

# THE JOURNAL



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**OUR 100th EDITION**



## GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

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### A note from your editor:

We are proud to welcome sponsors to each *Journal* as we celebrate our 100th publication. All sponsorships will appear at the front of the *Journal*. A sponsorship form is at the back of this publication. Send us your information and we will gladly format it for you.

We are also proud to announce that indexes for the *Journal* from 1979 through 1990 and 1991 through 2000 are currently available on one CD. Our indexer par excellence Marcella Chapple continues with this labor of love. The Index is formatted :

Abel, Adolph Heinrich VII-1 p.66 1985  
Spring

and is in an 2003 Excel and PDF format on the same disc. To order a CD, send your request to your editor, Mary Whigham, 16100 McCraven School Road, Washington, TX 77880 with your mailing address and a check for \$5.00 made payable to GTHS, for handling.



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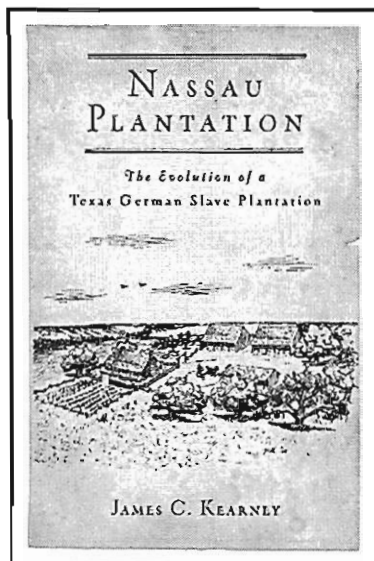
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BY JAMES C. KEARNEY

368 pp. 19 b&w illus.

Hardcover \$32.95

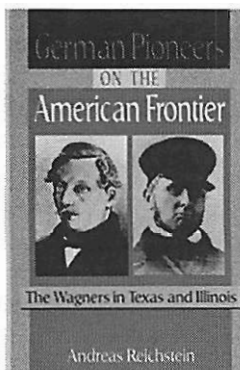
In the 1840s an organization of German noblemen, the *Mainzner Adelsverein*, attempted to settle thousands of German emigrants on the Texas frontier. Nassau Plantation, located near modern-day Round Top, Texas, in northern Fayette County, was a significant part of this story. James C. Kearney has studied a wealth of original source material (much of it in German) to illuminate the history of the plantation and the larger goals and motivation of the *Adelsverein*. This new study highlights the problematic relationship of German emigrants to slavery. Few today realize that the society's original colonization plan included ownership and operation of slave plantations. Ironically, the German settlements the society later established became hotbeds of anti-slavery and anti-secessionist sentiment.

## German Pioneers on the American Frontier

*The Wagners in Texas and Illinois*

BY ANDREAS REICHSTEIN  
288 pp. 26 b&w illus. 6 maps.  
Hardcover \$32.95

This is a case study of two brothers, Julius and Wilhelm Wagner, who immigrated to the United States in the mid-nineteenth century. Reichstein, the author of the award-winning *Rise of the Lone Star*, discusses their family history within the debate about assimilation and acculturation. "It has so much to offer those of us interested in German-American heritage and, more particularly, German-Texan heritage."—*Victoria Advocate*

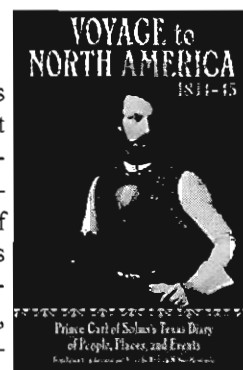


## Voyage to North America, 1844-45

*Prince Carl of Solms's Texas Diary  
of People, Places, and Events*

BY WOLFRAM M. VON-MASZEWSKI  
256 pp. 4 b&w illus. 11 maps.  
Hardcover \$32.50

Carl, Prince of Solms-Braunfel, was the key figure in the largest and most unusual single immigration of Germans to the United States. In his personal diary he wrote daily records of personal contacts with Texas officials and important citizens, numerous Germans of all stations already in Texas, and occasional Indian bands. He described the extent and nature of his daily travels and, when warranted, included descriptions of the region or the city or settlement, particularly the German settlements.



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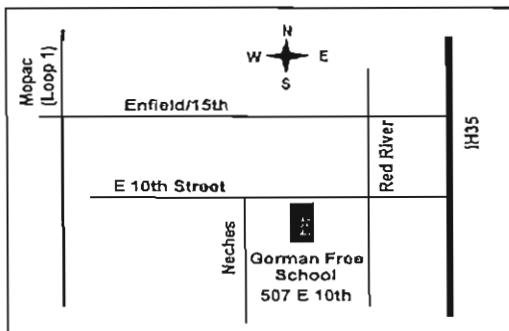
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Save the Date!



**2010 Annual Meeting  
Fredericksburg  
September 24 – 25**

The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the German-Texan Heritage Society will take place in Fredericksburg, TX at Zion Lutheran Church.

The schedule is being finalized, but the committee has promised us genealogy sessions plus the history of the Fredericksburg area and tours of private homes. We know this will be a popular destination for the meeting and expect a crowd. You will receive further information and registration in the summer but want you to **'Save the Date'**.



# THE JOURNAL OF THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY VOLUME XXXII, NUMBER 1, SPRING 2010 OUR 100TH JOURNAL

Wir  
haben  
schon  
vieles  
erreicht!

"Zur Erhaltung der deutschen Tradition"



GERMAN - TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER  
Volume I, Number I, January, 1979

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**\*Thanks to Theresa Gold for her reminder and for saving all those Journals! The Society continues because of the participation of its members. And we continue on the next page:**



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Vielen Dank to these contributors  
Rodney Koenig, Houston  
Ron Hunka, Austin  
Charles Clinger, Austin  
James Harkins, GLO, Austin  
Mary Whigham, Washington  
Scott Baird, San Antonio  
Gail Folkins, Austin  
Daniel Bode, Dayton  
Minnie Backhaus Schlortt, Knippa  
Annette Citzler, La Grange  
Pamela Taborsky, Austin  
Angelina Genzer Kretzchmar, San Antonio  
W. Von-Maszewski  
Jean Warneke, Austin  
Clarence Scheel, Garden Ridge

## *In Memoriam*



Margaret Grace Wright, 77, of Houston, formerly Baytown was born March 4, 1932 in Baytown and passed away Tuesday, January 26, 2010 in a Houston hospital. She was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Houston, the Texas German Society and the Houston Saengerbund. She enjoyed singing and traveled all over the world with various choirs.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Fred Sr. and Marie Hans and sister, Lillian Vestal and is survived by her brothers and sisters-in-law, Fred Curtis Hans, Jr. of Baytown, Milton Glenn and Grace Hans of Highlands and Gordon and Sonja Hans of Baytown; sister and brother-in-law, Juanita and Billie D. McClendon of Amarillo; and numerous nieces and nephews, including Tisha A. Rackley of Baytown.

Her family will receive friends at Navarre Funeral Home Friday from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Funeral services will be Saturday, January 30, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at Navarre Funeral Home with Rev. Donald Black officiating. Burial will follow at San Jacinto Memorial Park in Houston.

Serving as pallbearers will be Garrett Rackley, Adam Hans, Richard Hans, Steve Mueller, Darren Rackley and Pat Greever.

In lieu of usual remembrances, contributions may be made to Trinity Lutheran Church Downtown, 800 Houston Ave., Houston, TX 77007, [www.trinitydt.org](http://www.trinitydt.org) or The American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718, [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

Arrangements are under the direction and personal care of Navarre Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 2444 Rollingbrook Dr., Baytown, TX, 77521 (281) 422-8111.



## President's Notes

100 *Journals* and counting can only signal the ongoing success of this fine organization. I get to see first hand the participation of you, the members, as I put together the *Journal* each quarter and meet with your board of directors every two months. None of us has to do this but we do because we are committed to the preservation of our German culture and heritage.



I always knew that Rodney Koenig was a king among men, but have since learned that there is a Schuetzenkoenig crowned each year in Round Top! Our Maifest held at the German Free School last year was voted the most authentic by those attending who had gone to others before ending up at ours. I learned of a group of "freethinkers" in the area of Texas where my grandparents and parents were living at the time! Did my grandfather really have those leanings?

Stories of the German emigration to America are full of heroism, dogged determination to survive and a desire to continue the best of what was German, i.e. love of music, commitment to the education of the next generation, freedom of worship, a possibility of a better life and self determination. (I can't forget the love of good food!). Many of you have shared your family's story and I hope many more will do so.

As a member, don't be a silent member. Let us hear from you. Send us your story. Help us start a German class in your area. Let us know when there is an event in your community that we should be participating in. Start a local luncheon group to hone your German language. Be a reporter for the Schulhaus Reporter, sending interesting articles or reporting on events that continue the German culture in Texas. Help us increase membership by telling interested individuals about us. There is a membership form in the back of this publication for your use.

On page 13 is an article that surely will result in responses about your experience with "schnitzel." I look forward to hearing from you and encourage you to come by the German Free School and poke through our Trenckmann Library. Plan to bring a friend to the Maifest scheduled for May 8th. Send me your articles and ideas about what you would like to see in the *Journal* or ideas about what we should be focusing on. This is your organization and we embrace a statewide focus. We plan to be at the German festival in Tomball March 26-28 so watch for the schedule of happenings for that event in your Schulhaus Reporter and/or E-Kurier. Volunteer to help us man a table with our goods to sell and enjoy an afternoon of German camaraderie. How many of you will attend Saengerfest 2010 on April 11, 2010, in the La Villita Assembly Hall, beginning at 1:30 pm. in San Antonio? Can you pass out information about GTHS? Our annual meeting will be in Fredericksburg September 24, 25 so mark your calendars. And then there is Oktoberfests across the state. These are great opportunities to solicit new members.

Looking forward to your participation and to hearing from you...*Mary*

## LEAVE YOUR GERMAN MARK

By Rodney C. Koenig (past President of GTHS)



Recently one of our Houston Saengerbund members, Paul Beck (1921-2009), age 88, from Medford, Massachusetts, died in Houston. On first meeting this quiet unassuming man, one would not guess that he was the donor of the Marie Barbara Beck Building at the Salvation Army's Family Residence Center and the donor of the Paul Beck Building at the Salvation Army's Harbor Lights Center, as well as the donor of the Andreas Beck Unit at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Paul summered in Massachusetts and wintered in Houston. He loved attending Houston Saengerbund (where we spoke German with him) and Sons of Herman functions. During his working career, he was a merchant seaman, primarily a radio operator, was not married and had no children. He lived modestly and usually rode the bus. He volunteered for the Salvation Army and hearing of one of their capital campaigns, he decided to assist the Salvation Army by donating some of his treasure to build a dormitory for needy and homeless men, which is the Paul Beck Building. His remaining estate passes to ten local and national charities. Paul Beck left his German Mark in a very special way. Saengerbund men sang at his Memorial Service at the Harbor Lights Center Chapel on December 1, 2009.

There are numerous financial ways to Leave Your German Mark, most of which have tax advantages, either income tax or estate tax or both:

1. Outright Bequest. Give a specific dollar amount (such as \$25,000), a specific asset (all of my Exxon stock), or a percentage (such as 25% of my estate) to German-Texan Heritage Society – GTHS in your Will.
2. Residuary Bequest. Give all remaining estate (or 25% of remaining estate) after certain family gifts are made in your Will.
3. Contingent Bequest. A gift is made in your Will only if certain conditions exist. For example, "If my spouse does not survive me, I give all of my estate to GTHS."
4. Retirement Fund Gift. In this case you name GTHS as beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k), 403(b), SEP or other retirement or profit sharing plan. This is beneficial from an income and estate tax perspective.
5. Life Insurance. You can name GTHS as sole beneficiary or as one beneficiary of your life insurance or accidental death policy.
6. Gift of Home or Ranch. In this arrangement, you make a present gift of the remainder interest in your home or your farm and ranch to GTHS, reserving a life estate until your death. This is what Dr. Kelly H. Stevens did with his home, The German Free School in Austin, Texas.

How will you leave your German mark? Paul Beck gave during his lifetime and hence he saw the benefits he was conferring and received a "Thank You" from the Salvation Army and M.D. Anderson Cancer Center during his lifetime. For help, call Rodney C. Koenig at (713) 651-5333, or email me at [rkoenig@fulbright.com](mailto:rkoenig@fulbright.com). Any board member will also be pleased to speak with you and help.



## **Genealogy Inquiries: Liz Hicks, Genealogy Editor**

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

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



**HENRYES:** Jean Shroyer, 108 High Plains Trail, Spicewood, TX 78669-8648, [TXJean@aol.com](mailto:TXJean@aol.com), is seeking the place of birth for Johanson Augusta/August Henryes who became naturalized in DeWitt Co., TX circa 1860 time frame, married ca. 1855 Lavinia Margaret Austin born Feb., 1838 Rutherford Co., TN. She was the daughter of Owen Edward Austin and Telitha Jane Covington. The mother of Johanson A. Henryes named Johanna Henryes remained in Germany. A daughter of Johanson and Lavinia was also named Johanna Elizabeth "Josie", who married John Baker Gentry. Will share data on this family in Texas.

**JUNG:** Robert L. Feuge, 45 Sedona View Dr., Sedona, AZ 86336-6140, [fritz@npgcable.com](mailto:fritz@npgcable.com). Some of my German relatives (Johann Martin Jung) came to Galveston on the Brig Georg Dilius December 30, 1845 with his family. The ship sailed from Bremen, but I do not know when it left. Johann died in New Braunfels, Aug. 24, 1846, and is buried there. What cemetery, plot number and cause of death?

**Reply:** The ss "Georg Dilius" sailed from Bremen Sept. 21, 1845, arriving Galveston November 25, 1845 with 140 passengers. Source is "A New Land Beckoned" by Geue. A search of published Comal Co. cemetery records did not list a Johann M. Jung. However, in "History of New Braunfels and Comal County, TX 1844-1946" by Oscar Haas, "Recorded Deaths of 1845-1846...registered by Pastor Ervendberg in the local Church records.... Joh. Martin Jung, age 54, native of Nassau, buried New Braunfels Cemetery. Since he did not show up in the published cemetery records, I'm guessing Johann M. Jung's tombstone does not survive. Possibly, Sexton records for the NB Cemetery would give cause of death and plat of buried within the cemetery. A further investigation of the church records might yield some of the information you seek.

