltzing across the wooden floor, floating timelessly on history's floorboards. However, most importantly you will see, beyond the aging materials that serve as a physical support for the building, the spirit of a Texas tradition that best embodies that of our proud state (Texas).

Between the years of the Civil War and World War I, German Texans fought to keep their cultural identity alive (Corcoran) among the many other sub-cultures occupying central Texas. The German



The Dance Hall—Denison, Texas

people arrived looking for work, life, and *natOrlich*, fun. By the end of the rigorous work week, they needed a place to unwind and celebrate with their townsfolk. The Germans built halls similar to those of their Czech neighbors in Fredericksburg, New Braunfels, Gruene, and Comal County, an area referred to as the German Belt (Accordion). Founded by the town's fraternal orders, singing societies, gun clubs, and agricultural organizations, the halls were originally constructed as meeting places. During the week, the halls held discussions from life insurance to livestock protection, and on Saturday nights, the community danced (Corcoran). Unlike honky-tonks, dance halls are places where everyone in the community participates; they thrive on the energy of all generations, not

only that of adults.

The Germans brought with them distinct dialects, customs, architecture, foods, religion, politics, and a musical style featuring the accordion in waltzes and polkas. The accordion also influenced Tejano music, later referred to as Conjunto, which incorporated both German dancing and musical styles into the Hispanic culture. Sadly, traditional music is quickly fading for the citizens of the German belt, and the accordion is no longer the core of the music played there (Accordion). With the accordion's decline, the music gradually evolved from its original polka and waltz to the two-step. The introduction of radio in the early twentieth century changed styles further, shifting to Texas Country in the twenties and Western Swing in the thirties (Folkins).

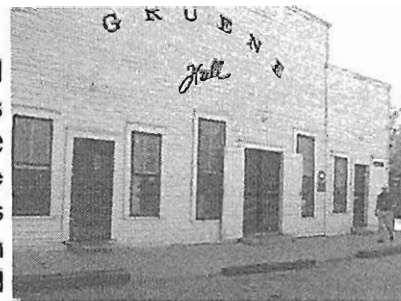
Dance halls were often the first public structure built in a town (Sons), and they have many quirks that make them a beloved, unique part of Texas. It is not unusual to find a railed-in square at stage right, where parents stand during a teen dance. If a young man asked a girl to dance, she would look over to the parents for their permission or dissent. Many dancehalls include a crying room, which dismissed the need for babysitters and allowed the whole community to participate. Today's dance halls defend their authenticity and charm by holding strong to a no air conditioning policy. In order to cool down the occupants, halls are built to have miraculously movable, open-air walls which allow breeze to pass through and create circulation of airflow. Hard to believe, the *Bierhall* or bar is generally kept completely separate from the dancehall, and of course, is located directly in front of the hall. In the early 20th century, there were as many as 1200 active halls in Texas. Now most have been lost, and many of those remaining have been converted to antique malls or barns, or tragically abandoned. Fortunately, there is a group of people who have taken charge of preserving our historic dance halls, and there is no trait as admirable to a Texan as keeping tradition alive (Corcoran). Texas Dance Hall Preservation Inc., a nonprofit organization founded by Steph McDougal, music historian



Luckenbach Hall at night
Photo courtesy J. Marcos Weekley

Steve Dean, and structural engineer Patrick Sparks, fights to preserve these pearls of Texas history. The three were brought together when tragedy struck DeWitt County's Gruenau Hall. One of the state's rare round dance halls, with a glorious hardwood maple floor and hand-carved rafters (Sons), Gruenau was burnt to the ground in 2007. The team restores dance halls on the list of Texas most endangered places (Sons), and has also renovated halls such as the Schroeder Dance Hall of Goliad County, second oldest dance hall in Texas.

Despite the many that have fallen to changing times, there are still dance halls that thrive without fault. German-founded Twin Sisters Dance Hall still opens its doors the first Saturday of every month like clockwork. Gruene Hall, built in 1878, is recognized as the oldest dance hall in Texas and still runs as smoothly as it did when its first dancers took to the floor. Swiss Alp Dance Hall of Fayette County, founded in 1900 by German settlers, originally playing non-stop polka, returned after two decades of dormancy to its former state of glory (Corcoran). During the twenty year streak of stillness, Swiss Alp was run only through the store in the front of the building by the Tietjen family (Folkins). Life was breathed back into this La Grange treasure when the



Gruene Hall—oldest dance hall in Texas—photo courtesy J. Marcos Weekley

Ustynik's bought the place along U.S. 77 and reopened it with great pride after renovations. There are hundreds of dance halls whose fates were not as fortunate, however, and sadly they are lost to history.



Old Frederich's Dance Hall—Raison, TX, circa 1890

Luckily for our generation, there is a current resurgence of dance halls. We seek something solid, something to come back to that is familiar to us (Folkins). Part of what makes dance halls unique is the sense of familiarity – even for those who have never been there. They are not just a cultural landmark for gawking tourists. They are a true experience, one that was intended by the people who made them. There is a special presence that is unmistakably that of those who have been there before you; you feel it in the shoe scuffs on the wood, the smell of the aged walls, and the warmth and thickness of the enclosed air that has passed over so many dancers.

The dance hall more fully embodies what Texas is, and who Texans are, than any other single piece of our heritage (Texas). These treasures are more than something to be admired, they are to be experienced and cherished as an heirloom of the culture we Texans hold most dear.

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Submitted by Evelyn T. Saucier, Round Rock

*Fulfilling our mission to preserve the German
cultural heritage in Texas!!*

Maifest at the German Free School, 2009



Pictures are worth
a thousand words



How will the next generation remember?

CURRENT GARDEN at the German Free School

The garden you see today is a constantly changing, mainly modern construct. Apart from the three-terraced layout and relationship to the building, the garden is of recent origin and does not reflect the historical uses of the building as a school or residence.

The planting design is the work of Kevin S. Braughton of Pots and Plants Nursery, with the influence of various other people: past garden coordinators of the GTHS, past and present members, gardeners, and so on. When designed in 1992 by Braughton, the garden was envisioned as a native plant showcase to be installed on the existing terraces. The terraced layout was built during the ownership of Austin artist Dr. Kelly H. Stevens, who lived here from 1948 to 1991. The garden is used for various events of the GTHS, as well as other organizations. The middle terrace, for example, hosts the maypole during the annual Maifest.



MISSION

The intent of the GTHS is to create an educational demonstration garden that showcases plant materials associated with early German-Texans. The garden will contain plants that early German pioneers in Texas used, planted, propagated, or introduced into botanical classification. The temporal focus of the exhibit is 1857 to the 1920s; 1857 marks the initiation of construction of the German Free School building, and the 1920s represents the post-WWI wane in the popularity of German influence in Texas.

Given the current use of the building as the center for the GTHS, it would be inappropriate to recreate the landscape as it was when the property was either a school or when used for residential purposes. Such recreations would not fit the current use, nor would they be necessarily practical. When the building was a school, for instance, the grounds were likely bare, which would make our events very dusty or muddy depending on the weather.

GARDEN PLANS

The proposed demonstration garden will fit within the terraced layout and comprise three thematic planting designs.

A Formal Garden on the lowest terrace, adjacent to the 10th Street entrance, will welcome visitors and show the elegant appearance plant materials of a formal-style German-Texan landscape. Examples of such landscapes are known from around the state: the King William area of San Antonio and the Galveston Garten Verein (Garden Club) are two examples. This photo shows the Carl Wilhelm August Groos House in the King William area, a fashionable residential area in the 1880s for the wealthy. The photo below is the Garten Verein which was the center of Galveston's 19th century social life. It was an octagonal-shaped building set in an exotically landscaped park, and complemented with a bowling green, croquet grounds, and an ornate fountain.



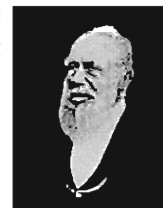
German Free School Gardens
Entrance
 507 E. 10th Street
 Austin, TX
Gardens Open
Mon - Wed- Fri
10:30-4:00 PM
And Thursdays
1:00-4:00 PM





A German-Texan Botanical Garden on the second terrace will house plants named for or propagated by German-Texans such as Ferdinand Jakob Lindheimer (1801-1879), left photo, Ferdinand von Roemer (1818-1891), John O. Meusebach (1812-1897), right photo, and Peter Henry Oberwetter, among many others.

Lindheimer was an early pioneer in Texas botany, discovering hundreds of plant species, 48 of which bear his name. Lindheimer Muhly (*Muhlenbergia lindheimeri*) is a common Central Texas landscape plant, and other examples are Lindheimer daisy or Texas yellow star (*Lindheimera texana*), Gaura (*Gaura lindheimeri*), and Velvetleaf Senna (*Senna lindheimeriana*).



Lindheimer Muhly

Lindheimer Daisy or
Texas Star

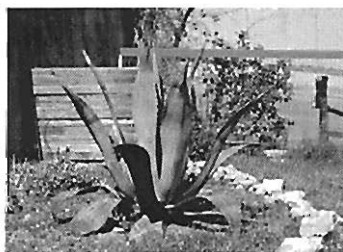
Gaura



Velvetleaf Senna

Roemer was a geologist who spent 1845-1847 in Texas studying the geology and recording plant materials. His book, *Texas* (1849), chronicling his Texas experiences, is available for sale at the German Free School. Meusebach, the founder of Fredericksburg, Texas, was a skilled gardener who grew numerous varieties of roses, fruit trees, vegetables, grapes, crapemyrtles, and other plants on his Texas homestead. Oberwetter (1830-1915) was a botanist who pioneered crossbreeding the amaryllis. He was also responsible for importing and hybridizing ox-blood lily bulbs (*Rhodophiala bifida*) which signal the arrival of fall in Central Texas.

The third terrace is a good place for a Kitchen Garden or Cottage-style Garden with plants often found in typical German-Texan yards or gardens. Herbs, vegetables, and cut flowers would replicate typical early German-Texan gardens.



Finally, in a lot behind the building, next to the parking lot, we have begun a rock garden (*steingarten*) to show plants associated with German-Texans that tolerate hot, sunny, dry conditions. A large, fine agave that was next to the tree in the parking lot is the first plant in the rock garden to save it from further damage by cars. Additionally, one of our members donated a "horse crippler" cactus from his German



grandmother's Texas farm in the hill country. This garden is in the initial stages and requires many more plants and rocks before it will begin to take shape.

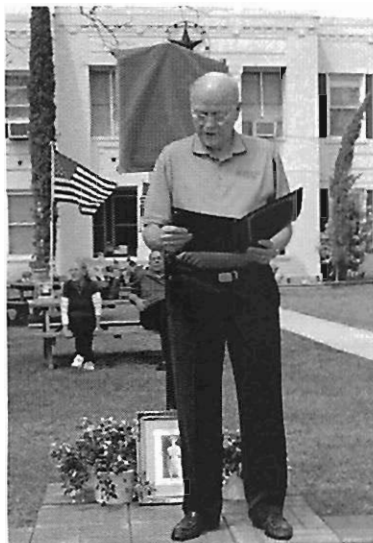
In addition to planting and growing various German-Texan plants, an important component of the garden research includes the collection of reference materials for the GTHS library. We have begun this process by making lists of plants in German-Texan gardens. The collection of literature will serve as a repository of information for future researchers interested on the German influence on gardening, horticulture, and botany in Texas. Material for inclusion may include period nursery catalogues, books, periodicals, early seed and plant sources, early journals or diary entries relating to garden, photos, landscape plans, sketches, and so on.

Susan C. Kenzle, RLA, ASLA, LI
Landscape Architect
German Free School Gardens , 9/2008

Community Events

Excerpt from Schertz Community Hospital Dedication Speech March 22, 2009

Submitted by Dean Weirtz, Chairman, Schertz Historical Preservation Committee



There is a saying attributed to an unknown poet that states: "The Future is contained in our past."

A significant part of our community's past is what brings us together this afternoon. We come to memorialize and to celebrate the accomplishments of those who built and staffed this historic building. This building, that for many years was the scene of most of the births in the community and where many of the city's ancestors found healing from disease and illnesses. And, yes, where some of our citizens spent their last moments before returning to their maker. This building was Schertz's community hospital from 1916 through 1938. While the brick and mortar that comprise its structure are well preserved and its builders worthy of our praise, the more important focus is on the work that was done inside the building.

This place served as a sentinel of hope for those who had children born here, or who had loved ones cared for here.

The lesson of history that this building represents is a simple one. And that lesson is that individuals, despite cultural impediments and social taboos, can and do make a positive difference in the life of a community when they apply their talent and energy to a task needing to be pursued.

In this instance, Cora Karbach, the Florence Nightingale of her time, challenged the notion of the period of 1916 that a woman's place was in the home as a domestic provider. She rejected the idea that women were not suited to be in positions of leadership. She, like Florence Nightingale, had a passion for nursing, and, like Florence, acted on her passion to the point that health care in her community was dramatically improved by her actions. Her unselfish commitment to the welfare of her fellow citizens warrants our declaring her the "Schertz Angel of Mercy". And that is what our Historical Preservation Committee will do when we place her picture and story in their appropriate place on the walls of our City's new Visitors Center and when the Schertz History and Heritage Museum is opened later in the fall. Just as Florence Nightingale was dubbed "The Lady With The Lamp" so will we dub Cora our "Angel of Mercy".



Let this plaque we are unveiling today serve to remind all who read it that individualism, such as that demonstrated by Cora Karbach, does produce great reward. I look forward to the day school children are exposed to this plaque and the previously mentioned Visitors Center and history museum displays honoring Cora and are taught the lesson of her legacy.

THE CASINO ASSOCIATION: THE FIRST INSTITUTE OF CULTURE IN SAN ANTONIO

by RONALD R. SCHNEIDER

MacArthur High School, San Antonio

In 1854 a group of about twenty prominent Germans gathered in the home of Carl Hummel to found San Antonio's "first respectable social club"—the Casino Association of San Antonio—with the idea of perpetuating German culture. It became the foremost meeting place in the city not only for its German founders but also for army officers and businessmen.

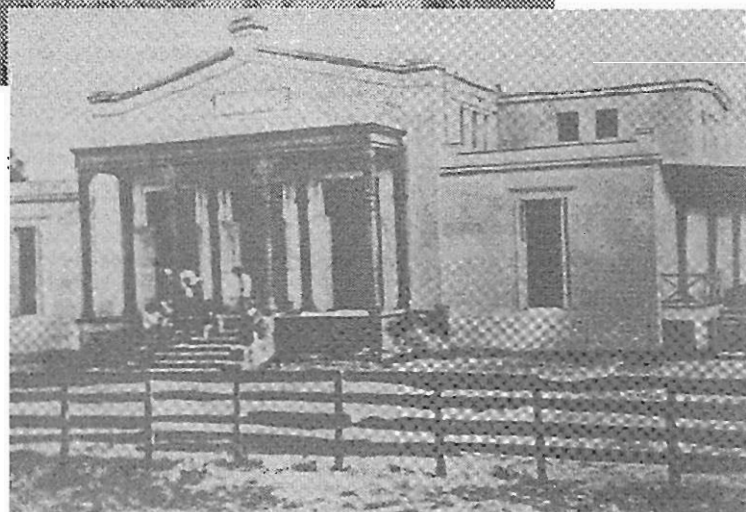
During the day men met there to read, smoke, drink, play cards, and talk about business and social matters. The evenings were filled with music and activities for families. Where better for San Antonians to read the best literature, see the finest plays, hear "proper" music, and enjoy the most glamorous balls in the state than in the Casino Hall?

The first official meeting of the Casino



"The Casino Society was mentioned in Terry Smart's article about San Antonio, so here are the details about the Society. It is from the *TEXAS HISTORIAN*, November, 1979, published by the Texas State Historical Society, Mary El-Beheri sponsor."

(Article was written years ago by one of Mary's students)





Society was held on the upper floor of the Kaupmann building, above Charles Rossy's (Carl Rossi's) confectionery store. The legislature chartered the organization of 106 German-Texan men on December 7, 1857, "provided that the amount of property held by said corporation shall at no time exceed fifty thousand dollars." Julius Berends, a prominent figure in the society and the state, wrote the constitution and bylaws, which specified that all proceedings were to be conducted in German, on the basis that membership would be three-quarters German. One month later a performance of German histrionics marked the formal inauguration.

Jacob Waelder sold the land for the Casino Hall to members of the board—Louis Zork, August Nette, Adolf Schloemann, Charles Elmendorf, and Hago Friedrich Oswald for \$1200, a transaction beginning on December 13, 1858, and ending September 1, 1859. The land was on Calaboso Street, with the San Antonio River to the south. The association's first officers were Jacob Waelder, Julius Berends, and Charles Joseph Rossy, and its board consisted of Zork, Nette, Schloemann, Elmendorf, and Oswald.

When the information on Waelder, Berends, Rossy, Zork, and Elmendorf is compared, it is evident that the men had much in common. All were born in Germany, were well educated, and seem to have emigrated because of their or their families' republican sympathies. Many highly educated persons left after the failure

of the liberal 1848–1849 revolution in Germany.

All became active in San Antonio affairs, socially and politically. Waelder and Berends, both of whom had studied law, were elected to the state legislature, and Waelder was a member of the state Constitutional Convention of 1875. All except Waelder had stores in San Antonio.

Married and with children, the men were interested in family activities and helped establish the Casino-sponsored German-English School. After selling his store, Berends taught there.

These were the men who first led the Casino Association. But what of the society itself? What sort of organization was it, and what made it such an integral part of the San Antonio of the mid- and late-nineteenth century?

San Antonio-based army officers were honorary guests and became publicity agents in those early days, spreading the news that the Casino Association of San Antonio was an excellent, hospitable place with cultural entertainment. During the Civil War, the *Fremdenliste* (guest list) showed the names of both Union Yankees and Confederate Rebels. Generals Lee and Grant were guests of the society as were Lieutenant (later General) J. W. Lauter and Captain (later General) John L. Bullis. The ballroom, with its beautiful white marble tables and elegant chandeliers, was the site of a grand reception given for General Grant. The chandeliers had come from Germany to Indianapolis; from there, ox carts carried them to San Antonio.

In the buffet, or bar, however, was the real form of entertainment—*Skat*, a German card game which was very popular in the nineteenth century. At times state *Skat* tournaments were held there, and at some tables little silver plates commemorated the victors of those games. Other silver plates bore the names of members favorite seats; these plates were, in effect, markers.

The society, although essentially "for German-Americans," was also a social club. Above: Jacob Waelder, the first president of the Casino Association. Photographs courtesy of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library.

Opposite: Casino theatrical troupe, 1868.

mans only," invited army officers and held gatherings which were a diverse collection of many classes. Wealthy aristocrats made appearances at the Casino, as did those who were interested in the arts. This latter group, the largest, effectively dominated the Association. Wealthy and uneducated merchants also showed up but, as a general rule, were scorned by the other groups. Two brothers of this "lower" class once asked the official of a masquerade ball what they should wear (they intended to come as peasants) "Just come as you are" was the caustic answer."

Members of the association made vigorous efforts to bring drama and music to San Antonio. In addition to performances of out-of-town talent, members formed their own theatrical troupe and gave a series of full-dress operas. Costumes for one opera cost over seven hundred dollars. The club and bar was open daily to male members and invited guests. Families usually enjoyed monthly entertainment, followed by a dance or "hop." In the early days tragedies enacted by Booth and light comedies, such as "Humpty-Dumpty shows" added variety to the entertainment. Other early performers included the Wallace Sisters, the Misco Brothers, Harry Robinson's minstrel show, and Hermann the Great. All shows were screened to ensure decorous entertainment.

By and large, the balls were the gala events of the society. The New Year's Eve ball with its midnight kiss in the dark and the children's masked ball at Christmas were very popular. At the New Year's Eve Ball, fathers introduced their daughters to society, the first "coming out" parties. Today in the San Antonio German Club, fathers still present their daughters each year.

In addition to its ballroom-theater, the Casino Hall had a library and a reading room, both of which were established in November 1865. The society subscribed to the following newspapers: *San Antonio Herald*, *Austin Intelligencer*, *New Orleans Picayune*, *Harper's Weekly*, *New York Herald*, *New Orleans Times*, *London Athanæum*, *New York Tribune*, and *Edinburgh Monthly*.

Sadly, Prohibition led to the closing of the building, which was sold in 1923. Had the Casino Association endured, San Antonio might have added a good deal more of European culture to its store. As Charles Ramsdell wrote of the Casino Association:

The word for the Old Casino was *gemuetlichkeit*, a word which has no equivalent in English. The first real theater in San Antonio, it was also the first fancy social club and perhaps the greatest force for culture the city ever had.

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Picking Up Spares

Pin-Setters At Turner Hall Bowling Alley Continue A Long Standing Tradition

By Matt Ward

The first job for most kids typically involves throwing newspapers from a bicycle or selling lemonade by the glass.

Thirteen-year-old Nick Cortez is not a typical kid.

His first job finds him dodging flying pins.

While modern bowling alleys utilize automatic ball return and pin-setting systems, Wednesday-night league bowlers at the Turner Hall rely on young pin-setters like Cortez to pick up the pieces after each roll.

Since starting on the job two months ago, the seventh grader said he enjoys making "easy money" handling pins and returning balls to the bowlers.

"The more pins they knock down, the easier it is," he said.

"It's not tough or anything -- you just sweat a lot."

After each throw, the pin-setter retrieves the bowling ball and sends it back to the bowler by pushing it down a wooden track.

Then, knocked-over pins must be collected and replaced within a frame hanging over the lane before the next throw can be made.

"All you really have to do is pay attention to the pins, so you know where to put them when they fall," he said.

As a pin-setter, Cortez works two of the Turner Hall's four lanes each night, while another pin-setter handles the other two lanes.

His partner on some nights, Willie McWilliams, is not the

traditional pin-setter regular bowlers might be accustomed to seeing at the other end of the lane.

The 34-year-old used to set pins every week during his teenage years while his father bowled and has been called back to help out on occasion.

Despite his years of experience, McWilliams boasts that he has only been hit by a stray pin or ball four times, although he said watching pins fly past "sure makes your eyebrows raise."

Cortez, on the other hand, has not been as lucky, as the young pin-setter has been hit with a bowling ball and flying pins have struck him twice in the head.

"Pins hurt more than balls do," Cortez said, noting that pins have a greater chance of ricocheting and striking a pin-setter multiple times.

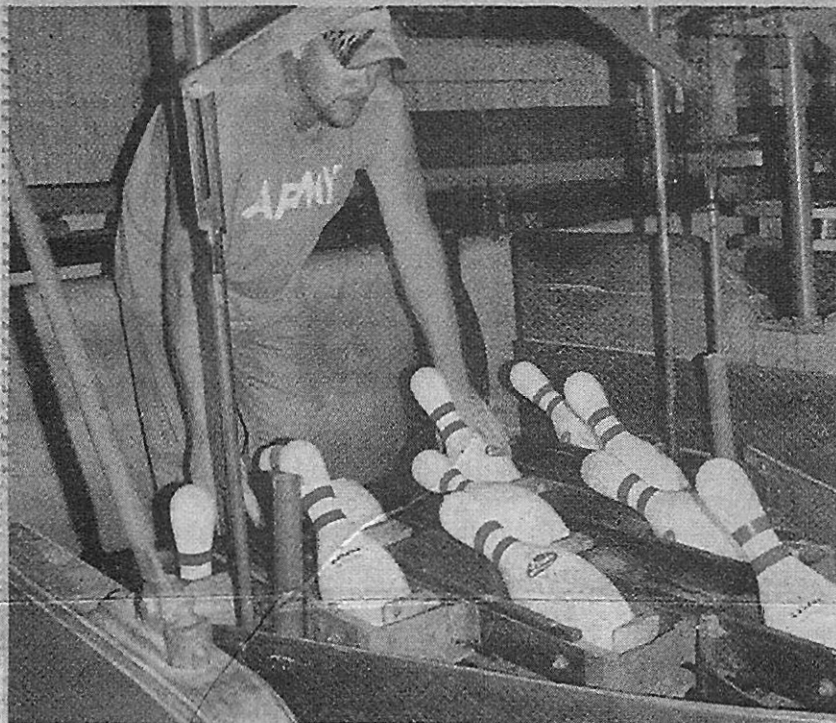
Speed and agility are essential to the job, he noted, both to avoid being struck and to get better tips from the teams.

"You gotta be quick (getting pins set up)," Cortez said. "If you're not quick, (the bowlers) are going to yell at you."

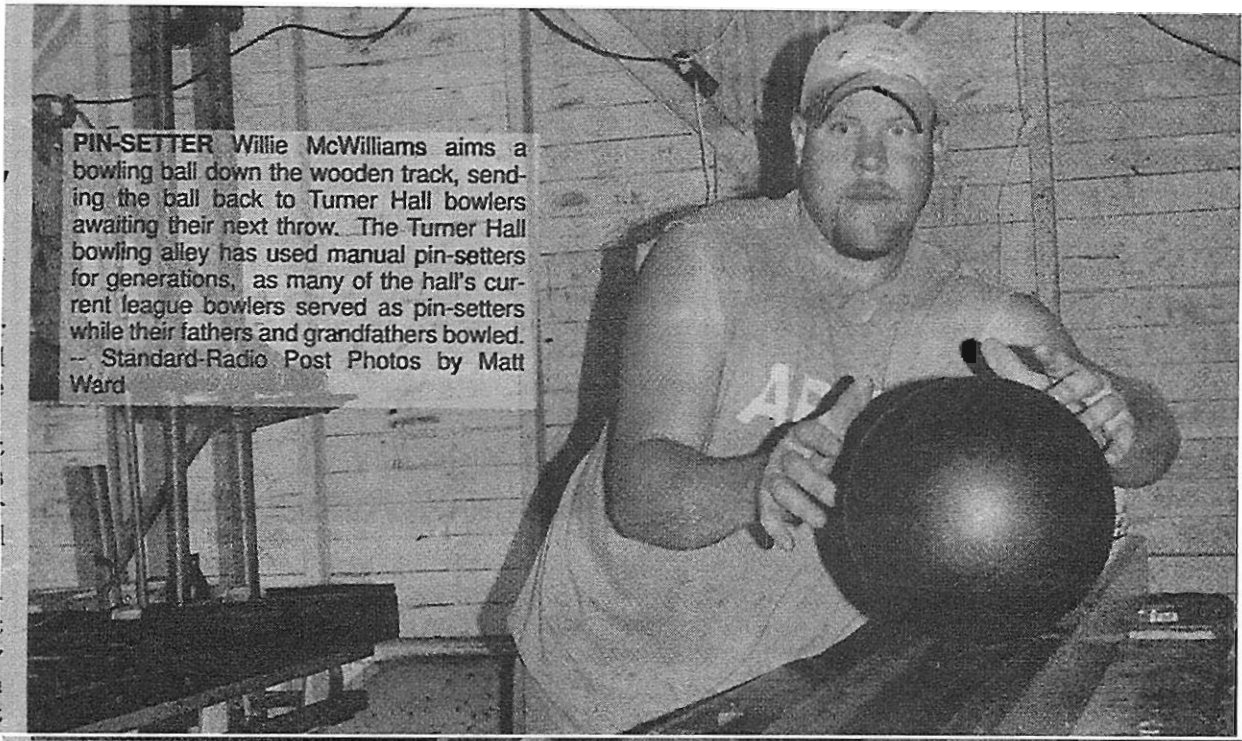
McWilliams said that it is difficult to keep track of how far along bowlers are during the first game, but by the second match, he can tell what frame each team is on.

A night of bowling at the Turner Hall usually lasts between two and three hours, he added, depending on the skill level of the bowlers, since better bowlers help speed the game up with their accuracy.

"The (bowlers) that I like are ones that get strikes,"



AFTER EACH THROW, pins are reset into a metal guide, which is lowered onto the lane after each frame. Once the pins set in place, the guide is lifted so the next bowler may throw.



PIN-SETTER Willie McWilliams aims a bowling ball down the wooden track, sending the ball back to Turner Hall bowlers awaiting their next throw. The Turner Hall bowling alley has used manual pin-setters for generations, as many of the hall's current league bowlers served as pin-setters while their fathers and grandfathers bowled. -- Standard-Radio Post Photos by Matt Ward

McWilliams said. "They only bowl one time (per turn) until the tenth frame."

Between working days for Terry's Tree Service and nights as a pin-setter, McWilliams said working in the alley takes somewhat of a physical toll.

"It makes you not want to go to work until about 10 o'clock the next morning after setting," he said, adding that the most stress while setting is placed on the knees and lower back.

Many of the hall's league of bowlers began their careers as pin-setters for their fathers and grandfathers before them, but Cortez, who has only bowled once, has no desire to join the bowling ranks.

"Basically, to me, all you do is throw a ball to knock down some pins. Big whoop," he said. "I don't think about it as a

sport."

But, bowling regular Sean Heep grew up with Turner Hall bowling, starting as a pin-setter at the age of 12 in the early 1980s, later moving to the other end of the lane in 1994.

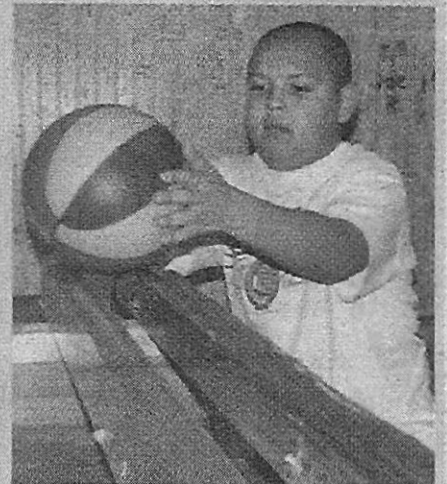
Heep has a family history of pin-setting and bowling at the Turner Hall as his grandfather, Francis, was a top area bowler in the 1950s.

"There hasn't been much that's changed in 60 years," he said. "My uncles and my dad all set up pins in the 1950s, my brother set up pins, now his son sets up pins -- it's a third generation thing just with my particular family. I'm sure there are others."

In its heyday, the hall offered nine-pin bowling in addition to the traditional 10-pin. Heep said, though nine-pin bowling

provided an added challenge as pin-setters were forced to replace each pin to the lane by hand.

Cont. on page D10



FOCUSING on keeping the ball on track, Nick Cortez prepares to return a bowler his ball at the Turner Hall Bowling Alley.

Cont. from D1

Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post
February 18, 2009

Submitted by Ms. Marcella
Chapple—Austin

Currently, the Wednesday-night league has five teams who compete from September to March, though the group would like to expand.

"We would probably bowl longer or have another league," Heep said. "But it's real hard to find pin-setters."

Though he can occasionally

be found at modern bowling alleys, being a league bowler at the Turner Hall has a special significance for Heep.

"A lot (of the difference between normal bowling alleys and the Turner Hall) has to do with nostalgia," he said. "It's more intimate here. You're looking at history."