**HENRY PFLUGER FAMILY:** Kent Bohls, P.O. Box R, Bastrop, TX 78602, [kentbohls@gmail.com](mailto:kentbohls@gmail.com). Henry Pfluger was born in 1803 Altenhasungen. His first wife, Catherine Liessee died mid 1840's. He then married Anna Christina Kleinschmidt who came with him to Texas. Sons, George and Conrad came in 1849, and Henry and Anna came later w/their children, Catherine, Marine, Ludwig, William and Jenry Jr. Unsure if John born Jan. 6, 1851 was born in Germany or on board ship. Are there ships lists which show ships leaving in the fall of 1849 and arriving in Jan., 1850?

**Reply:** Additional information indicated Henry/Heinrich Pfluger came before 1852 as he bought land in Travis Co., and a daughter was born there the same year. Some of the German Newspapers in Germany may give name of ship, captain's name, departure date, and destination in Indianola. I have seen Hamburg Passenger Lists that give destination as Indianola. The Texas Port of Indianola was destroyed at least once by a hurricane destroying the passenger lists as well. Some lists have been compiled and reconstructed. I have searched the Hamburg Passenger Lists, New Orleans, Galveston, and the series, "Germans to America" without any luck. I would try to find an obit for Henry and all his German born children as may indicate when and where (departure date, port of entry). One interesting note: Henry was not granted his citizenship until August, 1859 Travis Co. How was he able to buy land in 1852 while not yet a citizen?

**KLATT:** Gail Ferguson, 532 CR 420A, Comanche, TX 76442, [txfarmboy35@yahoo.com](mailto:txfarmboy35@yahoo.com), needs place of birth for F. Wilhelm Klatt born Feb. 8, 1837, Posen, Prussia. He died April 23, 1950 in Washington Co., TX. No obit has been found for him. No passenger list found to date.

**Reply:** A check of Church records gave the information Gail sought. Frederick "William" Klatt was from Schokken. Check [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), click on search records, then library catalog, then place search, to see if LDS have microfilmed the parish records of this town. The records should be in German even though this is now part of Poland. A check of various Passenger Lists did not turn up one for Herr Klatt. Not all Passenger Lists survive.

**KUMPEL/KUEMPEL:** Richard Vorwek, [richardvorwerk@hotmail.com](mailto:richardvorwerk@hotmail.com), Is trying to find a baptism record for family members in Austin before German churches were established. His time frame is 1853-1875.

**Reply:** Gethesemane Lutheran (Swedish) was the first Lutheran Church in Austin, But do not have the information sought. My Richter-Klein marriage was found in The Methodist Church records as there was not a Lutheran Church in Austin when they Married. Possibly, the same thing happened for your Kumpels. Try writing to Texas Lutheran University in Seguin, Attn: Archivist, to see if they can assist you with places to look. It is possible, St. Mary's Catholic would be an option? Also, maybe there was a re-baptism at a later date? Texas Catholic Archives, 8900 Shoal Creek Blvd., Suite 103, Austin, TX, (512) 476-6296. The German Austin newspapers would be worth a look for possible mention of baptism: Vorwärts, Jan. 6, 1871; Texas Staats-Bulletin Dec. 11, 1874; Nov. 17, 1875. Check with UT's Center for American History for other sources.

**PAMER-HEILE-STEHLER:** Rosemarie Foord, 551 Oxford Ave., Akron, OH 44310, [ae546@hotmail.com](mailto:ae546@hotmail.com), is researching the family of Mike Pamer, born 1878 Gyorkony, Hungary. He came with a brother and a sister to akron, Ohio in 1901. Mike married 1913 Julia Stehle, had two children: Mary Elizabeth b. 1914, and a son, born 1916. What happened to the children? Daughter, Mary Elizabeth only appears with her father on the 1920 and 1930 censuses in Akron. There is a Julia Stehle and an Elizabeth Heil(e) who grew up in Texas. In the 1890's these settled in Goliad County (the Heiles) and Refugio and Gonzales counties (the Stehles). Is there someone who has information on these two girls and missing son of Mike and Julia Pamer?

**Reply:** Can someone help with information on the Stehles and Heiles of Texas?

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Hints from Liz:**

1. Helpful website: <http://texashistory.unt.edu> The Portal to Texas History

2. After nearly a decade of scanning, indexing, and other behind-the-scenes work by DAR members and employees, the Daughters of the American Revolution is pleased to announce the availability of the DAR Genealogical Research System on our public website. Here are the direct links:

> [http://www.dar.org/library/online\\_research.cfm](http://www.dar.org/library/online_research.cfm) or [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org)  
> <<http://www.dar.org/>> (and click on the Library button at the top,  
> then the second tab in the left-hand column).

3. Have found the following site most useful. One can create a calendar for any year in the past. Sometimes obituaries indicate that someone died "last Thursday" in a year 75 years ago. With a calendar for that year you will know the specific date.

<http://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/generate.htm>



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## 150<sup>th</sup> Club Update

Our goal for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Club started in October, 2007 was to raise \$150,000, to be split evenly among the Statewide Outreach Program, an Operating Endowment, and German Free School Renovations. By the end of 2009, the end of the program, we had pledges totaling \$82,487.76 and have collected to date \$66,648.76. Our thanks to those participating and we will be working on the bronze plaque to be hung at the German Free School.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUILDING OF  
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*Volunteers publish our Journal and the Schulhaus Reporter. Our office volunteers help the staff keep up with all the administrative work. Volunteers run the Annual Meeting, Maifest, Oktoberfest and the Christmas Market. They manage our library, our speaker series, our weekly Open House & Stammtisch and our potlucks. They represent GTHS at functions across the state. Our GTHS Board, Advisory Board and German Free School Guild Board consist of volunteers who give their time and expertise to set a course for this fine organization. We are extremely grateful to each and every one of you for your participation in the Society and your dedication to our mission. Thank You! Please let us know if we have inadvertently left you off of a list....*

# Book Review by Ron Hunka

## *German and Germans: Not-so-serious Reflections*

By Helga von Schweinitz

2009

ISBN 978-0-9744590-1-1

\$10.00

*German and Germans* is Helga's second book about intriguing aspects of the German language and culture, based on her column, "Helga's Corner", in the German Texan Heritage Society's *Schulhaus Reporter*. Once again, this work demonstrates Helga's gift for insightful, interesting linguistic and cultural observation.

Although this book is instructive in German, unlike some tedious textbooks, it is composed mainly of warm musings about German language and customs. Frequently utilizing memories of relatives in Germany and sometimes recalling hardships during and after the war, Helga's anecdotes elucidate German word derivations and meanings. One example is the infinitive "schieben", meaning "to push".

In the days of the Black Market, after the war, Helga writes that her Uncle Willie was "ein guter Schieber"—meaning that he was a skilled Black Market barterer. For instance, she explains, he once obtained warm socks for her in exchange for a bag of cigarette butts she picked up off the streets. Likely, this is a word association that the reader will remember.

Elsewhere, Helga demonstrates how faulty word selection can lead the non-native speaker astray, due to slight distinctions in connotation of which he or she is unaware. An example in the book is the word "friend", which the English speaker would usually translate as "Freund". But the German term actually implies something along the lines of a "very good" or "dear" friend, not merely an acquaintance. Usually, I use the term "Freundin" to refer to my wife's and my very good German, female friend in Rhode Island. (Perhaps the person with whom I am speaking understands that I am not referring to my "girlfriend".)

Once, on a web page about Melk Abbey in Austria, I read an interesting article, skillfully translated from German to English. However, there was a small flaw. In describing a fire at the monastery in the Middle Ages, the translator meant to convey that the church and many of the outer buildings were destroyed. Amusingly, however, for the latter term, the writer chose the word "outhouses".

Helga's book might be read to refine one's German or, equally as appropriately, just as an enjoyable experience, courtesy of a keen observer and always interesting writer about German language and custom.

The book also includes comprehension exercises. But, as its author notes, it can be read with or without them. Non-native speakers among us might also employ the exercises for brushing up prior to that next trip to Germany.

*German and Germans*  
(Ich bin am lesen)  
by Gail Folkins, Book  
Review Co-Editor

Those interested in learning about German culture through idioms such as *Fahrt ins Blaue* (destination unknown) or *Benimm dich* (behave yourself) will benefit from *German and Germans*, a collection of GTHS docent Helga von Schweinitz's popular "Helga's Corner" columns paired with written exercises.

The book, the author's second, blends her trademark humor with helpful vocabulary practice for those seeking to improve their German. The essays are suitable for a broad audience, while the exercises, consisting of fill-in-the-blanks focusing on vocabulary terms from each essay, are crafted for those with some knowledge of German.

Helga's blend of essays and exercises provides an entertaining journey that is also productive, introducing the reader to everyday phrases such as *Ich bin am lesen* (I'm reading, implying at this very moment). The reader also learns to express utter bliss through *Ich bin ja so selig*, and gains a new party idea with *eine kalte Platte* (a cold plate with special breads, meats, and cheeses).

Helga von Schweinitz grew up in Herford Germany, and is a Texan by choice. She studied at American and German universities and graduated Phi Beta Kappa. With publications in English and German, she spends her time as a teacher, translator, editor, and investor in the mortgage market. She also volunteers much of her time to GTHS as a research specialist. *German and Germans* is available at the GTHS gift shop for \$10 (plus tax), or directly from the author at [helgavs@aol.com](mailto:helgavs@aol.com)



## **Book Review** by Gail Folkins, GTHS Book Review Co-Editor

### *Man of Two Worlds* Reveals Insights of Those Who Stayed Behind

*Man of Two Worlds*, by Ray Grasshoff, creates an intriguing twist on an immigration story by revealing the perspective of family members who stayed in Germany. Through family letters received by Wilhelm Friedrich Kempe and his sister Auguste, both of whom came to Austin County, Texas in 1854 while they were in their 20s, Grasshoff shares a family split between German tradition and the American dream.

As Wilhelm Kempe's great-great grandson, Grasshoff took a special interest in these family letters, which he researched from photocopies of the original letters along with translations made in the 1960s. The original letters, as Grasshoff explains in the book's preface, were likely lost or destroyed. Even the photocopies, in many cases, were illegible. Nonetheless, Grasshoff was able to have those of slightly better quality translated again, resulting in several new findings.

Once Wilhelm and his sister Auguste arrived in Texas, they each married within a few years; Wilhelm also applied for U. S. citizenship. States Grasshoff, "Clearly there was no turning back for them. Not only had they left their homeland physically, but spiritually and emotionally as well." Following the Civil War, which saw Wilhelm serving in the Midwest (for Union or Confederate forces isn't clear), he regains contact with his widowed father, August, and younger sister, Bertha, both of whom remain in Sayda, Germany.

In many of these letters, the distance between family members is a frequent topic. "I wish we would not live so far apart," August writes to his son Wilhelm in January 1871. This is a particularly moving letter considering August's response to the news of daughter Auguste's untimely death at age 36, possibly from yellow fever. "We could come and visit you," the elder August continues. "Bertha keeps talking about it, but I am an old man and cannot make such a hard trip any more, even so I am longing to see you."

Later that summer, Bertha, Wilhelm's sister, chides Wilhelm for not coming to visit them. Complicating family matters is Alwin, August's youngest son, who wants no part of running the family farm in Germany. Alwin, meanwhile, writes Wilhelm for advice about immigrating from Germany to America. As Grasshoff notes, Alwin "seeks Wilhelm's intervention in the ongoing battle of wills he has with his father."

In 1879, after 25 years away from Germany, Wilhelm arranges a visit to his family there. Through a series of letters to his wife, Frederike, who remains in Texas, Wilhelm talks about visiting family and relatives in Germany along with his renewed perspective on home. "There is only one Germany with its beautiful country and buildings. But the people changed. Everywhere you go they seem to live just to enjoy life and its luxuries." Wilhelm describes his appreciation for the "quieter and simpler" life he shares with his family in America.

Throughout *Man of Two Worlds*, Grasshoff's combination of German-Texan history, family research, and welcome interpretations of the letters create a fresh, compelling, and moving version of the immigration story.

*Man of Two Worlds* by Ray Grasshoff is available at the German Free School, Amazon.com, or can be purchased and previewed at: <http://stores.lulu.com/grasshoff>

# Outreach

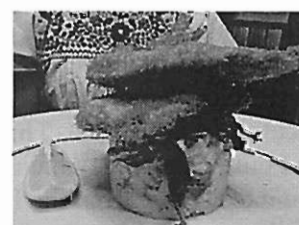
Editor's Note: I was alerted to the following website and thought it might be a nice focus for several *Journals*. I encourage each of you who know something about Schnitzel to put in your two cents worth. Stephen Block, the originator of the website has kindly let me reproduce his musings on the history of Schnitzel and promises one on Chicken Fried Steak.

"OF course Mary, I am extremely proud to be a part. There is such a proud sector of German-Americans in Texas. This is meaningful to me because my large German family hid their German heritage when WW2 broke out and were afraid of being called Nazi's. So memories and mementos were evaporating due to they thought no one cared and they were kind of ashamed. That is a large reason I did the website and book, to make sure what was left got preserved.

I live in Palm Springs here and we had the big film festival here this last week. It is one of the biggest in the world now. My goodness you should see the lines of folks that go. You would think they were standing in line for Avatar."

Discover German-American heritage, recipes and culture .

<http://www.kitchenproject.com/german/>



Schnitzel..... What a cool name.

It really is a great depiction of how stimulating the Germanic languages are a part of our lexicon. I think the rap artist Snoop Dog co-opted a form of the word which he uses all the time, "Shizel" just because it sounds cool.