STILL STANDING AFTER ALL THESE YEARS

The kingpin still rules in Comal, Bexar and Guadalupe counties

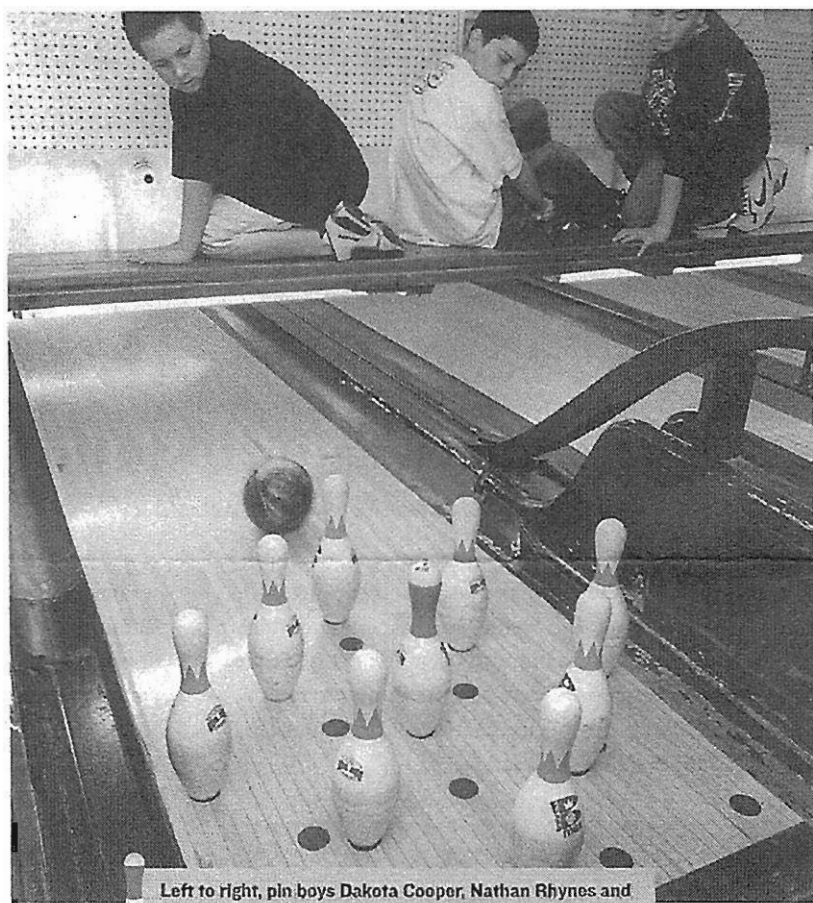
BY JOE NICK PATOSKI

PHOTOS BY WYATT McSPADDEN

IT'S SATURDAY AFTERNOON AT THE Fischer Bowling Club, a humble building beneath shady oaks on a two-lane county road in the Hill Country with a red-wood storefront exterior made distinctive by eight white bowling pins arranged in a circle on the wall around a red pin in the middle.

Inside, it feels like a long time ago. Four teams of bowlers are keeping the pin boys at the end of the alley under the Willkommen zum Fischer sign busy, setting up a new diamond-shaped rack of pins whenever all the old rack of pins are all knocked down; or the red pin in the middle, also known as the kingpin, is the only one left standing. The bowlers sit in the rooster benches—as the three rows of bleachers are called—waiting their turn to roll, exchanging pleasantries and small talk, while the team captain records the team scores on the chalkboard by the side of the lanes and calls up the next team bowler.

After rolling balls and knocking down



Left to right, pin boys Dakota Cooper, Nathan Rhynes and Colton Cooper wait to reset bowling pins at Rogers Ranch Bowling Club between Lockhart and Niederwald.

pins for a while, on cue, everyone takes a break, with half of the bowlers going outside to stretch and the other half heading to the bar, popping open \$1.50 beers and 50-cent sodas, keeping tabs on the honor system, firing up the jukebox or flipping through the pages of the bowling club scrapbook on the counter while three kids scamper beneath them. After a few minutes' respite, a petite, gray-haired lady blows a whistle, and everyone goes back to bowling.

Step inside any of the 19 ninepin bowling clubs clustered around Comal, Bexar and Guadalupe counties, and step into Texas as it used to be. Ninepin bowling is one of the last Old World traditions that Germans brought with them when they settled a broad, fertile swath of Central and South-Central Texas in the mid-to-late 18th century. Ninepins were the most popular form of bowling in the early United States, but since the 1930s, when the game was outlawed in several states for its associations with gambling and other shady

activities, Texas has been the only place where ninepins remains popular.

Tenpin bowling replaced ninepin, and its popularity was sealed in the 1950s when pinsetters were automated. But ninepin, along with the kids who "set 'em up," never lost favor in Texas. Today, the tri-county ninepin clubs are the last place in America where bowling is done like this.

Ninepin bowling has a direct connection to a time when social clubs functioned as community centers for German immigrant farmers and others working the fields. It was often the only social option outside the church. Annual memberships under \$25, a night of bowling for about \$6 and beers under \$2 are reminders of how fun used to be a whole lot cheaper and simpler. All one needs to do is commit to bowl one or two nights a week and (for the better bowlers) be willing to travel to "roll-offs" against other clubs.

The functional exteriors of the buildings, ranging from cinder block to lime-

stone to modern metal siding; their low-frills, full-service interiors with tables, chairs, ballrooms, bar and jukebox; and their locations at the edge of cultivated farmland, at crossroads or in oak-canopied oases, are testament to the industriousness and values of the clubs' founders. The current members, who revel in the old ways despite encroaching cities and suburbs, are testament to the staying power of ninepins.

The specter of the Target sign hovering above the horizon marking yet another power-center mall going up within eyeshot of the Freiheit Bowling Club in New Braunfels does not diminish what the club and the corrugated tin-sided Freiheit Country Store next door symbolize. In the here and now, ninepin bowling clubs not only still function as they were intended to when they were established more than a century ago, they're cool.

You don't have to bowl or even go inside to appreciate nuances such as the sign out front of Solms Bowling Club, just south of New Braunfels and just west of Interstate 35, that spells out "Solms Bowling Club 100 Years" in horseshoes. For all the intrusions that

so-called progress brings, most bowling clubs have enough land for barbecue pits, shaded pavilions and horseshoes on the side or around back to get away from it all.

One such example is the eight-lane Mission Valley Bowling Club west of New Braunfels at the crossroads of State Highway 46 and FM 1863. The newbie of ninepin clubs, established in 1943, it remains a surviving slice of countryside in a rapidly developing area. Similarly, it may take some rooting around to find the Bulverde Community Center Bowling Club behind the Bulverde Community Center and next to a school on Ammann Road. Even the Spring Branch Bowling Club on busy U.S. Highway 281 conveys that feeling of refuge. Go around back where the pit and pavilion await under a thicket of oaks, and it still feels like country:

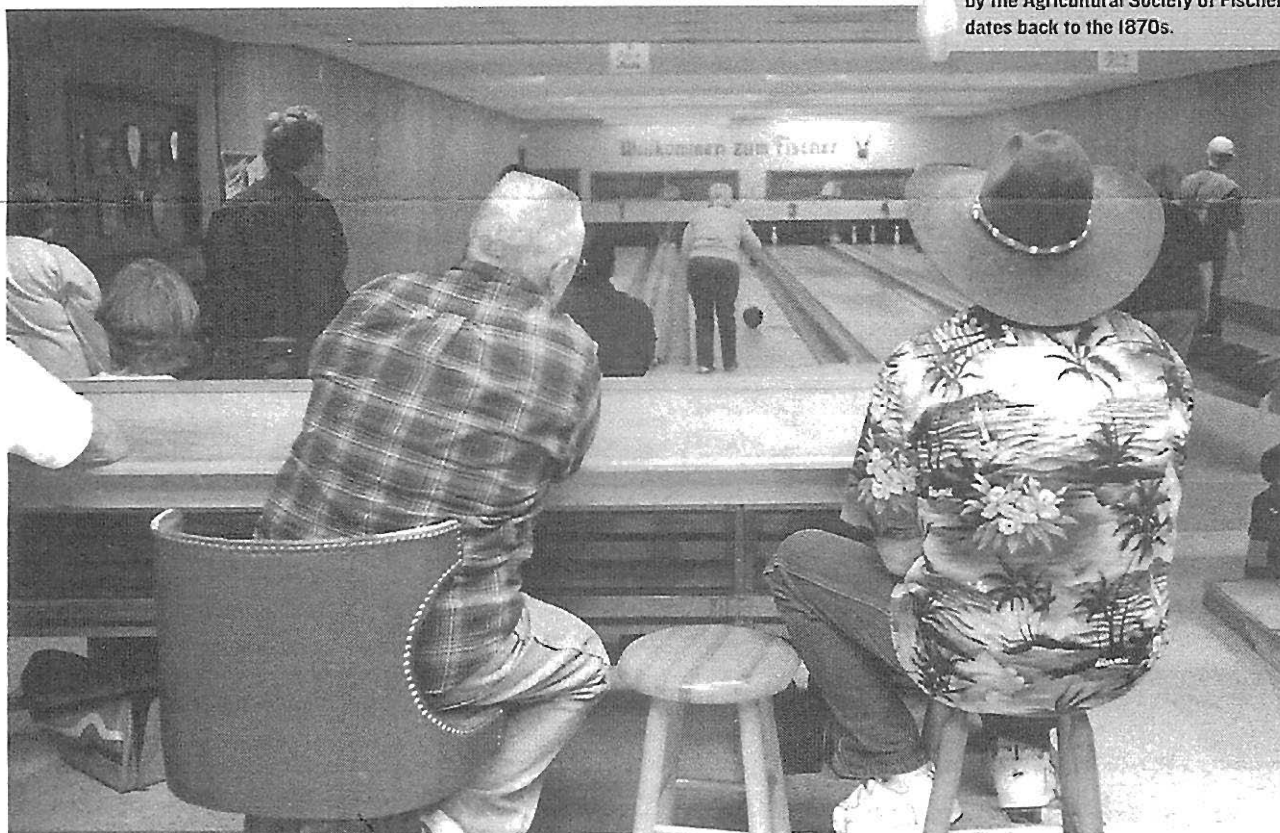
The presence of a ninepin bowling club means a drinking establishment or dance hall is in close proximity, often as not. The Bexar and Germania bowling clubs outside Loop 1604 east of San Antonio are within walking distance of the Double Ringer Lounge (known locally as "Teddy's") at the crossroads of

Zuehl as well as a public shooting range. The Barbarossa, Bracken and Freiheit bowling clubs are all adjacent to classic beer joints.

The 120-year-old Freiheit Country Store and dance hall has a rep for its griddle-cooked hamburgers, shuffleboard, jukebox and a sign out front that says, "Gun Owners Parking Only, Violators Will Be Shot." The Fischer Bowling Club, operated by the Agricultural Society of Fischer, which dates back to the 1870s, is adjacent to a 100-year-old dance hall also operated by the society that is available for private functions. The six-lane Blanco Bowling Club is most famous for the Blanco Bowling Club Café in front of the alleys, world-renowned for its truckstop enchiladas and lemon and chocolate meringue pies.

People are perhaps the most crucial ingredient of all that makes ninepin what it is. There's a lilt in the accents of many bowlers who act like they've known each other since they were kids. This may well be the case, since some bowlers go back three or four generations. Listen close, and what you thought was pronounced "bear" for

The Fischer Bowling Club, operated by the Agricultural Society of Fischer, dates back to the 1870s.



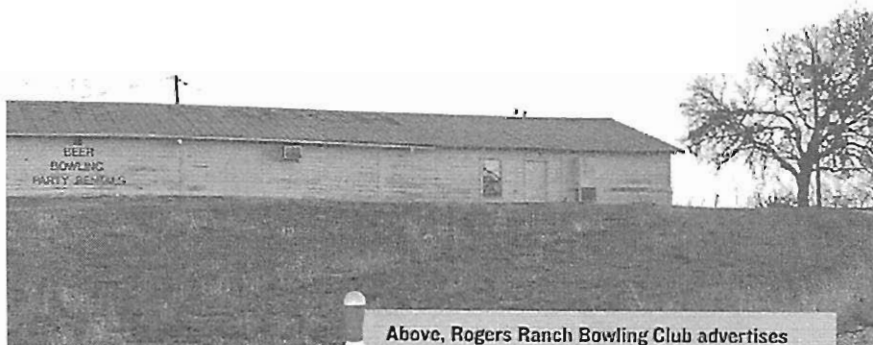
Bexar is referred to as "becks-are" by ninepin bowlers.

Folks at one club seem to know folks at other clubs, as was the case with Kendra, who ran the Freiheit Country Store next to the Freiheit Bowling Club, who said to say hi to Alvin Seiler at the Barbarossa Trough next to the Barbarossa Bowling Club; and with Sharon Coker, the manager at the Laubach Bowling Club, who showed off the bowling pin-themed curtains she redid and gave a brief history of the club founded by the San Geronimo Harmonic as Dean Martin crooned

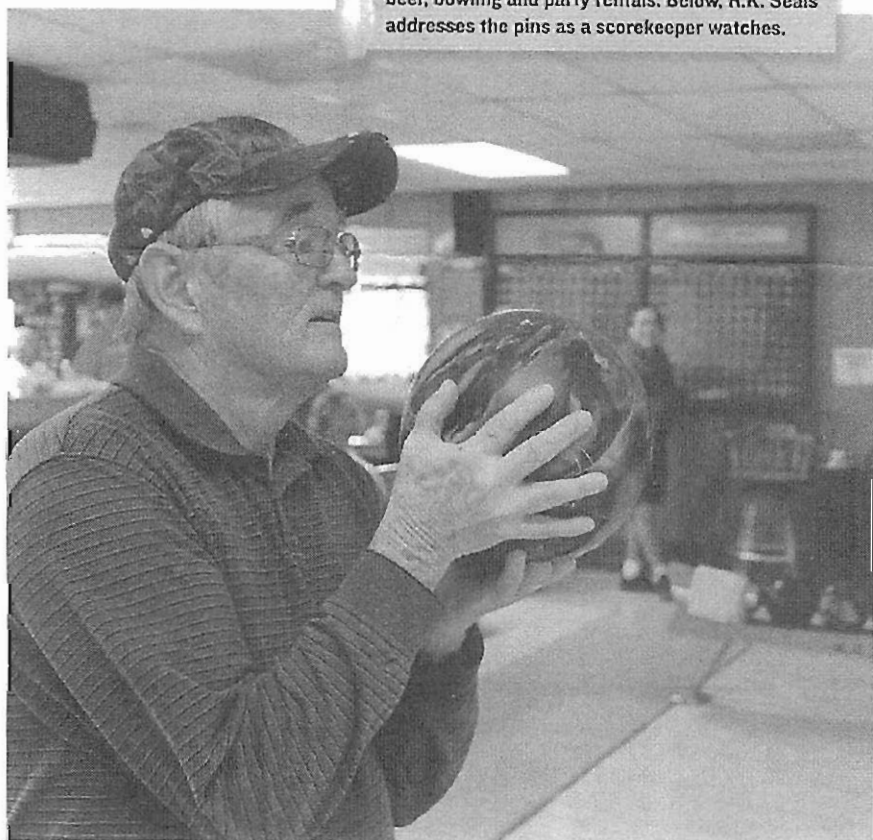
"That's Amore" on the jukebox. She reckoned that the bowlers in Marion were tougher competitors to go up against in a roll-off than the bowlers over at the Bexar, Germania and Cibolo bowling clubs.

As long as there are good people like Coker, the balls roll, and the pins are reset manually (don't forget to tip your pinsetter), ninepin remains the only way to bowl in at least one part of Texas that's like nowhere else in the world.

Joe Nick Patoski's latest book is Willie Nelson: An Epic Life.



Above, Rogers Ranch Bowling Club advertises beer, bowling and party rentals. Below, R.K. Seals addresses the pins as a scorekeeper watches.



WHERE TO FIND KINGPINS

Barbarossa Bowling Club, 4007 FM 758 (between Zorn and New Braunfels), New Braunfels, (830) 625-2034

Bexar Bowling Alley & Social Hall, 15691 Bexar Bowling Club Road, Marion (1.5 miles south of Interstate 10 off Trainer Hale Road, east of San Antonio), (830) 428-2512

Blanco Bowling Club, 310 Fourth St., Blanco, (830) 833-4416

Bracken Bowling Club, 18397 Bracken Drive (off FM 2252, north of Evans Road), Bracken, (210) 651-6941

Bulverde Community Center Bowling Club, 1747 E. Ammann Road (west of Bulverde Road and FM 1863), Bulverde, (830) 438-3055 www.bulverdebowlingclub.com

Cibolo Bowling Club, 601 N. Main St. (north of FM 78), Cibolo, (210) 658-2248

Fischer Bowling Club, Fischer Store Road (off Ranch Road 32), Fischer, (830) 935-4800

Freiheit Bowling Club, 2145 FM 1101 (at FM 493, 1 mile east of Interstate 35), New Braunfels, (830) 625-0372

Germania Bowling Club, 1826 Zuehl Road, Zuehl (near Bowling Club Road, 1.5 miles south of Interstate 10 off Trainer Hale Road, east of San Antonio), (830) 420-2675

Highland Social Club, 2929 S. W.W. White Road, San Antonio, (210) 333-4567

Laubach Bowling Club, 1986 Laubach Road, (1.5 miles east of State Highway 123), Seguin, (830) 379-9033

Marion Bowling Club, 111 W. Krueger (north of the railroad tracks by the Catholic church), Marion, (830) 420-2205

Martinez Social Club, 7791 Saint Hedwig Road (at FM 1516), San Antonio, (210) 661-2422

Mission Valley Bowling Club, 2311 W. State Highway 46, New Braunfels, (830) 629-0028

Rogers Ranch Bowling Club, 1651 Rogers Ranch Road (County Road 223 off FM 2001, 1.5 miles east of State Highway 21 between Lockhart and Niederwald), Lockhart, (512) 398-2809

Solms Bowling Club, 175 N. Solms Road (1 mile west of Interstate 35), New Braunfels, (830) 608-9691

Spring Branch Bowling Club, 12830 U.S. Highway 281 (less than a mile south of FM 306), Spring Branch, (830) 885-4611

Turner Bowling Club, 120 Ninth St., San Antonio, (210) 227-4412, www.turnerclub.org

Zorn Bowling Club, 12000 State Highway 123, Seguin (south of Zorn), (830) 379-5247

COLOGNE, Germany (AP) 3/3/09

Cologne's six-story city archive building groaned then collapsed in a pile of rubble Tuesday as people inside fled in panic. All managed to escape safely but police said three people were feared missing in other damaged buildings nearby. The archive building collapsed about 2 p.m., ripping open and dragging down parts of two adjacent buildings that contained apartments and an amusement arcade. A huge cloud of dust enveloped the site. Parents at a nearby fast-food outlet grabbed their children and ran for their cars. "I heard a giant bang and then suddenly saw this giant gray dust cloud," said Mustafa Goresme, 18, who watched from the restaurant. "It was like a Hollywood film." "Everyone was in a real panic," said his friend, Mehmet Guerner. "We didn't know what had happened."



Alerted by rumbling sounds that preceded the collapse, all staff and visitors at the Cologne archive were able to get out in time without injuries, fire department director Stephan Neuhoff said. Florian Hacke, who lives two buildings away, said he ran out of his house after he heard a creaking noise and cracks opened up in his ceiling. Officials initially said nine people were feared missing in the neighboring buildings, but police later said all but three had turned up safe. Neuhoff said rescuers needed to stabilize the area before moving into the rubble to determine whether anyone was trapped inside. Late Tuesday evening they pumped concrete into the ground around the area to firm it up.



There was no immediate word on the condition of the archive's contents, but a regional government official, Lutz Lienenkaemper, promised help in salvaging them. Cologne has archive material going back over centuries, including manuscripts by communist pioneers Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels and documents related to German writer Heinrich Boell. Emergency workers evacuated buildings in a 150-yard (meter) radius. A nearby retirement home with 76 residents also was evacuated for fear that a crane could collapse on it. It was not immediately clear what caused the archive building to collapse. Work was being done on a new subway line under the street on which the building stood. The roof of the subway construction site also collapsed Tuesday, but officials said they did not believe anyone was trapped in there. Subway project leader Rolf Papst also said there had been no major tunneling work done in the last 30 days. "I am not aware of any work at the moment that might have caused this," said Gudrun Meyer, a spokeswoman for the subway company.

The modern-style building opened in 1971. A longtime archive employee, Eberhard Illner, told a German radio station that he had noticed and reported cracks in the basement last year. However, Neuhoff said initial indications were that those cracks had no link to the collapse. In 2004, the tower of a nearby church leaned about 3 feet (1 meter) to one side, an incident blamed on underground construction work.

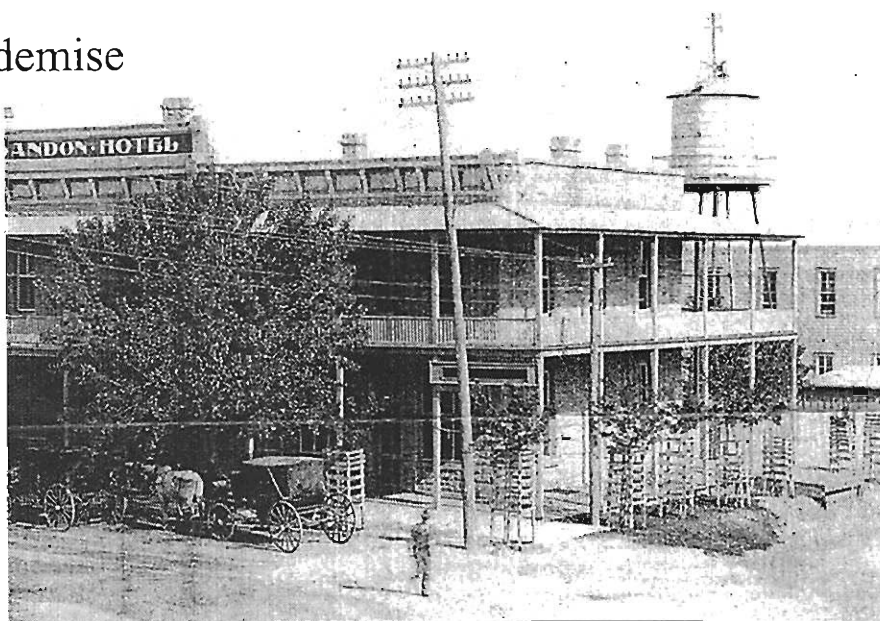
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Photos courtesy of www.spiegel.de online.

Submitted by Liz Hicks, Houston

Many hotels met a fiery demise

Editor's note: This piece is part of a monthly series of columns on historic people and places in San Angelo. The columns are being published in cooperation with San Angelo Visionaries In Preservation, a local group working to restore downtown.



The Landon, circa 1902

By **BARBARA TWEEDY**
Special to the San Angelo Standard-Times

As San Angelo grew in its early days, so did the need for hotels. Travelers camped in tents or laid their bedding in stalls at one of the numerous wagon yards in town.

The first hotel in San Angelo was the Concho House. It has been said that Sancho Mozique, a Buffalo Soldier once stationed at Fort Concho, helped with the construction of this early building.

Annie and Richard Franklin Tankersley came to Texas from Mississippi in 1864 in hopes of ranching in this area. They were one of the first families to settle in the Concho Valley. After 30 years of marriage and six children, the couple filed for divorce.

Annie Allen Tankersley built a wood-frame hotel on the property she received in the divorce settlement. She began the business by taking in traveling cowboys, buffalo hunters and stage-coach travelers in the Tankersley Hotel on Oakes Street. The hotel burned down, and she rebuilt with adobe, vowing never again to build with something that would burn. During the Ben Ficklin flood of 1882, she watched her carefully planned adobe hotel collapse into a muddy heap.

Just down the street on the corner of Concho and Chadbourne was the Nimitz Hotel owned and operated by Earnest Albert Nimitz. He was the son of Carl Heinrich Nimitz, owner of the landmark Nimitz Hotel in Fredericksburg. The Nimitz became a notable establishment despite four fires.

The Nimitz Hotel built a reputation for good food and coffee. There was even a column in the San Angelo Standard called "The Lounger," written by a man who sat in the lobby and observed the activities of the hotel's visitors.

After the last fire in 1893, Ernest retired

briefly to Eagle Pass. In 1895, James C. Landon purchased the property. Landon collaborated with Oscar Ruffini to build a two story structure of native sandstone. The building was richly decorated and equipped with all the luxuries of the day.

An electrical fire in 1902 enveloped the Landon. The blaze killed Landon's wife and six guests. Three stables and a half dozen neighboring stores were burned in the inferno. Great human effort was all that prevented the entire San Angelo business district from being destroyed.

The Landon was rebuilt and opened for business as a three story hotel. The hotel was lavishly decorated. The main gathering area boasted a white-patterned tile ceiling, Greek inspired pillars and lamps hanging from four foot chains. Elegant, leather bound wooden chairs with matching tables enhanced the luxurious ambiance of the space.

Unfortunately, fire again destroyed the hotel in 1925. Later the Naylor Hotel, today the Town House, was built at the same location.

Early hotels helped create what San Angelo is today. They provided a place for business and socializing and a haven for visitors. The first and last impressions of the town centered on a guest's stay at a local hotel.

Barbara Tweedy is a member of the Communication and Education Committee of the Visionaries in Preservation. She is a member of a longtime Tom Green County family.

Submitted by Ed Boehringer, Dallas

LHS German Club Participates In German State Competition

The La Grange High School German Club participated in the German state competition at the University of Texas at Austin on Saturday, Feb. 28.

More than 1,050 students representing 75 schools from all over Texas competed at the 33rd Annual Texas German State contest.

Results are as follows:

Listening Comprehension Level II: Jovana Sanchez, 7th.

Directed Dialogue Level I: Christa Roensch, 1st.

Extemporaneous speaking Level IV: Mark Reeder, 2nd.

Polka band: Mark Reeder, Kayla Hartmann, Polly Hajovsky, Noah Matocha, Blaise McKenzie, Katey Psencik,

Jaston Davis, Cody Goehring, Gabi Matocha, Kyle Hartmann, Christa Roensch, and Kevin Boening, 2nd.

Group Folk dancing: Emily Toensing, Mark Reeder, Kayla Hartmann, Clayton Weishuhn, Cody Goehring, Renee Hajek, Elizabeth Trujillo, John Michael Groot, Hilary Voelkel, Hannah Bellue, Kallie Kothmann, Blaine Heinrich, Arlin Keilers, Kyle Hartmann, and Toni Keilers, 2nd.

Video Show: Caitlin Morgan, Jessica Demny, Ethan Heinrich, Dillon Drab, Amy Rackley, Patrick Raborn, Taylor Stricklin, Garrett Denham, Kendyl Comer, Roberto Vazquez, Karen Richter, Sterling Behrens, Freddy Meek,

Steven Karisch, 6th.

T-shirt design: Jessie Neuendorff, Dylan Supak, Shea Cook, 1st.

Costume design: Bethany Zapalac, 1st.

Gingerbread house traditional: Amy Rackley, Kayla Hartmann, Polly Hajovsky, Avery Spindler, Jessie Neuendorff, Kallie Kothmann, Amber Schneider, Kyle Hartmann, Mark Reeder, Brett Hengst, Brianna Hayes, Brittni Ahlschlager, Cody Goehring, John Michael Groot, Mandi Minzenmeyer, Blaise McKenzie, Toni Keilers, Katie Reiersen, 1st.

Skit Level II: Renee Hajek, Cody Goehring, Jovana Sanchez, Marissa Gonzalez, Hilary Voelkel, Toni Keil-

ers, Hannah Bellue, 7th.

Skit Level III: Mark Reeder, Katey Psencik, Jessica Demny, Garrett Denham, Morgan Caridi, Amy Rackley, and Alan Cooper, 3rd.

Best Actor: Mark Reeder Prinz in Rapunzel.

Poetry reading Level II: Renee Hajek, 2nd.

Poetry reading Level IV: Mark Reeder, 1st place for four consecutive years!

Research paper entitled "Sharpshooter": Caitlin Morgan 1st and \$1,000 scholarship awarded by German Texan Heritage Society

Other students competing include: Sara Muras, Lucila Lopez, Avery Spindler, Amber Schneider, Macee Prause, Joel Schneider and Bryce Moerbe.



Places First at State



Caitlin Morgan placed first with her research paper entitled, "Sharpshooter" at German state competition at the University of Texas in Austin on Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009. Morgan was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship by the German-Texan Heritage Society for her research paper describing the Schuetzenverein and the Schuetzenfest in Round Top.

Fayette County Record, March 10, 2008
Submitted by Carl Luckenbach

Museum Matters

By Mary Yantis

Another new year at the Museum, and things are off to a great start! Karen Wright got the quarterly host/hostess calendar done, and again a super group of folks are lined up to give that renowned 'Dublin welcome.'

Four new names are on the calendar this quarter: Menill Striegler, Marcelle Gregory, Jon Awbrey, and Katherine Millican. A fun thing: two of them are 'old timers' who went to school in Dublin; two of them are relative newcomers, both working for the *Citizen*. All of them love Dublin's history and will be great in showing the Museum.

In spite of several very cold days, attendance was good in January. Comments were many and stressed enjoyment of the Museum and "friendly Dublin people."

For instance, Mark Weiser of Fredericksburg came in search of information about his family who lived here in the earliest years of 1900. He, in turn, filled in information on his family that helps paint a better picture of early-day Dublin.

Mark Weiser's great-uncle, Vincent Weiser came to central Texas from Germany before 1900. He established mills, banks, and other businesses, providing jobs for many of his relatives who emigrated to Texas over several years.

It was the Weiser Mill (known to many today as the old Hamilton Mill south of the depot on Patrick) where Mark Weiser's father came to work for his uncle and cousins. The beautiful Victorian home on the southeast corner of Patrick and Mesquite, known to some as Mrs. Ford's house, was originally the Weiser House. Today, one of the few traces of the family's years in Dublin can be seen on Highland Street where the sign in front of the Rotary ball field identifies it as Weiser Park.

An intriguing part of the story is that Mark Weiser, a former judge, is almost finished with a book about his family. And yes, their sojourn in Dublin is included. Here, almost 100 years later, Vincent Weiser's nephew has found some of his

roots AND discovered "a wonderful, unexpected Museum." As he left, he promised, "I WILL be back"

A few days after the judge was here, Hal Pendergrass and his son Noah from St. Louis were delighted by all they discovered at the Museum. And, making it even better, they found their relatives' biographical sketches in the Bicentennial Erath County book. That would be the Templetons and the Thompsons from the Bunyan community.

Some will remember Hal's grandparents, John and Ruby Pendergrass who moved here in their retirement years (Ruby was Mary Belle McConnel's oldest sister.) The Museum is truly a wonderful place for families to make connections and for the younger generations to learn about their grandparents.

**Submitted by Anna Thompson,
Dublin**

Dublin Citizen, Feb. 5, 2009

BOB BOWMAN'S EAST TEXAS

A LOOK AT HISTORIC PLACES,
PEOPLE AND EVENTS

In the 1940s East Texas sawmills and paper mills lost many of their loggers to the armed forces fighting during World War II. The problem was solved with a unique exchange. German soldiers who had been captured in Europe were brought to the U.S. and conscripted as loggers.