Otto Von Schnitzel

The word Schnitzel is cute too! I have known folks that have named their dogs ..."Schnitzel", granted most were Dachshunds. The word Schnitzel is believed to come from the word "der Schnitz" which means a slice or a cut. Similarly Schneider means a tailor. (Because he is a cutter, of fabric)

A popular bread that uses the word is Schnitzbrot, often with "slices" of apple or pear and other dried fruits and nuts for the Christmas season.

2 other recipes of note that use a similar word is Mandelschnitten and Schneiderflecken which means tailor scraps. It is a pastry my grandmother made from scraps of dough.

Enough on this cool word, now to the meat of the subject. The origin of Schnitzel is not really German. The idea of tenderizing a piece of tough meat by pounding it is evident in the oldest relics of the history of man. However the Romans left evidence of refinement of a thin slice of meat dredged in breading and fried in the 1 century BC by Apicus. You know the guy that we know of that wrote the first cookbook. Roman armies brought their culinary skills up to the Germanic countries.





In the middle ages records show it to be a very popular dish in both Northern Italy and what is Austria now, and the common meat was veal. I found this interesting, didn't they have animal rights groups then? From what I read, they were not raised in crates or battery cages, and by the way for the most part aren't anymore. Reading in my food history books I couldn't really get a definitive answer, just that it was maybe easier not to graze and feed it, and it was readily available as soon as it is weaned and a decent size. In Northern Italy this dish goes back to a banquet given in 1134 for the canon of Milan's St. Ambrogio Cathedral, a dish that was served called Cotoletta alla Milanese, that was similar to the Austrian Schnitzel but it was a veal chop pounded and breaded and served with lemon. As you can see below it had a bone in it and the Austrian version is boneless.



The term Wiener Schnitzel goes back to at least 1862 and is said that a famous Austrian general that spent much time close to Milan, introduced it.

Veal of course became the standard for Wiener schnitzel and in Austria you legally MUST use veal to call it that. However throughout Austria Schnitzel is made and sold using beef, pork, and chicken as well as veal.

From Figlmüllers restaurant in Vienna (Wien). They say the coating is so important on the schnitzel but also the coat on the waiter that serves you. Every Schnitzel is served with tux and tails to your table. At Figlmüllers they go into all the steps to making the biggest and finest Schnitzel they believe in Austria. They show pictures of what kind of home made bread crumbs they use and the Rose of the Pork loin. The Schnitzel goes into 4 different pans to achieve the right crispiness. I looked through their menu and didn't see a Schnitzel made with veal. Schnitzels are served traditionally with German potato salad, I noticed in Vienna they call it Erdapfelsalat. This means earth apple, I remember that the French call them Pomme de terre, which also means earth apple. Kartoffel is German for potato and that came from the Italian word for truffle. Why???

Well the first potatoes were small, similar in appearance and were from the ground like truffles. In fact Italian explorers in South America THOUGHT they had found truffles but they were potatoes. They were NOT as good as the potatoes we have today.

Germans far after the French were stubborn to accept the potato (they thought they were fit only for an animal) and have only been using them to eat for a few hundred years now. .. Germans stubborn? Schnitzels are also served with boiled potatoes or Pomme Frits. ( French Fries). I think when the term Schnitzel comes up most folks think of Wiener Schnitzel. This is only one type of Schnitzel. It is however the most famous and also the simplest as far as presentation. Sometimes simple is best. I think that is why it became the most popular.

In looking at menus of some of Vienna's most popular restaurants you see lots of different Schnitzels besides the Wiener, and it seemed to me that most don't use veal anymore, pork and chicken are the new defacto standard. So if it is time to think about dinner and I have chicken, beef, pork or if luck would have it veal, I will think of "Schnitzeling" it for sure. It is fast and a palette in which sauces and toppings of any cooking ethnicity can yield a fresh and exciting dinner. You can Italianize it with a tomato sauce, You can Cordon bleu it, Hawaiian it with ham and pineapple, or Mexicanize it with chilies and cheese.

**Editor's Note: I don't know about you, but I am "fixin" to fix Schnitzel tonight! Visit the web site, the pictures of schnitzel in color are mouth watering!**



## Cemetery Inscriptions

Paul Cline Jr., a newspaper/magazine writer and editor in Texas since 1980, is currently compiling a book on Texas cemetery inscriptions, tentatively titled, "Tombstone Texas: The Poetry, Prose and Prayers of Lone Star Cemetery Monuments."

He is requesting that members of GTHS collect anywhere from a half-dozen to a dozen (total from all members) of their favorite inscriptions in the format you see from the examples given below. He is including Anglo, Hispanic, German, Czech and other cultural examples and will donate a part of the book's profits to the Texas Historical Commission's Historic Texas Cemetery Program. GTHS and individual members submitting inscriptions will receive credit in the book and he will provide a copy of the book to the GTHS Library. If anyone sending in inscriptions has illustrations of the deceased's hobbies, sports teams, home country map or other interests and can insert these digitally, Paul would love to have those as well. The book will include "a few famous markers ... but the focus of the book will be on the common men, women and children who lived and died here, and the poignant, spiritual, unusual and sometimes humorous inscriptions on their markers, mostly in small family, community and otherwise obscure cemeteries."

GTHS requests that you submit your favorite inscriptions on or before March 1. Send them to [pamelataborsky@aol.com](mailto:pamelataborsky@aol.com), or to [info@germantexans.org](mailto:info@germantexans.org) and they will be forwarded to me so I can send them all together to Paul.

Pamela Taborsky  
Librarian

**County Name**  
**Cemetery Name**  
**Name of Deceased**  
**Born**  
**Died**

*Our darling one hath gone before,  
To greet us on the blissful shore*



*Lips I have kissed are now faded and cold.  
Hands I have clasped are now covered with mold.*



*The dead in Christ are surely blest,  
For thou partake His heavenly rest.*



*A LOVING HUSBAND, A FATHER DEAR,  
A FAITHFUL FRIEND LIES BURIED HERE*



*To her we trust a place is given,  
Among the saints with Christ in heaven.*



*A little bud of love,  
To bloom with God above*





*Sleep on, dear Willie,  
And take thy rest.  
God called thee home,  
He thought it best*



*She hath done what she could*



*Remember friends as you pass by,  
As you are now so once was I.  
As I am now soon you will be,  
So turn to God and follow me.*

---

## Texas Historical Commission's "Texas Day by Day, January 19"

January 19,  
German school chartered in Austin

On this day in 1858, the German Free School Association of Austin became the first Austin school chartered by the Texas legislature, for the "education of the youth, the promotion of useful knowledge, and the advancement of the sciences." The school was to be "accessible to all alike without regard to religious opinions." The two-story school building was constructed in 1857 with volunteer labor on land donated by the von Rosenberg family overlooking Waller Creek. Living quarters were added in 1872 for the schoolmaster, Julius Schuetze. Classes were taught in English, probably with German as a second language.

After the school closed in the 1880s, Schuetze stayed in the family quarters and eventually purchased the rest of the building. The former school building changed hands several times after Schuetze's death.

In August 1991 artist Kelly H. Stevens deeded the German Free School property to the German-Texan Heritage Society, with the understanding that it would be preserved for future generations. The building is now the headquarters of the German-Texan Heritage Society and the German Free School Guild. The guild was established in 1993 as a volunteer service arm of the society to support the facility as a historic cultural center with a library, tours, beginning-German classes, and other regularly scheduled programs.

### Other "Texas Day by Day" articles for this date

Mosqueda robs railroad, becomes hero (1891)

Waterloo approved as new capital of Texas (1839)

German school chartered in Austin (1858)

Huge state park opened to public (1991)

Submitted by Jean Warneke, Austin

## Support the Texas German Endowment at the University of Texas at Austin: Purchase a Texas German Map!

The Texas German Dialect Project (TGDP) is proud to offer a **beautiful 34"x 28"** map of German Texas for purchase (see reverse for image). Surrounding the map of Central Texas are several paragraphs about important Texas German people, places and events, and an extensive timeline of German Texas from 1844 to 1900. The maps cost **\$40.00 each, including shipping** in a 36" cardboard tube mailer via USPS.

*Please fill out this order form completely and return with payment to:*

Department of Germanic Studies  
1 University Station C3300  
Burdine 336  
The University of Texas at Austin  
Austin, TIC 78712

**All proceeds from this map benefit the Texas German Endowment. Delivery will take 2-3 weeks.**

**Billing information**

Name (Last, First) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Would you like to include a donation amount of your choice with your purchase?** (Donations are tax-deductible.)

**Yes!** \_\_\_\_\_ I have added an extra donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **No** \_\_\_\_\_

Number of maps \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Form of payment:**

\_\_\_ **Check** enclosed made payable to *University of Texas at Austin*. Please write "Texas German Endowment" in the memo line. Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **Credit Card:** \_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_ American Express

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

**Shipping address:**

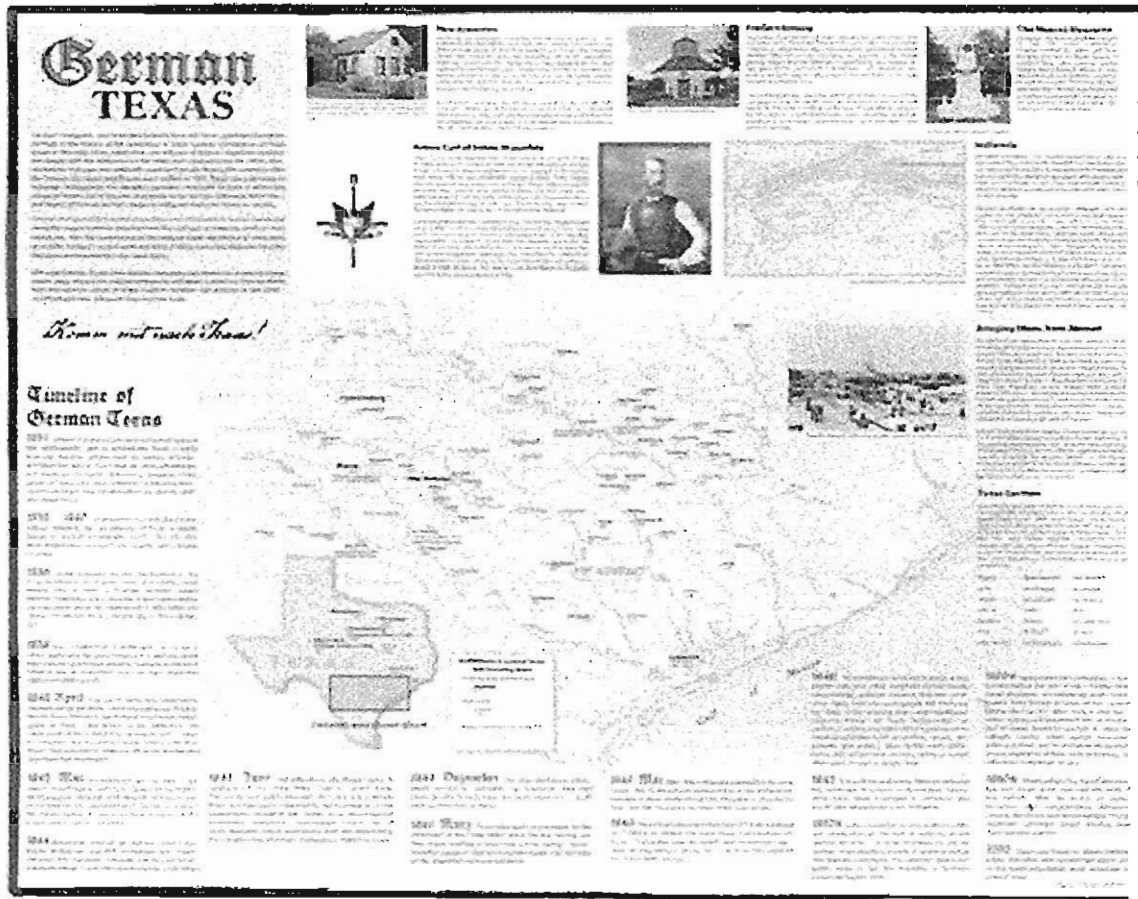
\_\_\_ Same as above \_\_\_ Alternate address - indicated below

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature x** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Further questions? Contact [hcb@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:hcb@mail.utexas.edu)





**German Texas map, available exclusively from the TGDP for \$40.00 including shipping and handling. See included order form for details.**

***Featured: Texas German Map***

Show your Texas German pride and contribute to the Texas German Endowment at the University of Texas at Austin by purchasing one of our high-quality prints of the history of German immigration into Texas! Donated for fundraising purposes by mapmaker and German American Justin Cozart, this beautiful 34"x 28" map includes a chronology of the history of Texas Germans dating back to 1831, when Johann Friedrich Ernst first fell in love with the wide open country and wrote a book about it, *Reise nach Texas*. It also explains key concepts in German immigration, such as the role of the *Adelsverein*, an organization that was instrumental in the settling of Texas, the founding of Texas German towns, basic differences between Texas and Standard German, the popularity of German music, and more.

# Community Events

## Winedale Home Tour Takes Visitors Back to the 1800s

Fayette County Record



Children (of all ages) love the stagecoach rides at the annual folk life Christmas celebration at Winedale. Tours of the authentically decorated historic homes, craft demonstrations and traditional music will be featured from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Winedale Historical Complex four miles northeast of Round Top on FM 2714.

Whittling, quilting, weaving, spinning, blacksmithing, basket-making, woodworking, lace making, military encampments and other crafts will be demonstrated:

Old fashioned children's items can be made in Winedale's one room schoolhouse. Candy coins from the "Weihnachtsmann" (German Santa Claus) are always a hit. The corral next to the historic barn will be stocked with kid friendly farm animals.

Featured entertainment; will include the "Gesangverien" German singers, an oompah band, dulcimers, fiddlers, Shakespeare players, folk dancers and more. Food and drinks will be available for sale.

Winedale Historical Complex is located four miles northeast of Round Top at 3738 FM 2714 (off FM 1457). For information, phone (979) 278-3530.