Today, the unusual trade is remembered by seven Texas historical markers placed near German POW camps at Alto, Center, Chireno, Huntsville, Lufkin, San Augustine and Tyler.

The Germans came to East Texas through the efforts of companies like Southern Pine Lumber Company of Diboll, Frost Lumber Company of Nacogdoches, and Angelina County Lumber Company of Keltys, near Lufkin.

History, regrettably doesn't record many of the names of the German soldiers who came to East Texas; but most of them worked hard in the woods, felling trees, cutting them into pulpwood or lumber logs and shipping them on railcars bound for the sawmills.

Some Germans, however, deliberately slowed down their work, believing that shortages of lumber would hurt the American war effort. While East Texans struggled with the notion that the German POWS would escape and commit all kinds of atrocities to their families, there were few events.

The Germans simply did their jobs and most were returned to Germany after the war. Some remained in East Texas; one even became the president of the "Chamber of Commerce at San Augustine." A few of the Germans escaped, but became lost and eventually wandered back to their logging camps.

When a prisoner escaped at the Chireno camp, guards found him in a cow pasture holding a little girl, and the mother was deeply upset. The guards discovered, however, that the girl had wandered into the pasture, where there were some bulls. The escapee scooped up the child and when the guards raced toward the POW, he and the little girl were talking to nearby cows. The little girl told the guards. "He nice man. He show me cows."

Author Mark Choate chronicled the story of the Germans in his excellent 1989 book, "Nazis in the Pineywoods."

Except for the historical markers, little remains of the old POW camps. In Lufkin, a stone gate bears an inscription scratched into the stone: "Rothhammer, 1944," a reminder of a German POW who lived there.

The West News, Feb. 5, 2009

Submitted by Dolores Perkins, West

Tomball prepares for German Heritage Festival

By FLORI MEEKS

Its time to pull out the lederhosen and the beer steins. The Ninth annual Tomball German Heritage Festival is March 27-29 in downtown Tomball.

This years festival will feature live music and dancing from five stages, strolling performers, approximately 150 vendors, children's activities, German delicacies and festival fare, historical exhibits, a beer stein presentation and appraisals, a German church service, a fireworks display and a group bicycle tour. Festival hours will be 6-10 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday and noon-6 p.m. Sunday from the 100 block through the 400 block of Market Street at Walnut, Cherry, Oak and Pine Streets. Admission and parking will be free.

Sponsoring this event is the Tomball Sister City Organization. The non-profit corporation was created to establish and support cultural, educational and business exchanges with Tomball's sister city: Telgte, Germany*.

"Tomball's German Heritage Festival is an opportunity to promote the community's German ties," organization president Grady Martin said. "Most of north Harris County and Tomball was settled by Germans in the 1800's," said Martin, who is serving as festival co-chairman with his wife, Sandra Martin. "We want to preserve our German heritage, and the festival is a fun way to do it. During previous years, the festival has drawn more than 10,000 guests, including visitors from Telgte. This year, we're expecting our biggest and best festival yet," Martin said.



*Telgte is a town in the Warendorf district, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. It is situated on the river Ems, 10 km east of Münster, and 15 km west of Warendorf. (Editor's note—courtesy of Wikipedia)

The festivals carnival will open early, from dusk to 10 p.m. or 11 p.m. Thursday, depending on the crowds, and from about 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday. It will be open during regular festival hours Saturday and Sunday. The March 28 bicycle rally, the Fahrrad tour, will give bikers the option of riding 10, 45 and 67 miles. "It will be a good warm up for those riding in the BP MS 150 (April 18-19)," Martin said. "It's spring, and the wild flowers will be blooming." The riders will include Tomball Mayor Gretchen Fagan and Magnolia Mayor Jimmy Thornton Jr., along with three German exchange students attending Tomball High School this school year. Packet pick up will begin at 6:30 a.m. March 28 at Tomball City Hall, 401 Market St., and the ride will begin at 8 a.m. The cost is \$30 per rider. For registration, visit www.txwheelsofjustice.org/farrhad/index.html.

Also new this year will be a beer stein collection and presentation by expert Ron Fox, who is inviting community members to bring their beer steins in for an appraisal. Fox will speak at 11 a.m. at the festival Heritage Center (normally the Tomball Community Center), 221 Market St., and he'll be on site 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The center also will be displaying historical exhibit and a student arts and crafts display.

The festivals entertainment line up this year will include Alpenfest of the greater Houston area, accordion player Chris Rybak, the TubaMeisters, the Scandinavian Folk Dancers and the Tomball Promenaders, among others. Friday night will be devoted to Bluegrass music. And on Saturday, festival organizers will present a large fireworks display.

This years German church service, set for 10 a.m. Sunday, will take place at Tomball's new gazebo in the depot plaza at 201 S. Elm St. The program will be presented in English and in German. "Then we'll be right back at it with the Biergartens and the oompah-pah," Martin said. The festival stages will include the Family Stage on the 300 block of Market Street, the Chris Rybak stage on the 200 block of Market, the Telgte Ziegenbock Stage on the 100 block of Market and the Biergarten Stage on the 110 block of Market. A stage also will be located at 111 W. Main St. "I think people enjoy hearing that good authentic music and the traditional instruments, the cowbells and the alpenhorn," Sandra Martin said. "We'll have traditional dancing, too."

For more information about the festival, call 281-379-6844, or e-mail gradsand@yahoo.com.

Submitted by Carl Luckenbach, Spring

People

From the River Spree and the North Sea to the Double Mountain Fork of the Brazos River

The History of the Wolsch and Kneschk Families and their Immigration to Texas

Submitted by Eddie Wolsh. Credit to Norman Kneschk for researching the Kneschk family, and Joan Griggs and Peggy Adler for researching the Tredemeyer family

Von der Spree und der Nordsee zur zweibergigen Gabelung des Flußes Brazos – die Geschichte der Familien Wolsch, Kneschk und Tredemeyer

Wot Sprjewje a Sewjerneho morja k dwójnohórskemu rěčnišću rěki Brazos – stawizny swójbow Wólška, Kněžka a Tredemeyer

Vun de Spree-Stroom un de Noardsee noa de Double Mountain Fork vun de Brazos-Stroom – het vertellsel van de familjes Wolsch, Kneschk, un Tredemeyer

German translation by Truda Malinkowa of the Sorbisches Institut, Bautzen Germany
Ober Sorbian translation by Truda Malinkowa with the Wendish spellings of Wolsch and Kneschk provided by Dr. Heinz Richter, professor of Sorabistik Studies at the University of Leipzig, Germany

Oldenburg area Plattdeutsch dialect translation by Dr. Heiko Wiggers, professor of German at Wake Forest University, North Carolina

(This version doesn't have the Wendish diacritical notation for Wolska and Knezka due to Microsoft not offering what's needed for the s and z, both of which in Wendish have a small "v" above each. The attached version also doesn't have the Wendish diacritical notation for "o" which is O and "e" which is é)

Introduction

My "search for August," my quest to find out where my great-grandfather, August Wolsch, immigrated from, what his life was like in Germany, why he immigrated, and if I had Wolsch cousins there, has taken over 35 years. It had its origin when I found the old German family Bible as a boy in the wreckage of the old Wolsch homeplace where my grandparents, Emil and Emma Wolsch raised their family, and from the stories my grandfather, Emil, told me of his father's immigration. It has been my goal to not only answer these questions but to put them into historical perspective, to understand the historical forces which shaped August's life. I wanted more than a list of names on a family tree. I wanted to understand the historical forces which caused him and his future father-in-law and future wife, Matthaëus and Augusta Kneschk, to uproot and begin life anew in a foreign country far from

home, never to return. I wanted to know what their life was like in Germany, their culture and language, and to find and make contact with my German Wolsch cousins.

Thanks to the help over the years of many people, both here and abroad, I have accomplished my goal. Thanks to the work of Norman Kneschk and a German researcher he hired, I know the genealogy and family history of the Kneschk family. Thanks to the help of Rachel Hildebrandt, found through the German Texan Heritage Society, who translated for me, I found my cousin, Heinz Wolschke, who lives in Kreba-Neudorf, as well as two other likely related Wolsch branches, all of which I have corresponded with. Due to the research of Heinz of German church records I now have established a documented link to a German cousin and know who August's siblings and parents were. Thanks to the help of Dr. Heinz Richter, a professor of Sorabistik Studies at the University of Leipzig, who sent me a tape of his Wendish pronunciation of Wolsch and Kneschk, and their likely spelling, I now know what the original Wendish spelling of my family names were and how they were pronounced. I also owe a great debt to Andreas Kirschke, a German journalist with an interest in Wendish studies, who graciously sent me a great deal of annotated literature – at his expense - about the culture and history of the Wends and of Gablenz and Weisswasser, where August and Matthaeus were born.

I also owe a tremendous debt to the many relatives I interviewed over the years, too numerous to mention. Some shared with me the product of their own genealogical research which included copies of photos and documents and some shared personal reminiscences. These details and personal stories of family history they shared which would have never been revealed through records made my ancestors come alive. Thanks to their help they became real people, not just names on a genealogical tree. Because of the time I spent with those elderly relatives and contemporaries of August, I was able to feel as well as understand, their hardships as immigrant farmers to a region of Texas just a few years removed from its frontier era.

The following is an excerpt of my dad's family's history which includes references to his Plattdeutsch ancestors of his mother from the Oldenburg area as well as the history of the Texas region and northwest Texas communities which Emil migrated to. Because I wanted to share this Wolsch/Kneschk genealogical narrative with my Wolsch and Kneschk relatives, I tried to excerpt only that part of the narrative pertaining to those families. However, editing out all references to those other families was unavoidable. Most of the background information on the Wends came from Dr. George Nielson's book, In Search of a Home while many other reference works were consulted for historical background information. Because this narrative is for personal use and not for publication footnotes and a bibliography are not provided.

Johan Matthaeus Kneschk, known as Matthaeus (pronounced Mah'tus - Wendish – Mato – pronounced Mah'ta), was born in 1833 in Weisswasser, Prussia. At about the same time, likely in the nearby village of Gablenz, Johan Wolsch and his future wife, Elisabeth Noack were born. The Kneschk and Wolsch families were Wendish, or as known by the Germans, Sorben. At the time of their birth both villages were in the Germanic kingdom of Prussia but they were also in the ancient Wendish region of Lausitz which preceded Prussia several centuries and with which they would have identified instead of with Prussia. Today Lausitz is a small 60 by 30 mile area south of Berlin which borders the Czech Republic and Poland but at the time of their birth the region was slightly larger although Lausitz was never a large area. The Wends are an ancient Slavic people with their own culture and language closely akin to Polish and Czech. Unlike some of their neighboring Slavic brethren of Bohemia and Moravia which now form the Czech Republic and the Poles, they were never an independent kingdom or state. Since the Middle Ages they have been a subjugated minority subservient to Germans. The primacy of their language and culture in their ancestral homeland, Lausitz, had been steadily diminishing over time due to the superior numbers of Germans which surrounded them, German as the official language in education and civil affairs, and due to Germanization efforts of the Saxon and Prussian kingdoms in which Lausitz lay before the creation of modern Germany in 1871. When the modern German nation

was created by Bismarck in 1871, Weisswasser and Gablenz were located in the administrative region of Prussia. However, both were also located in another ancient region known as Schlesien, a region which had had parts or all of it controlled at various times by the kingdoms of Poland and Prussia and the Germanic Hapsburg Empire comprised of present Austria and southeastern Europe. It was this confusing history of overlapping domains and constantly shifting boundaries, common throughout all of Europe, which complicated my efforts to pin down exactly where my ancestors originated.

The Kneschk (Wendish - Knezka - pronounced "Keyshkuh" accent on the first syllable) family first appears in records in Braunsdorf, as early as 1552. Braunsdorf, now known as Bronowice, is in present Poland, on the east bank of the Neisse River which today separates modern Germany and Poland. Since the Middle Ages, it, Weisswasser and Gablenz, a few miles west, were all part of the ancient Wendish homeland, known in German as Lausitz and in Wendish as Luzica ("Looseyshuh.") An ancient Slavic people, their culture and language are thus distinct from German. Lausitz today is about a 60 by 30 mile area south of Berlin bordering the Czech Republic and Poland. In the early 19th century the Germanic kingdom of Prussia, in which Braunsdorf, Weisswasser, and Gablenz lay, plus the Germanic kingdom of Saxony, in which the western part of Lausitz lay, was making a concerted effort to subjugate and Germanize the Slavic Wends, which explains the various spellings in German of Kneschk and Wolsch. Because all official records were kept in German, there is no way to positively know what the original Wendish spelling of the names were. The approximate spelling given here, from a specialist in Sorabistik studies at the University of Leipzig, Herr Dr. Heinz Richter, is likely the closest, especially considering that Matthaeus was illiterate.

Although August could write his name, for he signed his land deeds, its unlikely that he could do much more than that. Even if education had been available for the peasants there were more pressing needs such as feeding themselves. Social advancement opportunities for peasants and in particular for the minority Slavs in a non-democratic Germanic monarchy were non-existent. The first ancestor of Matthaeus to appear in the record at Braunsdorf was Hans Kneschk, born in 1725, although the name appears in the region as early as the 16th century. His son, Martin, was born there in 1758. He married Maria Wehlm in 1796, one year before his father died. They had three sons - Matthaeus, Hans and Martin, who was born there in 1802 and died in 1847. In 1815 Hermann Prince von Pueckler-Muskau acquired the duchy of Bad Muskau which included Braunsdorf. He had a park built there on the banks of the Neisse which is now a UNESCO World Heritage site. Considering that Martin lived there at that time it is possible that he helped to build it since it took a large labor force to build it.

The three sons left Braunsdorf with Martin moving to Weisswasser, another village a few miles to the west, in 1832. In that year, he married Anna Marie Jure and they had five children. Only two survived, however, to adulthood – the oldest, Matthaeus, born in Weisswasser in 1833, and a sister, Eva Christiane, born in 1847, the same year her father died. In 1858, Matthaeus married Hannah Ganik from the nearby village of Gablenz. An old, established Gablenz family, the first Ganik to appear in the records of Gablenz was that of Matthaeus Ganik, der Jungere (the Younger), born in the 1730s. At that time Gablenz was the larger of the two villages and had a Lutheran church which served both Gablenz and nearby Weisswasser. Similar to the rest of Europe, Luther's Reformation split the Wends with the Saxon Wends to the west primarily Catholic and the Prussian Wends, Lutheran. The current Lutheran church in use today in Gablenz, used by the Knezka and Wolska families, was built in 1757 but no doubt the Wends of Gablenz, which was established in the 13th century, were served by a Lutheran church after their conversion to Lutheranism sometime after the schism from Roman Catholicism in 1521.

In 1862, Matthaeus's sister, Eva Christiane, married Johann Bresagk and had at least one daughter, Anna Maria, born in 1863 in Weisswasser. The Bresagk family was an established Weisswasser family with the name appearing in the records there as early as 1648. Matthaeus and Hannah had three daughters in Weisswasser – Christiane, born and died in 1862, Anna, born in 1863, and Augusta, born in 1866. Hannah died sometime after the birth of her last child in 1866 and before 1873 for in that year Matthaeus married Anna Wolska (pronounced "Woolshkuh" accent on the first syllable), a Wend from Gablenz, part of his church's congregation. Anna, born in Gablenz, 4/1/1845, was the daughter of Johann Wolska

and Elisabeth Noack, married in Gablenz, 12/16/1837. She had three brothers, all born in Gablenz – Christian, born 3/24/1838, Johan, born 4/20/1842, and August, born 12/13/1854. She also had a seven year-old illegitimate son when she married Matthaëus, Gustav, born in 1866.

In 1877, Matthaëus and Anna, made the decision to immigrate to Texas. Other Wends, led by pastor Jan Kilian, had immigrated there in 1854, establishing the first Wendish settlement in America at Serbin, Lee County, between Houston and Austin. Making the journey were Matthaëus's two daughters by his first wife, Anna and Augusta, August Maroska (pronounced "Muhrooshkuh" accent on the second syllable) who married Anna in Texas, August Wolska, who married Augusta in Texas, and Gustav, the illegitimate son of Anna Wolska, Matthaëus's second wife, and their two daughters, Maria and Christiana. Noack relatives from their mother's family also immigrated with them with that name very common in the Austin area today. Staying behind were the two brothers of August and Anna, Christian and Johann. A descendant of Johann is Heinz Wolschke, his great-grandson, currently residing in Kreba-Neudorf, near Gablenz. Also staying behind was the only sibling of Matthaëus, Eva Christiane, who had previously married Johann Bresagk, of Weisswasser. Their descendant, Peter Bresagk, lives today in Weisswasser, located for Norman Kneschk by a German researcher.

The decision to immigrate must have been wrenching. Not only were they leaving behind their family and home, Matthaëus was middle-aged at 44 and Anna was 32. As the patriarch of the group, Matthaëus was responsible for his two daughters by his first wife, neither of which were yet teenagers, Anna's seven year-old illegitimate son, and his and Anna's two daughters, the oldest of which was six. Although he would have help from his two young, future sons-in-law, August Wolska was 23 and August Maroska was likely close to the same age, the responsibility nevertheless was heavy. As the oldest, the decision to immigrate was his and he knew it could very possibly cost someone their life, which more often than not it did. Many died either from the voyage itself and the ship's wretched conditions, or from the conditions they had to endure when they arrived until – or if – they could become established. Although they likely had friends and relatives from Weisswasser and Gablenz who had immigrated earlier which they could rely on, the decision nevertheless would not have been easy. Considering the conditions in Europe at that time, Matthaëus and his clan, however, like so many others before, chose the unknown with a chance at prosperity, over the known certainty of misery and poverty, the common lot for the peasantry in 19th century Europe.

Matthaëus's father, Martin, was a young man when Napoleon's army marched through Lausitz on his way to Russia in the Napoleonic wars in the very early 19th century. Matthaëus and Johan, August's father, both lived through the 1848 Revolution and Matthaëus and August both experienced Bismarck's wars to create modern Germany in 1871 just prior to their immigration in 1877. Because the nobility which waged these wars viewed the peasants as nearly subhuman with no respect for their humanity, the invading army would plunder the countryside slaughtering farm animals and commandeering grain stores and supplies from them as needed. Another burden for the peasants was forced military conscription and because of incessant warfare a standing army was necessary with all males serving. The period in which one could be called up for duty varied by state but in Prussia, known for its militarism, and harsh treatment of its soldiers, the period was up to 30 years. And, not only was the Prussian discipline of their soldiers brutal, engendered by the fact that their recruits were only peasants and thus expendable, the incessant warfare in Europe meant that service in the "Kaiser's army" could quite likely be a death sentence or at the least mean physical incapacitation. With life precarious as it was, with families scratching out a living on meager portions of land, service in the Kaiser's army meant at best, the loss of the breadwinner for an extended time and at worst, his loss forever. And this was in addition to regular famines due to overpopulation and displacement due to industrialization occurring at that time.

The father of August Wolska, Johan, likely born in Gablenz near Weisswasser around 1810 or so, served in the Prussian army and grampaw told me that he and another soldier became lost and lived on rats until they found their regiment. He served during the time of great social upheaval throughout the German states precipitated by these conditions. The wretched social and economic conditions of early 19th century Europe ultimately resulted in rebellion, the 1848 Revolution, which directly affected the

Wolska family with Johan, August's father, conscripted to serve in the brutal Prussian military. Considering that much revolutionary activity occurred at Leipzig and Berlin due to the universities there which spawned that activity, as well as at Dresden, all of which are near Gablenz, Johan could have served in the surrounding countryside. Of course, he could have also been shipped out to serve in any part of Prussia considering there was much unrest over all of the German states during this rebellion. As a peasant this was likely the first time he had ever traveled outside of the area of Gablenz and Weisswasser and was probably an eye-opening experience for him.

At the time of the birth of Matthaeus Knezka and Johan Wolska a great social upheaval was under way throughout Europe. Industrialization was occurring which eventually would improve the condition of the common people but at first, because no social legislation existed to protect workers from the whims of their employers, peasants who did leave the farm to work in the emerging factories, coal mines, etc., were still treated as expendable. And in addition, those who had managed to make a living through handicrafts such as weaving, etc., lost their means of livelihood as those crafts were replaced by industrialization. Thus, unemployment was rampant which was exacerbated by overpopulation. Famines occurred and with no social safety net at all, the poor houses, with deplorable conditions at best, were filled to overflowing. In short, life for the common people in early 19th century was one of abject misery. The idea of the divine right of kings to rule over their minions at their complete discretion, had resulted in squalor and hopelessness with no hope for improvement for the great majority of people. The resentment which the peasantry felt toward the nobility was still evident a generation after August had immigrated. His son, Emil, told me how August had recalled with glee a time when the landowner he was working for bent over and a ram knocked him down.

The lack of opportunity for these people became clear through my research of their land deeds after they immigrated to Texas. Although August could sign his name, Matthaeus could not. He signed his deeds with an "X" being illiterate in any language. With very little in the way of resources and education and thus upward mobility through the officer corps or religious leadership reserved for the upper classes, the peasants had no hope. Their daily life was devoted primarily to simple survival. Even their one sanctuary, their religion, which offered hope for a better life after death, and was their one respite from their wretched existence and around which all community life centered, was regulated and controlled from above. Although with this background it is not hard to understand why they immigrated knowing about what they went through in doing so puts the undertaking in greater perspective. With no money they would have never had the chance to travel beyond their small village and with likely only having a rudimentary education at best they would have never even read much about the world outside their small village. Johan's adventure as a soldier and Martin watching Napoleon's army march through the countryside would have been the only firsthand accounts their sons, August and Matthaeus, would have had of the outside world. The only other knowledge they would have had of life outside of Lausitz would have come from letters someone in their community may have received from a relative who had immigrated who was literate or from a travel agent trying to drum up business.

At that time, there was a great deal of literature about America. America was romanticized as a utopia by the Romantics such as Goethe who wrote glowingly about the freedom there for individuals to create life anew free from the shackles of political and religious authoritarianism. In unspoiled nature, man could once again live in harmony with Mother Nature, as he had originally done, free from the constraints that an old, outdated and debased social order had placed upon him. According to Goethe, "Amerika du hast es besser" - America you have it better. This literary era of Romanticism starting with Rousseau in the 18th century, which spawned the French Revolution and the ideals of the 48ers, stressed that man had become disconnected from nature and had replaced the natural order with unnatural rules of his own. Thus, man must free himself from the old order and once again find the true meaning of life by again living in harmony with nature. German adventurers such as Karl Postl wrote of their exploits on the American frontier as did German and other European scientists and artists who accompanied U.S. Army expeditions to the West. In short, the cumulative effect of this escapist literature, glorification of the American frontier, and opportunity to live in a democratic society combined to create a massive

immigration from Germany, as well as other parts of Europe, to the U.S. all throughout the 19th century.

The lure of political and religious freedom as well as the opportunity to improve ones' economic condition appealed to a wide swath of German society which resulted in massive immigration to the U.S. throughout the 19th century. This included religious dissenters such as the Saxon and Wendish Old Order Lutherans who immigrated to Missouri and Texas in the 1830s and 1850s, to North German Platts such as the Tredemeyers and Renkens in the 1850s. Immigration spiked again in the 1870s including that of the Wolska and Knezka families in 1877, to escape poverty, which was the primary reason for immigration. Although conditions for the peasantry had always been pitiful, Bismarck's forced consolidation of German states creating modern Germany in 1871 only exacerbated their plight.

Its not hard to imagine a Sunday afternoon gathering at the Gablenz church during the 1870s. August may have been listening to sections of a Karl May novel glorifying the Llano Estacado. After the table had been cleared from the communal meal of the congregation, someone would have read a letter received from a relative from Texas extolling the virtues of owning your own land and being the master of your own destiny. The pastor, the best educated among his flock, may have shared what Goethe had to say about the freedom which a young, unspoiled America had to offer, still close to Mother Nature, with its vast frontier still in its pristine state or read a section of a Karl May novel about Old Shatterhand and his brushes with Comanches on the Llano Estacado. No doubt these stories of freedom from servitude to a Prussian state and its landed gentry would have appealed to a young man such as August. Although August would have been apprehensive, as a young man knowing he had no future in Lausitz, he would have eventually come to the conclusion that he must leave. Doing so with his sister and her family which included his future wife would have eased the pain of leaving his parents and brothers and the only home he had ever known. And no doubt, that with the young's natural confidence in their ability to overcome any obstacle the unknown may throw at them, he would have been confident in his ability to forge his future in the wilds of "Young America" so described by Goethe. He also knew, however, as did his parents and brothers, that they would never see each other again. Later at Sagerton, when his good friend and neighbor "Doc" Letz asked him about his family in Germany, he replied "alles ist vergangen" – everything is in the past – and that is all he would say.

Time heals all wounds and we all do what we have to do to survive but being forced by circumstances beyond your control to forever leave your home and family is not something anyone can realistically relate to much less describe unless we have had to do it ourselves. Not talking about those left behind must have been the best way to deal with such a painful memory because all those I interviewed said their immigrant ancestor never spoke of their families in Germany, either, and very rarely of the life left behind. What feelings did his parents have, knowing that he must leave but that when he did they would never see him again? One account of an immigrant who later migrated to Sagerton as did August, told of how his mother tore up his passport. The dangers of moving to Texas, halfway around the world, would have been the equivalent to us traveling to live the rest of our lives in Russia, sight unseen, completely foreign, with a different language, culture, and political system. Not only that, how would you even begin to make arrangements? This is quite a daunting prospect for even those of us who are educated.

Having at least traveled to some extent and having public libraries and the Net so we can at least read about where we're going, what would August have done to prepare? What about Matthaeus, the patriarch of the clan who would have felt responsible for the group, who was illiterate? Having made the decision to immigrate they would have had to have first gotten permission from the authorities for even immigration was controlled. Their pastor, likely having traveled to some degree due to him having received some education beyond the basics, would have helped make the arrangements and helped secure the necessary documents from the authorities. He probably used a travel agent to help secure the documents needed as well as make travel arrangements with the railroad and shipping companies. Travel agents were employed by emigration companies to do such because the transport of passengers by rail and ship was a profitable business at that time in Europe. After arrangements had been made for their cross-country journey by rail - with minimal comfort since trains were still in their infancy - to the port of Bremen, papers secure, and their little property disposed of, probably sold to pay for their trip, they

would have said their goodbyes to relatives they knew they would never see again. This included for the 22 year-old August his parents Johan and Elisabet Noack Wolska, if they were still alive, his brothers Christian and Johann, and for Matthaeus, his only sister.

Nothing was passed down about the journey itself except that August did tell Emil that the trip took about six weeks and they crossed on a "cattle boat" which was likely the case since steamers were re-fitted for the immigration trade from use in the livestock industry. Of course as lowly, poor peasants, their comfort was not a priority since it wasn't likely they would return and what little bad press the shipping company did get would be outweighed by the fact that the relatively short time they would spend onboard in deplorable conditions was scant compared to the lifetime of misery they would have if they stayed put. As simple unworldly peasants, they would have been targets for hustlers at the major metropolitan ports they encountered on their journey. Their steamer, Hannover, left the port of Bremerhafen, 9/12/1877, and then made landfall first at New Orleans, 10/7/1877, then at Galveston, their destination.

By that time, a well-established system of charitable aid societies by nationality was in place at the major ports in the U.S to help their fellow countrymen. Society members would greet the immigrants at the dock to help fend off the hustlers, translate for the required processing paperwork with port authorities, offer medical care if needed, and to provide a hot meal of fresh food and lodging while helping to secure transportation to their destination. One can only imagine how they fared. Their destination was Mannheim, Lee County, probably having made arrangements to stay with a relative or friend from Weisswasser or Gablenz which had immigrated earlier. This pattern had already been established starting after the first Wends had immigrated with Kilian in 1854 and because Kilian's group included Wends from Weisswasser it is likely that Matthaeus and Johan knew some of them or their family and had contacted them prior to their arrival. Because the Wends that immigrated with Kilian did so as religious dissenters, most immigrated en masse from specific churches. Because village life centered around the church there were likely connections made through church communities by earlier and later immigrants to help with immigration.

After arriving in Mannheim, Lee County in 1877, August Wolska later married Augusta in Williamson County in 1885 and August Marosko later married Anna. When August married Augusta he was marrying his step-sister and also his sister-in-law although they were not blood kin and had not been raised together. Nevertheless, as Ida Vahlenkamp, one of the oldest grandchildren of August said, they were "all mixed-up." They arrived first at New Orleans in October of 1877. After landing at New Orleans the Wolska/Knezka clan then debarked at Galveston and made their way to Mannheim, Lee County, probably staying with friends from Weisswasser who had immigrated earlier with Johan Kilian and the first Wends to nearby Serbin in 1854. Once in Texas they followed the pattern of earlier Wendish immigrants, periodically moving in an effort to improve their financial condition. Like the vast majority of immigrants they came for economic reasons and were subsistence farmers. Matthaeus was illiterate in any language and signed land deeds with an "X." From 1877 to the early 1880s they moved from Mannheim to Paige, Bastrop County, to Dessau, Travis County, to Walburg and Beyersville, Williamson County, where Anna died in 1885. She is buried in a cemetery on Little Brushy creek near Beyersville which is also near Taylor and Granger where Gustav Wolsch, August's nephew by his sister, Anna, lived. He is buried at Taylor. Walburg, a Wendish community, is also nearby. "Doc" Letz said August spoke fondly of Walburg. Although there is no record of any Wolsch or Knetschk in either of the Lutheran churches at Walburg, because it was Wendish and because it was close by, it was likely he and Matthaeus socialized there with fellow Wends.

Along the way, Matthaeus and Anna had Maria and Christiana, Adolf, and Agnes, in addition to his two daughters by his first wife, Anna and Augusta, and his second wife's illegitimate son, Gustav Wolska. Agnes, being retarded, had no children. Gustav, the step-son of Matthaeus, married and stayed in the Austin area. His farm was at Granger and is now under a lake. His grandson, Cecil, still lives in Austin. Cecil was a translator in Berlin in WWII and his grandfather told him he was not far from his hometown of Weisswasser. I have visited with him and his aunt, Gladys Troxell, now deceased, who

was Gustav's daughter, who told me an interesting story. She told me that there had been some communication with relatives in Germany because Gustav's father had left him some property but it was lost in WWI and that was when he took his mother's name. Several years later I visited with Duane Troxell, Gladys's son, who also does genealogical work and Fran Clendenning, Cecil's daughter, both of whom live in the Austin area. According to Duane, his mother told him that Gus had told her that he and his mother, Anna, had ridden a train a half-day from Berlin to visit the grave of Gus's father. According to Gablenz church records I received from Heinz Wolschke, Gus was illegitimate. Possibly Anna married Gus's father after he was born, he died in Gablenz and she somehow found work in Berlin. While the details will likely never be known, and aren't important, what is known is that Anna married Matthaeus Knezka and she and Gus immigrated with him and others of the Wolska/Knezka clan to Texas in 1877.