Winedale is a division of the Briscoe Center for American History, the University of Texas at Austin, <[www.cah.utexas.edu/museums/winedale.php](http://www.cah.utexas.edu/museums/winedale.php)> .

By H.H. HOWZE  
The Fayette County Record

A stagecoach and covered wagon will carry visitors to and from historic houses at Winedale's folk life Christmas celebration Saturday from noon to 4 p.m.

The annual event will feature tours of the historic homes, decorated as they would have been in the mid-19th century. Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

This re-creation of frontier life will take you back to simpler times before the industrial revolution.

Take a ride on the old-west stagecoach as you view the way the countryside looked back then with historic homes, military encampments, a one room schoolhouse, and folk life demonstrations.

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston



## 'Shiner Song' is a tune of some note in town

### Even local football team uses polka for its anthem.

BY ROY BRAGG

SHINER - The setting sun cast long shadows on the grounds of the historic K. Spoetzl Brewery as Dalton Nollkamper clad in the vagbond-themed garb of the Shiner Hobo Band stepped to the microphone to utter the words that have opened every single performance of the 90 year-old band.

"Let's play the Shiner national anthem," Nollkamper said, and with that, the band fired up, "The Shiner Song," a bouncy blast of polka energy that's one of only two songs enshrined in the Texas Polka Hall of Fame.

And in two weeks, the Shiner High Comanches' football team will take the field to open the playoffs to the strains of their fight song.

That also is "The Shiner Song," making the Comanches, whose helmets sport the Spoetzl Brewery's famous emblem (minus the word "Beer") - one of the few high school teams with a Polka as their fight song.

San Francisco, Kansas City, New York City and Los Angeles all have iconic songs that define the community.

It's the same for this Lavaca County town, 92 miles east of San Antonio, where everyone seems to know everyone else and they all know "The Shiner Song."

"It's kind of the theme song of the whole city," says John Patek, whose "father fronted the legendary Joe Patek Orchestra which helped popularize the song; "It's real famous. It makes me think of mom,



mySA.com  
Keyword: Blogs  
For a video of the song, see Roy Bragg's blog.

my father, and when I was small and Saturday and Sunday. It makes me feel really good."

Irene Cerny grew up listening to it.

We sang it in high school," says Cerny, who attended high school in the 60's. "One of the girls on the pep squad knew Czech, so we all learned how to sing it in Czech. We thought it was great. And that's how the pep squad sang it in the stands.

"It's part of our heritage."

It's fitting that a polka is so synonymous with this town, where German and Czech cultures go together like sausage and potatoes. Towns like this can't avoid modern problems, but the townspeople embrace tradition and simpler times.

"The Shiner Song" harkens back to those days:

*When we left Shiner, the sun was shining*

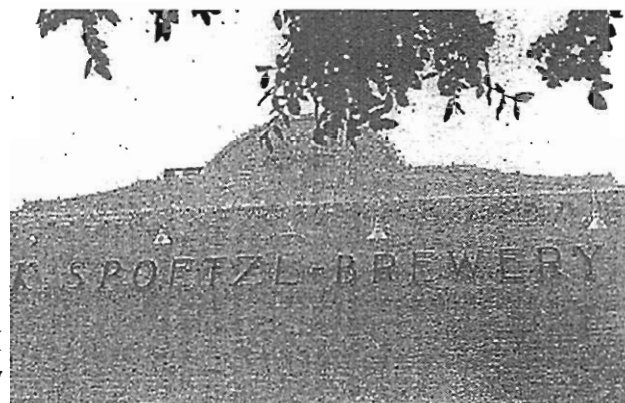
*When we left Shiner, the sun was shining*

*There was plenty of beer and lots of food*

*There was plenty of beer and lots of food*

*When we left Shiner, the sun was shining.*

The second verse is about leaving the brewery, and the third verse is about leaving Prague. Most times, it's sung in Czech. As a school fight song, played at both Shiner High and St. Cyril and Methodius Catholic School, it's always instrumental.



The Spoetzl Brewery, home to Shiner beers, is an influential force in the community of Shiner.

Polka music remains an enduring genre in Texas because of the vibrant tradition in towns such as Shiner, says John Rivard, who produces the monthly "Texas Polka News." High profile festivals such as Wurstfest, draw thongs and keep the music alive.

In Shiner, they take it one step beyond. Every public school student is required to take sixth-grade band. And as part of that class, says band director Stephen Krupicka, each kid has to learn the song to pass the class.

The song's origins are unknown. Band members and town historians can't provide a definitive answer about the composer or when it first appeared.

"It's an old song," said Joe Strauss, a Hobo Band singer and accordionist for 55 years. "They played it way back when I was a kid. They've always played it."

And the town never gets tired of it.

"Whenever it's being played," says Cerny, the pep squad member, "everyone sings along with it."

Submitted by Angelina Genzer Kretzchmar, San Antonio

## The Industry Post Office

Excerpted from a Banner Press article written by Marjorie Meyer Draehn taken from "Friedrich Ernst of Industry" family history book by Miriam Korff York

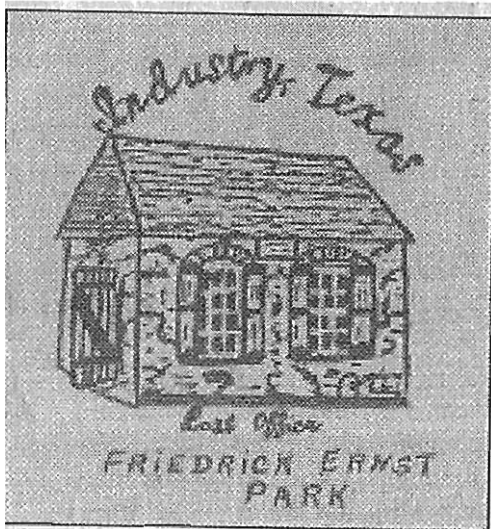
The Texas Postal System had its beginning in San Felipe. The early newspaper published there would announce the arrival of mail to San Felipe. The early mail carriers stayed in the homes of the settlers along the various routes whenever the weather was bad. As Friedrich Ernst had worked as a postal clerk in Germany, he knew the advantages of the colonists sending and receiving mail. Thus he was interested in having a post office in Industry.

The post office at San Felipe was established in 1838. John G. Sieper, Ernst's son-in-law, was named postmaster at Industry in 1838, however, the first written records of the post office at Industry were December 23, 1840, with Sieper as the postmaster. A letter written to President Mirabeau B. Lamar from Friedrich Ernst at Industry dated July 30, 1841, stated that the postmaster general would be bringing Ernst some books from President Lamar's library.

Sieper had a store and was probably serving locally as a postmaster in connection with his store. He is listed for January 1, 1842, on a roster of postmasters found in the state archives. According to W. L. Newsom in "The Postal System of the Republic of Texas," the Republic of Texas passed the ordinance for the general post office department in 1835. A general postmaster was in charge. On January 18, 1841, the office of the general postmaster was abolished and local postmasters were then assigned. Early mail was delivered by individuals on their travels, or by pony express or stage coach routes.

The letters were folded to make an envelope out of the sheets of paper. The outside of the envelope was addressed to the person who was to receive the letter. Sometimes sealing wax was applied to the flap to seal the letter. Usually there were no post marks on the letters in Texas. Some letters were sent to Industry in care of Mr. Ernst. In 1834, a letter was sent to "Wilhelm Gerhard Bartels, Fried. Ernst in New Oldenburg on Mill Creek in Austin's Colonie in Texas." A letter sent August 15, 1847, was sent from Germany to "Wm. Bartels, Millcreek, c/o Mr. Ernst, Industrie, County of Austin."

Mail was going through Industry and the post office for several years before the post office was officially established. The post office had the number two assigned to it. It is probable that it



was in operation with San Felipe much earlier than the records indicate in making connections with Bastrop and the King's Highway south to San Antonio and north to Nacogdoches. A post office building was built by Ernst, and it still stands today. It has been restored and is maintained by the West End Lions Club of Industry.

Mail was delivered to San Felipe by boat from Galveston where it was picked up on the dock and carried overland to Industry. A letter written to William Bartels from Germany dated August 30, 1850, was addressed via Galveston on ship Herschel. Industry was a stopping place

for many travelers along the Gotcher Trace and for those making connections to the Upper La Bahia Road and the Lower La Bahia Road. In 1845, Industry received mail on the La Grange-Fanthorpe Route. The mail was sent in care of "Sieper" who was the postmaster at that time. The established route was: La Grange-Fanthorpe's, via Rutersville, Shelby's, Sieper's, Buster's, Brenham, Independence, and Washington. Sieper was commissioned under the Republic of Texas April 10, 1843, as postmaster, and he received his commission from the United States on May 22, 1846.

The main stage coach route to Austin from Houston in 1848 went from Houston to Industry, Industry to Brenham, Brenham to Berlin and Union Hill, making various stops along the way, past Nails Creek, past old Evergreen on Elm Creek in present Lee County, crossing the King's Highway, and then on to Austin. As Industry was on this main route, its post office handled a volumn of mail for the early Texans.

*Other postmasters of Industry in the 1800's were:*

|                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Ernest Knolle.....      | 15 August 1855   |
| Robert Voigt.....       | 25 August 1859   |
| George Hennings .....   | 27 February 1866 |
| J. William Runken ..... | 6 January 1888   |
| Charles F. Knolle. .... | 5 September 1894 |

This was the first post office built west of Galveston in the state of Texas. John G. Sieper was the great grandfather of Mrs. John "Nellie" Connally.

Submitted by Mary Whigham, Washington



# Farewell to Wurstfest

Rain doesn't dampen spirits on festival's final day.

By Jennifer R. Lloyd  
jlloyd@express-news.net

mySA.com: News, November 9, 2009

Rainfall didn't deter visitors on the final day of Wurstfest in New Braunfels. Many chomped brats on a stick while wearing rain ponchos Sunday.

For others present, like Bucky Smith, the final hours of the 10-day "Salute to Sausage" were also a time to salute the troops and reflect on those involved in Thursday's Fort Hood shooting.

Smith has operated Bucky's Green Pickle Factory booth for the past 41 years. Near the booth's fried pickle production line is a sign on the wall stating, "We Salute the Troops."

As the Jimmy Sturr Orchestra played "God Bless the USA," in the nearby Wursthalle, Smith talked about her grandson, Seth Brown, who trained at Fort Hood and now is serving in Afghanistan.

"It scared a lot of us," Smith said of the shooting. "It's bad enough in Afghanistan, where they're fighting a war. But in this country, it's a shame that something like that happened on our native soil. You just don't expect it at all."

Herb Skoog, director of Wurst Relations, said he expected the total festival attendance to be about 17 percent above last years. Skoog previously had predicted a turnout between 120,000 and 150,000.

New to the festival this



Joyce Bohuslav and Ed Volick of the Polka Lovers Klub of America take a spin around the dance floor at Wurstfest in New Braunfels on Sunday, the final day for the annual "Salute to Sausage." Photo by Jennifer Whitney/jwhitney@express-news.net

year was a model train layout competition held at the nearby New Braunfels Civic/Convention Center. Miniature trains circled tracks and tooted horns on nine intricate train layouts.

Jim Edmondson, chairman of the layout competition, said he has been addicted to model trains since the early '60s.

"My wife has always figured it was better for me to hang around doing trains than being in a bar," Edmondson said. "It cost me more probably doing trains.

"It's a very expensive hobby: This used to be a little boy's hobby; now its a big boy's hobby."

Diana Patino and her 3year-old son Sammy from San Antonio begged to differ.

As Sammy looked on, entranced by the miniature engines and

cabooses at his first train show, Diana said, "We've been here for, like, two hours now. We left, and he insisted that we come back in."

Throughout Wurstfest at Landa Park, visitors could hear melodies made by cowbells Sunday afternoon. The women of the Mönchner Kindl Show from Munich performed in flowing skirts. And while they gave visitors a taste of Germany, they were getting their own taste of Texas.

After Veronika Herrmann set down her cowbells, she commented on the fanciful hats featuring elephants or balloon animals at Wurstfest that were unlike the traditional felt hats found at Germany's Oktoberfest. She had bought a cowboy hat to take back to Germany.

Though Wurstfest ended Sunday, organizers have been preparing for more than a year for next years 50th anniversary Wurstfest. Skoog said one of the German descendants of the prince who founded New Braunfels has accepted an invitation to attend next year's Wurstfest. Skoog also said a new music venue could be part of the facilities by next year.



Patty Scheel, a native of New Braunfels who has been working at Wurstfest for 47 years, helps Ty Hadgins, 11, try on a silly hat at the popular button booth on the last day of Wurstfest.

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Submitted Angelina Genzer Kretzchmar, San Antonio

# Texas German Gravemarkers: Lateiner, Freethinkers, and Other Intellectuals<sup>i</sup>

## By Scott Baird

I brake for old graveyards. I am constantly searching for ethnic gravemarkers; and have been for over two decades. That search started in Texas, but has stretched now to Hawaii, California, Toronto, Illinois, Alabama, Missouri, Louisiana, Georgia, North Carolina - and overseas to Oxford and to Amsterdam. Fellow academic colleagues have joined that search in Germany, Greece, Russia, and the Czech Republic. Our quest, an applied linguistic one, addresses the assimilation process that brings ethnic communities from their native languages into their host languages.

At present I am concentrating on Texas German gravemarkers – especially those memorializing the “Lateiner” that are associated with any of the “Latin settlements.” These terms are well explained in an article by Don Lawrence in the Handbook of Texas Online:

The “Latin Settlements” were five communities in Texas where most of the settlers were highly educated immigrants from Germany. The name came about because in the German culture of the time the knowledge of Latin was considered to be both a prerequisite for higher learning and a sign of educational attainment. Established during the late 1840s, the Latin Settlements included Millheim in Austin County, Latium in Washington County, Bettina in Llano County, and Sisterdale and Tusculum in Kendall County. Many of the residents of these settlements, who were sometimes referred to as *Lateiner* (“Latin ones”), were political refugees who had fled Germany in the wake of the abortive 1848 revolution. A number of them later attained prominence in medicine, education, law, journalism, and politics.<sup>ii</sup>

This *Latin Settlement/Lateiner* information sent me on a quest to see if any of Latin language had been inscribed on gravemarkers. Such gravemarkers would add uniqueness to the patterns already established on bilingual markers.

Gravemarkers, however, just don’t “happen.” Almost always crafted by the family and friends of the deceased, the gravemarkers are created under emotional distress. The deceased may have been a Lateiner, but that does not mean that his/her family and friends were. And even if they were, would they use the Latin when in a state of mourning?

Unfortunately, Lawrence’s article poses major problems in determining the origin of these terms. “The name [Latin Settlements] *came about*,” Lawrence writes, “because in the German culture of the time the knowledge of Latin *was considered* to be both a prerequisite for higher learning and a sign of educational attainment.”

“Came about”? How did this name actually come about? “Was considered?” By whom was it considered?

“These German immigrants,” Lawrence wrote “were sometimes referred to as *Lateiner* (“Latin ones”)”?

Who did that “referring”? Was that term used by the Latin Settlement members or about them? Was *Lateiner* a complimentary term or was it derogatory? Or was it both?

Think of our current term “intellectual.” It has a similar range of connotations, complimentary and derogatory. My friend Anne Stewart once told me that because I was a college professor at Trinity and not at St. Mary’s University or Texas A&M, people in Comfort could easily refer to me as an “intellectual” - and the term would not be complimentary.

The analogy has definite relevance. Annie Romberg, drawing upon family historical documents, discussed the taunting that took place between the Lateiner and other German immigrants: The Latins were proud of their culture, and they spoke of others whose interests were centered mainly in good farming and plenty of good bacon in the smokehouse as *Speck Bauern* (bacon farmers). When this expression reached the bacon farmers, they retorted by calling the Latins *Schwarten Bauern* (bacon rind farmers), this term being symbolical of very plain living, for, in spite of their university education, these intellectuals often found it difficult to adjust themselves to their new surroundings.<sup>iii</sup>

Nor am I the only person to question the origin of these terms. My colleague, historian Terry Smart, responded to my original questions in this manner:

I have no idea where the term “Lateiner” originated. I do know it is in the literature without anyone making reference to its first use. . . . In Washington County there was an early settlement known as Latium which now is



nothing more than a few houses. It got the name because the first settlers were educated German immigrants known as "the Latin ones." The name set them as university-educated apart from the other German farmers. They might have used Latin or Greek gravestone inscriptions ....<sup>iv</sup>

Nonetheless, Texas German historians have repeatedly used the two terms, Lateiner and Latin Colonies. Lawrence lists three other scholars in his reference to the Latin Colonies: Biesele; Regenbrecht; Reinhardt; and Romberg. All four scholars, however, only refer to the term as did Lawrence: the term *Latin Colonies* "came about."<sup>v</sup>

Edwin Scharf, another Freethinker sympathizer, wrote about the intellectuals settling Bettina, Castell, Cypress Hill, Tusculum, Sisterdale, and Luckenbach.

According to Scharf, "These intellectuals would frequently gather at the schoolhouse or one of their rustic frontier homes to contemplate the important issues in philosophy, science, literature, politics, and music. Their meetings were often conducted in Latin or Greek, mystifying their neighbors and creating the name *Latin Colonies* for their settlement areas." (emphasis Scharf's)<sup>vi</sup>

In his famous book on his pre-civil war wanderings through the South, Frederick Olmsted became enamored with the German intellectuals. He writes of Sisterdale: "... also known as the *Latin Settlement* due to the desire of residents in the community make Latin their official language." [emphasis mine]<sup>vii</sup>

The editors of the Southwester Historical Quarterly printed an article - written by Adalbert Regenbrecht in 1916. They referred to Regenbrecht as "...perhaps the last survivor in Austin County of *die Lateiner* [emphasis theirs], those cultured, genial spirits who found it much easier to cultivate music and song and literature than corn and cotton."<sup>viii</sup>

The presence of these Lateiner still lingers in present-day San Antonio and Austin, settlements that attracted many of them as the cities became prominent cities in Texas up to the mid-nineteen twenties. The Lateiner's descendants today still enjoy name-recognition and honor: Altgelt, Bergemann, Berger, Beyer, Boerner, Brandt, Bruns, Dieter, Douai, Dresel, Flach, Friedrich, Froebel, Giesecke, Groos, Hagedorn, Hanisch, Hasenkampe, Herbst, Herf, Hoerner, Kapp, Kendall, Kibling, Klepper, Meckel, Pfeiffer, Philips, Reinhardt, Rosenthal, Scherz, Schilling, Schleicher, Schmidt, Schulze, Schwarz, Seewald, Seidensticker, Shaeffer, Siemering, Vogt, Voigt, Von Behr, Von Herff, Weiss, Williams, Witte, Zink.

So prevalent is their presence that one would think that their early gravemarkers might have (non-Catholic) Latin language included in their inscriptions. A major drawback, however, lies in the collective aura of the names listed above: old-money, conservatism, class awareness, establishment. Attempts to approach these people (and they are indeed approachable) more often than not has led to incredulous denial. They have, mind you, no qualms about being descendants of Lateiner, of intellectuals. But the thought of "Freethinkers" in the family tree causes serious denial. Same name, perhaps, but certainly not my ancestors. The Freethinkers, many them Lateiners, immigrated to the United States to escape both political and religious authoritarianism. Their anti-slavery stance during the Civil War still causes discomfort among the descendants of families who embraced the Confederate cause.

A major reason for that distancing, I suspect is that today even scholars have difficulty separating Lateiners from Freethinkers. Try, for example reading pages of 40-43 of Glen Lich's otherwise excellent introduction to present-day German culture in Texas. Lich unfathomably switches his topic from "a fraternity of communistic *freethinkers* in Germany (the Forty)" to "*the students*" to "*the Forty*" to "*professional men*" that were separate from "mechanics and laborers" (who did not understand much English) to "*rich German nobles*" to post-civil-war "German immigrants" - presumably uneducated - then back to a *Latin Colony* (Sisterdale) founded by another group of *intellectuals* (the Forty-Eighters) to more "*Latin Colonies*" to a farming settlement on Cypress Creek (later to become Comfort), which in turn attracted more "*intellectuals and freethinkers,*" whose children "did not get too learned" (quoting from Autobiographer Emma Murck Altgelt) to the coincidental arrival of "several ethnic minorities from German-Speaking Europe (Czechs, Wends, and Poles.)"<sup>ix</sup>

Another problem stems from any serious attempt to determine exactly which settlement really were Latin Colonies. Lawrence and Scharf agree that these intellectuals founded Bettina, Sisterdale, and Tusculum. Yet Lawrence adds Millheim and Latium to his list, while Scharf adds Castell, Cypress Hill, and Luckenbach to his list. I have read other accounts that list Schoenburg and Leiningen.

So even before initiating an enormous fieldwork expedition, serious genealogical research had to be undertaken. That research has, indeed, verified the Lateiner origins of the above-listed people. (Of biggest help has been the Sophienberg Museum staff, in New Braunfels.) That research has also uncovered other scholars interested in the same Latin-on-gravemarker inquiry. We all share the same desire to find at least one such marker; we all share an awareness of the enormity of the problem; we all share, unfortunately, the suspicion that the Lateiners were not particularly receptive of being called Lateiners.

### Request for Help

I have begun now a serious search for and documentation of the gravemarkers and/or gravesites of the original Lateiner. While the above list has been winnowed from numerous lists and is a conservative list, at best, I welcome additional input. I know that some of the gravemarkers/gravesites are either in Germany or in States other than Texas. And I have documented a few. The saddest photographs I have show the remains of the chimney on the original Bettina lodge and the remains of three wooden crosses erected over the burial sites of three Lateiner believed to have been buried there.<sup>x</sup>

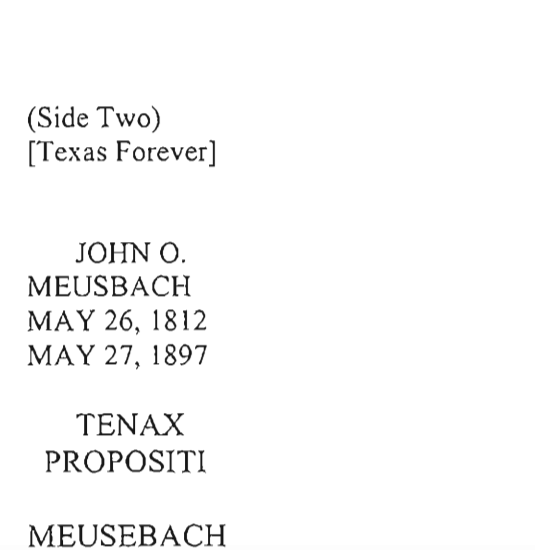
Of higher scholastic importance, however, lurk the gravemarkers that, in addition to German and English, may have non-catholic catholic church inscription in Latin, Greek, or French. Many of those gravemarkers (if they exist) are now on private property, known only to the local residents (as was the case of the Bettina gravesite).

This second quest may or may not depend upon Lateiner or Freethinker affiliation. I have, indeed, found one gravemarker with non-catholic Latin. And, like the famous Purloined Letter, it was right out in the limelight: the gravemarker of John Meusebach, rescuer of the Adelsverein's Texas investments,<sup>xi</sup> and founder of the city of Fredericksburg. Meusebach was neither a Lateiner nor a Freethinker. However, in the words of historian Mary Ramos, "... Meusebach's education and experience were suited to the task at hand. He had studied mining engineering and forestry, political science and finance, jurisprudence and state economy. He read five languages and spoke English fluently."<sup>xii</sup>

Meusebach's 10' tall granite obelisk gravemarker reveals a linguist's delight. One unique feature is that, unlike most mixed-code German gravemarkers, Meusebach's marker is bilingual.<sup>xiii</sup> On one side his German nobility remains intact: title plus full German name (Freiherr Hans Otfried von Meusebach); on the other side the title disappears, *Hans* becomes *John*, and *Otfried* becomes the initial *O*. (John O. Meusebach).

The second unique feature is that at the top of the German-name side, a round, family crest has been engraved, with the English phrase "Texas Forever" circling the bottom half of the crest.

The third unique feature is that at the bottom of the English-name side, the Latin phrase "Tenax Propositi" is engraved. "Tenax Propositi" was the Meusebach family motto, which means "Firm of Purpose" in English.<sup>xiv</sup>



BETTINA



One such gravemarker, however compelling, does not make a very strong case for the impact that historians have led us to believe existed (regarding the impact of Latin) upon the Latin colonies or upon the Lateiner and their families. Each additional gravemarker would help strengthen the argument that Texas German immigrants included an amazingly impressive group of people – including their intellectuals.

I welcome any and all input from those of you whose knowledge about this subject obviously exceeds my own. Contact me. I'll come as soon as possible. You'll recognize my little green truck – on the rear it has a bumper sticker that reads: "I brake for graveyards, Ass'n for Gravestone Studies."

<sup>i</sup> This article abbreviates material from two papers presented at annual meetings of the Cemeteries and Gravemarkers Area of the American Culture Association: *Texas German Intellectuals: How "Latin" were the Latin Colonies?* (San Francisco: 19- 22 March 2008) and *From Ghost Towns to San Antonio's Riverwalk: The Texas Freethinker's Linguistic Trail* (New Orleans: 9-12 April 2009). I am grateful to Trinity University for supporting the research for both papers. In addition to the 30 some participants in each of these two sessions, I have benefited from personal responses from John Bayne, Caroline Byrd, Rose Marie Cutting, Joe Edgette, Mark Hatlie, Richard Meyer, Susan Olsen, Cornelia Paraskeva, Jo Ly Puehse, Rich Sauer, Thomas Sebastian, Terry Smart, and Anne Stewart.

<sup>ii</sup> Don Lawrence. *Freethinkers in Texas: compiled from the Handbook of the Texas State Historical Association. The Atheist* 4:11, November 19, 2000. Pp. 2-3.

<sup>iii</sup> Annie Rombert. *A Texas Literary Society of Pioneer Days. Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 52 (1948), p. 61.

<sup>iv</sup> Terry Smart. Personal communication. January 12, 2009.

<sup>v</sup> R.L. Biesele, *The History of the German Settlements in Texas, 1831-1861*. Austin: Von Boeckmann-Jones, 1930, reprinted 1964; Adalbert Regenbrecht. *The German settlers of Millheim before the Civil War. Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 20 (July 1916); Louis Reinhardt. *The Communistic Colony of Bettina. Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association* 3 (July 1899); and Annie Romberg, *op cit*.

<sup>vi</sup> Edwin E. Scharf. "Freethinkers" Of the Early Texas Hill Country. *Freethought Today, April 1998*.

<sup>vii</sup> Frederick Law Olmsted. *A Journey through Texas, or, A Saddle-Trip on the Southwestern Frontier*. New York: Dix, Edwards, & Co., 1857; reprinted Austin: University of Texas Press, 1978.

<sup>viii</sup> Adalbert Regenbrecht. *German Settlers of Millheim Before the Civil War. Southwestern Historical Quarterly Online* 20:1. Accessed Mon Mar 17 15:36:12 CDT 2008. [http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/publications/journals/shq/online/v020/n1/contrib\\_DIVL596\\_print.html](http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/publications/journals/shq/online/v020/n1/contrib_DIVL596_print.html).

<sup>ix</sup> Glen E. Lich. *The German Texans*. (The University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio. 1996.

<sup>x</sup> The present owner of the ranch reluctantly let me photograph the site of the old lodge and of the burial site. The owner himself had never seen the burial site, but told me that his mother had told him that when she was a child she and her father had erected three wooden crosses where the original markers had deteriorated.

<sup>xi</sup> A German-based immigration association, whose goal was the settlement of lands in Texas.

<sup>xii</sup> Mary G. Ramos. *The German Settlements in Central Texas. Texas Almanac* 12/26/2008 <http://texasalmanac.com/history/highlights/german/> First published in the 1990-1992 Texas Almanac.