Anna Knezka, a daughter of Matthaeus and his first wife, Hannah Ganik, who died in Germany, married August Marosko in Texas, who immigrated with the Knezka/Wolska clan to Texas. A descendant of Anna Knezka Marosko is Karl Fabian whose grandson is David Fabian. Karl is deceased but he had worked on the genealogy of the Knetschke family which I have a copy of. I tried to contact his grandson, David, in San Antonio, but was never able to make contact. Christiana Knetschke, a daughter of Anna Wolsch and Matthaeus Knetschke, married Oscar Hoppe and their descendants now live in the MacGregor area north of Austin. I visited with her granddaughter, Christina Otter of MacGregor, who does genealogy work. Maria Kneschk, another daughter of Anna Wolska and Matthaeus Knezka, married Sam McDaniel of the Granger area in north Williamson County. Allen Currier of Georgetown is a descendant of hers. I visited with him and his wife, Carolyn, an accomplished genealogist, and Allen's parents. His mother, Betty, descended from Maria, told me what the correct pronunciation of Marosko was. Her husband, Vern, was also of German descent whose ancestors immigrated from Posen, now in Poland. He had also served in WWII and helped to liberate a death camp.

Adolf Knetschke is the son of Anna Wolska and Matthaeus Knezka. His son is Norman Kneschk, of Jonesboro, near Waco. I have visited with Norman and he has done extensive genealogical work on the Kneschk family. It is interesting to note that Norman's mother, Jennie Meissner, was descended from Johan Kilian, according to Norman. Sometime prior to 1883 Adolf Knezka and his parents, Matthaeus and Anna, step-sister Augusta, and August Wolska, moved to Williamson County. There, in 1883, August Wolschk married Augusta Knetschk – their names as spelled on their marriage certificate by the clerk - and there in 1885, Anna Wolska Knezka, Matthaeus' wife and August's sister, died, where she is buried in a cemetery on Little Brushy Creek.

August and Augusta Wolschk had nine children two of which died in infancy. This was not known by anyone of my father's generation until I visited with Ida Vahlenkamp who showed me their church baptismal records. Their first child, Emma, was born in 1883 and is buried at Dessau, Travis County, and a second, Johan born in 1890, is buried at Bastrop County. In an attempt to improve their financial condition they moved numerous times. Between their arrival in Lee County in 1877, where August declared his intent to naturalize in 1880 to him becoming a naturalized citizen in Williamson County, 7/8/1904, they moved from Lee to Williamson county where August and Augusta were married in 1883. That same year they moved to Dessau, Travis County, where their first child, Emma, was born and died in infancy. They then moved back to Williamson County, to Little Brushy Creek, near Beyersville, where Anna died in 1885 and is buried in a cemetery on the banks of the Little Brushy. In 1888, grampaw, Emil, the oldest of his siblings, was born in Williamson County but in 1890 they buried Johan, in Bastrop County. They were back in Beyersville, Williamson County after that and stayed there until at least 7/8/1904, when August became a naturalized citizen. Matthaeus and Anna Kneschk were never naturalized. Grampaw spoke fondly of Beyersville and Little Brushy Creek, which is where he spent his boyhood. They likely moved in the early spring of 1905 to Haskell County, to the recently developed town of Sagerton, in time for August to get a crop in. From their arrival in 1877 to their departure to the Rolling Plains in 1905, 28 years, they moved at least six times.

Though not as arduous as their month-long trip overseas, one needs to remember this was before the time of modern transportation. There were no paved or gravel roads, everything had to be moved by

wagon, and each time they moved, they likely had to move in early spring, in time to get a crop in and thus for at least a short time likely lived out of the wagon or used its tarp to build a tent while August built a house or dugout unless he was fortunate enough to rent or buy land which had a house already on it. Of course, there was no electricity, running water, indoor plumbing and at best, the only health care they had, if they had a chicken to trade for his services, was a country doctor, who could only provide rudimentary health care services at best. It is due to these conditions that at least two of their children died, that we know of, and it is very possible there were more who died that we don't know of. After their arrival in Texas August not only buried two of his children but his only sister, Anna, Matthaueus's second wife, as well.

Once again, the decision to move to a far away place was made, this time to the Rolling Plains of northwest Texas. While not as far as Lausitz, it may as well as have been because the 300 mile distance during the horse and buggy and railroad days before phones meant loved ones would once again be left behind, not likely to be seen again except very rarely, at best. When the move to Haskell County was made, Matthaueus's son, Adolf, came, only to move back after Matthaueus's death, to the Waco area, where his son, Norman Kneschk, lives today. His daughter by his first wife, Anna, stayed behind with her husband, August Marosko, whom she had married in 1885 at Paige, Bastrop, County. Her descendant, Karl Fabian, now deceased, did genealogical research and his son, David, lives in the Austin area. Matthaueus's son by proxy, Gustav Wolska, the illegitimate son of his second wife, Anna Wolska, stayed in Williamson County, where his grandson, Cecil Wolsch, and his son and daughter, James, and Fran Wolsch Clendenning, now live. Fran has also done genealogical work. Gus's grandson, Duane Troxell, whose mother was Cecil's aunt, also lives in the Austin area and he, too, has done genealogical work. Of Matthaueus's children by his second wife, Anna Wolska, Maria married Sam McDaniel and Christiana married Oscar Hoppe and both stayed in the Austin/Waco area. Oscar's descendant, Christine Otter, has also done genealogical work and lives in the Waco area. Matthaueus's two other daughters, Agnes and Emma, never married. Emma was retarded and spent her life in a home for the retarded near Austin.

Although Matthaueus left behind five of his eight children and the grave of his second wife, when he moved to Haskell County, he gained a grandson when August's daughter, Minna, married Frank Lowak, who moved to Haskell County with him and August and Augusta's family. August and Augusta's children were Emil, Christian, Dora, Lilly, Minna, Marie, and Ella, all of which were born prior to the move to Haskell County. So, once again, 72 years old, Matthaueus moved again with his children, Adolf, Agnes, Augusta, and her husband August and their seven children, plus the husband of his granddaughter, Minna. From the family histories told by others who moved from the Austin area, it is likely that the Wolschk and Kneschk families made the move the same way. They no doubt loaded all their possessions into a boxcar, with the women and children in a passenger car and the men with the livestock in a boxcar. They rode the train through Waco to Stamford, on to the newly developed town of Sagerton, on the Rolling Plains of northwest Texas.

(To Be Concluded, next Journal)

(Editor's note: What joy to read the name, "Doc" Letz.....he was my mother's brother! - Small world isn't it! - Mary)



Anton Rothermel, 1863-1923

LEATHER CRAFTSMAN ANTON ROTHERMEL

HIS GRANDSON REMEMBERS

By

James D. Rothermel Age 90 years

Born August 20, 1918

Anton Rothermel was born June 16, 1863 and died March 19, 1923, buried at Burton Oak Hill Cemetery. He married August 1892 Mary Vogelsang in Burton, Texas. He was blessed with three sons, Bailleux, Carl and Paul. Bailleux was my father.



James D. Rothermel, 1918—

MY MEMORIES OF MY GRANDFATHER

He operated and owned the Burton Saddle shop on the corner of Main and Washington streets until his death.

We lived next door to Grandpa (OPA) Rothermel and each morning I would go to his home and sit on his lap talking German. He wanted me to be very fluent in the German language and my reward was a buffalo nickel. Our family spoke German in my early years as for other brothers and a sister English was primary language. The morning of March 23rd I was sick in bed with the flu. He came over and we spoke for a few minutes and he left for work. He walked to work each day and this day he dropped dead on the Post Office steps. I remember waving to him as he left for work. The weather was very cold with a strong North wind that he faced as he walked which was too much for him. Too, I remember his funeral. The funeral services were held in his home and I watched as they carried out flowers and placed them on a flat bed truck and then his coffin to be buried in the Burton Oak Hill cemetery. This was a very sad day for me.

I recall OPA taking me to work that I may witness the building of the first concrete highway in Texas from the Brazos River near Chappell Hill to Brenham and Burton to the Fayette County Line a few miles from Carmine, Texas. This was the summer of 1922. OPA had me sit on the front porch of his shop to observe the highway construction. I remember mules and WWI model T - Ford Army trucks hauling dirt and many persons with shovels and rakes. The trucks had hard solid rubber tires and the rear wheel driven by chain. The concrete was mixed and poured on site. OPA's shop's approximate size was 15' x 20' with a reception area and a backroom working area and a small front porch.

James D. Rothermel
803 Robinhood Rd.
Brenham, Texas 77833
1-979-836-2432
Revised 3-9-09

Submitted by:
Dorothy Rothermel, Brenham

THE
LAUREL MUSIC-READER

A Sons of Hermann March!
Discovered by urban archeologist, Alexander Troup

SPECIAL EDITION

James Leroy Sanford.
March tempo.

SONS OF HERMAN.

G. W. Chadwick.

5

EDITED BY
W. L. TOMLINI



BOSTON
C. C. BIRCHARD & CO.
1912

1. Heart so light, . . . eye so bright, . . . Arm so stal - wart
2. Hear it soar . . . the wild wood o'er . . . Through the oak tree

1. Heart so light, . . . eye so bright, Arm so stal - wart
2. Hear it soar . . . the wild wood o'er Through the oak tree

in the fight; . . . Seek - ing fame . . . All whose name
gray and hoar . . . Loud and long . . . Swells the song . . .

in the fight; in the fight; Seek - ing fame, . . . All whose name
gray and hoar, gray and hoar, Loud and long . . . Swells the song

From great Her - man came. . . Sing - ing, shout - ing, broth - ers,
From the youth - ful throng.

Sing - ing, shout - ing, . . . broth - ers, come, . . .

come, Let us gai - ly wan - der home. . . Strong and free, true are we. . .

Let us wan - der home. . . Strong and true are we,
Stars ap - pear, . . . shin - ing clear, . . .

Shall our watch - word be. . . Stars, . . . stars ap - pear, shin - ing, shining, clear, Let us all be
Stars ap - pear, . . . shin - ing clear, . . . Let

broth - ers here. Fa - ther - land, Ho - ly band, . . . Lead us,
us be brothers here. Ho - ly band, Lead us, Lead us

Lead us hand in hand. . . Sing - ing, shout - ing, broth - ers, come, let us
hand in hand. . . Sing - ing, shout - ing, . . . broth - ers, come, . . .

gai - ly wan - der home, . . . Strong and free, true are we, . . . Shall our watchword be. . .

Let us wan - der home, . . . Strong and true are we, . . . Shall our watchword be. . .

Submitted by Ed Boehringer, Dallas

Re-discovery of Old Letters from Germany by Doris Koester Rosenbaum

PREFACE This is a story about a road, a road that eventually lead to the re-discovery of old German letters written by my mothers family from Germany. This is how those discoveries were made.

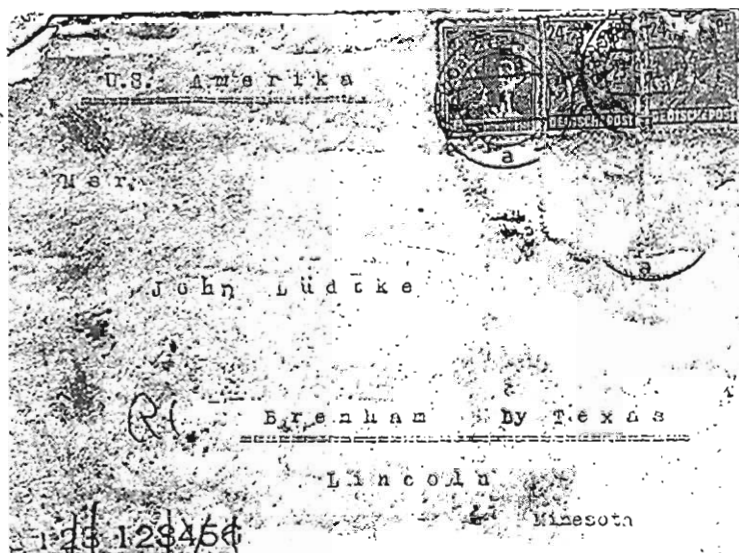
My husband entered the Air Force prior to the Korean war from Washington County, and as a result has his name engraved on a brick located at the American Legion Post in Brenham with other Washington County military service people who also served our country in other wars. He attends his B-29 19th Bomb Group reunions and stays current with their activities and group history. While he was doing research

about the early history of his 19th Bomb Group in the Bataan Death March, he discovered a soldier's name from Brenham that is not on the Washington County Memorial. An effort has been undertaken to get information to have this soldier's name on the Brenham American Legion Post Memorial. After our discussion about the soldier, I recalled that my mother would cut out interesting old things and WWII things from the Brenham Banner Press and would save the clippings in a box. After her death I saved that old box that contained old newspaper clippings and letters and thought a search of that old box might have information about the soldier in question. It was this undertaking that lead to the rediscovery of ninety five old family German letters in that old box. The information about the soldier remains unresolved.

My grandmother who was a immigrant from Germany corresponded with her German family after arriving in Texas during the 1880s. After her death, my mother corresponded using the old German script. After my mother's death, I continued to correspond using English. These 95 old letters and other interesting newspaper clippings that was saved by my mother has put us back on the road to family genealogical research during the time period of WWII and the post war recovery in divided Germany.

My husband arranged these letters by date and started the translation into English. It soon became apparent that this would be a major time consuming effort. A professional translator was used to translate these letters into English. The content of these letters reveals information about Germans fleeing to the West from Poland ahead of the Russians and the divided German political environment and depicts their daily family activities adjusting to the new society from the old NAZI period during WWII. These letters also contains information that confirms seven generations of our family. As a result of this new information an effort has been untaken to use LDS Church records to complete a paper trail to document that part of our family tree.

The letter dated December 9, 1948 makes a reference to earlier letters. We know about the content of those letters from family discussions. Those letters have not been discovered. Louise, my Grandmother and correspondent with her German family, lived with her youngest son. They were farmers. Louise, too old to work in the fields, stayed in the farm home while the family worked the fields. Her husband had died at this time and she wanted to assimilate more into the American culture. She apparently saw no reason to hold onto these old country pictures and documents. While the family was working in the field in the morning, she started a fire under the "Witches Pot". She began to place some of these things into the fire. Soon afterward the family returned from the fields and discovered what was happening. Immediately they recovered some of these things. We think that might have been the final disposition of some of these letters. *(A letter follows)*



Estate Gilde, above Gifhorn, September 21, 1947

Dear Uncle Ludtke,

I want to write you a few lines today. You don't know much about me as I do not know much about you and your relatives. I am the youngest son of Adolf Jaster, formerly from Grünfeld and before that from Elsendorf. Our father died in the Russian Zone [of occupied Germany] on August 10, 1946 while we were fleeing. He is buried in Sommerfelde near Eberswalde which is close to Berlin.

Our flight to the West began with five wagons on January 20, 1945. We were told to travel only 40 kilometers, wait for the battle to be over, and then return to our homes. We were told to take provisions for three days only; however, things turned out different. The Russian army broke through the German line and we had to continue our escape. While we were on the road there came a big snow storm and we were forced to stop. The Russians caught up with us soon. We were forced to leave behind three of the wagons with our few possessions and harnessed four horses to the remaining two wagons. Only with God's assistance did we escape from the Russians' grasp. We continued westward with no particular destination in mind. In this manner we arrived after weeks of travel with the two wagons in the Lüneburger Heide [heath] near Hanover. En route I lost horses and what few possessions we still had. My parents, with another wagon, went to a cousin of mine in Eberswalde. We planned to go there also but since it was in the war zone we were not allowed to go there. Our parents remained there for the time being. The Russians plundered all their possession and soon they were exposed to starvation. When father died at age 86, mother remained with the cousin for a few weeks. We brought her across the border over ditches and through thickets in a pitch-dark night. Pursued by Russian soldiers we finally reached the British Zone. This was the only way we could bring her across because the Russians denied permission for mother to join us. Earlier, as much as we tried, they also denied father to join us. The last time, when he was very sick, we could not have done anything anyway. At first I worked as a smith, then I took the position of manager at an estate where I still work today. Thank God, I have with me mother, my wife and my two daughters. We all work on the estate. My oldest daughter is 16 years old and the other 10. It is a blessing that we have work and something to eat, even though we lost everything and that we are all together and in good health. I was 47 years old when I was drafted and made commander of an airbase, in spite of only one lung. Otherwise, life is so-so. No telling how many millions are worse off than we are. We lived comfortably in Grünfeld, but one should not think of the past. That life will never return. Toward the end in Grünfeld I owned about 700 *Morgen* of land, had a new barn 64 by 16 meters, and the house was renovated. Father and my brother, who was murdered by the Poles, built the other buildings. Everything was wonderful. I had all the farming machinery and everything was new. This had to be left behind. Now the Poles have it, but they work only the land close to the farmstead, the rest is left untouched. The cemetery was ploughed up and planted with potatoes. Here in the Lüneburger Heide [heath] the soil is very poor, only sand, the heath and the forest, but such poor forest with stunted trees. The estate that I manage consists of 1,400 *Morgen*. Out of that 350 *Morgen* is cultivated and another 100 *Morgen* for pasture. The rest is heath and woods and now so many people are concentrated in one place where nothing grows. In the country people can at least have some potatoes, the main subsistence here, when other staples are difficult to obtain or not available at all. It is very bleak in towns where not even a few potatoes can be purchased. Sure, there is the black market where everything is available but only the black marketeer can afford it, pay 180 to 200 *Mark* for a pound of butter. It is the same at other such times. The honest working man who earns a few *Mark* cannot afford that and only the black marketeer has the means to purchase items that are costly and buys

what little is available thereby depriving the little man. There is hardly anything offered for sale. There are no vouchers and if there is a voucher for a certain item, shoes, work clothes or any other things, then these items are not available. This voucher becomes invalid and the owner of the voucher stands empty-handed. The military occupation forces behave like they want to help us but in reality this is so only on paper. The forests are quickly cut down. The beautiful forests of the Harz Mountains are felled for miles and the timber shipped to England. There is no end in sight. Yes, poor Germany, they have us at the point where they want us to be. But are all Germans responsible that they had such a bad leader? What can the individual do? Thank God, I was not a party member. A great number of the others could do nothing but carry out the orders. Let me see a country in this world where an individual refuses to comply with an order. His next road will lead him to prison. But here it is expected that we should have resisted.

So, Dear Uncle and all relatives, I wanted to write so you will know what happened to us and how we are faring. Father had started a letter to you but whether or not it was mailed and received by you, I have no way of knowing. I am not sure if I remember your address correctly. Well, if this letter does not find you, it will be returned.

Greetings to you all from us, Mother, my wife, and my children as well as

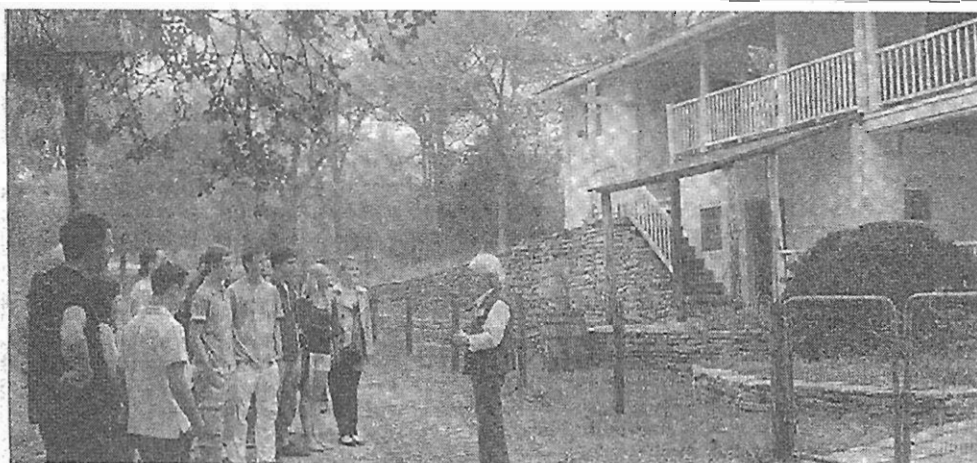
Manfred Jaster

Manager of the Estate Gilde, P. O. Ettenbittel
District of Gifhorn, Hanover

Is this address correct? Mr. Jon Ludtke, Brenham near Texas

German Students Tour Monument Hill State Park

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston



Seventeen students from Kaiserin Augusta secondary school in Cologne, Germany listen as docent Mildred Todd explains the history of the Kreische home at Monument Hill State Park. The group's three-week tour of Texas was arranged by LGHS German Club sponsor Lee Ann Hartman. One student commented that this might be the school's last sponsored tour because Hartman's German counterpart Michael Kage, who accompanied them, is retiring. The students are spending a week living in area homes. They toured the Bob Bullock Museum in Austin Wednesday and will go to Port Aransas, San Antonio and Houston before returning home. This is the sixth time a student group from Cologne has toured Texas and Fayette County. *Staff photo by H.H. Howze The Fayette County Record, Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

WILLIAM K. EBERS, WAGONMASTER By Ed Makowski

William Karl Ebers and Maria Juliana Fulz with their only son, Herman, emigrated from Braunschweig, settled in northeast Bastrop County at a community called Grassyville, and started their own farm. They became U.S. citizens in Oct 1856. In 1860 their second child, Bertha, was born at their farmhouse. The advent of the civil war created a significant change in the lives of the young family because of Ebers' decision in early 1861 to join several of his neighbors in a risky, but potentially rewarding joint venture as described here. Another daughter was born to the family in 1862, but for the three years he was involved in this adventure he was seldom at home.

Cotton was the predominant product of export for the southern states prior to the Civil War. Great quantities of cotton were exported to British, French, and northern USA textile manufacturers. Cotton took such a predominant role in the economy of the South that it was commonly referred to as "King Cotton." During the Civil War cotton "dominated international relations of the Confederacy"... (Burton & Bonnin).. "Cotton diplomacy" enabled the Confederacy to obtain financing from European nations and cotton sale was banned to Northern manufacturers who had previously relied on the southern states to provide the raw material for the approximate 100 million dollars in cloth manufactured annually.

The advent of the Northern blockade of Southern ports beginning in 1861 created a severe economic threat to the South not only through the loss of revenue from cotton sales, but also through the lack of imported manufactured goods critical to the Confederate Army. This placed a severe burden on the South's ability to maintain its army. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo that signaled the end of the Mexico War forbade blockade of Mexican waters by the U.S., and thence the Rio Grande River channel and Mexican ports were left open for trade from all nations.

The situation immediately attracted a full spectrum of speculators, Union agents, Confederate agents, buyers, sellers, teamsters, laborers, and scoundrels. Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas cotton producers wasted little time beginning transport by wagon train to Matamoros, Mexico. From there the cotton was moved down the Rio Grande to Bagdad, a fishing village of tents and shacks, and then moved offshore by paddlewheel steamboats to awaiting vessels. Many of these steamboats operating under Mexican registry were owned by Mifflin Kenedy of King Ranch fame. On one occasion an observer estimated there were about 70 ships congregated offshore awaiting their turn to unload and reload. In 1861 southern states produced an estimated 4.5 million bales of cotton. Due to the increasing shortage of food, more and more acres of cotton-producing land were diverted to the production of grains and vegetables. By 1863 only 500,000 bales were produced and the next year found only 300,000 bales available to the market. Intense competition among buyers drove the price of cotton, delivered in Europe, to fifty cents per pound. Even after the Union Army captured Brownsville the flow of cotton related traffic continued until the end of the war.

The need for getting this cotton to Matamoros created a huge array of transportation enterprises. Texas had few improved roads; bridges and railroads were almost nonexistent; and heat, dust, mud, accidents, outlaws, disease, and Indians all took toll on livestock and teamster; but in spite of the hardships the cotton trade flourished as Matamoros suddenly became Cotton Capital of the world.

Holland McCombs' article, "Matamoros, Cotton Trading Center of the World" gives the following comment on that enterprise: "*All the way from Louisiana and Arkansas and from every direction and most every town in Texas came endless caravans of creaking carts and cotton wagons. From Rancho Santa Gertrudis (now King Ranch) to Matamoros the cotton road was a mile wide.*" Wagons loaded with 10 or 12 bales might be pulled by six yoke of oxen while very large capacity rigs were moved by mule teams consisting of as many as 20 animals. Sale of cattle, horses, oxen, and supplies provided a quite lucrative income for Richard King, the owner of the land through which this Cotton Road

traversed. Upon unloading in Matamoros the teamsters' wagons were reloaded with food, dress goods, farm machinery, medicines, etc., or perhaps with heavy boxes labeled "hollow ware" (rifles), "beanflour" (gunpowder), "bat metal" (lead), and "canned goods" (percussion caps) for the perilous return trip home." [McCombs]

The Grassyville entrepreneurs utilized six or more wagons each trip, thus mutually providing the group with comradeship, assistance, and protection. They were away from home almost for the duration of the Civil War. A round trip to Matamoros took up to 5 months in good weather, possibly 6 months or more in bad weather. A constant companion of Ebers during these trips was a Negro man for whom he had great regard. Apparently he was not a slave as there is no record of Ebers having owned a slave. For the three years of the wagon train experience the two were constant companions. [Grusendorf]

In later years, Ebers enjoyed telling his grandchildren about his experiences during the years as a wagon master. On one occasion when returning from Mexico the group was robbed by armed bandits. Luckily, their assailants were interested only in gold, not cargo or lives. One winter they were delayed almost a month before crossing a river that had swollen due to unusual rains, but the teamsters were fortunate enough to find a vacant barn where they could at least sleep in a dry place. On other occasions the weather was so dry that deep sand in the Santa Gertrudis area slowed their pace to 4 or 5 miles per day. Apparently he never revealed the specific nature of what he and his companions did for the three years. Perhaps he did not want his family to know. [Grusendorf]

In 1864 he returned to stay with his family and farm at Grassyville. In 1865, another son was born. The family attended the Grassyville Methodist Church that was affiliated with the Louisiana German Mission Conference. Bastrop deed records show that Ebers conveyed land to the trustees of that church. (Volume W, pg 281 Bastrop Deed Records). It is not known how much Ebers profited from the teamster episode in his life, but he apparently was an astute businessman for before his death he deeded 1106 acres of land to each of his three surviving children and then took residence for his final years in a small house near the home of his daughter, Bertha, who had married Henry Grusendorf.

His first wife Maria Fulz died on 15 Jan 1879 and is buried in the Grassyville Cemetery. Ebers later married thrice widowed Julia Sophie Rabe Eisenbach Behrens. This marriage created quite a convoluted genealogy, for her son Anton Eisenbach had previously married Emma Ebers, the 2nd daughter of William K Ebers. Now William K. Ebers was stepfather and father-in-law of Anton Eisenbach and Julia was stepmother and mother-in-law of Emma Ebers. William Ebers died in Lee County, on 7 November 1899 and is buried at Early Chapel Cemetery.

Credits:

1. McCombs, Holland, "Matamoros: Cotton Capital of the World." Corpus Christi Caller-Times, January 18, 1959, Sec 1, pp4-6
2. Grusendorf, Arthur A Phd, unpublished biography manuscript in possession of Ed Makowski, Mission, Tx
3. Under the Rebel Flag, Life in Texas During the Civil War, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, (internet)
4. Murphy Givens-"Corpus Christi History", Corpus Christi Caller Times, 19 August 1998
5. Ralph A Wooster. "Civil War Texas: A History and a Guide", TSHA Online
6. Orville Burton and Patricia Bonnin, "King Cotton" internet www.civilwarhome.com/kingcotton.htm

DESCENDENTS OF WILLIAM CARL AND MARIA FULZ EBERS

HERMAN EBERS, born 23 Nov 1850 in Braunschweig, Hanover. He and wife, Emma, had 3 children born in Industry, TX. They were Alice Mary (11 Jan 1876), Florence (1878), Herman Jr. (1880). Ebers was a teacher and preacher. He died on 2 August 1880 and was buried in the Methodist Cemetery at Industry. His widow married Ernst A Sharpe and shortly thereafter moved out of state (probably to Canada) and there is no information currently available about this branch of the family.

BERTHA FLORENCE EBERS, born 16 Jan 1860 in Grassyville Community, Bastrop County. She married Henry August Grusendorf, the only son of the neighboring Fritz Grusendorf clan. They became members of the Grassyville Methodist Church. In 1880 he moved his family to a farm in Lee County. There they became members of the Early Chapel Methodist Church. They moved back to Grassyville for several years, but returned to Lexington in about 1890. After working the farm for several years, they moved to Lexington and Henry began operation of a blacksmith shop and grist mill and moved their church affiliation to the German Methodist Church in that town. Henry later transferred operation of the mill and blacksmith shop to his son-in-law, Ben Retzlaff. Henry died at home in Lexington on 23 August 1939 and is buried in the Lexington Memorial cemetery alongside his wife Bertha who died 14 years earlier. In his final years he was cared for by his daughter Clara.

CHILDREN of Bertha Florence Ebers and Henry A Grusendorf:

1. LYDIA Marie - born 16 Jan 1860 in Bastrop Co, died 8 Dec 1880 in Early Chapel Community, buried at Early
2. WILHELMINA "Minnie" H. - born 27 Apr 1882 in Lee Co, died 4 Apr 1937 in Waco. She married Emil D. Urbantke and had five children: Gilbert, Gustave, Myrtle, Evelyn, and Arthur Emil. Augusta ALICE - born 2 Aug 1884 in Lee Co, died in Lexington, married Eddie L Hillegeist in Lexington. They are both buried at Lexington Memorial Cemetery. Children were: Lorene, Alice Marie, Clara Lee
3. EMMA Ida - born 20 Jan 1887 in Lee Co, died 30 Jul 1973 in Lexington. She married Bernhard 'Ben' Retzlaff in Lexington. He was born 29 Apr 1887 in Lee Co.; died 7 May 1976 in Colorado Co, Tx. They are both buried at Lexington Memorial Cemetery. One child died at childbirth. Leola was born in 1913.
4. CLARA Bertha- born 6 Jan 1889 in Bastrop Co, died 21 Feb 1963. She is buried at Lexington Memorial Cemetery near her parents She never married.
5. MARY Louise - born 2 Dec 1890 in Bastrop Co, died 26 Apr 1954 in Waco. She married Otto Retzlaff on 7 Jan 1909. They lived and died in Waco, and are buried there. Their five children are: Ruben, Marvin, Geneva Ester, Willie Frank, Owen Jay, Weldon R.
6. WILL Friedrich -born 28 Jun 1883 in Lee Co, died 29 Jun 1971, He married Minne Boehme in 1916. She died in 1962. Will then married Dora Alexande in 1962. Children of Will and Minnie are Marvin Lee and Dorothy Mae.
7. ARTHUR August- born 1 Oct 1895 in Lee Co. -died 1 Feb 1983 in San Marcos. He married Meda Glatzert in 1920 and they raised two children. After Meda died in 1957, he married Adeline Fairchild Neighbors and after her death in 1971 he married Roberta Johnson Carson. Arthur is buried in San Marcos The children of Arthur and Meda were Archie and Nina.
8. MELINDA 'Linda' - born 7 Apr 1898 in Lee Co - died 22 June 1978 at Riesel, Tx. She married Will H Makowski in 1921 in Houston. They had 1 child, Helen Jean, born 1924. Will and Linda are buried in the City Cemetery, Riesel, TX.
9. HENRY Ludwig 'BUD' -born 16 Jan 1901 in Lee Co.. He married Frieda Makowski and they had 1 child, Mildred Ann. Bud died in Waco in 1978. Frieda died 4 years later.
10. BERTHA Florence 'BETTY' - born 19 Jul 1903 in Lee Co and died in Waco on 1 June 1990. She married Ed W Makowski in 1925 in Lexington. They moved to Waco in 1931 and spent the rest of their lives there. Ed died 1972 in Waco. He and Betty are buried side by side at Waco Memorial Park. They had three children; Edwin, Frances, and Joanna Beth.