<sup>xiii</sup> Mixed code markers reveal their information in two languages, but do not repeat any of the information; bilingual markers also reveal their information in two languages, but some of the information is repeated.

<sup>xiv</sup> An interesting discussion about the English translation of "Tenax Propositi" can be found on the Roots Web (genealogy) site. On Monday, April 27, 1998, Andreas Sassmannshausen wrote: "Some weeks (or months) ago, the tombstone inscription TENAX PROPOSITI was discussing in the mailing list. I found this expression in an article written by the famous german scientist and author Johann Henrich Jung-Stilling. His feature was translated: English, Dutsch, Russian, ... The book/article was written in 1776/1779. The expression tenax propositi is a latin phrase used in common academic discussion in the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century. It means: to spend a strange/hard/great effort on something, a goal oriented acting and coping, or something like this. The german translation of tenax propositi is "zähe an einem Vorhaben festhalten." It appears very often in the articles written by Jung-Stilling. Best regards from Hilchenbach/Germany, the birthplace of Jung-Stilling (1740-1817). Andreas Sassmannshausen, Heinsberger Str. 7, 57271 Hilchenbach/Germany." [retrieved 1/8/2009 2:55 PM from <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/GERMAN-TEXAN/1998-04/0893711634>.

**Scott Baird, professor emeritus at Trinity University, San Antonio, has published extensively in his field of Applied Linguistics. He taught eight years in Japan before beginning his 35-year residency at Trinity. His specialties are in language-proficiency testing and in measuring household and community languages. He received his doctorate in Linguistics at the University of Texas in Austin, in 1969.**

## Historic Lutheran church escapes wrecking ball

It's Bizarro Day in Houston.

Because of the rain? Hardly.

The cold? Nope.

The new Tracy McGrady trade rumors? Try again.

No, it's Bizarro Day because a historic building has been saved from the chopping block.



Ford Gunter  
Reporter, *Houston  
Business Journal*



Not that the city did it or anything. Instead, the congregation of Immanuel Lutheran Church in the Heights voted on Feb. 10 to preserve the 80-year-old sanctuary building that was recently digitally mapped before heading to the wrecking ball this summer.

The 20th century Gothic Revival building, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, will be converted into a museum of Lutheran history.

"This was a great collaborative effort by many," said Edward Gonzalez, District H city council member. "A special thanks goes to the Immanuel Lutheran community for their willingness to embrace historic preservation."

Submitted by Carl Luckenbach, Spring



# People

## Concert Set in Historic Home

### *Mt. Elise Singers Will Perform at Witte-Schmid House*

Fayette County's Elise Singers, Elva Ulbrich, director, will appear in a historical venue for its final concert of the Christmas season. It will perform a repertoire of American and European choral works in the recently restored Witte-Schmid House, located between Shelby and Industry.

Built in 1860, this large pioneer home combines a solid stone exterior with interior walls of fachwerk (half-timbered) construction, thus ideal acoustics for choral music. It is now a museum house owned by the Texas German Society.

The one-hour program on Saturday, Dec. 19 will be presented twice, at 2 to 4 p.m., to provide ample seating for guests. A wine and cheese reception will take place between the two presentations. Admission is free of charge. Goodwill donations will benefit the restoration of the house and singers expenses.

The Mount Elise Singers perform in Victorian dress during the

Christmas season and sing a cappella. This is a large group, with up to 32 individual singers.

Among the choral music to be presented are two selections from J. S. Bach's Christmas Oratorio and one from Daniel Pinkham's Christmas Cantata. Besides these well known composers' works, many English and French traditional carols will be sung; as well as Latvian, Bohemian, Polish, Ukrainian and Russian Christmas carols, and some Spanish, Cuban, and well known American selections.

The Witte-Schmid House was built in 1860 by Dr Ernst Witte, and it bears some resemblance to the manor house on his large estate near Hanover, Germany. His sons and his granddaughter, Emilie Witte, assisted with the construction, and years later she would become mistress of the household. She married John Schmid, a native of Switzerland, and they purchased the stone house and family farm in 1884. The Witte-Schmid name of

the house comes from this marriage and the blending of the German and Swiss cultures.

John and Emilie sold the house and farm in 1920 to their son, Rudolph and wife Anna. That's when their one year-old son, Sanford Schmid moved into this home, where he celebrated his 90th birthday party three weeks ago. Sanford and his mother sold the house to the Texas German Society in 1986. Scores of volunteers started the renovation work then and popularized the name "Das Haus." Skilled craftsmen recently completed the renovation and restoration of the house to its appearance in the 1920 time period. That work continues to this day.

The Witte-Schmid House is on Schoenau Road off Highway 1457 about three miles southeast of Shelby. From Fayetteville, drive about 11 miles east on Hwy. 159, turn left on 1457 for 1.4 miles and right on Schoenau Road.

**The Fayette County Record  
Friday, December 11, 2009**

**Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston**

## Richmond Author Assembles Immigrants' History

BY DON MUNSCH [dmunsch@fbherald.com](mailto:dmunsch@fbherald.com)

Published: Saturday, November 28, 2009 10:00 AM CST

**Fort Bend Herald**  
and Texas Coaster

Victor Bracht landed in America in June 1845.

Bracht, a German immigrant, came to Texas, pulling into Galveston Bay after a two-month journey. He was impressed with the first Texan he met.

"In his face was seen the unshakable equanimity, the undeniable resolution and masculine decisiveness that seems to be the inheritance of these people," Bracht wrote in an essay for a German newspaper. *The Texan*, whom, Bracht said, was "polite and accommodating," was a ship pilot, who helped Bracht and other fellow companions as they embarked on land.

Bracht's experiences as a immigrant in Texas are showcased in essays in "Sketches of Texas," translated and pieced together by Wolfram M. Von-Maszewski, Richmond resident and retired manager of the genealogy and local history department at George Memorial Library. The book, for \$20, is available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

Von-Maszewski - an immigrant himself, who was born in Poland and spent his formative years in Poland and Germany - has an interest in immigration and said he thinks people can learn from Bracht's experiences. He purchased an early immigration newspaper in Germany and, while looking in that paper, he found Bracht's articles that formed the basis of the book.

"These are contemporary, eyewitness-accounts that tell you about the people, places and events from a primary observer," said Von-Maszewski, 74.

Bracht (1819-1887) came to the United States with the German Immigration Society and described his experiences here. He wrote a book called "Texas in 1848" that was published in 1849 and was eventually translated into English. He eventually became postmaster in Rockport, Von Maszewski said.

Democracy and availability of land triggered German immigration here, he said. "Democracy (interested people) because over there was still a monarchy and none of the freedoms, so there was quite a bit of attraction to that" here, he said. "Land was cheap, dirt cheap. So if you wanted to come over here, and if you didn't have the means, you worked for somebody and saved the money and bought your own land. We're talking about an agrarian society at that time. Then, as today, everybody wanted to be independent, be they're own boss. And quite a few people made it a success. There were, I'm pretty sure, quite a few disappointments, but there were also quite a few success stories."

He has translated three other early eyewitness accounts of immigrants' experiences.

"I like doing that," he said. "The best way I can explain it is some people like to do crossword puzzles, and I like to translate."

Von-Maszewski said that before the Civil War, roughly 6,000 Germans came to Texas through the German Immigration Society.

"All in all, between the Civil War and turn of the century, there was a mass immigration into the United States," he said, explaining that wars prevalent in Europe motivated people to move to the America. People left legally or illegally, and shipping lines did not care about the passengers' status, as long as they collected their fees from passengers. It was just a business, he said.

Von-Maszewski said people who came to America sought a better life for themselves and knew there would be lots of unknowns in coming to a new land, so it was a gamble to immigrate.

Bracht returned to Germany in 1848. His children, other than his daughter, settled around Rockport, VonMaszewski said. Victor Bracht had 11 children, but some died early in their lives. Bracht lived in Mexico during the Civil War.

An open house for the Adolph Bracht House will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Dec. 11 and noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 12 in Rockport. Adolph Bracht, who built the house, was the youngest son of Victor Bracht. Bob Bracht, the grandson of Adolph Bracht, said Adolph Bracht built the house between 1900 and 1902 and sold it in 1948. The house is being restored and on the Aransas County Historical Society homes tour, Bob Bracht said.

Submitted by W. Von-Maszewski, Richmond



## Johann "Emil" and Clara J. Citzler

The descendants of Johann "Emil" Citzler and Clara Jaeschke Citzler celebrated 125 years in Texas at their 84<sup>th</sup> annual reunion on the first Sunday of June in 2009 at the Citzler Homeplace north of La Grange. The property includes a cemetery where the couple and his parents are buried, and now there are at the adjoining acreage five residences, including the family farmhouse built in 1912, where four generations of descendants reside.

Emil and Clara Citzler came to Texas from Glatz in Schlesien (Silesia, then Germany, now part of southwestern Poland) in 1884, with his parents Wilhelm and Elisabeth Citzler, she being Wilhelm's second wife. The family had been in the landscape gardening and florist business in Germany. Also in the emigration party on the steamer *Donau* from Bremen to Galveston were Emil's older half-brother Bernard and the younger couple's four daughters, including baby Martha, who died en route and was buried at Key West where the ship came into port to take supplies.



Johann "Emil" and Clara J. Citzler, c. 1920?

Half-brother Bernard moved soon after to California, where he is believed to have been a farm worker and gardener. He never married, died in 1916, and is buried in Rosedale, CA. Emil and Clara and family came to Fayette County, to a farm property just northwest of Rutersville and north of La Grange, where they grew cotton, kept cows and chickens and hogs, and tended an abundant vegetable garden and fruit trees. Clara died in 1927 and Emil in 1940.

The first family reunion occurred in the mid-1920's, a fish fry along the banks of the Colorado River on the John Sirocka place at Rabb's Prairie north of La Grange. The reunion was first held on the Fourth of July, and continued for many years on that date, skipping (it is believed) only one year during World War II and one year when one of the siblings had just died. The event gathered the married children and grandchildren of Emil and Clara, who had scattered away from the family homestead to their own farms or business ventures in Fayette County. Subsequent reunions, for which meticulous records have been kept since World War II, have been held at Roitsch's Camp in La Grange and in more recent years at the Sons of Hermann Hall in Rutersville, as well as at the family homeplace or other descendants' homes in nearby Fayette County.

Eight of Emil and Clara Citzler's nine children lived to adulthood, married, had children, and have descendants living at present. They are Emilie (married George Rauch), Elizabeth (married Oscar Rauch), Clara (married August Koepke), Emma (married August Gau), Emil (married Hermine Giese), Laura (married Hermann Tietjen), Max (married Elsie Fiedler), and Herman (married Erna Holz).



Johann "Emil" and Clara, with four daughters (baby Martha, and then clockwise: Clara, Emilie, and Elizabeth) before leaving Germany, 1884

Just over a decade ago, the Citzler Family renewed ties with Citzlers in Germany, broken after the Iron Curtain went up. The long correspondence that had occurred between the Citzlers in Texas and Citzlers and Jaeschkes in Germany (the

former who were descended from Wilhelm and his first wife, Charlotte Gruner), included care packages sent during the German inflation of the 1920's and during the economic struggles after World War II. Communication had never broken with the German Jaeschke descendants, and visits were made as various Texas-descended Citzlers traveled to Europe on business or pleasure. However, after years and years of silence, and thanks to the technology of internet searches, in 1999 an inquiry came via e-mail to a Texas descendant from Hans Citzler in Leipzig asking whether the unusual spelling of the last name could mean that they could be related. Sure enough, the family trees were compared, and the common ancestor was found: Wilhelm, buried in the family cemetery here in Texas. In 2000, Hans and his brother Claus came to Texas with two other family members to celebrate at the annual reunion of Citzlers in Texas, to meet all the Texas cousins, and to see the gravesite of their great-great grandfather.

A number of Texas descendants have since reciprocated the visit and later Claus's daughter and a friend have also visited Texas. Interestingly, both Hans (who moved to Leipzig following the reunification of Germany after 1989) and Claus (who lives in Lohne, in the northwestern part of Germany) are continuing a long-unbroken tradition of German Citzlers in the nursery and gardening business, Hans as a wholesaler of nursery supplies, and Claus as a retail florist.

The 2009 reunion in Texas featured a meal of barbecue chicken and all the trimmings, supplemented by salads, side dishes, and desserts in abundance, brought by the 80+ attendees. The annual meeting, chaired on a rotating basis each subsequent year by descendants of a different branch of the family, followed. As dictated by tradition, it included a time for family story-telling, photo-sharing, updates on the German cousins, and reminiscing about reunions past.

Submitted by Annette Citzler, great-granddaughter of Johann "Emil" and Clara Jaeschke Citzler, LaGrange

## SCHEEL FAMILY REUNION

Descendants of Bernhard Joseph Scheel will hold their 2010 bi-annual Scheel Family Reunion beginning at 11:00 on Sunday May 2, 2010 at the Germania Farmer Verein Hall at Anhalt, Texas. The hall is located on State Highway 46, 4.2 miles west of US 281 North, approximately 25 miles northwest of San Antonio.

Bernhard Joseph Scheel immigrated to Texas from Michelsrombach, Germany in 1867 with his wife, Anna Barbara Link, and their five youngest children, Friedrich (Fritz), Hermann, Petronella, Karlmann (Carl) and Maria Franziska, and settled near Anhalt in Western Comal County. Four older children, Karolina, Rupertus (Robert), Philippina and Wilhelm had immigrated earlier. Karolina married Adam Joseph Schneider and Eugen Seibert, Philippina married Wilhelm Ulit, Petronella married Wilhelm Luersen and Maria married Ferdinand Kaupert. All of the children settled in Comal County except Carl who settled in the Lockhart area and Maria who settled in San Antonio. Robert, Fritz and Hermann were founding members of the Germania Farmer Verein, which was organized in 1875 at the same location where this year's reunion will be held. A large number of Bernhard's descendants still reside in the New Braunfels, Comal County, San Antonio area.