EMMA EBERS was born 22 Jul 1862 in Grassyville and died in Grassyville on 13 Mar 1886. She was married in Lee Co. to Anton Eisenbach in 1879 in a ceremony performed by Emma's older brother.

CHILDREN of Emma and Anton Eisenbach

1. JULIA M - born 6 Jan 1881 and died 11 Mar 1968 in Giddings; she married Oscar Otto Frenzel. Julia and Oscar are buried at Giddings, Their children are Lee, Monroe William, and Cornelius.
2. WILLIAM Christian - born 24 Oct 1882, died 5 Jul 1962 in San Angelo; He married Amanda Kunkel born 1886, died 1967 in San Angelo. Their eleven children were Ruby, Odie, Clarence, Alvin, Pearl, Lee, Curtis J, Oscar E, Clyde, Cecil, Gladys Marie, the youngest born in 1909 and the oldest in 1930.
3. DELLA Eisenbach -born 1886 in Lee Co. She married Moran and had five children: Lawrence, Alvin, Wesley, Estelle Vema

HENRY WILLIAM EBERS was born in Grassyville on 23 May 1865. He married Emma Westphal in 1889 at Grassyville. In 1893 they moved to Copperas Cove where Emma suffered a heatstroke and died sometime after 1902. They were parents of 5 children. Henry married Selma Shelnik and they had a son, Marvin Eugene Ebers born 1910 in Copperas Cove.

CHILDREN OF Henry Ebers and Emma Westphal

1. MONROE-born 1889 in Lexington, died 10 Sep 1982 in Dallas. Married Beulah Bacon. She was born 1918 and died 1975 in Dallas. The only child, Wells, was born 1914, died 2005
2. BENJAMIN Albert-Benjamin Albert Ebers, born 30 Dec 1892, died 27 May 1915 due to electrocution while working on a power line in Shreveport, LA. He is buried in Copperas Cove Cemetery.
3. PEARL Ellen - born 1897 in Texas and died in California in 1946. She married Martin Keeling, 1922
4. ROBERT Lee - born 1899 in Texas, died 1902 in Copperas Cove
5. HOMER Harry Ebers - born 1901 in Texas, died 1944, Stockton, CA., buried at Colma, CA. He married Anna McDade and had the following children: Margarie, Richard, and Harry, all born in Nevada during the time he was a telegraph operator for the railroad.

If you would like more detailed information about all seven generations of Ebers' descendants and extended family log on to rootsweb.com. At the top of home page select 'Family Trees' then scroll down the left side to 'Select Specific Database'. In the box enter germantexan. You will then be enabled to use the index to find any of the 65,000 German related persons I have listed there. I also welcome your correspondence and comments at waconative33@aol.com

Descendants of Wilhelm Karl EBERS

- 1 Wilhelm Karl EBERS b: Abt. 1820 in Braunschweig, Hanover, Prussia d: 07 Nov 1899 in Lee Co, Tx
 .. +Maria Julianna Fulz b: 01 Apr 1823 d: 15 Jan 1879 in Grassyville, Bastrop Co, Tx
 2 Herman Ebers b: 23 Nov 1850 in Braunschweig, Hanover, Prussia d: 02 Aug 1880 in Industry, Austin Co, Tx
 +Emma b: 1855 in Hamburg, Prussia
 3 Alice Mary Ebers b: 11 Jan 1876 in Industry, Austin Co, Tx
 3 Florence Ebers b: 1878 in Industry, Austin Co, Tx
 3 Herman Jr Ebers b: 1880 in Industry, Austin Co, Tx
 2 Bertha Florence Ebers b: 16 Jan 1860 in Bastrop Co, Tx d: 22 Aug 1925 in Lexington, Lee Co, Tx
 +Henry August Grusendorf b: 29 Sep 1855 in Bastrop Co, Tx d: 23 Aug 1939 in Lexington, Lee Co, Tx
 3 Lydia Marie Grusendorf b: 27 Jun 1879 in Lee Co, Tx d: 08 Dec 1880 in Lee County, Tx
 3 Wilhelmina H Grusendorf b: 27 Apr 1882 in Lee Co, Tx d: 04 Apr 1937 in Waco, McLennan Co, Tx
 +Emil D Urbantke b: 04 Dec 1879 d: 18 Oct 1958 in Waco, McLennan Co, Tx
 4 Gilbert O Urbantke b: 16 Sep 1903 in Tx d: 12 Mar 1981 in Waco, McLennan Co, Tx
 +Josephine Beatrice Kunkel b: 28 Feb 1904 in Lexington, Lee Co, Tx d: 31 Dec 1991 in McLennan Co, Tx
 4 Gustav Eugene Urbantke b: 15 Dec 1905 in Lexington, Lee Co, Tx d: 02 Oct 1987 in Tarrant Co, Tx
 +Carabel White b: 03 Feb 1896 d: 23 Mar 1984 in Tarrant Co, Tx
 4 Myrtle Elenora Urbantke b: 14 Apr 1909 in Tx d: 01 Dec 1995 in Waco, McLennan Co, Tx
 +Robert FRANK Davis b: 20 Oct 1904 d: Feb 1970 in Waco, McLennan Co, Tx
 4 Evelyn C. Urbantke b: 30 Aug 1911 in Tx d: 02 Nov 2000 in Waco, McLennan Co, Tx
 +Robert L. "Bob" Milam
 4 Arthur Emil Urbantke b: 26 Jul 1918 in Copperas Cove, Coryell Co, Tx d: 25 Oct 1975 in Bell Co, Tx
 +Opal Dugger b: 1924 in Tx
 3 Augusta Alice Grusendorf b: 02 Aug 1884 in Lee Co, Tx d: 21 Jan 1949 in Lexington, Lee Co, Tx
 +Eddie L Hillegeist b: 13 Dec 1886 in Lexington, Lee Co, Tx d: 03 Dec 1971 in Gonzales Co, Tx
 4 Lorene Inola Hillegeist b: 29 Aug 1911 in Lee Co, Tx d: 08 Sep 1997 in Wichita, Ks
 +Wilson Wade Perry b: 04 Jul 1909 d: 08 Jul 1992 in Kansas
 4 Alice Marie Hillegeist b: 21 Mar 1917 in Lexington, Lee Co, Tx d: 08 Oct 2007 in Kerrville, Kerr Co, Tx
 +Ernest George Hornung b: 05 Mar 1912 in Tx d: 02 Jul 1992 in Gonzales Co, Tx
 4 Clara Lee Hillegeist b: 01 Sep 1922 in Lee Co, Tx d: 22 Oct 1994 in Travis Co, Tx
 +Dewell Francis Brewer b: 05 Mar 1918 in Lexington, Lee Co, Tx d: 06 Feb 1994 in Travis Co, Tx
 3 Emma Ida Grusendorf b: 20 Jan 1887 in Lee Co, Tx d: 30 Jul 1973 in Lexington, Lee Co, Tx
 +Bernhard Heinrich Retzlaff b: 29 Apr 1887 in Lexington, Lee Co, Tx d: 07 May 1976 in Colorado Co, Tx
 4 Leola Alyne Retzlaff b: 09 Mar 1913 in Lexington, Lee Co, Tx d: 28 Nov 1996 in Colorado Co, Tx
 +Almuth Kloss b: 23 Dec 1915 in Nordheim, Tx d: 17 Apr 1972 in Val Verde Co, Tx
 *2nd Husband of Leola Alyne Retzlaff:
 +Jan H Anderson b: 1894
 3 Clara Bertha Grusendorf b: 06 Jan 1889 in Bastrop Co, Tx d: 21 Feb 1963 in Waco, McLennan Co, Tx
 3 Maria Louise "Mary" Grusendorf b: 02 Dec 1890 in Bastrop Co, Tx d: 26 Apr 1954 in Waco, McLennan Co, Tx
 +Otto Julius Retzlaff b: 01 Mar 1885 in Lee Co, Tx d: 10 Mar 1960 in Waco, McLennan Co, Tx
 4 Ruben Marvin Retzlaff b: 06 Jan 1910 in Lexington, Lee Co, Tx d: 24 Dec 2001 in Allen, Collin Co, Tx
 +Elois Ellabell Callaway b: 17 Mar 1918
 4 Geneva Ester Retzlaff b: 03 Jul 1911 d: 02 Mar 2004 in Austin, Bexar Co, Tx
 +Denzil Leon Tonahill b: 27 Sep 1914 d: 16 Mar 1958 in McLennan Co, Tx
 4 Willie Frank Retzlaff b: 27 Aug 1914 d: 16 Jul 1991 in Bell Co, Tx
 +Zelma Addie Barber b: 06 Aug 1911 in Limestone Co, Tx d: 12 Feb 2003 in Belton, Bell Co, Tx
 4 Owen Jay Retzlaff b: 06 Jun 1917 d: 30 Aug 1988 in McLennan Co, Tx
 +Millicent Coyel b: 02 Oct 1917 d: 01 Dec 2000 in Waco, McLennan Co, Tx
 *2nd Wife of Owen Jay Retzlaff:
 +Zora H Sweet b: Abt. 1920 in Ma

- 4 Weldon Richard Retzlaff b: 18 Nov 1928 d: 03 Aug 2008 in Iredell, Bosque Co, Tx
- +Mary Elizabeth Greiner b: 29 Jul 1930 in Waco, McLennan Co, Tx d: 25 Nov 1995 in Spring Creek, Bosque Co, Tx
- *2nd Wife of Weldon Richard Retzlaff:
- +Patricia A McAndrew b: 1952
- 3 Willie Friedrich "Will" Grusendorf b: 28 Jun 1893 in Lee Co, Tx d: 29 Jun 1971 in Waco, McLennan Co, Tx
- +Minnie Boehme b: 12 Jul 1895 d: 03 Feb 1962 in Harris Co, Tx
- 4 Marvin Lee "Sonny" Grusendorf b: 07 Apr 1917 d: 28 Feb 2008 in Hewitt, McLennan Co, Tx
- +Elaine Camille Chapman b: 23 Apr 1922 d: 07 Sep 2004 in Hewitt, McLennan Co, Tx
- 4 Dorothy Mae Grusendorf b: 05 Oct 1921 in Tx
- +Edward EWING Brice b: 01 Mar 1920 in Holland, Tx d: 12 Oct 1972 in Palestine, Anderson Co, Tx
- *2nd Wife of Willie Friedrich "Will" Grusendorf:
- +Dora Alexander b: 19 Dec 1901 d: 21 Jun 1973 in McLennan Co, TxCo Tx
- 3 Arthur August Grusendorf b: 01 Oct 1895 in Lee Co, Tx d: 01 Feb 1983 in San Marcos, Hays Co, Tx
- +Meda H Glatzert b: 19 Jun 1895 in Tx d: 08 May 1957 in San Marcos, Hays Co, Tx
- 4 Archibald A Grusendorf b: 16 Nov 1921 in Waco, McLennan Co, Tx d: 06 Nov 1962 in San Marcos, Tx
- +Natalie Davis b: 14 Nov 1922
- 4 Nina Lunette Grusendorf b: 24 Nov 1924 in Meridian, Bsq
- +Walter Ernest Lackorn b: 08 Dec 1919 in Seattle, Wa d: 12 Dec 1991 in Seguin, Guadalupe Co, Tx
- *2nd Wife of Arthur August Grusendorf:
- +Adeline N Fairchild Neighbors b: 18 Feb 1893 d: 21 Oct 1971 in San Marcos Tx
- *3rd Wife of Arthur August Grusendorf:
- +Roberta Johnston Carson b: 13 Feb 1906 d: 30 Mar 2000 in Roswell, NM
- 3 Melinda Grusendorf b: 07 Apr 1898 in Lee Co, Tx d: 22 Jun 1978 in Riesel, McLennan Co, Tx
- +William H Makowski b: 09 Oct 1900 in Houston, Harris Co, Tx d: 20 Jan 1973 in Riesel, McLennan Co, Tx
- 4 Helen JEAN Makowski b: 14 Mar 1924 in Tx d: 07 Dec 2001 in Granbury, Hood County, Tx
- +Henry Fred "HF" Jr Meier b: 22 Mar 1922 in Riesel, McLennan Co, Tx d: 04 Mar 2009
- 3 Henry Ludwig "Bud" Grusendorf b: 16 Jan 1901 in Lee Co, Tx d: 08 Dec 1978 in Waco, McLennan Co, Tx
- +Frieda Sophie Makowski b: 04 Jul 1904 in Victoria, Tx d: 21 Nov 1982 in Waco, McLennan Co, Tx
- 4 Mildred Ann Grusendorf b: 14 Aug 1929 in Milam Co, Tx
- +Ray Browder Easley b: 24 Apr 1928 d: 02 Dec 2005 in Waco, McLennan Co, Tx
- *2nd Husband of Mildred Ann Grusendorf:
- +George Matt II Knuckles
- 3 Bertha Florence "Bettie" Grusendorf b: 19 Jul 1903 in Lee Co, Tx d: 01 Jun 1990 in Waco, McLennan Co, Tx
- +Edwin Walter (ED W) Makowski b: 22 Jul 1902 in Houston, Harris Co, Tx d: 15 Apr 1972 in Waco, McLennan Co, Tx
- 4 Edwin William Makowski b: 29 Nov 1928 in Lexington, Lee Co, Tx
- +Laura Etta Cagle b: 24 Apr 1932 in Marshall Co, Al
- *2nd Wife of Edwin William Makowski:
- +Lois ANN Walker b: 22 Jul 1932 in Ocoola, Tx
- 4 Frances Odell Makowski b: 24 Oct 1931 in Lexington, Lee Co, Tx
- +Henry Meyer SoRelle b: 08 Dec 1929 in Texas
- 4 Joanna BETH Makowski b: 02 Feb 1933 in Waco, McLennan Co, Tx
- +Robert McFarlane Jackson b: 11 Jan 1929 in Canada d: in Tx
- *2nd Husband of Joanna BETH Makowski:
- +Wayne Thomas
- *3rd Husband of Joanna BETH Makowski:
- +Troy Huffington
- 2 Emma Ebers b: 22 Jul 1862 in Grassyville, Bastrop Co, Tx d: 13 Mar 1886 in Grassyville, Bastrop Co, Tx
- +Anton Eisenbach b: 24 Sep 1855 in Bastrop Co, Tx d: 19 Oct 1930 in Bastrop Co, Tx
- 3 Julia M Eisenbach b: 06 Jan 1881 d: 11 Mar 1968 in Giddings, Lee, Tx
- +Oscar Otto Frenzel b: 04 Jul 1878 in Tx d: 02 Oct 1945 in Giddings, Tx
- 4 Lee Frenzel b: 1904 in Tx
- 4 Monroe William Frenzel b: 18 Dec 1905 in Tx d: Jan 1987 in Beeville, Bee Co, Tx
- 4 Cornelius Frenzel b: 18 Oct 1908 in Lee, Texas d: Jul 1984 in Corpus Christi, Nueces Co, Tx
- 3 William Christian Eisenbach b: 24 Oct 1882 d: 05 Jul 1962 in San Angelo, Tom Green Co, Tx
- +Amanda Mary Kunkel b: 18 Apr 1886 d: 05 Apr 1967 in San Angelo, Tx
- 4 Ruby Eisenbach b: 22 Jun 1909 in Paige, Bastrop Co, Tx d: 27 Mar 1993 in Oklahoma City, Ok
- +Joseph Peake b: 20 Sep 1905 d: Oct 1982 in Oklahoma City, Ok
- 4 Odie Amanda Eisenbach b: 24 Nov 1910 in Giddings, Tx d: 19 Nov 1997 in San Angelo, Tom Green Co, Tx
- +Louis Hirschfeld b: 03 Sep 1904 in Paige, Bastrop Co, Tx d: 16 Feb 1984 in San Angelo, Tx
- 4 Clarence Eisenbach b: 28 Oct 1911 in Giddings, Lee Co, Tx d: 12 Aug 1989 in San Angelo, Tom Green Co, Tx
- +Elizabeth Atkins
- 4 Alvin E Eisenbach b: 22 Dec 1913 in Giddings, Tx d: 14 Feb 2001 in San Angelo, Tom Green Co, Tx
- +Glenda Baker
- 4 Pearl Eisenbach b: 03 Aug 1916 in Grassyville, Bastrop Co, Tx d: 12 Oct 1984 in Marble Falls, Burnet Co, Tx
- +T J Conway
- 4 Lee A Eisenbach b: 01 Mar 1919 in Paige, Bastrop Co, Tx d: 04 Jul 1986 in San Angelo, Tom Green Co, Tx
- +Virgie Ledger
- 4 Curtis J Eisenbach b: 17 Mar 1921 in Paige, Bastrop Co, Tx d: 24 Mar 1976 in San Angelo, Tom Green Co, Tx
- +Willie Mae Castello b: 19 Feb 1925 in Tx d: 12 Aug 1985 in Tom Green Co, Tx
- 4 Oscar E Eisenbach b: 07 Sep 1923 in Paige, Bastrop Co, Tx d: 26 Mar 1972 in San Angelo, Tom Green Co, Tx
- +Johnnie Ash b: Feb 1927
- 4 Clyde Eisenbach b: 28 Aug 1925 in Paige, Tx d: 28 Jul 2007 in San Angelo, Tom Green Co, Tx
- +Willie Goodman b: 19 Feb 1925 d: Aug 1985 in San Angelo, Tom Green Co, Tx
- 4 Cecil Eisenbach b: 19 Jun 1927 in Paige, Bastrop Co, Tx d: 29 Jun 1998 in San Angelo, Tom Green Co, Tx
- +Helen McPeck
- 4 Gladys Marie Eisenbach b: 01 Sep 1930 in San Angelo, Tx
- +Ervin John Englert b: 27 Sep 1929 in Runnels Co, Tx

- 3 Della Eisenbach b: Jan 1886 in Bastrop Co, Tx
- +Moran
- 4 Lawrence Moran
- 4 Alvin Moran
- 4 Wesley Moran
- 4 Estelle Moran
- 4 Verna Moran
- 2 Henry William Ebers b: 23 May 1865 in Grassyville, Bastrop Co, Tx d: 20 Dec 1911 in Lee Co, Tx
- +Emma Westphal b: 1871 in Bastrop Co, Tx d: 30 Jun 1921 in Dallas, Tx
- 3 Monroe E Ebers b: 14 Dec 1889 in Lee Co, Tx d: 10 Sep 1982 in Dallas, Tx
- +Beulah Bacon b: 08 Apr 1889 in Bell Co, Tx d: 01 Nov 1975 in Dallas, Tx
- 4 Wells M Ebers b: 28 Jul 1914 d: 23 Jun 2005
- +Ruhamah Kathryn Massey b: 29 May 1918 in Falls Co, Tx d: 18 Jan 2006
- 3 Benjamin Albert Ebers b: 30 Dec 1892 in Tx d: 27 May 1915 in Shreveport, La
- 3 Pearl Ellen Ebers b: 1897 in Tx d: 1946 in Ca
- +H Martin Keeling b: 1891 in Tn d: in Ca
- 3 Robert Lee Ebers b: 19 May 1899 in Tx d: 06 Feb 1902 in Copperas Cove, Coryell Co, Tx
- 3 Homer Harry Ebers b: 25 Oct 1901 in Tx d: 25 Aug 1944 in Stockton, Ca
- +Anna McDade b: 1904 in Missouri
- 4 Marjorie "Margie" Ebers b: 1921 in Nevada d: 2005 in Sacramento, Ca
- +Lewis Cummins b: 20 Mar 1919 in Nevada d: Feb 1966 in Sacramento, Ca
- 4 Richard Harold Ebers b: 18 Dec 1924 in Nevada d: 11 Dec 1980 in Shasta, Ca
- +May I. Dunfield b: 12 Dec 1927 in Davis, Ca
- 4 Harry Ebers b: Nov 1927 in Nevada d: 1984
- *2nd Wife of Henry William Ebers:
- +Selma Schelnik b: 07 Jul 1872 d: 25 Nov 1918
- 3 Marvin Eugene Ebers b: 22 Jun 1910 in Copperas Cove, Coryell Co, Tx d: 29 Jan 1976 in Georgetown, Williamson Co, Tx
- +Maxine Huddleston b: 18 May 1918
- 4 Jean E Ebers
- +UNKNOWN Wellman
- 4 Mary E Ebers b: 1952
- +James D Cottrell b: 1951
- *2nd Wife of Wilhelm Karl EBERS:
- .. +Julia Sophie RABE EISENBACH Behrens b: 1816 in Germany d: in Tx

Submitted by Ed Makowski, Mission

FREDERICKSBURG STANDARD-RADIO POST – WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2009 – A9



HONORING THE GERMAN SETTLERS -- Local historian Glen Treibs, left, discussed Fredericksburg founder John O. Meusebach during a Saturday morning ceremony at Marktplatz that kicked off the Founders Day ceremonies. Later, Denver Schneider, 7, a seventh generation descendant of pioneers to this area, presented a wreath to honor all early settlers here. The wreath was later placed near the bust of Meusebach in front of the Vereins Kirche. -- Standard-Radio Post Photo

Submitted by Carl Luckenbach, Spring

Part 6. WORLD WAR I . . .**No Sympathy for the *Vaterland*-****Fredericksburg's Lieutenant Louis J. Jordan, Hero! Travail of a German-Texan Teacher During World War I... Lutheran Pastor Imprisoned for Preaching in German ...**

Introduction: The author, Kenn Knopp, kept hearing about the concentration or detention camps in Texas and elsewhere during the two World Wars. The German-Texan residents of Fredericksburg and the Hill Country were closely observed by government agents and neighbors. He was never able to find the lists of the detainees and the towns they were taken from. Only a few persons offered the names of those arrested in World War I. No one would say the names of those detained in World War II for fear of hurting their present descendants. Perhaps that is best! www.kennknopp.com

First Lieutenant Louis J. Jordan of Fredericksburg was the first American officer to die in battle overseas in World War I. His remains were returned to Fredericksburg and interred with full military, civic, and church honors in the Stadt Friedhof, the City Cemetery.

The granite monument is as beautiful today as it was when erected. On it is inscribed, "1st Lt. Louis J. Jordan, Battery C, 149th Field Artillery, 42nd Division, born January 30, 1890, died for his country on March 5, 1918." (1 MS IV. 6-a) He was killed near Ludesville, France, by shrapnel during heavy bombardment. He was 28. To this day, his descendants continue to talk about the promise he made when he told the family when he learned he was being sent to Europe. He vowed, "I will bring back the head of the Kaiser on a platter!"

Jordan is buried alongside family members Augusta Keller Jordan (1859-1907) and William F. Jordan (1856-1929). Also, Richard Henke (1878-1930) and Lina Henke. Nearby are Otto Henke (1856-1954) and his wife Emilie Henke, relatives of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, hero of the Pacific in World War II. Near them are the graves of President Lyndon B. Johnson's mother's parents, Joseph Baines (1846-1906) and Ruth A. Baines (1854-1936.) (1 MS IV. 6-b)

Letters from the early 1900s to and from relatives in Germany reflected a distinct uneasiness about the spreading hostilities in Europe. With Texas and America preoccupied with civil unrest in Mexico, President Woodrow Wilson responded by sending aggressive American ships and troops toward Mexico. This provocation succeeded, however, in helping to depose the "butcher" president of Mexico, Victoriano Huerta.

In August of 1914, President Wilson proclaimed that the U.S. would not take sides in the disputes of the far away Europeans. Suddenly, however, Austrian Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated in Slovakia. European countries began taking sides and splitting into national camps: England, France and Russia on one side (the Allies) and Germany and Austria on the other (the Central Powers).

Letters from relatives and friends to Fredericksburgers from Germany urged support of the Central Powers and their interests in Europe. But, the Germans just did not realize that the only contact Fredericksburgers had with "Central Powers" was a personal letter or two every few years. A number of generations had already passed with German-Texans knowing virtually nothing about the politics or everyday goings on in Europe. Likewise, apart from what they picked up from the popular romanticized Wild West tales of Karl May, German relatives and friends knew little about Texas, or American goings-on in general.

Almost all Fredericksburgers got one answer when they asked their parents or grandparents about "the Old Country": "Your *Uhrgrossvater* [great grandfather] was just sick and tired of every problem being answered by *Krieg*. Petty wars between power-mad monarchies were killing off just too many of the family's sons. These adventures put not one extra *Kartoffel* [potato, literally: food] on the table!"

Another interesting answer was "*Lebensraum* [not enough room for everyone to live] has always been a problem, and an excuse, in Germany, and probably always will be. Instead of taking over neighboring countries, those who emigrated to such places as Texas "made more room" for those who stayed *in der Heimat*."

Fredericksburgers by the end of the 1800s had stopped receiving books and magazines from Germany.

Instead, they enjoyed German language publications printed in America such as *Hausfrau* (House Wife). They also received ample German church publications from the various denomination headquarters, particularly *Taegliche Andachten* (Daily Devotionals) from the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod published in St. Louis, Missouri. New words and idioms from Germany were as nothing but curious jigsaw puzzles out of the context of their setting in Germany. America and Texas, too, were growing their own words and expressions. Many publications and books were being printed in German incorporating these words and concepts that could be understood by German Americans. August Siemering, formerly a teacher in Fredericksburg began publishing a German news weekly out of San Antonio. Catholic publications, also from St. Louis, were printed and distributed by the Benziger Brothers in the German language in keeping with the American calendar and traditions.

Fredericksburg's own weekly newspaper, *Wochenblatt*, the Weekly Blade, or "Page", gave up its Germanness only gradually retaining at least some German well into the 1940's. As the years went by, finding someone who was thoroughly schooled and grounded in perfect German spelling and grammar was became harder and harder to find in such a small town with small town salaries.

Prior to World War I, the Texas Germans were preoccupied with their own problems brought on by the industrial revolution. By 1914, letters from "Die, drie'bn in Deutschland" (those over in Germany) were almost non-existent. Even "dort drie'bn" (those over there) were equally as busy trying to eke out a living and raising their own families.

At the same time, enchiladas were in a tie for popularity with rouladen; chili was far more in demand than oxtail soup. This is also a way to say, Fredericksburgers were enjoying the benefits of the great American melting pot of its many races, creeds, and ethnicities. In the Texas Hill Country the Anglos of Mason County taught their German neighbors the deliciousness of field peas or Cowpers peas. From Mexicans, perhaps even the Indians, came "roastin-ears" or corn on the cob, "Mais am Kolben" --known as a delicacy from far away Spain. In Germany, where sun drenched days are rare, corn hardly ever turns golden yellow and stays small and white and is fed to the hogs.

Also from Anglo Southerners the Texas Germans discovered hominy and hominy grits. While some German Texans eat these corn concoctions cooked with cheese and a pinch of herb seasoning, many to this day, have not grown fond of this "Maismehlbrei" (corn meal mash) as its called in Germany. And, if one is lucky enough to have a Bohemian-Texan friend (who settled the communities such as West, Flatoria, Moulton, LaGrange, or Hallettsville) no German (and certainly no mere Frenchman) could begin to unravel the secrets of producing a true Kolache, the king of kings of pastry.

Of course, because of its authentic Germanness, Fredericksburg has always been famous for its delicious breads and bakery items, its Bratwurst and other sausages, and dozens of restaurants. It was the Indians, however, who were the first tourists of Fredericksburg. German housewives living on the edges of the town kept a wary eye on the oven-fresh loaves of bread on their windowsills setting and cooling off

The point is that the German Texans were quick to plant themselves in fertile Texican soil. Slowly but surely they began to bloom where they had been transplanted. Fredericksburg in the early days was quite isolated with long rides by horse or wagon: three days to San Antonio; three and a half days to Austin. Fredericksburgers were a new and robust "hybrid" now: German-Texan Americans! The isolation from the Anglo dominated cities protected their German language and customs. Their vast distance and lack of information from Germany gradually dried up their knowledge, involvement, and interest in actual German politics. Remember, they left Germany because they found living there under the heel of feudalism to be unbearable-- and unalterable.

DIFFERENCES EMERGE AS WORLD WAR I APPROACHES

President Woodrow Wilson in 1914 thinking that European Americans were still tied umbilically to their home countries gave this word of caution, "...be neutral in fact as well as in name; impartial in thought as well as in deed." (1 MS IV. 6-c)

Fresh in everyone's mind had been the sudden killing of Archduke Ferdinand of Austria in Yugoslavia with the Central Powers and the Allies blaming one another. In the same way today in that same region, Serbians, Croatians, and Moslems are repeating ancient hostility.

As both sides tried to entice the support of America, the German Texans of Fredericksburg were no longer whispering but shouting curses: "It's that bastard Metternich all over again. Why can't the damned monarchs learn to make babies instead of bullets! Thank God for President Wilson -- we won't have to go over there and shoot our own kind!"

In 1915 the Germans invaded Belgium with their aim the eventual control of France and then England. That old German tribal *Zeitgeist* of imperialism had erupted again. A baffled world could hardly believe what was happening. It was as if that brazen cytomeglia virus, Invincible German Pride, thought it could take over the body-- of the world. Only a most potent response would whip them back.

This was also a time in America of the Gay 90's and the beginnings of the Roaring 20's. Americans, including Texans, were sauntering through the tulips of a false sense of safe isolationism lulled into indifference by their president. In Fredericksburg, culture and celebration were the hallmarks. The delusions of Hegelianism had reached from Europe into the German Hills of Texas. Fredericksburg's two orchestras, dramas at the town's dance and opera houses, and the organization of the Casino Club for "high society" were organized to keep the delusion alive. The fantasies of Hegel had crossed the ocean to America: "Reason prevails. People are basically good. Therefore reason and good will prevail." Sometimes, perhaps; but all too often, sadly, no.

Good 'ol President Woodrow Wilson was still trying to melt the quickly filling pot of European immigrants into his Anglo likeness. His motto "America First" had become the nation's motto. The hit parade of songs in 1915 was led by *Don't Bite the Hand That's Feeding You*. The song went on to say, "If you don't like your Uncle Sammy, then go back to your home over the sea." (1 MS IV. 6-d)

But on June 6, 1915, a German submarine sunk the world's largest passenger ship, the English ship, Lusitania, with as many as 128 Americans of the 1,200 losing their lives. Earlier, the Germans had attacked several American vessels though Germany claimed they mistook them for ships of other countries. When German spies inside America were caught and on them plans to destroy U.S. military bases, even the patient indifference of President Wilson was dislodged a bit. Teddy Roosevelt, the Rough Rider, could barely contain himself. Even so, Fredericksburgers still hypnotized by isolationism joined the rest of the nation in reelecting the docile Woodrow Wilson as president.

Then came the bombshell: the Zimmermann Telegram of January 1917 that blasted Fredericksburgers and the nation out of the deep delusion of isolationism, their preoccupation with themselves, and waking them up to the reality of world inter-connectedness. The Zimmermann telegram, sent to the German Ambassador to Mexico in Mexico City by Dr. Arthur Zimmermann, Germany's Minister of Foreign Affairs, revealed that all along Germany had been busy trying to convince Texas' next door neighbor, Mexico, that it would reward Mexico well, including help Mexico get back its old Texas territory, if it came to the support of Germany and the Central Powers. (1 MS IV.6-e)

Germany was grateful to Mexico for letting it have full access to its ports should the attack on the Texas Gulf Coast of the United States be efficacious. For Fredericksburgers, and other loyal German Texan Americans, this was the absolute last straw. After all, only a generation or two before had their forebears arrived on Texas soil since the 1840's when Mexico was trying to take Texas back. America, and Fredericksburgers, too, were now welded together in firm resolution: they must fight to the death the Central Powers of Europe led by Germany. The aggressive advances of insatiable German military and industrial complex must again be stopped.

On April 6, 1917, President Wilson, in response to the hew and cry of a united and furious Congress, issued the declaration of war against Germany. It was a sad time when one by one the names of Fredericksburg's fallen soldiers were announced. Each was a tragic loss. Included was Louis J. Jordan, Fredericksburg's first All-American football star at the University of Texas in Austin. The flagpole at Memorial Stadium in Austin was dedicated in his honor.

Poisoned-gas was unleashed by the Germans. A Fredericksburger who was gassed and incapacitated, and survived, came back home. A descendant still living related this after a promise of anonymity, "We all felt so sorry for him. He looked completely normal. He walked normally. He tried his best to act as if everything was alright. But, we all knew what was wrong. The government gave him a living-wage pension for the rest of his life, thank God. He would do the strangest things. But we all stood by him, helping

him in every way we could. He was in and out of marriages, jobs, and fights. He died at a very advanced age and with our greatest respect. He stood against the Germans for all of us!" recalled a family member who wishes not to be named.

IN TEXAS ANTI-GERMAN HYSTERIA WAS RAMPAGING...

It seemed as if it was the Civil War all over again when the non-Germans in Texas were keeping a close eye on their German heritage neighbors. One World War I historian wrote that those of German lineage were judged extra-harshly and accused of not buying enough Liberty Bonds to support the war effort against Germany. Bands of "patriots" would break into the homes of Texas Germans and drag them out to be horse-whipped. These roving bands would spread the rumor that they saw pictures of the German Kaiser in the homes. The Governor of Texas then proposed that Germans be forbidden to come to Texas to live and that no foreign language be allowed to be spoken. Lyndon Johnson's father, Sam Johnson, became a member of the Texas House of Representatives in 1918. He was taken aback by the proposal that any criticism of the American government and its military be punishable with arrest, by any citizen of Texas, and immediate imprisonment. Johnson, having lived for many years in the Hill Country near Fredericksburg among the German-Texans railed against the proposal (Bill 15). It was in March of 1918 that Fredericksburg resident Lt. Louis Jordan was killed in battle in France near the German border. What better evidence of the loyalty of such a German Texan than giving up his life for his country! Sam Johnson need not speak any longer. House Bill 15 was scrapped. (1 MS IV. 6-1)

THE TRAVIL OF A GERMAN TEXAN TEACHER DURING WORLD WAR I

Conrad William Feuge (pronounced Foyg--ee in Fredericksburg) was born in 1871 six miles outside Fredericksburg in what is still called the Klein Frankreich community..."Little France"-- where a number of French-German Huegenot Protestant families settled. The Feuges were, however, from Heiningen in the Kingdom of Hannover. His grandfather was a Fredericksburg First Founder, Christoph Feuge, who arrived in Texas in 1846.

Known as "Willie" to his family, Feuge walked the 6 miles to school in Fredericksburg, getting up at 5 a.m. so as not to be tardy. After high school he enrolled in Friedrichsburg College and then in 1888 entered Blinn College in Brenham where he graduated with highest honors. He taught school for awhile before deciding to enter graduate school at Sam Houston Normal Institute in Huntsville. In 1895 only one other person graduated with higher honors than he.

That same year he married Marie Henriette Ellebracht of Fredericksburg who accompanied him to Bellville where he became the superintendent of the public school system there. In 1903 for two years he served as superintendent in New Braunfels. In 1904 he accepted an offer to return to Sam Houston Normal Institute to teach German, mathematics, and a basketball and football coach.

For fifteen years Feuge served that institution of higher learning with distinction and loyalty. Far from the German Hill Country, the Piney East Texas Woods area is noted for its Old South attitudes and predilections ...anti-Negro ...and, as the differences between the USA and Germany began to crystallize, so did the Anglo attitudes about "that German sympathizer spy" teaching German in their college.

Professor Feuge's colleagues came to him warning him that even his life appeared to be peril. It was an area of lynching Negroes in the dark of the night. It would likewise be just as easy for the racists to become overnight heroes by covering up the lynching of a suspected "German operative" in their midst. Feuge, taking their advice, resigned his position, and went with his family and two children to San Antonio. At that time, San Antonio's leadership was markedly German Texan with no small number of them having first lived in Fredericksburg before seeking the advantages of a far larger city.

Attracting many persons from the little towns, farms, and ranches of the Hill Country who sought opportunities in such progressive cities as Galveston, Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth and "Sangantone" -- as the German Texans called San Antonio (and still do!)

C. William Feuge taught at the Edgewood School, at that time just outside San Antonio, from 1918 to 1920. He eventually brought his family to his hometown of Fredericksburg where he spent the rest of his long career as a teacher of mathematics and distinguished himself as the superintendent of schools.

Local historian, Ella A. Gold, wrote about Feuge's enlightened career in *Pioneers in God's Hills*, Vol. n, published by the Gillespie County Historical Society in 1974: "...during his fifteen years of paternalistic leadership, the Fredericksburg schools grew and prospered, evident in enrollment, curriculum expansion, size of faculty, and building construction. C. W. Feuge was a dedicated educator, as former students will attest. He went beyond the call of duty to help his students and his fellow man. In 1936 his health began to fail rapidly. On April 5, 1937, he passed away." No doubt his heart was breaking as he was beginning to take leave of this planet; for he was seeing the foreboding dawn of another sad and antagonistic time, and again, with Germany. But this time it would be his younger brother and sister German Texans who would grit their teeth and take the awful lashes of suspicion, distrust, and hatred because their roots were German.

LUTHERAN PASTOR SENT TO CONCENTRATION CAMP FOR PREACHING IN GERMAN

Johannes Martin Bergner, son of Gottlieb and Mathilde Bergner, was born in Gera, Thuringen, Germany, on September 10, 1884. Prior to entering the seminary young Johannes did inner-city mission work among the underprivileged in Hamburg.

He completed his seminary studies to be a Lutheran pastor to the St. Chrischona Pilgrim's Mission Institute of Basel, Switzerland, in 1909. He volunteered to go to Texas because so many requests were coming from the thousands of Lutherans who had immigrated there. That same year he was invited to become the pastor of Zion Lutheran Church of Arneckeville, DeWitt County, a German-speaking village between Cuero and Victoria, Texas. His ordination took place on June 27, 1909 in the Arneckeville church. Two months later his fiancée arrived from Germany, Wilhelmina Schnautz of Siegen. Their marriage took place in Zion church on August 16, 1909.

When Germany began its invasions and wars in Europe, the Rev. Bergner had not yet been able to become an American citizen. One had to be in America for five full years in order to qualify for citizenship. German officials ordered him to return to Germany, cancelling his status as a foreign missionary to Texas. He complied reluctantly. His wife returned to Germany with him. During a battle he was wounded, hospitalized, and underwent a lengthy rehabilitation.

When he received an honorable discharge from military service, German officials, however, refused to allow him to return to Texas as a missionary. Through the help of friends he and his wife were able to slip out of Germany. They arrived in New York and gradually made their way back to Texas. Financial assistance was sent to them from the Zion congregation in Arneckeville.

By this time relations between the US and Germany were turning for the worse after many years of America sticking its head into the sands of isolationism. But the realities of the ever-deepening and widening threat that Germany and its cohort nations were such that the US finally decided to declare war.

NEIGHBOR AGAINST NEIGHBOR

From the Bergner family archives, the minutes of the congregational meetings of the second Sunday in July and the fourth Sunday in August, 1918, found this World War II dilemma in the church council of Zion Lutheran Church, Ameckeville:

"Since the Council of Defense of DeWitt County without the authority of our government has prohibited the use of the German language in sermons and so on, especially our pastor since he is not a citizen of this country, we will get into trouble if we will not comply with the order demanded."

As a result, Rev. Bergner asked the church council to let him preach in English even though he knew that doing so would be extremely difficult; difficult for him and even more difficult for the congregation to understand him. The church council thanked him but mandated that "for the time being, there will be other pastors to help him (with the preaching)."

While the other pastors took turns coming to Arneckeville, Rev. Bergner took advantage of the free time by getting permission to start a new congregation in Tivoli between Sinton and Corpus Christi. In DeWitt County, however, there was great stress and strife between the Anglos and the Germans.

Documentation shows that a member of the clergy in Cuero, the county seat of DeWitt County,

went around encouraging the hatred of Germans. He stirred enough people up into a frenzy that they marched to the courthouse grounds setting fire to an effigy of the Kaiser of Germany. When the Rev. Bergner heard about it in Arneckeville he was so enraged that he went about the community, and perhaps the area, letting it be known that such displays of hatred and bigotry were not right and not the Christian thing to do. His exhortations were undoubtedly in emphatic German. He was promptly reported to U. S. government authorities who perceived his "protest" as taking up for the Kaiser and Germany. US agents then picked him up and a federal judge ordered that Rev. Bergner be sent to the Arkansas Concentration Camp for US citizens and alien residents "for his own safety." He was a prisoner of the camp for about half a year and was asked to be the chaplain of the camp. While Rev. Bergner never felt the imprisonment was just, upon returning home to Arneckeville, the family members recall him commenting, "That was one of the best vacations I've ever had. And I had a captive audience!" According to Rev. Bergner's daughter-in-law, Gladys, the wife of the late Hans Bergner, who lives in Fredericksburg (1999): "Hans' father always had a most delightful sense of humor that always did him well, even in the darkest of circumstances. My husband Hans had that gift as well."

After serving for many years in Arneckeville, Rev. Bergner accepted a call as pastor of St. Peter Lutheran Church in Walberg, Texas, between Temple and Georgetown. Then on November 13, 1935, he began his long pastorate in the Fredericksburg area at St. Peter Lutheran in Doss, and at Christ Lutheran Church, Cherry Spring, about 13 miles away from each other. He died suddenly on October 22, 1943, during yet another war with Germany, and during which other German Texans would have to suffer imprisonment for their Germanness.

Funeral services for Rev. Bergner were conducted in Doss on Sunday, October 23, 1943. Rev. H. F. Ander, a St. Chrischona Seminary classmate, preached the English sermon. Rev. P. Leonhard of Trinity Lutheran Church of Stonewall, 12 miles east of Fredericksburg, delivered the German sermon. Rev. Bergner was laid to rest beside his eldest son who preceded him in death and was buried in Walberg. Five other children survived, including his son, Hans, who became a distinguished Commander in the U. S. Navy during World War II which was raging at the time of his father's death.

But a very curious thing was happening at the same time in Stonewall, Texas, where the Rev. P. Leonhard was the pastor. This time there was indeed a Nazi sympathizer lurking in the Texas Hill Country. He was Pastor Leonhard's son, Theodore, who was operating a short wave radio and sending coded messages from the loft of the Stonewall parsonage.

Still living today are a number of Theodore Leonhard's classmates who went to school with him in Fredericksburg. They remember him as a serious, brilliant student openly praising Hitler. One of his classmates remembers, "He was very stiff and proper and liked to walk, even at school, in the goose-step fashion. It did not surprise us to learn that he had been arrested by U.S. agents." He was sent to a prisoner of war camp in the Chicago, Illinois, area. He died shortly after the war. After Pastor Leonhard died his widow continued to live alone in Fredericksburg.

Also, pertaining to the schools at the time, Mrs. Elizabeth Klieg Engel (age 96 in the year 2006 and with clear memory) recalls, "Wir sind in der Hof ecken gegangen Deutsch mit einander zu sprechen." ("We went to the corners of the school property to speak German to one another.") It was strictly forbidden to speak German at schools.

WORLD WAR I ENDS... BUT THE ECONOMIES IMplode...

LETTER IMploRES HELP! THE SEEDS OF WORLD WAR II ARE PLANTED...

It was a conniving game for the countries of the world to flirt, court, and woo one another, promising trade deals and economic favoritism. The major countries such as Germany, England, and France were busy making deals, and deals out of deals. The secret treaties that preface World War I were continuing once again. The chaos in Germany's economy because of the war and then after the suffocating conditions of the Treaty of Versailles of 1918 provided just what the radical agitators in Germany and elsewhere needed to incite unrest, demonstrations, and rioting. The imperialist, capitalist counter-reaction against the socialists and their leaders such as Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg erupted. The German Freikorps militia had an excuse to go into action to assure homeland security by making arrests and

executing Liebknecht and Luxembourg. This was in early 1919. Food continued to be scarce and very expensive inside Germany as inflation zoomed. The Allied leaders paid little attention to the physical needs of the German people. The American congress and President Woodrow Wilson ignored the increasingly dire straits of Germans and subsequent diseases that were spreading especially in regard to the German children. The American congress was willing to help its own allies after World War 1... " but not a cent is to be given former enemies old or young!" (1 MS IV. 6-g)

Now the black, red, and gold colors were featured in the new German flag heralding the new democracy called the Weimar Republic when the new constitution of Germany was completed in September of 1919. Assorted individuals tried to take over the German government causing President von Hindenburg and the later president Friedrich Ebert much consternation. Right wing and left wing extremists were in constant struggle. Even by 1921 the Allies, dominated by the United States, were demanding more billions in gold as well as a percentage of all German exports as war indemnity payments. The Allies tried to enforce the payments by threatening naval blockades. As a result an even greater inflation broke out in Germany. In 1923 one U.S. dollar was worth 4,200,000, 000,000 German marks (sic.) The average German worker could buy nothing. (1 MS IV. 6-h)

Norman Wilke of Fredericksburg in 2003 still has a letter his family received from a cousin, Wilhelm Borchers of Magdeburg, Germany, dated December 2, 1923. Translated from the German script it pleaded:

"Dear Wilke and dear cousin... I, Wilhelm Borchers, the oldest son of your old uncle Wilhelm Borchers, the youngest brother of your father Heinrich Borchers, am writing you this letter. As you know from your sister, Mrs. Mary Gerhard, things are not good for us here in our poor Fatherland. It is very sad for the sick, the old people, and those unable to work. Your old uncle and aunt who are 79 and 80 years old, cannot work anymore and are in need. They do get from the state an old people's pension and social help, but from that they barely can buy a loaf of bread. If it were not that we sibling two brothers and one sister, not the old parents, helped, they would have starved by now.

We children can not give very much even if we wanted to. Everyone has a difficult time just to care for themselves. Everybody has to fight for their daily bread. I am 55 years old and for the last ten years very sick and paralyzed so that I have to sit in a wheelchair with sick and weak nerves. I am also grieving for my oldest son who was killed in the world war.

Hopefully you can possibly help our old uncle Wilhelm and aunt just as your sister Mrs. Marie Gerhard has done. This letter should get to you around Christmas, so could Santa Claus bring something? Do you celebrate Christmas like we do in Germany? If you are willing to help your old uncle and aunt then send it to the following address in Magdeburg. God is going to bless you. How are you all doing, and what do you do? Hoping that my letter finds you all in good health, greetings to all. Your Cousin, Wilhelm Borchers " (1 MS IV. 6-i)

It pays to open up the pages of the family bible. One family, different from the one above, that did so and found a letter from Sonneberg, Germany, dated September 13, 1923. They had the letter translated from the old German script and discovered how their ancestors had come to America: *"Dear Loved Ones: Father was thrown in the jail of the French Infantry Division at Hattingen and was released after a lengthy time seriously ill from a kidney disease. At such an old age my dear father did not have to suffer such a humiliation. Therefore, I decided to take revenge, but I would found out before I could carry out my deed I was sentenced to 10 years in prison by the military court of the French 40th Infantry Division. I managed to escape by swimming through the Ruhr River and got away. Now I am homeless and not able to be with my father or siblings.*

While in Oberzwehren I worked as an engineer at the Henschel Lokomotiv Werk in Kassel. Since August I am here in Sonneberg, Thuringia, working as an engineer and technical instructor at the local trade school. Conditions here in Germany are extremely bad. Perhaps I could come to America and make a living there. I have excellent practical experience in mechanics... entitled to train apprentices, having gone to the Dortmund State Engineering College receiving a degree in mechanical engineering.

I know, as a green German, I would have to start at the bottom. But I trust my practical ability. I can provide a lot of references. I have always saved money as I am now doing for the trip to America.

But now my savings are useless because of the inflation. Gold and silver money is no longer available and paper money is losing its value on a daily basis. One loaf of rye bread costs 3 million Marks! If the conditions were not so bad I would not be inclined to come to America.

Dear uncle, I kindly ask you to lend me the money for my journey to you. I would be grateful to you until I die. Once I am there I will pay you back with interest. Here in Germany I am my father's pride. You will also be proud of me. I have already begun the immigration papers at the American consulate in Berlin. It would take \$300, a lot of money. Kind regards and thanking you in advance I remain, your nephew, Fritz Umbach, Sonne berg, Thuringia, German... "

The uncle in America did send the money making it possible for Mr. Umbach to immigrate and a successful life in the United States. (1 MS V. 6-j)

THE SEEDS OF WORLD WAR II PLANTED...

Relatives and acquaintances in Fredericksburg, out of compassion, did many "care" packages to Germany as often as they could. They would do so after the next war, too, that was just around the corner even though they again detested the policies of Germany. In the mid and late 1920's president Von Hindenburg of Germany with the help of banks was able to bring Germany back to some economic normality. However, Germany's right wing was not about to forget the Versailles Treaty excesses and the Allied intransigence "to make Germany pay." Adolf Hitler was livid with revenge and began to plot his Nazi Party's taking over the government and every apparatus and vestige of German society. Playing into Hitler's hands was the collapse of the American stock market in 1929. Hitler and his moguls preached that capitalism was just too volatile and putty in the hands of greedy businessmen, mostly Jews. At the same time Hitler preached that the communists of Russia were just as ruthless and selfish as the American capitalists. His answer was that between American capitalism and Russian communism was the "truth" of national socialism, Nazism, which only he could properly administer.

The world depression affected Germany, too, in 1930. Hitler promised many things and by 1932 a divided government and a people torn apart by wrangling brought political chaos that played into Hitler's hands. Failing to produce a coalition government, and thinking government leaders could handle Hitler's extremes, Hindenburg and von Papen agreed to appoint Adolf Hitler as the chancellor of Germany on January 20, 1933. The Weimar Republic then began a slow process of crumbling with Hitler and his cronies involved. With the one hand, as Hitler provided more creature comforts for the people of Germany, and on the other hand, their individual rights were slowly and surely taken away: all under the guise of homeland security.

President Paul von Hindenburg died in August of 1934. German voters then approved of Hitler as the new president of Germany. The Third Reich was now born, democratically, and under the total control of Adolf Hitler. Like many other tyrants and conquerors before him, Hitler was now ready to use the industriousness of his people who were again hard at work and eating well to make the world pay for his country's defeat and utter humiliation in World War I.

Notes:

(1 MS IV. 6-a) "First Lt. Louis I. Jordan", Norman J. Dietel, eclitor, *The Radio Post*, weekly newspaper, Fredericksburg, Texas, feature article, issue of September 11, 1975.

(1 MS IV. 6-b) "American Legion Named After Lt. Louis Jordan", *The Radio Post*, weekly newspaper, Fredericksburg, Texas; May 6, 1971. p.6.

(1 MS IV. 6-c) Daniel, Clifton; General Editor, *The Chronicle of America*, Chronicle Publications, Ste. 311, 105 S. Bedford Rd., Mt. Kisco NY 10549, 1989, p. 575. Daniel, Ibid, p. 587.

(1 MS IV. 6-d) Daniel, Ibid, p.587

(1 MS IV. 6-e) Odorfer, Richard A, *The Soul of Germany: A Unique History of German from Earliest Times to Present*, 1995, POB 312146, New Braunfels TX 78131-2146, pp 281-282.

(1 MS IV. 6-1) Caro, Robert A, *The Years of Lyndon Johnson, The Path to Power*, Alfred A Knopf, New York, 1982; pp.80-81

(1 MS IV. 6-g) Odorfer, Richard A; Ibid, pp. 288-289

(1 MS IV. 6-h) Odorfer, Richard A; Ibid, pp. 298

(1 MS IV. 6-i) Wilke, Norman; rancher north of Fredericksburg (2003), descendant of the Borchers family of Magdeburg, Germany, provided this letter showing the plight of his relatives following World War I and the painful frustrations that helped to produce World War II. The German people were never really able to develop an economy with the abnormality of a war machine and always making deals with other countries. Eventually, the Allies seeing what their excessive reparation demands were causing began to lessen their excessive payment demands. Life in Germany then slowly began getting better thanks to German grit and determination. Industry and employment began reviving and inflation lessened. But one person had more in mind, much more: Hitler wanted complete revenge! Our thanks to Ursula Devine of Fredericksburg for translating the Borchers letter from the written German script.

(1 MS IV. 6-j) Much gratitude is due Marie Sohner of Fredericksburg, Blumenthal community, for sharing this letter of her relative that was in a family bible for being translated from the German script by Ulrich O. Lange of Marianna, Pennsylvania.

Other sources:

Also internet: http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/Zimmermann_speech.htm

History of the Evangelical Lutheran Texas Synod of the United Lutheran Church in America 1851-1926, p.28

History of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Arneckeville, DeWitt County, Texas 1868-1982
Evangelical Lutheran Church Archives, Chicago, Illinois, p. 25

1990 Directory of Zion Lutheran Church, Mission Valley, Rt 1 Box 131, Victoria, Texas

73 Synodal-Versammlung der Ersten Evangelisch-Lutherischen Synode von Texas, Abgehalten in der Ev. Lutherischen S. Johannes-Gemeinde zu Coryell, Texas, vom 28 April bis 3 Mai, 1925

Celebrating 100 Years with Joy and Thanksgiving 1889-1989 St. Peter Lutheran Church, Walburg, Texas

First Convention Texas District American Lutheran Church, Emanuel's Lutheran Church, Seguin, Texas, April 21-27, 1931.

Fifth Convention Texas District American Lutheran Church, Immanuel's, Pflugerville, Texas, May 1, 1935

Records of St. Peter Lutheran Church, Doss, Texas, 1896-1963

Records of Christ Lutheran Church, Cherry Spring, Texas, March 18, 1905-June 15, 1980

THE FAMILY OF JOHANN HEINRICH GASKAMP *by Daniel Bode*

Johann Heinrich Gaskamp was born 23 May 1830, in Haldem, Westphalia, Germany. Heinrich was baptized 31 May 1830, and he was confirmed 6 April 1845 in the Lutheran Church Parish of Dielingen, Westphalia.

Heinrich was the son of **Gerd Friedrich Gaskamp** (born 14 Sept. 1792 in Haldem; died 23 Jan. 1872, in Haldem) and his wife, **Marie Margarethe Engel Meyer** (born 27 Dec. 1800 in Germany; died 9 Sept. 1859, in Haldem). Heinrich's parents were married on 14 May 1819, in Haldem.

Heinrich Gaskamp had two brothers and five sisters. They were:

1. **Marie Margarethe Engel Gaskamp** born 5 June 1821, in Haldem, and she died in Germany after 1882. She married a widower, **Johann Christian Heinrich Duvelmeyer** on 28 March 1856, in Haldem. Mr. Duvelmeyer was born 17 Oct. 1814, in Haldem, and he died 18 Nov. 1882, in Haldem.
2. **Friedrich Heinrich Gaskamp** born 25 Jan. 1824, in Haldem, and he died 18 Sept. 1881, in Arrenkamp, Westphalia. He married **Marie Margarethe Elisabeth Vordemfeld** on 28 Oct. 1848, in Arrenkamp. She was born 1 Oct. 1820, in Arrenkamp, and she died 28 Nov. 1880 in Arrenkamp.
3. **Marie Margarethe Louise Gaskamp** born 23 Jan. 1827, in Haldem, and she died 14 Nov. 1897, in the Wuthrich Hill Community of Williamson Co., Texas. She married **Gerd Friedrich Heinrich Wiethorn** on 23 Feb. 1860, in Haldem. He was born 27 Jan. 1826, in Haldem, and died 29 July 1872, in Haldem.
4. **Johann Friedrich Christoph "Christian" Gaskamp** born 17 Oct. 1833, in Haldem, and he died 24 June 1906, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Christian married **Marie Margarethe Elisabeth Schmedthorst** on 27 April 1860 in Haldem. She was born 19 Jan. 1837, in Haldem, and she died 17 June 1914, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas.
5. **Engel Louise Gaskamp** born 12 Feb. 1837, in Haldem, and she died 1 Dec. 1871 in Haldem. She married **Carl Dieterich Heinrich Tiemann** on 21 July 1859, in Haldem. He was born 28 Dec. 1829, in Haldem, and he died 8 Sept. 1868, in Haldem.
6. **Margarethe Engel Agnes Gaskamp** born 11 Nov. 1840, in Haldem, and she died at Riesel, Texas, on 7 April 1912. Agnes married **Wilhelm Heinrich David "Henry" Haferkamp** on 13 March 1866, in Haldem. Henry Haferkamp was born 7 Dec. 1838, in Haldem, and he died 28 March 1928, at Riesel, Texas.
7. **Margarethe Louise Sophie Gaskamp** born 25 July 1845, in Haldem, and she died at Brenham, Texas, on 15 Jan. 1936. Sophie married **Heinrich Winkelmann** on 8 Jan. 1869, in Washington Co., Texas. Heinrich was born 26 May 1845, in Oppendorf, Westphalia, Germany, and he died 11 March 1922, in the Zionsville Community of Washington Co., Texas.

Heinrich Gaskamp married **Anna Marie Louise Meier** on 16 Oct. 1852, in Haldem, Westphalia, Germany. Anna was born 6 April 1825, in Haldem, Westphalia; daughter of **Johann Friedrich Meier** and **Marie Elisabeth Rienke**.

Heinrich and Anna Gaskamp had two children: a daughter, **Louise**, and a son, **Phillip**. Anna Marie Louise Meier Gaskamp died in Haldem on 13 Feb. 1856, just 10 days after giving birth to her son, Phillip. Anna was buried 16 Feb. 1856, in Haldem.

Heinrich Gaskamp secondly married **Marie Sophie Engel Wiethorn** on 20 May 1857, in Haldem, Westphalia. Engel nee Wiethorn was born 18 May 1833, in Haldem, Westphalia. She was baptized 27 May 1833, and confirmed 16 April 1848, in the Lutheran Church Parish of Dielingen, Westphalia. Engel was the daughter of **Johann Friedrich Wiethorn** (born 1801) and his wife, **Marie Margarethe Engel Kasting** (born 30 Dec. 1798, in Dielingen, Westphalia, and died 30 Oct. 1855, in Dielingen).

Johann Friedrich Wiethorn and Marie Margarethe Engel Kasting were married 1 March 1822, in Dielingen. Besides Marie Sophie Engel, the other children born to Johann Friedrich Wiethorn and his wife were:

1. **Johann Heinrich Wiethorn** born 29 April 1822; died 5 March 1823.
2. **Catherine Margarethe Anna Louise Wiethorn** born 11 Feb. 1824.

3. **Gerd Friedrich Heinrich Wiethorn** born 27 Jan. 1826; died 29 July 1872. He married **Marie Margarethe Louise Gaskamp** on 23 Feb. 1860.
4. **Friedrich Heinrich Wilhelm Wiethorn** born 20 Dec. 1827.
5. **Marie Margarethe Louise Wiethorn** born 14 Jan. 1830; died 18 Oct. 1832.
6. **Friedrich Heinrich Wiethorn** born 1 Jan. 1836.
7. **Agnes Engel Louise Wiethorn** born 12 May 1838; died 30 March 1842.

Heinrich Gaskamp and Engel nee Wiethorn Gaskamp were the parents of four daughters and one son: **Henriette, Wilhelm, Margarethe, Engel, and Sophie.**

Marie Sophie Engel Gaskamp nee Wiethorn died in Haldem, Westphalia, on 16 June 1866, at the age of 30 years, just 11 days after giving birth to her daughter, Sophie. She was buried 19 June 1866, in Haldem. The baby, Sophie, died in October of the same year.

Heinrich Gaskamp was not quite 36 years of age when he was widowed the second time and he was left with several young children, but he never remarried.

In 1867, Heinrich's youngest sister, Sophie Gaskamp, left Germany and settled in Washington County, Texas, where she married Heinrich Winkelmann in Jan. of 1869. Apparently, Heinrich Gaskamp began making plans to join his sister in Texas. In 1870, Heinrich sent his oldest son, Phillip, ahead to Texas. In October of 1871, Heinrich Gaskamp and his younger son, Wilhelm, and his daughters, Louise, Henriette, Margarethe, and Engel left Germany for Texas. Also making the voyage was Heinrich's brother, Christian Gaskamp and his wife, Margarethe, and their sons; Heinrich's sister, Agnes, and her husband Henry Haferkamp, and their children; and Heinrich's niece, Margarethe Duvelmeyer and her half-sister, Wilhelmine Duvelmeyer.

They left from the port of Bremen, Germany, on the *SS Frankfort* and the ship docked in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 31 Oct. 1871. The families made their way to Washington County, Texas.

The first years in Texas for Heinrich Gaskamp and his children were spent in eastern Washington County where they lived between the communities of Independence and William Penn, and they worshipped in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church of William Penn. Later, Heinrich Gaskamp settled in the Zionsville Community of Washington County, where he became a member of Zion Lutheran Church in 1876.

Heinrich Gaskamp died on 1 Sept. 1882, in the Zionsville Community of Washington County, Texas, at the age of 52 years. He was buried 2 Sept. 1882, in the Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery of Zionsville.