Families are asked to bring two food items (main dish and a salad or dessert) in disposable containers for a potluck lunch. Cost is \$3 per adult to defray expenses. German Folk Dancers will provide entertainment and Group tours to the fully restored historic Fritz Scheel Home (built in 1879) will be available and maps will be provided for independent visits to the nearby Honey Creek cemeteries where many of the ancestors are buried and to the Honey Creek church where they worshipped.

For more information, contact Clarence Scheel, [scheel3@aol.com](mailto:scheel3@aol.com), or 210 651 0573.

Submitted by Clarence Sheel, Garden Ridge



## Houstonians Join Leipzig Residents In Celebration of History

By Ben Ballanfant, Village News, December 1, 2009

Members of Christ the King Lutheran Church, Houston Area Rotary Members and Houston City Councilmember Anne Clutterbuck recently went to Leipzig to celebrate the Peaceful Revolution.

It was the 20th anniversary of the non-violent and unhindered demonstration by the citizens of Leipzig for reform of communist East Germany. One month later, the Iron Curtain fell.

"Seeing the silent, candlelight march to honor the Peace Marches of 20 years ago, which eventually led to the fall of the Berlin Wall a month later. [It makes you think of] when the marchers never knew whether or not they might be beaten or water hosed or arrested, etc. That is one memorable moment," shares Philip Cezeaux.

The celebration began with the christening of Leipzig's newest and longest streetcar, named Houston after after Leipzig's sister city. Clutterbuck and Pastor John Moore, president of the Houston-Leipzig Sister City Association, shared the honors of christening the new streetcar with Dr. Pepper, brought in for the special occasion.

After the christening Clutterbuck, who is honorary Chair of H-LSCA and who represented Houston Mayor White at the celebrations, drove the trolley to the U.S. Consulate for a reception for visiting Houstonians and Leipzig dignitaries given by the Consul General.

As part of the peace celebration, there was a dedication service for the Peace Window at St. Thomas Church. After a competition with entries from Houston and from Germany, the official jury chose the design by David Schnell, who lives and works in Leipzig. The window was donated by Houston Leipzig Sister

City Association and funded by Houston Rotarians at the price of \$120,000. The idea to fund the Peace Window was Cezeaux's.

"The idea of a modern design window with a theme of Peace as the last stained glass window to be installed in the St. Thomas Church was a goal of the St. Thomas Church Council. They wanted to make a statement that a major mission of the Church was to seek peaceful resolution of disputes. It is a fairly long story, but Rotary International has a three-year project of looking into the future with the goal of finding that specific role Rotary might play in the world wide search for peaceful resolution of disputes.

"We now do many things. Rotary has funded over 300 Peace Scholars, earning a Masters degree at some seventy universities around the world in peaceful dispute resolution. Rotary has long funded international exchanges of students and young professionals in the belief that personal relationships build world peace. The Peace Window, the Peace Cantata, the Rotary World Peace Convention, all fit nicely with the celebration of the 1989 Peace Marches. It is ironic that of all the revolutions that have occurred in middle Europe, the only successful one was peaceful. That revolution must be

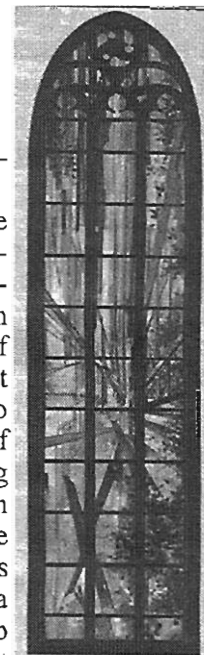
honored," explains Cezeaux.

The Peace Cantata he mentions was written by Ann Gebhur of Houston Baptist University (also a member of Christ The King Lutheran Church). The window was dedicated in a festive worship service built around the theme of peace with the Peace Cantata.

The Peace Window project was a heavy load of infectious work.

"It was a project that caught people's imagination and just seemed to build on itself. The Rotary District governors, Ed Charlesworth here and Uwe Sahlmanq, in Leipzig, got excited and were able to excite the Rotarians in their respective districts," says Cezeaux.

He adds, "The idea of a major window, dedicated to the peaceful resolution of disputes and right above the choir loft where Johann Sebastian Bach worked for the last 27 years of his life, is a very compelling idea. Because of J.S. Bach, this church will continue to be a major destination for visitors for the next 1,000 years or so. The Rotarian concept of seeking peace through service to others, without political or religious conditions, is a concept that I believe has a good chance of creating long term peace in this world and that I, and I believe all Rotarians, very much support.



The Peace Window at St. Thomas Church in Leipzig.



Houston City Councilmember Anne Clutterbuck drives the new trolley dedicated in Leipzig, Houston's Sister City.

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

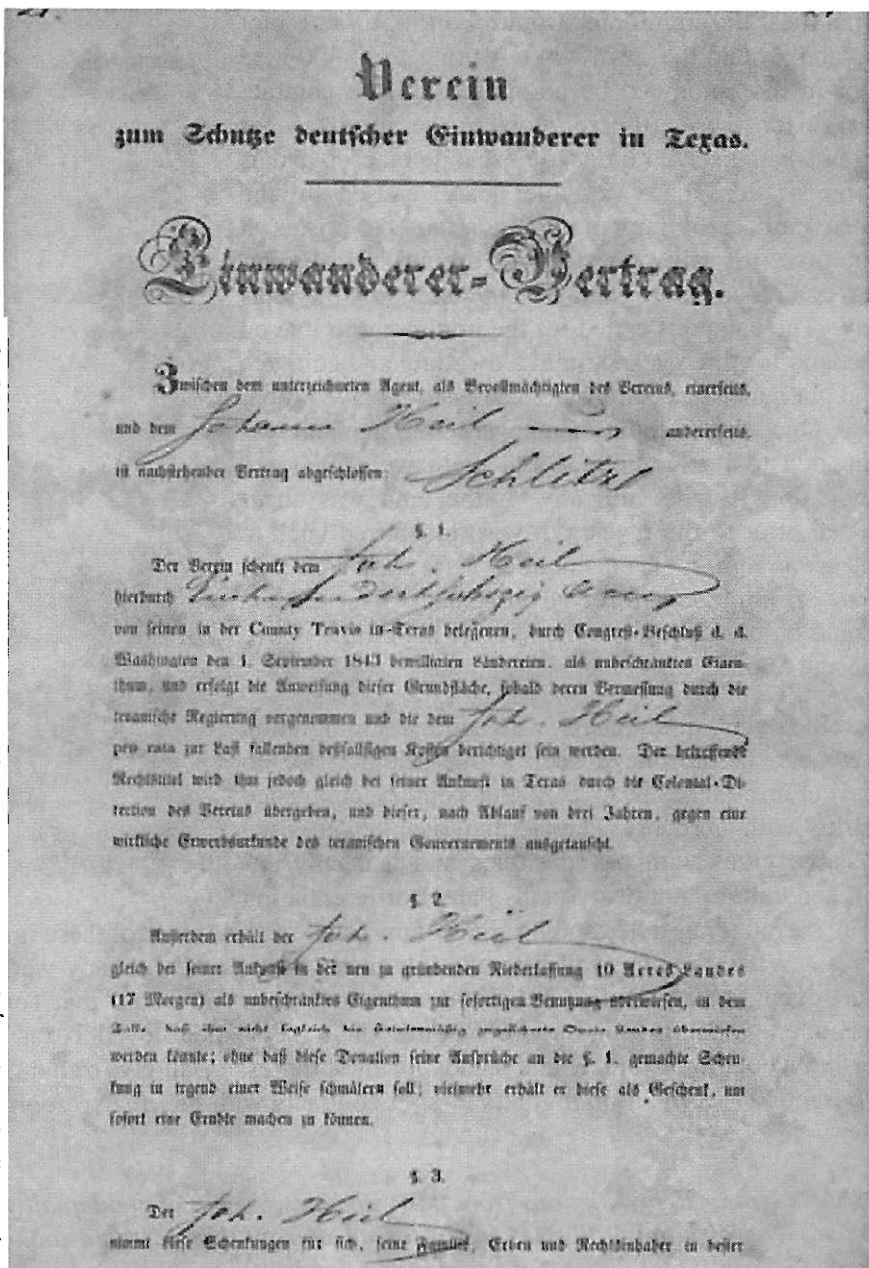


The following articles are taken from the publication of the Archives and Records program of the Texas General Land Office, *Saving Texas History*. It is published quarterly and is available by request (1700 N. Austin, Suite 131, Austin, Texas 78701-1495) or online at [www.savetexashistory.org](http://www.savetexashistory.org). This particular edition covered Germans to Texas.

## Immigration Contracts in the General Land Office

According to the 1850 United States Census, the German population was the largest minority class in the state of Texas, second in size only to the free Anglo-American population. Surprisingly, this large German population came almost exclusively in a three-year period, from 1844 through 1847. The great influx of German immigrants came courtesy of the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants to Texas, or *Adelsverein*. The immigration contracts for the *Adelsverein*, totaling 2,650 individual contracts, are housed at the Texas General Land Office. "These immigration contracts in Austin are of predominant importance for locating immigrants over here (in Europe), and I suggest that steps be taken to explore this important material," said noted Austrian genealogist Karl Friedrich von Frank.

Containing rich genealogical information as it relates to the immigrants themselves, these contracts offer such details as signatures, date and location of embarkation, and much more. The contracts were signed in Germany after the *Adelsverein* made arrangements in Texas to settle immigrants on the Fisher-Miller land grant, which totaled 3.8 million acres in a rocky portion of the Texas Hill Country. Mismanagement, a string of unfortunate events and just plain bad luck caused this colony to never materialize into a new German society in the New World beyond a smattering of small towns and villages. Only Fredericksburg and New Braunfels rose to any prominence. Depending on where the contract was signed, specific clauses differed. For example, if someone were to sign in Berlin, he would receive 320 acres in Bexar County. However, if someone were to sign in Frankfurt or Bremen, he would receive 320 acres in Travis County. There are other subtle differences as well. "The Company is responsible for transportation and support from the day of embarkation to Galveston for a fee of 98 guilders and \$1 hospital fee per person." While the immigrant leaving from Frankfurt was instructed to "pay the expenses for his voyage from any port of his choice to Galveston as well as for the overland trip from Galveston to the Colony of the Company." The *Adelsverein* was responsible for transporting German immigrants from Indianola to the Fisher-Miller land grant, a trip that was supposed to be about



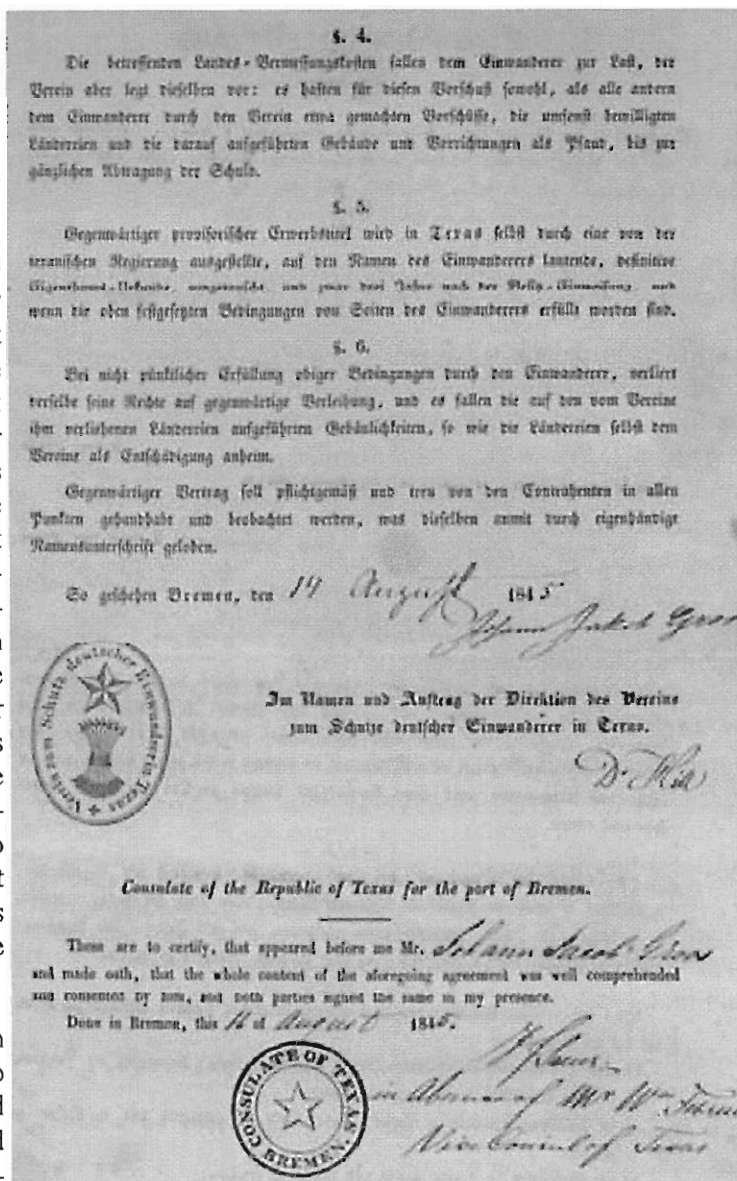


50 miles. Due to the Mexican-American War, the German immigrants were unable to use the transportation that was put in place. Instead, they were forced to walk from Indianola to New Braunfels—a trip considerably longer than the 50 miles they were told it would be.

When an individual signed a contract, he was guaranteed 320 acres of land. When he arrived in New Braunfels, the immigrant would work a 10-acre plot of land around the town while waiting for a 320-acre plot in the colony to be administered. The contract called for these 10-acre plots to be in place for "immediate use...in order to raise a quick crop and as compensation for a possible delay, caused by the great number of immigrants" coming into Texas at one time. In reality, most stayed around New Braunfels or Fredericksburg rather than continuing the journey. The contracts called for the immigrant to live on the land for three years, build a dwelling and cultivate and put under fence at least 15 acres to receive proper title. Once these requirements were met, the land was patented to the immigrant and there were no more obligations to the company. If the land was abandoned prior to three years, it was transferred back to the *Adelsverein*. The contract also stipulated that once an immigrant received his patent, five guilders would be owed for each member of his family above the age of one year.