**The tombstone
of
Johann
Heinrich
Gaskamp**



The children of Heinrich Gaskamp:

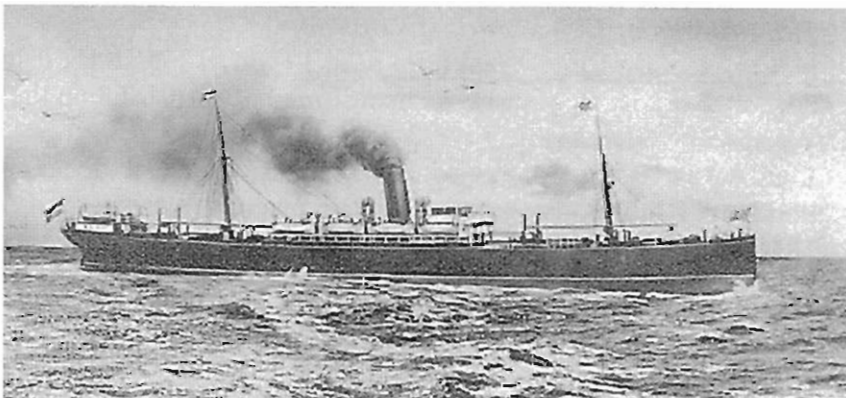
I. Anna Louise Engel Gaskamp born 17 May 1853, in Haldem, Westphalia, Germany. Louise was baptized 29 May 1853, and she was confirmed 5 April 1868, in the Lutheran Church Parish of Dielingen, Westphalia, Germany.

Louise was 18 years of age when she came to Texas with her father and siblings. Louise Gaskamp married **Karl Bluhm** on 3 June 1873, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Karl Bluhm was born 22 Oct. 1846, in Germany. Louise and Karl Bluhm lived the first years of their marriage in Washington County before moving to Falls County, Texas, in 1879 where they became early settlers of the Perry Community. Karl Bluhm died 17 April 1911 at the age of 64 years. Louise Bluhm nee Gaskamp died at the home of her daughter, Alma Miller, in Riesel, Texas, on 28 July 1937, at the age of 84 years. Louise and Karl Bluhm are buried in the Perry United Methodist Church Cemetery in Perry, Falls Co., Texas.

Karl and Louise Gaskamp Bluhm's children were:

1. **Henriette Louise Bluhm** born 31 July 1874, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and she died 22 Nov. 1887, at the age of 13 years in Perry, Falls Co., Texas. Henriette is buried in the Perry United Methodist Church Cemetery in Perry, Texas.
2. **Wilhelmine Margarethe Henriette "Minnie" Bluhm** born 28 Feb. 1876, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and she died 11 Aug. 1961, in Marlin, Falls Co., Texas, at the age of 85 years. Minnie married **Charlie Gottlieb Graeter** on 14 March 1899. Charlie Graeter was born 10 Jan. 1875, in Germany, and he died in Marlin, Falls Co., Texas, on 23 April 1934. Minnie and Charlie Graeter are buried in the Riesel Cemetery in Riesel, McLennan Co., Texas.
3. **Anna Charlotte Louise Bluhm** born 12 April 1878, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and she died 29 March 1947, in Waco, McLennan Co., Texas. Louise married **Gustav Frederick Otto Nehring** on 3 Dec. 1901. Gustav Nehring was born 5 Aug. 1874, in Germany, and he died 10 March 1958, in Waco, Texas. Louise Bluhm Nehring is buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Waco. Her husband, Gustav Nehring, is buried in the Waco Memorial Park.
4. **Carl Heinrich "Charlie" Bluhm** born 4 July 1881, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas, and he died 19 Sept. 1956, in Waco, Texas. Charlie Bluhm married **Ida Beier** on 24 Oct. 1907. Ida was born 20 Nov. 1888, in Falls Co., Texas, and she died on her 99th birthday on 20 Nov. 1987, in Waco. Charlie and Ida Bluhm are buried in the Calvary Cemetery in Marlin, Texas.
5. **Emma Bluhm** born 5 March 1884, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas, and she died in Waco, Texas, on 19 June 1953. Emma married **J. W. Bishnow** on 9 July 1907. Emma Bluhm Bishnow is buried in the Waco Memorial Park in Waco, Texas.
6. **Matilda Bluhm** born 18 March 1886, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas, and she died in Gladewater, Gregg Co., Texas, on 8 Aug. 1967. Matilda married **Ernest Emmitt Potthoff** on 16 Aug. 1906. Ernest Potthoff was born 1 April 1882, in Galveston, Texas, and he died 6 April 1960, in Breckenridge, Stephens Co., Texas. Matilda and Ernest Potthoff are buried in the Hart Cemetery in Breckenridge, Texas.
7. **William Albert Bluhm** born 23 April 1888, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas, and he died in Marlin, Texas, on 10 Jan. 1977. Albert Bluhm married **Thelma Jund Mitchell** on 25 Aug. 1950. Albert Bluhm is buried in the Perry United Methodist Church Cemetery in Perry, Texas.
8. **Ferdinand Daniel Bluhm** born 3 Feb. 1891, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas, and he died in Riesel, Texas, on 3 July 1965. Ferdinand Bluhm married **Elisa Jund** on 17 Aug. 1929. Elisa was born 9 May 1891, and she died 4 Nov. 1976. Ferdinand and Elisa Bluhm are buried in the Riesel Cemetery in Riesel, Texas.
9. **Amalie Bluhm** born 5 July 1893, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas, and she died 28 Oct. 1894, in Perry. Amalie is buried in the Perry United Methodist Church Cemetery in Perry, Texas.
10. **Alma Ida Bluhm** born 16 Dec. 1896, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas, and she died in Waco, Texas, on 20 Jan. 1968. Alma Bluhm married **Bennie Charles Miller** on 25 Sept. 1919. Bennie Miller was born 12 Sept. 1897, and he died 11 May 1973, in Waco. Alma and Bennie Miller are buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Waco

The ship, *SS Frankfort*, which brought Heinrich Gaskamp and his children to Texas in 1871. Coming with Heinrich was his brother, Christian Gaskamp and family, and their sister, Agnes and her husband, Henry Haferkamp, and family. Photo is the courtesy of Mrs. Katherine Kitzler Stephens of Tulia, Texas—a great-granddaughter of Heinrich Gaskamp.



Sitting on left:

Henriette Nolte nee Gaskamp
(a daughter of Heinrich Gaskamp)

Sitting in middle:

Sophie Winkelmann nee Gaskamp
(youngest sister of Heinrich Gaskamp)

Sitting on right:

Caroline Lehrmann nee Wehmeyer (a
neighbor in the Zionsville Commu-
nity).

Photo taken in the early 1930's in
Brenham, Texas.



II. Johann Heinrich Phillip Gaskamp born 3 Feb. 1856, in Haldem, Westphalia, Gennany. Phillip was baptized 17 Feb. 1856, and he was confirmed 10 April 1870, in the Lutheran Church Parish of Dielingen, Westphalia.

Phillip Gaskamp was 14 years of age when his father sent him to Texas in 1870 ahead of the rest of the family. Phillip apparently lived with his aunt, Sophie Gaskamp Winkelmann, in the Zionsville Community of Washington County until his father came to Texas in 1871. Phillip married **Louise Wilhelmine Charlotte Schulze** on 21 Dec. 1876, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Charlotte nee Schulze was born in Kohlstadt, Schlangen-Lippe, Germany, on 4 July 1857; she was the daughter of **August Conrad Schulze** and **Henriette nee Nagel**.

Phillip and Charlotte Gaskamp lived the first years of their marriage in Washington County before moving to Perry, in Falls County, Texas. They became members of the Trinity Lutheran Church, located between Perry and Riesel.

Charlotte Gaskamp nee Schulze died in Perry, Texas, on 26 May 1906, at the age of 48 years. She was buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery.

Phillip Gaskamp died near Riesel, Texas, on Jan. 14, 1914, at the age of 57 years. Phillip was a member of the Sons of Hermann and because of his membership in this organization, the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church would not allow Phillip to be buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery near his wife. Phillip Gaskamp was buried in the Friedens Evangelical Cemetery at Riesel.

Phillip and Charlotte Schulze Gaskamp's children were:

1. **Louise Margarethe Henriette Gaskamp** born 16 Dec. 1877, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and she died 11 Oct. 1939, in Austin, Travis Co., Texas. Henriette married **Johann Heinrich Symank** on 18 Nov. 1898. He was born 15 Sept. 1877, in Fedor, Lee Co., Texas, and he died 16 March 1953, in The Grove, Coryell Co., Texas. Henriette and John Henry Symank are buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Austin, Texas.
2. **Carl August Heinrich Gaskamp** born 28 May 1881, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and he died 13 Sept. 1903, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas. He is buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery near Riesel, Texas.
3. **Henriette Augusta Emilie Gaskamp** born 13 Dec. 1884, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas, and she died 6 Jan. 1949, in Waco, Texas. Emilie married **Robert Albert Klawitter** on 25 Nov. 1903. Albert Klawitter was born 25 Nov. 1877, and he died at Riesel, Texas, on 28 July 1935. Emilie and Albert Klawitter are buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery near Riesel, Texas.
4. **Wilhelmine "Minnie" Bertha Louise Gaskamp** born 22 July 1888, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas, and she died 10 May 1966, in Waco, Texas. Minnie married **Rudolph Boeche** on 11 Nov. 1908. Rudolph Boeche was born 8 Jan. 1888, in New Ulm, Texas, and he died 13 July 1980, in Waco,

- Texas. Minnie and Rudolph Boeche are buried in the Riesel Cemetery in Riesel, Texas
5. **Heinrich Friedrich Wilhelm Gaskamp** born 25 April 1891, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas, and he died as an infant. This baby is buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery near Riesel, Texas.
 6. **Anna Marie Louise Gaskamp** born 11 July 1892, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas, and she died in the Aleman Community in Hamilton Co., Texas, on 17 Aug. 1962. Louise Gaskamp married **Karl Henry "Charlie" Schneider** on 19 Oct. 1910. Charlie Schneider was born 8 Nov. 1884, in Holland, Bell Co., Texas, and he died in Hamilton, Texas, on 2 Dec. 1963. Louise and Charlie Schneider are buried in the St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery in Aleman, Hamilton Co., Texas.
 7. **Henriette Auguste Caroline Gaskamp** born 2 June 1895, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas, and she died 3 July 1895. This baby is buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery near Riesel, Texas.
 8. **Charlotte Auguste Emma Gaskamp** born 3 May 1896, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas, and she died 26 Jan. 1957, in John Sealy Hospital in Galveston, Texas. Emma married **George L. Quinn**, who was born 27 July 1887, in Bastrop, Texas, and he died 27 Sept. 1960, in Houston, Texas. Emma Gaskamp Quinn is buried in the Oleander Cemetery in Galveston. George Quinn is buried in the Rosewood Cemetery in Humble, Texas.
 9. **Anna Louise Lillie Gaskamp** born 4 April 1901, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas, and she died 10 Sept. 1968, in Waco, Texas. Lillie married **Thomas Newton Gordon**, who was born 29 Oct. 1894, in Tennessee, and died 14 July 1962, in Waco. Lillie and Thomas Gordon are buried in the Rosemound Cemetery in Waco.
 10. **August Paul Otto Gaskamp** born 20 May 1903, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas, and he died of a heart attack in Ashdown, Arkansas, on 25 Aug. 1957. August Gaskamp is buried in the Rosemound Cemetery in Waco, Texas. August Gaskamp married **Flossie Marie Kunkel Griffin** on 15 May 1945, in Waco, but they were divorced by 1950.

III. Henriette Elisabeth Gaskamp born 21 Jan. 1858, in Haldem, Westphalia, Germany. Henriette was baptized 7 Feb. 1858, in the Lutheran Church Parish of Dielingen, Westphalia, Germany.

Henriette Gaskamp was 13 years of age when she came to Texas with her family. Henriette was confirmed 1 April 1872, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in William Penn, Washington Co., Texas. Henriette married **Wilhelm Nolte** on 21 Dec. 1876, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Wilhelm Nolte was born 13 May 1852, in Oppendorf, Westphalia, Germany.

Wilhelm and Henriette Nolte lived their married life in the Zionsville Community of Washington County where they farmed and were active members of the Zion Lutheran Church. Wilhelm and Henriette were the parents of one son and nine daughters, but sadly, all the daughters except two preceded their parents in death.

Wilhelm Nolte died at his home in the Zionsville Community on 15 Aug. 1925, at the age of 73 years. Henriette Nolte nee Gaskamp died at the home of her daughter, Mina Kelm, in Zionsville on 3 Dec. 1947, at the age of 89 years. Wilhelm and Henriette Nolte are buried in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas.

The children of Wilhelm and Henriette Gaskamp Nolte:

1. **Hermann Karl Heinrich "Henry" Nolte** born 1 Oct. 1877, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and he died in Brenham, Texas, on 28 Aug. 1949. Henry Nolte married **Sophie Krueger** on 6 Dec. 1906. Sophie nee Krueger was born in Germany on 12 Nov. 1887, and she died 14 Nov. 1950, at her home in Zionsville. Henry and Sophie Nolte are buried in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Zionsville, Texas.
2. **Charlotte Louise Henriette Nolte** born 9 Feb. 1879, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and she died 3 May 1879, in Zionsville. She is buried in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery of Zionsville.
3. **Henriette Auguste Louise Nolte** born 26 May 1881, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and she died 31 May 1881, in Zionsville. She is buried in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery of Zionsville.
4. **Engel Auguste Anna Nolte** born 25 Dec. 1882, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and she died 13 Dec. 1974, in Marlin, Falls Co., Texas. Anna Nolte married her cousin, **Heinrich Friedrich Carl "Fritz" Winkelmann** on 3 Dec. 1903. Fritz Winkelmann was born 4 Oct. 1881, in Zionsville; son of Heinrich Winkelmann and Sophie Gaskamp Winkelmann, and he died 3 Aug. 1944,

in Mart, McLennan Co., Texas. Fritz and Anna Winkelmann are buried in the St. John United Church of Christ Cemetery in Otto, Falls Co., Texas

5. **Charlotte Margarethe Louise Nolte** born 8 June 1885, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and she died 19 Oct. 1918, in Zionsville. Louise Nolte married her cousin, **Carl Heinrich Friedrich Winkelmann** on 16 Jan. 1908. Carl Winkelmann was born 9 April 1886, in Zionsville; son of Heinrich Winkelmann and Sophie Gaskamp Winkelmann, and he died 25 April 1942, in Zionsville. Louise and Carl Winkelmann are buried in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Zionsville.
6. **Henriette Louise Mina Nolte** born 18 Jan. 1888, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and she died 18 Dec. 1978, in Brenham, Texas. Mina Nolte married **Emil Kelm** on 10 Nov. 1910. Emil Kelm was born 13 June 1886, in Washington Co., Texas, and he died in Brenham on 26 Nov. 1974. Mina and Emil Kelm are buried in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Zionsville, Texas.
7. **Sophie Karoline Bertha Nolte** born 5 March 1890, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and she died 16 Dec. 1904, in Zionsville. She is buried in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Zionsville.
8. **Sophie Louise Henriette Nolte** born 11 March 1895, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and she died 6 Nov. 1897, in Zionsville. She is buried in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Zionsville.
9. **Emma Henriette Mina Nolte** born 24 Dec. 1903, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and she died 15 Aug. 1905, in Zionsville. She is buried in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Zionsville.

IV. **Friedrich Heinrich Wilhelm Gaskamp** born 4 July 1859, in Haldem, Westphalia, Germany. Wilhelm was baptized 17 July 1859, in the Lutheran Church Parish in Dielingen, Westphalia.

Wilhelm was 12 years of age when he came to Texas with his father and sisters. Wilhelm was confirmed 6 April 1873, in Bethlehem Lutheran Church in William Penn, Washington Co., Texas. Wilhelm Gaskamp married **Charlotte Augusta Schulze** on 18 Aug. 1878, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Augusta Schulze was born 8 Sept. 1859, in Ostra-Stro, Malmo, Sweden; a daughter of **August Conrad Schulze** and **Henriette nee Nagel**.

Wilhelm and Augusta Gaskamp lived in Zionsville before moving to Perry, Falls Co., Texas for a short time. They then moved back to Zionsville for a few years until they returned to Perry about 1889 where



Wilhelm Gaskamp, the youngest son of Heinrich Gaskamp. Wilhelm died at the age of 42 years of appendicitis at John Sealy Hospital in Galveston, Texas. This photo was taken at his home in Perry, Texas, during his illness. Wilhelm married Augusta Schulze in 1878 in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and they were the parents of 10 children. Wilhelm Gaskamp owned and operated a cotton gin and general store in Perry, as well as owned farmland in Falls County.



Gustav Adolph Grochoske and Augusta Schulze Gaskamp. Adolph and Augusta were brother-in-law and sister-in-law. Their deceased spouses were brother/sister. Adolph & Augusta were married June 13, 1911, in Haskell, Texas. Adolph first married Engel Gaskamp on Nov. 4, 1883, and they had nine children.

they settled. They became members of the Trinity Lutheran Church. Wilhelm Gaskamp owned farmland in Perry, as well as was the owner of a cotton gin and a general store in Perry.

In the spring of 1901, Wilhelm Gaskamp began to suffer with appendicitis. He was operated on in Perry, but continued to suffer. He was sent to John Sealy Hospital in Galveston for another operation, but he died before the operation could be performed. Wilhelm died in Galveston on 2 Aug. 1901, at the age of 42 years, after suffering for 13 weeks from appendicitis. Wilhelm was buried in the Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery near Riesel.

Wilhelm's widow, Augusta, sold the cotton gin and farmland in 1909; she then invested in 91 acres of farmland in Haskell County, Texas, where she lived for some years. Augusta also later married her widowed brother-in-law, **Gustav Adolph Grochoske** on 13 June 1911. Adolph Grochoske was married to Engel Gaskamp, a sister of Wilhelm Augusta Schulze Gaskamp. Grochoske died in Waco, Texas, on 9 Aug. 1954, at the age of 94 years. Augusta was buried 11 Aug. 1954, in the Waco Memorial Park in Waco. Wilhelm and Augusta Schulze Gaskamp's children were:

1. **Margarethe Louise Henriette Gaskamp** born 11 Oct. 1879, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and she died 20 Dec. 1967, in Waco, Texas. Henriette married **Emil Londenberg** on 1 Sept. 1898. Emil Londenberg was born 26 March 1875, in Chicago, Illinois, and he died 3 Feb. 1937, in Waco. Henriette Gaskamp Londenberg is buried in the Waco Memorial Park in Waco, Texas. Her husband, Emil Londenberg, is buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Waco.
2. **Henriette Charlotte Anna Gaskamp** born 14 Jan. 1882, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and she died 24 April 1924, of cancer in a hospital in Amarillo, Texas, at the age of 42. Anna married **Oskar Kitzler** on 10 Aug. 1899. Oskar Kitzler was born 30 Dec. 1875, in Dresden, Saxony, Germany, and he died 26 Aug. 1960, in Groom, Texas. Anna and Oskar Kitzler are buried in the Claude Cemetery in Claude, Armstrong Co., Texas.
3. **Margarethe Sophie Louise Gaskamp** born 28 Dec. 1883, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and she died 7 June 1964, in Baytown, Harris Co., Texas. Louise married **Paul Robert Grochoske** on 4 Jan. 1907. Paul Grochoske was born 2 March 1884, and he died 21 Aug. 1948, in Otto, Falls Co., Texas. Louise and Paul Grochoske are buried in the St. John United Church of Christ Cemetery in Otto, Falls Co., Texas.
4. **Phillip Friedrich Wilhelm Paul Gaskamp** born 27 Feb. 1886, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and he died 3 Sept. 1945, in Waco, Texas. Paul Gaskamp first married **Alma Lloyd**, and secondly to **Tinnie Holt** on 12 Jan. 1929. Both these marriages ended in divorce. Paul Gaskamp is buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Waco.
5. **Anna Engel Wilhelmine "Minnie" Gaskamp** born 25 May 1888, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and she died 20 Nov. 1979, in Waco, Texas. Minnie married **Fred Gaeke** on 7 Aug. 1907. Fred Gaeke was born 5 Jan. 1885, and he died 10 April 1938, in Waco. After his death, Minnie married **C. E. Monroe** on 1 Jan. 1943. Minnie and her first husband, Fred Gaeke, are buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Waco.



Sitting in the center is Augusta Schulze Gaskamp Grochoske on her 92nd birthday, Sept. 8, 1951, Waco, Tx. Pictured with Augusta are her eight surviving children.
Front row from left:
 Lillie Radle, Louise Grochoske, Augusta, Minnie Gaeke Monroe & Henrietta Londenberg.
Standing from left:
 Robert Gaskamp, Henry Gaskamp, Wm. "Bill" Gaskamp & Walter Gaskamp
 Henry changed the spelling of his last name from the "k" to a "c" because of billing problems with the utility company in Waco in the 1920's.
 The two deceased children of Augusta were Anna Kitzler, who died of cancer in Amarillo, Tx. in 1924 at the age of 42, and Paul Gaskamp, who died in Waco in 1945, at the age of 59.

6. **Henry Wilhelm Walter Gaskamp** born 31 July 1890, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas, and he died 7 Sept. 1969, in Waco, Texas. Walter married **Alma Louise Richter** on 17 Nov. 1909. Alma was born 8 May 1892, and she died 15 June 1958, in Waco. Walter and Alma Gaskamp are buried in the Waco Memorial Park.
7. **Wilhelm Andreas Robert Gaskamp** born 15 Sept. 1892, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas, and he died 30 June 1965, in Waco, Texas. Robert married **Olga Reichle** on 18 June 1911. Olga was born 30 May 1892, in Haskell Co., Texas, and she died 6 May 1975, in Waco. Robert and Olga Gaskamp are buried in the Chapel Hill Memorial Park in Waco.
8. **Phillip Adolph Wilhelm (Bill) Gaskamp** born 9 Aug. 1895, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas, and he died 18 Dec. 1960, in Baytown, Harris Co., Texas. Bill is buried in the Resthaven Cemetery in Houston, Texas. Bill married **Ida Louise Hansler** on 31 March 1915. Ida was born 31 Oct. 1897, and she died 17 Jan. 1967, in Jacksonville, Texas. Ida is buried in the Resthaven Cemetery in Houston. Bill secondly married **Cora (?)**, who was born 25 Jan. 1880, and died 30 Nov. 1955, in Baytown, Texas. Cora was buried in Woodlawn Garden of Memories in Houston.
9. **Friedrich Heinrich Phillip "Henry" Gaskamp** born 4 Feb. 1898, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas, and he died 25 June 1970, in Waco, Texas. Henry married **Mina Iselt** on 4 Oct. 1923. Mina was born 13 Aug. 1904, in Los Angeles, California, and she died 21 Sept. 2002, in Waco. Henry and Mina Gaskamp are buried in the Waco Memorial Park in Waco.
10. **Lillie Emma Gaskamp** born 27 April 1900, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas, and she died 3 July 1954, in Waco, Texas. Lillie married **Fritz Radle** on 11 Nov. 1919. Fritz Radle was born 21 Dec. 1889, and he died 4 Nov. 1948, in Waco. Lillie and Fritz Radle are buried in the Rosemound Cemetery in Waco.

V. **Margarethe Henriette Louise Gaskamp** born 24 July 1861, in Haldem, Westphalia, Germany. Margarethe was baptized 18 Aug. 1861, in the Lutheran Church Parish in Dielingen, Westphalia, Germany. Margarethe was 10 years of age when she came to Texas with her father and siblings. Margarethe was confirmed 1 Jan. 1875, in Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Margarethe Gaskamp never married. She died at the age of 23 years in the Zionsville Community of Washington County, Texas, on 1 Aug. 1884. Margarethe was buried in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery of Zionsville on 2 Aug. 1884.

VI. **Anna Henriette Engel Gaskamp** born 20 Aug. 1864, in Haldem, Westphalia, Germany. Engel was baptized 11 Sept. 1864, in the Lutheran Church Parish in Dielingen, Westphalia. Engel was seven years of age when she came to Texas with her father and siblings. Engel was confirmed 14 April 1878, in Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Engel Gaskamp married **Gustav Adolph Grochoske** on 4 Nov. 1883, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Adolph Grochoske was born 16 Jan. 1862, in Germany. He came to the United States in 1883; landing in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 26 Jan. 1883. Adolph took out his American citizenship in 1896 in Falls Co., Texas. Engel and Adolph Grochoske lived the first years of their marriage in Zionsville before moving to Perry, Falls Co., Texas, where they settled near Engel's brother, Wilhelm; her half-brother, Phillip Gaskamp, and her half-sister, Louise Bluhm. Engel and Adolph Grochoske became members of the Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel.

Adolph Grochoske also was involved in Wilhelm Gaskamp's cotton ginning business, and he also invested in real estate in the Perry area.

Engel Gaskamp Grochoske died in Perry, Texas, on 28 Jan. 1911, at the age of 46 years. She was buried 29 Jan. 1911, in Trinity Lutheran Cemetery near Riesel, Texas.

Adolph Grochoske married his widowed sister-in-law, **Augusta Schulze Gaskamp**, on 13 June 1911. Augusta was married to Engel's brother, Wilhelm Gaskamp, who had died in 1901. Adolph and Augusta lived in Haskell County, Texas, for some years before moving to Waco in 1920. Adolph Grochoske died in Waco, Texas, on 12 Oct. 1925, at the age of 63 years. Adolph is buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Waco.

The children of Adolph and Engel Gaskamp Grochoske:

1. **Friedrich Wilhelm Grochoske** born 26 Jan. 1885, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and he .

- died 10 Feb. 1954, in Waco, Texas. Friedrich Grochoske married **Anna Margarethe Stade** on 19 Dec. 1906. Anna was born 28 Jan. 1885, in Temple, Bell Co., Texas, and she died 27 Aug. 1966, in Waco. Friedrich W. and Anna Grochoske are buried in the Calvary Cemetery in Marlin, Texas
2. **Louis Christian Albert Grochoske** born 30 Jan. 1890, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and he died 19 Dec. 1954, in Waco, Texas. Albert married **Elsie Radle** on 7 May 1919. Elsie was born 30 Aug. 1895, in Perry, Texas, and she died in Waco on 4 April 1951. Albert and Elsie Grochoske are buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Waco.
 3. **Bernhard Wilhelm Heinrich Grochoske** born 30 June 1892, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and he died 9 July 1969, in Marlin, Falls Co., Texas. Bernhard married **Bertha Louise Henriette Schmedthorst** on 18 Sept. 1912. Bertha was born 17 March 1894, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and she died 23 May 1976, in Mart, McLennan Co., Texas. Bernhard and Bertha Grochoske are buried in the Mart Cemetery in Mart, Texas.
 4. **Henriette Louise Alma Grochoske** born 2 July 1895, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas, and she died 12 July 1982, in Mart, Texas. Alma married **Max Herman Hommel** on 9 Dec. 1914. Max Hommel was born 29 Jan. 1892, in Falls Co., Texas, and he died at his home in Falls Co. on 17 Nov. 1965. Alma and Max Hommel are buried in the Mart Cemetery in Mart, Texas.
 5. **Karl Gustav Theodore "Charlie" Grochoske** born 15 March 1897, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas, and he died 13 Feb. 1968, in Waco, Texas. Charlie married **Amelia Koehn** on 30 April 1918. Amelia was born 18 Dec. 1897, and she died in Waco on 21 Jan. 1982. Charlie and Amelia Grochoske are buried in the Mart Cemetery in Mart, Texas.
 6. **Heinrich Robert Grochoske** born 20 March 1899, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas, and he died 23 May 1900, in Perry. This child is buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery near Riesel, Texas.
 7. **Anna Emilie Grochoske** born 22 March 1902, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas, and she died 11 Feb. 1956, in Waco, Texas. Anna married **William Marshall** on 18 Dec. 1924. William Marshall was born in 1885, and he died 25 June 1962. Anna and William Marshall are buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Waco, Texas.
 8. **Gertrude Louise Grochoske** born 14 Jan. 1904, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas, and she died in Waco, Texas, on 20 June 1997. Gertrude married **John Vanous** on 16 Jan. 1924. John Vanous was born 29 July 1899, in Ben Hur Community, Limestone Co., Texas, and he died in Waco on 19 March 1967. Gertrude and John Vanous are buried in the Mart Cemetery in Mart, Texas.
Gertrude Grochoske Vanous was the last surviving grandchild of Johann Heinrich Gaskamp.
 9. **Otto Ernest Grochoske** born 8 Feb. 1906, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas, and he died in San Antonio, Bexar Co., Texas, on 14 Nov. 1976. Otto married **Shirley Irene Leuschner** on 25 Oct. 1926. Shirley was born 5 May 1910, in McLennan Co., Texas, and she died in Kerrville, Texas, on 8 Oct. 1997. Otto Grochoske is buried in the Mart Cemetery in Mart, Texas.
- VII. **Anna Louise Sophie Gaskamp** born 5 June 1866, in Haldem, Westphalia, Germany. Sophie was baptized 10 June 1866, in the Lutheran Church Parish of Dielingen, Westphalia. Sophie died at the age of four months on 22 Oct. 1866, in Haldem. She was buried 25 Oct. 1866, in Haldem.

Sources:

- Mrs. Katherine Kitzler Stephens of Tulia, Texas, and Mr. Gilbert Londenberg of Riesel, Texas, both of whom are descendants of Johann Heinrich Gaskamp.
- Records of Zion Lutheran Church, Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas; Bethlehem Lutheran Church, William Penn, Washington Co., Texas, and Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel, Texas.
- Courthouse records from the Washington County Courthouse in Brenham, Texas; Falls County Courthouse in Marlin, Texas, and McLennan County Courthouse in Waco, Tex.
- Newspaper archives from *The Brenham Banner Press* in the Blinn College Library in Brenham; *The Mart Herald* in the Mart Public Library; and *The Marlin Democrat* and *The Waco Tribune Herald* both archived in the Waco Public Library.
- Microfilm records from the Lutheran Church in Dielingen, Westphalia, Germany, obtained through the Church of Latter Day Saints.

Submitted by Daniel Bode of Dayton, Texas; a Gaskamp descendant through my great great-grandmother Agnes Gaskamp Haferkamp, a sister of Johann Heinrich Gaskamp.

Signers of several anti-secession declarations - documents found at the UT Center for American History in the Marmion Henry Bowers Papers. Provided by Ann Dolce via Liz Hicks. Many are names of German Free School Students. Is your Ancestor a signee? (Editor's comment—copies are not as good as I would like but felt would be of some interest to our readers)

The undersigned, Citizens of Texas, hereby agree to form ourselves into an association for the maintenance of our rights, and liberties in the Union.

Names.

Names.

Dr. Mc Baker.
H. Jones.
Thos. J. Hatcher
Wm. Smith
W. Foster
John Stenerok
A. B. McGill
Chas. D. Kemmington
J. Hartson
O. Millson
James S. Gotsch.
Addison Smith
S. W. England.

B. C. Bennett
A. B. B. W. Wilson
Geo. R. Scott
A. Lee
D. J. Starnes
S. J. Hartson
J. S. Mapfield
U. D. Snee
H. H. Furman
J. D. McGill
J. H. Gadsden
W. M. Roberts
John L. Blinn

J. W. Love
~~_____~~
S. W. Branson
Smartie Palmer
Amos Howell

C. F. Steinmann
A. B. Mann
H. K. K. K.
Fred. K. K.
E. S. S.
James M. Simon

Frank Eldart
Margaret Palm
Edward Lips
Harris
Addressed
Brimpson

J. W. Thompson
Wm. Kellogg
J. G. Morrow
L. L. Truman
Wm. Smith
W. D. Hammond

Will R. Smith
James D. Miller
Wm. J. Murphy
The
H. L. ...
J. P. ...
J. W. ...
Elizabeth Hall

George Henderson
J. A. Robinson
J. H. Gillin
August Lind
J. Peterson
A. R. Roopler
E. H. Pennington

To Messrs. Geo W Flouring
J. M. Burdette
and others

Gentlemen

The undersigned
Citizens and legal voters of the County of Travis would
respectfully protest against your taking any
part as Representatives of Travis County in
the Convention to meet in the City of Austin on the
28th Inst as it must be evident to you that
a majority of the voters of said County are
opposed to said Convention

Jackson Hammett
John D. Houlkes
M. K. Miller
Jos. et Stanley
L. W. Miller
J. L. Nichols
William Martin
Geo W Stanley
J. F. Jeff
John C. C. ~~atthews~~
J. M. Tucker
Sam'l. Taylor
Wm. A. Otis
G. W. Evans
John R. Brignaine
W. B. Hammett
Jas. Ginn
W. F. Robertson
Charles Johnson
A. J. ~~and~~
A. W. Nichols
C. F. Berry

James D. Morrison
August M. ~~and~~
B. J. ~~and~~
Andrew M. Robison
~~James D. Morrison~~
~~J. M. Hammett~~
~~W. H. Austin~~
John H. Demeritt
David Pierce
Wm. H. Hill
Th. Steuring
James J. Bishop
D. D. ~~and~~
Benj. Echote
H. H. Turner

26	J. S. James	Washington Hammett
27	W. D. Harrington	W. P. Putnam
28	Ernest Raven	W. B. Bennett
29	O. Wilcox	John L. Blum
30	A. Evans	Wm. G. Bristow
31	S. H. Haynie	J. G. Moorhead
32	W. L. Roberts	W. D. Hall
33	David Harris	R. B. DeBruin
34	W. B. Leonard	Jr. D. Bainter
35	John Leonard	W. S. Burnett
36	R. A. Carraro	S. B. Sawyer
37	James Ralston	G. D. Carter
38	Wm. M. Cain	Lee J. Doney
39	A. Smith	Leitch Bishop
40	J. K. King	W. W. Thompson
41	J. H. King	W. W. Smith
42	M. J. King	J. C. Collins
43	W. E. Thomas	Geo. R. Scott
44	Will R. Lambert	B. O. Young
45	A. Foster	J. M. Thomas
46	Chas. Pope	J. H. Henderson
47	J. Stringer	M. H. Powers
48	W. W. Roberts	John J. Bott
49	James Crawford	J. Bott
50	Joseph Harris	L. Bott
51	Ed. S. Fairchild	J. Jordan
52	Edmond Lane	J. J. Buefford
53	L. A. Walker	Geo. W. Miller
		L. S. Friend

54 A. B. Mayfield
 55 Chas. W. Williams
 56 Julius Schutze
 57 J. J. Schmitz
 58 W. P. Hoff
 59 C. Dornschke
 60 Hans Schneider
 61 August Sabers
 J. W. Brown
 J. M. Gitter
 R. D. Matthews
 John T. Graves
 E. C. Rentsch
 H. H. Schaefer

Emil Albers
 G. Grothaus
 Gos. Martens
 Joseph J. Sigmund
 C. F. W. Muller
 D. Prutting
 W. H. Carr
 Gust. Raymond
 John J. Alford
 Edward Tillmann
 J. Hornberger

We the undersigned Citizens of
 Peasohere by agree to form our-
 selves into an association for the
 purpose maintaining of our rights
 in the Union

Names
 Peter B. Low
 Sam. Emmerich
 Jas. W. Smith
 J. J. Phillips
 W. J. Votter (J. Curdine)
 A. B. Hornum
 A. H. Milligan
 Thomas J. Chapman
 W. C. Collins
 W. J. Patterson

Names
 J. J. Shuck
 J. J. Smith
 W. J. Emmerich
 Chas. Payne
 John Hoffman
 Willie H. Kosman
 Geo. A. Robinson Jr

W J Paruliton
Stephen Gerard Kingburne
Mrs D. Price
Albert Miller
Joshua Patterson

[Redacted]

M A Houston
James B. Swickard
H. M. Booth
Josiah Fisk
James A. Burdett
James N. Hamilton
William S. Piper
Benj. C. Hoste

Matthew
J. M. Allen
S. B. Sawyer
Geo Hancock

J. Y. Kearnsie
Wm. [Redacted]
Amder
[Redacted]

Jeremiah Ogden
C. F. Compton
A. B. Townsend
G. G. Galloway
W. Darlington

Wm. Raymond
John D. Nash
D. L. [Redacted]
Wm. [Redacted]
J. E. George
W. M. Johnson
J. W. Mansfield
Alexander Coan
A. A. [Redacted]
[Redacted]

A. H. Barnes
James Cole
S. J. [Redacted]
A. B. Brown
J. P. [Redacted]
A. H. [Redacted]
C. [Redacted]

Owen O. [Redacted]
Bro. Alexander
Edwin Goodman

J. B. [Redacted]
W. A. Powers
[Redacted]

Ernst Raven

W. F. Robinson
G. W. Davis

M. C. Dalrymple
L. D. Croxington
M. H. Hill
Lunden Bowser

Got
ad.
James M. Reid
David M. Wilson
W. L. Philips
Thomas Miller
A. B. Slaughter

Jackson Thompson
J. D. M. Gatz
Chas. A. Watson
James W. Hobbs
R. A. Lane
W. H. M. M.

W. H. Miller
H. Springer
S. M. Knight
D. O. Johnson

Jesse C. W. (Stancel)
H. K. [unclear]

D. [unclear]
A. J. [unclear]
G. W. Baker
M. [unclear]
W. [unclear]
E. [unclear]
S. R. [unclear]
W. D. [unclear]

John H. Connor
Jos. B. Shepherd
J. [unclear]
J. [unclear]
Wm. J. Robinson
Jae E. Jones

Jno Otis
W. S. [unclear]
G. Batt
Thos. L. Rutledge
D. A. Williams
D. [unclear]

J. [unclear]
J. J. Johnson
J. [unclear]
Thomas Baker
W. [unclear]

Wm. N. Gray
Joseph Spence
Ed. P. Turner
J. P. de Bernardis
M. H. Kamp

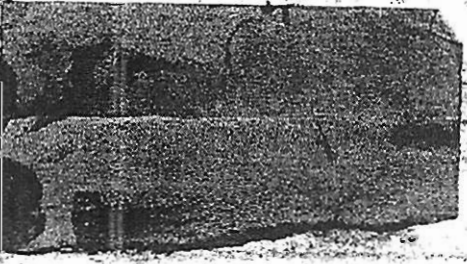
A. M. Laurin
E. M. M. Hall
The Schmitts
Jackson, Hermann

Irish Bishop
Marcus Kuting
F. M. Phaulder
E. M. Darter
J. S. Frayer
E. M. McKenzie
J. W. Lansing

E. W. Goodenough
W. Gibson
J. M. Leannet
J. P. Roub
Gen. H. Todd
W. C. Bengener

Jacob de Stript
A. Campbell, D. Keild

C. H. Cullen
Joe Martin
Walt. M. Alpin
James Browne



E. W. Taylor
E. C. Finemine
W. B. Heald
Wm. H. H. H.

V. S. Saunders
W. L. Roberts

H. P. McGuire
E. M. Prober
M. F. Delly

Alph. Cotton
M. C. Hamilton
J. H. Hayes
William Reynolds
W. B. S. S.

W. L. White
John J. Allan
John P. E. Lewis

OPERATIONS

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR THE GTHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

From Connie Krause & Daniel Bode, Co-Chairs, 2009 Nominations Committee

We will elect members to the Board of Directors at the October 10th Annual Meeting in Round Rock.

Are you willing to serve? Do you know someone else who will serve?

You may make a nomination now by sending us the nominee's name and contact information by September 18 (of course, the person you nominate must agree to be nominated). We will also ask for nominations from the floor at the meeting on Oct. 10th. Volunteer to serve or send nominations of others to:

**GTHS Nominations Committee
P. O. Box 684171
Austin, TX 78768-4171**

**Email: info@germantexans.org
Fax: (512) 482-0636
Phone: (866) 482-4847**

A GTHS BOARD DIRECTOR:

- Must be a member of GTHS
- Is elected to a four-year term
- Serves on one or more committees
- Should actively represent GTHS
- Meets with other directors six times a year (on Saturdays or Sundays) at his or her own expense, usually in Austin at the German Free School

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 10, 2009 MEETING
GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The January 10, 2009 meeting of the German-Texan Heritage Society Board of Directors was called to order at 10:05 a.m. in the German Free School at Austin with GTHS Vice President Connie Krause presiding in the absence of the president. Board members present were Connie Krause, Hubert Heinen, Gerri West, Mary Whigham, Martha Liehse, Carl Luckenbach, John Siemssen, Hans Micklitz, Christina Gilliland and Randy Rupley. Board members absent were Wing Evans, Mary El-Beheri, Daniel Bode. Also present was Eva Barnett, GTHS Executive Director and Charles Locklin, Guild President.

MINUTES OF THE November 9, 2008 MEETING

H. Heinen moved acceptance of the minutes of the board meeting November 9, 2008 as corrected (November minutes omitted Mary El-Beheri as co-chair of Publications Committee and Geri West as interim chair of the Development Committee) and scribed by the Secretary, Mary Whigham.

MOTION WAS APPROVED

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer G. West presented the Morgan Stanley Account values as of 2008 end, and preliminary expense and revenue numbers thru December 31, 2008. Vice President Connie Krause called for acceptance of her report, it was seconded and the **MOTION WAS APPROVED.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director's printed report dated January 10, 2009 was distributed to board members prior to the meeting. Membership renewal for 2009 is steadily increasing. The Operational Fund to date totaled \$18,025, missing the goal of \$20,000 by \$1975. Donations to the 150th Anniversary Club for 2008 were \$29,188, short of the proposed \$50,000. Participation in four Christmas Markets garnered some \$11,550 with final numbers yet to be calculated. German classes in Austin and Brenham are ongoing with classes set for San Antonio, and Fredericksburg to begin in January. A genealogical seminar is in the planning to be held in Waco on March 14 at Trinity Lutheran Church. The travelling exhibit of the internment of German-Americans during WWII is scheduled for showing at the German Free School, February 15 thru the 20th. Underwriting of the \$1500 project stands at \$1290.00 and contributions are still being solicited. The Winter Journal was very late due to editorial delays, delays at the printer and a lost bag of Journals at the post office! **MOTION** to accept report carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Executive Committee continues to work on Advisory Board purpose, guidelines and membership.

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

C. Krause handed out new board members' manuals and will update existing CD. She will work with Mary El-Beheri on the Annual Meeting.

. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

G. West presented the proposed 2009 budget, having been approved by the Executive Committee per motion made at the November board meeting.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Geri West as interim chair reported on current ideas, strategies being considered and asked for input.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Mary Whigham reported no activity, in anticipation of information from strategic planning meeting. Membership committee will be given unrenewed members' names to follow up.

GERMAN FREE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

Charles Locklin, Guild President reported they will have their first meeting next week and will work on adding additional volunteers, will evaluate existing activities as to effort versus return and will establish a better committee structure.

OLD BUSINESS

The report sent from Mary El-Beheri on the annual meeting was reviewed. It was determined that more discussion/review of proposed expenses was necessary and more information will be requested from Mary.

Board member Randy Rupley suggested GTHS's involvement in the upcoming celebration in Austin, "South by Southwest" March 18-22. It was suggested that we host a VIP lounge or provide an area to serve beer and easy food. Randy felt it would be good PR and consolidate contacts with various German entities also participating in the event. Randy will further research opportunities and report..

NEW BUSINESS

Committee assignments were suggested and made with those not being present to be contacted for agreement.

The date for the next two board meetings was set for Sunday, March 8 and Saturday, May 16.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Submitted by Mary Whigham, Secretary

Request for clarification from member Terry Smart:

November 2008 Board Meeting, Election of Officers should have read:

A report from the nominating committee was submitted by Connie Krause indicating there was only one nominee for each of the four positions, existing officers being willing to serve another term. There being no nominations from the floor, President Wing Evans called for a vote to elect those nominated. All officers were re-elected.

Treasurer's Report to the Membership

Gerri Gehman West, Treasurer

This annual financial report will be different from past reports. Previously we have printed actual financial statements, which many readers have told us are too complex and difficult to understand. Therefore, this report will be a narrative of our financial status with relatively few numbers. Any member who wishes to see the 2008 financial statement should contact the GTHS office and we will send you a copy.

As with many other non-profit groups and individuals, 2008 was a year of declining revenues and escalating costs. Our overall revenue was \$175,570 and expenses were \$158,915. The balance forward of \$16,655 consists of funds that have been designated for both the German Free School Endowment and the new Operating Endowment. These are restricted funds and not available for day-to-day operations. We ended the year with an actual operating loss of \$12,630. Thankfully, we had some excess funds from the prior two years to tide us over. During the year, we had to withdraw accumulated interest (part of our budgeted income) from our investments in order to maintain cash flow during the summer months. Additionally, the value of our investments dropped by over \$100,000 due to the global downturn in the economy. Our investments still show an unrealized loss however, the trend is upward, but we still have a lengthy recovery period ahead. We certainly hope that 2009 will represent an improvement over 2008.

Your Board of Directors adopted a budget for 2009 that included financial "stretch targets" of approximately \$30,000, without which we will be unable to balance our budget. These targets include raising funds through corporate and individual sponsorships, advertisements in the Journal, Schulhaus Reporter and Annual Meeting program, increasing Operational Fund support, and other income sources. We are also committed to reducing expenditures while still maintaining our mission of "promoting awareness and preservation of the German cultural heritage of Texas." As you know, the postal rates increased in May and we are looking closely at ways to reduce our mailing costs by communicating to as many members as possible through the Internet. This is just one example of how we are trying to save money and still provide you with quality service.

How can you help GTHS financially to fulfill its mission? Here are some examples:

- 1. Encourage others to join the German-Texan Heritage Society and the German Free School Guild We will be contacting many of you about volunteer opportunities to get the word out about the benefits to be derived by joining**
- 2. Send suggestions for corporate sponsors or advertisers to the GTHS office. This is an opportunity for German-Texan or German/Austrian/Swiss businesses to help us preserve our culture as well as get their name promoted among our membership.**
- 3. Donate funds to help GTHS continue its preservation and awareness activities. Our Annual Operating Fund drive is underway and needs your help. (GTHS is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.)**
- 4. Help us reduce mailing and paper expenses by opting to receive communications through the Internet. If you already have an email address and we do not have it, please provide it to us so you can receive an additional member benefit, our monthly email newsletter, the *E-Kurier*.**



Founded 1978

GTHS and German Free School Guild Calendar of Events - 2009

March

- 8th - GTHS Board Meeting (GFS)
- 8th - Potluck Dinner (GFS)
- 10th - Guild Board Meeting (GFS)
- 14th - German Genealogy Seminar (Waco)
- 15th - Speaker Series (GFS)
- 27th - German Movie Night (GFS)

April

- 14th - Guild Board Meeting (GFS)
- 15th - Schulhaus Reporter deadline
- 17th - German Movie Night (GFS)
- 19th - Speaker Series (GFS)
- 25th - Maifest (GFS)

May

- 1st - Journal Deadline
- 12th - Guild Board Meeting (GFS)
- 16th - GTHS Board Meeting (GFS)
- 17th - Speaker Series (GFS)
- 22th - German Movie Night (GFS)

June

- 6th - Summer Samstagsschule I (GFS)
- 9th - Guild Board Meeting (GFS)
- 15th - Schulhaus Reporter Deadline

July

- 11th - Summer Samstagsschule II (GFS)
- 12th - GTHS Board Meeting (tentative)
- TBA - Volunteer Appreciation Party (GFS)
- 14th - Guild Board Meeting (GFS)

August

- 1st - Journal Deadline
- 11th - Guild Board Meeting (GFS)
- 15th - Schulhaus Reporter Deadline

September

- 8th - Guild Board Meeting (GFS)
- 13th - GTHS Board Meeting (tentative)
- 13th - Potluck (GFS)
- 20th - Speaker Series (GFS)
- 25th - German Movie Night (GFS)
- TBA - German Language Classes (Austin, Brenham, San Antonio, Fredericksburg)

October

- 9-10th - GTHS Annual Meeting (Round Rock, TX)
- 13th - Guild Board Meeting (GFS)
- 15th - Schulhaus Reporter Deadline
- 18th - Speaker Series (GFS)
- TBA - Oktoberfest (GFS - tentative)

November

- 1st - Journal Deadline
- 8th - GTHS Board Meeting (tentative)
- 8th - Potluck (GFS)
- 10th - Guild Board Meeting (GFS)
- 15th - Speaker Series (GFS)

December

- 5th - Christmas Market (GFS)
- 8th - Guild Board Meeting (GFS)
- 15th - Schulhaus Reporter Deadline

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEWS

Seeking German Texan Family Histories

Have you researched your German-Texan family history? Do you have it in an organized format – either a personally typed collection of pages or even a bound published copy? If so, please send a copy to the GTHS office. We are working on developing and expanding our collection of German-Texan surnames and family histories in the GTHS Library as a major resource for Genealogical research. We are looking forward to receiving your Texas family histories.

German-Texan Materials Needed For Educational Website

Over the past seven years, the Texas German Dialect Project (TGDP) has interviewed more than 300 Texas German speakers and archived the recordings in the Texas German Dialect Archive online. They are now also developing a series of educational materials for classroom use, including a Texas German history website. Users will be able to look at a time-line of events relevant to T-G history and click on a year to read more information about a particular event, such as the founding of Boerne or the Austin Saengerrunde. For each historical event there will be primary source materials (and their English translations) in digital format, such as images, newspaper reports, diary entries, letters, minutes of meetings, etc. You can participate by submitting any old pictures (of people, buildings, organizations, etc.), newspapers, letters, diaries, etc. relevant to Texas German history, to the TGDP. Contact them at (512) 279-2462 or texasgermandialect@gmail.com. GTHS is in full support of this exciting project!

Publication Deadlines

June 15 is the deadline for the July/August issue of the Schulhaus Reporter. Send your articles to newsletter@germantexans.org. August 1 is the deadline for submitting articles and event notices for the Fall 2009 issue of the Journal. Send Journal submissions to editor Mary Whigham at mjwhig@texasbb.com.

GTHS & GUILD EVENTS

GTHS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY – Date: TBA - July 18 or 19th

Here at GTHS we rely on our many volunteers to keep this society going. We'd like to show how thankful we are for all that you do at the Volunteer Appreciation Party at the German Free School in Austin. We'll provide something to eat and drink - you just bring yourself and a guest, and relax for a change! It will take place the 3rd weekend in July. The exact date and time are being determined. Check our website at www.germantexans.org for an update, or just call us at 866-482-4847.

GTHS ANNUAL MEETING

The 2009 GTHS Annual Meeting is scheduled for the weekend of October 9-10, 2009 in Round Rock. We're planning a great selection of speakers and entertainment for you! A tentative schedule of events is located at the front of this issue. The final program of speakers, a registration form, and other relevant information will be mailed to all GTHS members in June. Until then, please check our website – www.germantexans.org – for updates.

ONGOING GERMAN FREE SCHOOL EVENTS (in Austin)

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. The next potluck will be held Sunday, September 13. The July potluck date will be used for the Volunteer Appreciation Party (see above).

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. The Speaker Series is taking a break during the summer months and will return in September.

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. German Film Night is taking a break during the summer months and will return in September.

GERMAN LANGUAGE CLASSES

Adult German Language Classes – Austin

Registration is open for the 4-8 week Summer semester of German language classes for adults. Classes offered are: Beginning Conversational German (8 week course) on Wednesdays, May 27 - July 15, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm; Accelerated German (6 week course) on Monday & Wednesdays, June 1 – July 8, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm; German for Travelers (4 week course) on Tuesday & Thursdays, June 2 – 25, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. The cost ranges from \$50-\$90 for GTHS members and \$55-\$100 for non-members. Classes are held at the German Free School, 507 E. 10th St.

Children's German Language Classes – Austin

Registration is open for the Summer semester of Samstagsschule (Saturday School) for children ages 3-13. Two separate 4-week sessions are being offered: June 6 - 27 and July 11 - August 1. Classes run from 9:00 a.m. to noon and are interactive and activity-based, with the focus on learning through creativity and playing. Students of all ability levels are welcome. Each session will be divided into two classes: Vorschule (ages 3-6) and Grund/Mittelschule (ages 7-13). Cost: \$75 for GTHS members and \$85 non-members for one 4-week course; \$135 for members and \$155 for non-members for both sessions. Classes are held at the historic German Free School at 507 E. 10th St. in Austin.

Adult German Language Classes – Brenham

Registration is open for the 6 week summer German I class for adults in Brenham. German I will be held Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, June 10 – July 15. This class emphasizes vocabulary acquisition, simple conversation, and structure of the German language using traditional methods of instruction. The cost is \$50 for GTHS members and \$55 for non-members. The registration deadline is June 1. Class takes place at the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library, 100 Martin Luther King, Jr. Pkwy, Brenham.

Children's German Language Classes – Brenham

Registration is open for the Summer semester of Brenham's Samstagsschule (Saturday School) for children ages 6-12. Two separate 4-week sessions are being offered: June 6 - 27 and July 11 - August 1. Classes run from 9:00 a.m. to noon and are conducted by a native German speaker. Classes will be interactive and activity-based, with learning through traditional methods as well as creativity and playing. Students of all ability levels are welcome. Cost: \$75 for GTHS members and \$85 non-members for one 4-week course; \$135 for members and \$155 for non-members for both sessions. Classes are held at the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library, 100 Martin Luther King, Jr. Pkwy, Brenham.

Children's German Language Classes – San Antonio

Registration is open for the Summer semester of Samstagsschule (Saturday School) for children ages 3-10. One 4-week session is being offered: May 30 – June 20. Classes run from 9:00 a.m. to noon and are conducted by native and/or college educated German speakers. Classes will be interactive and activity-based, with the focus on learning through creativity and playing. Students of all ability levels are welcome. Each session will be divided into two classes: Vorschule (ages 3-5) and Grund/Mittelschule (ages 6-10). Cost: \$75 for GTHS members and \$85 for non-members. Classes are held at St. John's Lutheran Church, 502 E. Nueva St. in downtown San Antonio.

Visit www.germantexans.org for detailed class descriptions and registration forms. Questions? Contact programs@germantexans.org. The next 12 week semester begins in early September. Additional classes may be offered in September in Fredericksburg, Killeen, and Round Rock.

VOLUNTEERING

As a small non-profit organization with limited staff, volunteers are the backbone of the German-Texan Heritage Society. Here are some of the many ways you can get involved!

Events - Our special events require a large number of volunteers for: planning, set up, selling tickets, organizing kids activities, gift shop sales, serving food, and pouring beer in the Biergarten.

We currently need helpers for:

- 1). Planning our Oktoberfest/20th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall. Contact Eva Barnett at eva@germantexans.org for more information.
- 2). Helping to prepare the imported German Christmas crafts order. Contact Wing Evans at ewing-kevans@cs.com for more information.
- 3). Annual Meeting - volunteer to help with our yearly convention being held in Round Rock October 9-10, 2009. Contact Mary El-Beheri at melb@satx.rr.com for more information.

Office - GTHS operates with a small staff. Volunteers are needed for a variety of office tasks, including database entry, bank deposits, filing, organizing, printing brochures, etc.

We currently need helpers for:

- 1). Office Assistant - volunteer once a week for about 4 hours for general office duties.
- 2). Photo sorting - arrange all electronic photos into folders.
- 3). Inventory of Building Contents - create a simple database for insurance purposes.

For all of the above, contact Eva Barnett at eva@germantexans.org for more information.

Garden - The German Free School is endowed with four terraces of lovely gardens filled with a variety of heirloom plants - featuring several named by German botanists such as Lindheimer.

We currently need helpers for:

- 1). Garden upkeep - assist our gardener in keeping up the German Free School gardens.
- 2). Flower pot watering - stop by once a week or so to fill up the potted plant watering devices.

For all of the above, contact Susan Kenzle at skenzel@austin.rr.com for more information.

Programs - In Austin we offer German Language Classes, a monthly Speaker Series, and our monthly German Film Night. Statewide programs consist of German Language Classes and occasional members gatherings.

We currently need helpers for:

- 1). German Film Night - help set up, make popcorn, select films. Contact Eva Barnett at eva@germantexans.org for more information.
- 2). Become a Docent - learn about the history of the German Free School and become a building docent. Contact Helga von Schweinitz at helgavs@aol.com for more information.
- 3). Speakers - submit suggestions for future speakers. Contact Karen Morgan at svnorsk@austin.rr.com for more information.

The Future - We invite newcomers to join us in our mission of preserving and promoting the German culture, and welcome interested individuals in becoming active leaders in our organization.

We currently need helpers for:

- 1). Board of Directors - help steer the future of GTHS. Board nominations are open now. Election in October.
 - 2). Bierkeller planning - help us get a small German pub started at our headquarters in Austin.
- For all of the above, contact Eva Barnett at eva@germantexans.org for more information.

GTHS WISH LIST

In order to keep our expenses down, we are open to receiving donations of items we would otherwise have to purchase. Currently, we are seeking the following items: 2 two-line phones, flat screen monitor, color laser printer, 2-drawer file cabinet, 2 armless task chairs, desk lamp, microfilm viewer, brochure holders/display racks, German satellite TV subscription, 4 channel mixer/amplifier, microphones (wired and wireless), wall mount speakers, coat rack, off-site storage unit, gently used toys and games for Samstagsschule. If you are able to donate any of the above, please contact Eva Barnett at eva@germantexans.org.

OTHER GROUPS' ACTIVITIES**Children's Summer German Language Camp in New Braunfels**

The German American Society is sponsoring a Children's Summer German Language Camp for children ages 6 to 13. The classes run from June 8 to June 19. Three classes are scheduled - beginners, intermediate, and advanced, depending on enrollment. The first class runs from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, and the second class runs from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. The classes will be at Heritage Park on Churchill Drive in an old schoolhouse with beautiful grounds. The tuition for one child is \$75 for the two weeks and for two children the price is \$135. The children are taught in a variety of modes including games, songs, and drama. The classes usually fill up quickly, so if you wish for your children or grandchildren to enroll, please call Diane Moltz at 660-0437 or 620-6787.

GERMAN-TEXAN INTERESTS

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

German Language Ability:

- Beg Int
- Adv Fluent

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

HERZLICH WILLKOMMEN

OFFICE HOURS

Mon, Wed, Fri - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

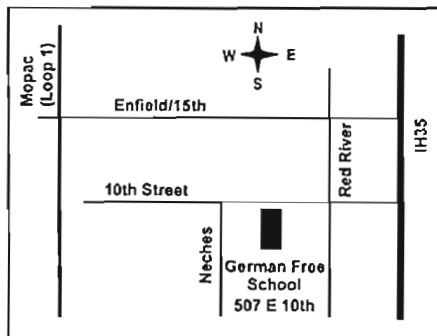
TOUR & LIBRARY HOURS

Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri - 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

OR BY APPOINTMENT.

Please call for group tour and
handicapped access info.

Metered parking during regular
business hours on E. 10th Street.



GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

507 E. 10TH STREET
AUSTIN, TX 78701

MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 684171
AUSTIN, TX 78768-4171

TOLL FREE 1-866-482-GTHS (4847)
TEL 512-482-0927
FAX 512-482-0636

email: info@GermanTexans.org



www.GermanTexans.org

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS	GTHS & Guild	GTHS Only
Life Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$750	—
Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	—
Family (2+ at same address)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 40	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25
Student (w/ valid ID)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 30	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15
Institution/Library	—	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Operational Fund Donation \$ _____		
GTHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.		

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip+4 _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

How did you find us? _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

CHECK MASTERCARD/VISA

CREDIT CARD # _____

EXP. DATE _____ V-code _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Please make checks payable to **GTHS**. If you pay by credit card, please sign this form. Complete this form (front & back) and mail along with your payment to:

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

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.

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.

ADVISORY BOARD

TEDDY BOEHM, Brenham
CHARLES KALTEYER, Austin
RODNEY KOENIG, Houston
MICHAEL KRAUSE, New Braunfels
VAN MASSIRER, Crawford - liaison to GTHS Board
HANS MICKLITZ, San Antonio
ROBERT NEELY, Bellville

HELGARD SUHR-HOLLIS, New Braunfels
CHARLES THOMPSON, Houston
MATTHEW TIPPENS, Spring
HELGA VON SCHWEINITZ, Austin
JIM WEST, Austin
HENRY WOLFF, Victoria
LINDA WOLFF, Victoria

BOOK REVIEW EDITORS

Gail Folkins and Kevin Mitchell

GTHS LIBRARIAN

PAM TABORSKY, Austin

GENEALOGY EDITOR

LIZ HICKS, Houston

Send inquiries or responses for family history information to Liz Hicks at 746 Edgebrook Drive, Houston, TX 77034-2030 or email to erootrot@usa.net

JOURNAL EDITOR

MARY WHIGHAM, Brenham

WHERE DO YOU SEND THINGS FOR THE JOURNAL?

Send materials for the *Journal* (announcements, articles, news of reunions, clippings, and other information) to: GTHS *Journal*, c/o Mary Whigham, 16100 McCraven School Rd, Washington, TX 77880-5008 or email to: mjwhig@texasbb.com.

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING MATERIALS TO THE JOURNAL?

NEXT ISSUE

FALL (SEPTEMBER 2009)
WINTER (DECEMBER 2009)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

August 1, 2009
November 1, 2009

POLICY STATEMENT

Materials sent for *The Journal* will not be returned. All materials must include the contributor's name, a source and a date. All submitted manuscript articles must be typed single-spaced on 8 ½ x 11" white paper with right, left, top, and bottom margins no less than .7 inches. Electronic versions are preferred. Newspaper clippings should NOT be cropped closely. This can be done more accurately with our computer. All German materials must be accompanied by an English text. All submissions will be reviewed by the *Journal* editor and the Publications Committee. They have the right and responsibility to refuse materials that may not be in accordance with GTHS policies. The German-Texan Heritage Society, its volunteer *Journal* editors and its paid office staff are not responsible for errors or misinformation in submitted articles. All editors are volunteers, and are not paid for their services.

GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

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Austin, TX 78768-4171

www.GermanTexans.org

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