For the 2,650 individuals who signed immigration contracts, it must have been a difficult decision to leave Europe. Texas in the 19th century contrasted starkly with Germany. The German people were used to large cities with paved streets and a deeply engrained culture, not dusty paths barely differentiating from surrounding fields and no signs of civilization. The story of these immigrants is heroic and tragic, yet uniquely Texan. While the physical differences between Texas and Germany were vast, the political and social differences were even greater. Charles Sealsfield wrote in "The Cabin Book" that Texas was a "boundless sea of green" and an unspoiled garden in "God's world immaculate." Sealsfield loved Texas because "... she makes us love Freedom for the whole human race, and stands for the progress of all civilization." It was this love of freedom that inspired thousands of German immigrants to sign contracts with the *Adelsverein* to come to Texas in order to build a new life.

**Editor's Note:** Reproductions from this web site were not of good quality so interested individuals need to visit the Texas General Land Office in Austin for an upfront and personal look see....Thanks to James Harkins from the Texas General Land Office for permission to reprint these articles he researched. He states, "Our German Immigration Contract collection is a valuable resource that unfortunately does not get used nearly as much as we would like."



## Germans and the Civil War

Again from the publication of the Archives and Records program of the  
Texas General Land Office, *Saving Texas History*

Conditions in Germany in the first half of the 19th century were not ideal. Poverty ran rampant, the government allowed few freedoms, crops were failing and able-bodied men were being conscripted for military service. When the *Adelsverein* formed, new opportunities arose for many Germans. One of the men who took advantage of the new opportunity was Ferdinand Simon. Born in Darmstadt, Germany in 1826, he saw opportunities in Texas as a chance to escape poverty and make a name for himself as a landowner. He also saw this as a way to avoid conscription. He arrived in Texas in 1845, settling in Fredericksburg with several other German immigrants rather than continuing on to the Fisher-Miller land grant. Simon signed German Immigration Contract #1871 with the *Adelsverein* in Darmstadt on September 16, 1845. The contract entitled him to 160 acres of land in Bexar County in the Republic of Texas. Along with receiving land, he no longer had to worry about the political climate in Germany or being forced into military service—or so he thought.

For 17 years, Simon worked hard, accumulating hundreds of acres of land and participating in many business ventures, including the San Antonio and Mexican Gulf Railroad Company. He was among a close knit German population that soon emerged in the Texas Hill Country. The immigrants were facing a new way of life and found support in their fellow Germans. They shared an ethnic bond in a strange land and interacted with the local Anglo population as little as possible. Because of the lack of interaction and the vast cultural differences with Anglo Texans in the area, animosity began to grow. A prominent issue that caused the two cultures to clash was slavery. German Texans were opposed to slavery and voiced this opinion freely by publishing anti-slavery sentiments in their German newspapers. Needless to say, the Anglo population did not appreciate the open resentment from the German population over this issue.

In 1862, The Confederate Conscription Act passed, requiring that all able-bodied men volunteer for service in the Confederate army. This was a strong reminder of what many of the German immigrants fled from in Europe. German immigrants did not support the decision to secede from the Union. Many of them had already experienced the threat of conscription in Germany and did not want to have the same experience with the Confederate army. To show their loyalty to the Union, the Hill Country Union Loyal League was formed. This group of anti-Confederacy Texans consisted of predominantly German-Texan members, including Ferdinand Simon. The military arm of the Union Loyal League was created in March 1862 and was led by Fritz Tegener. The Union Loyal League freely voiced its anti-Confederacy views and the government soon declared the Texas Hill Country to be in rebellion against the Confederate States of America. Martial law was imposed and people in the Hill Country were forced to take an oath of loyalty to the Confederacy. Those who refused risked losing their property.

In April 1862, Confederate troops led by James Duff were sent to enforce conscription laws and extinguish the Union Loyal League. In response, Fritz Tegener planned to lead militia members into Mexico, where they would be able to board a ship headed to New Orleans in order to join Union forces. On August 1, 1862, 68 Hill Country Militia members gathered at Turtle Creek in Kerr County and prepared to travel south. When the prospect of conscription loomed, Simon was eager to join fellow militia members on this fateful journey to Mexico. The Hill Country Militia traveled slowly to leave the Confederacy, its members unaware of being trailed by Confederate Lieutenant Colin D. McRae. McRae, who was responsible for breaking up armed encampments in the area, and 94 Confederate soldiers followed the Germans for four days. On August 9, 1862, the Hill Country Militia made camp on the west branch of the Nueces River. That night, McRae and his men established camp in a canyon about two and one-half miles away and formulated plans for an attack at dawn. At about 3 a.m., McRae and his troops gathered close to the German camp. They discovered and shot two German guards stationed as lookouts. These two guards became the first victims of the Nueces Massacre. Meanwhile, confusion reigned in the German camp. Should they stay and fight, or retreat to a better position? Tegener stayed with 39 Germans while the rest of the men retreated to a better defensive position. At 6 a.m. on August 10, McRae attacked the camp. Within hours, nine Germans were wounded and 16 killed. Some of the wounded attempted to flee. Many of them were unable to get away and were executed later in the day. Throughout the summer, the search for survivors of the incident continued.



A wounded Ferdinand Simon was captured four days after the battle and was arrested. He was tried by the Confederate Military Commission in October 1862, charged as an enemy of the Confederate States of America and sentenced to death by hanging. In all likelihood, when Simon signed his contract with the *Adelsverein* in 1845 to come to Texas, he did not think he would die avoiding the same military policies that he escaped in Germany. Luckily for Simon, martial law was suspended before his execution could be carried out. He remained in prison until the end of the war and was released in late 1865. He returned to his family's home where he lived until he passed away in 1878.

Ferdinand Simon and his fellow German Texans at the Nueces Massacre are prime examples of immigrants who were drawn into Texas by the "American Dream" only to be let down by the reality of another broken nation. The remains of those massacred at the Nueces River were gathered and brought to Comfort, Texas where they were buried in a common grave. A monument honoring these men was erected on August 10, 1866. On this monument, the names of the men killed are listed, along with the words "Treue der Union," which means "Loyalty to the Union." A new monument was erected on August 10, 1996, the battle's 130th anniversary.

### Karte des Staates Texas, map #2123

The *Karte des Staates Texas* is a map of Texas published by the Verein zum Schütze Deutscher Einwanderer in Texas, or Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas, also called the Adelsverein (i.e., Adels Verein, or "Noble Society"). It was printed in Wiesbaden, Germany in 1851. With a size of 25.5 inches by 30.8 inches, this map is entirely in the German language, and is very colorful, using the colors red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet to identify such things as borders, rivers and travel routes. The *Karte des Staates Texas* was issued as part of a packet of information for German immigrants by the *Adelsverein* in 1851. Included in the packet were two booklets and two other folded maps. The *Karte* was inserted into the booklet entitled *Instruction für Deutsche Auswanderer nach Texas, nebst der neuesten Karte dieses Staates, nach dessen Grenzbestimmungen durch Congress-Beschluss vom September 1850* (Instructions for German Emigrants to Texas, together with the Newest Map of this State according to the Boundaries determined by Congressional Resolution of September 1850). The map shows the route in green from the port of Indianola to the "Deutsche Niederlassungen," (German Settlements) in the Fisher-Miller grant area, which the map states is a distance of 56 miles. In reality, the Fisher-Miller grant was approximately 300 miles from the coast. The old Fisher-Miller grant is now identified as the "Grant-Gebiet des Texas Vereins" (Grant District of the Texas Society). Most of the maps of Texas issued in the German language during the era of the 1830s-1850s were merely German editions of English language maps previously issued by well-known mapmakers, but an English language version of this map has not yet been located.

The *Karte* was one of the first maps that attempted to show the new boundaries of Texas based upon the Compromise of 1850, but it incorrectly drew the northern border of Texas starting at the Panhandle. Instead of showing the northern border of the Panhandle at the parallel of 36 degrees, 30 minutes turning south at the 100th meridian and going to the Red River, the parallel continues east past the 100th meridian until it hits the Arkansas line, showing most of present-day Oklahoma as part of Texas. This was the only edition of this map ever published. Considering its foreign location of publication (Wiesbaden, Germany) and its language (German), this is one of the most unique maps in the Land Office collection. It is also one of the rarest maps we have, with only three other known copies in the world: one each at the Texas State Archives, the University of Texas.

## Johann Jacob Groos

*Texas Land Commissioner from January 20, 1874 – June 15, 1878*

The second German immigrant since the Civil War to head the General Land Office was Johann Jacob Groos. Born in Offenbach, Germany on March 6, 1824, he spent the first 23 years of his life in Germany, where he studied civil engineering. At the age of 24, Groos and his young wife, Katherine Blieder, moved to Texas. The couple left from Bremen, Germany on August 16, 1845 aboard the ship *Herschel* with several members of the German Emigration Company, or *Adelsverein*. The *Herschel* arrived in Galveston on October 15, 1845. Groos received 320

acres of land from the *Adelsverein* and within five years, purchased an additional 520 acres in the Waco Springs community along the Guadalupe River just outside New Braunfels. Here, he made important connections that would lead him to the General Land Office.

In 1850, Groos moved to New Braunfels and became the deputy surveyor of Comal County. Prior to the Civil War, his work was in high demand due to settlers branching out of the New Braunfels area. He was responsible for surveying work in Bexar, Kendall, Hays and surrounding counties and was often called upon to secure preemptions and land patents for those moving out of the normal population centers. Groos was among the most well known surveyors in all of Central Texas, which helped him gain standing as a reputable land agent for out-of-state clients. He was considered an important person to see for Germans emigrating to Texas.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Groos became Captain of Precinct No. 2, 31st Brigade of the Texas State Troops in the Confederate Militia. His mission was to protect the frontier from Indian violence. He was known to have fought bravely in two campaigns and helped keep order along the frontier. After the Civil War, Groos was discharged from his public position. He was seen as a rebel and not fit to hold public office in the newly reconstructed South.

Immediately after the war, Groos returned to private surveying. At one point, he applied for a position with the General Land Office under Commissioner Stephen Crosby. "I was elected County Clerk which office I held until the commencement of the Military Government," Groos wrote to Crosby. "At that time of course I was discharged, by reason of having aided the Rebel Government." Although unable to secure a position at the GLO, this was only a temporary setback for Groos, who served as an alderman for New Braunfels from June 1865 to September 1866. He became the owner of the Guadalupe Hotel in 1869, which he managed until 1873. He was then appointed by the International Railroad Company to secure the right of way through Comal County in August 1871. His popularity as an innkeeper propelled him to local celebrity status, giving him name recognition when he ran for, and won, the 1872 election for mayor of New Braunfels.

After serving as mayor, the popular New Braunfels resident was persuaded to run for Land Commissioner in the election of 1873. With a great deal of experience as a surveyor and high popularity in Central Texas, Groos was able to easily win the office. He became Texas Land Commissioner on January 20, 1874 and was re-elected in 1875. Groos was unable to accomplish many goals and his administration faltered when it came to innovation and reforms, largely due to Reconstruction efforts. However, he was able to bring in more GLO employees, as there was an overall increase in business and rails became more pervasive on the Texas landscape. Previous reports suggested the continued growth of railroad companies and new provisions in the Texas Constitution would be a boon to the GLO. The GLO was severely under-staffed and not ready for the increased workload. Groos noted that in 1858 "when the work was less than half of what it was in 1874 there were eight draftsmen and twenty-four clerks allowed at the Office." Yet, in 1874, the GLO had a mere six draftsmen and 24 clerks. Groos passed away while in office at the age of 54 on June 15, 1878. Seven children survived him. He joined his wife who passed away two years prior in 1876 at the age of 52. Groos is buried in the Austin Cemetery.



## 80 Years of Bauer Family Reunions

Over seventy descendants of Carl Siegismund Bauer and Christiana Malzer Bauer gathered at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Round Top, TX, on Saturday, October 10, 2009, to celebrate their heritage. Meeting at this church is especially important to the Bauer Family because it was built in 1866 under the supervision of Carl Bauer, a skilled stonemason, with help from his sons and others.

Arrangements for the reunion, all coordinated by Jackie Sacks of Round Top, included a memorial service in the church, under the leadership of Pastor Herbert Beyer, along with hymns played on the original pipe organ built for the church during the time of its construction by Traugott Wandke. A covered dish meal and business meeting followed. In the afternoon, the group was able also to tour the impressive Schueddemagen House, now a bed-and-breakfast, which was also built by Bauer, for his daughter and son-in-law, Wilhelmine and Conrad Schueddemagen.

Carl S. Bauer (1792 – 1873) and Christiana M. Bauer (who married Carl in 1813) left Wiesa near Annaberg in Saxony, Germany, to journey to Texas on the ship *Neptune* in 1848. Traveling with them were four of their eight children, the oldest son, August, having preceded them to Texas. Eventually two more daughters and their families would come from Germany to Texas, though some descendants remained behind, living in Dresden and Wiesa. The Bauers settled in the Spring Branch area (near Houston) at the start, but many of them relocated to Round Top with Carl following the death of Christiana in 1849 from a fever.

The children of Carl Siegismund Bauer and Christiana Malzer Bauer who came to Texas were Charlotte Bauer Froehner Dalchau (1814-1906), Carolina Bauer Rummel (1816-1899), August Bauer (1820-1854), Christliebe Bauer Fiedler (1823-1905), Wilhelmine Bauer Schueddemagen (1825-1897), Carl Ehrgott Bauer (1828-1904), Carl Traugott Bauer (1830-1869).

The first Bauer Family Reunion was held in 1930, and the following article appeared in the local paper: from the *La Grange Journal*, Thursday, June 12, 1930, p 2:

"August 14, 1792, Carl Sigismund Bauer was born in Wiese, near Annaberg, Saxony. He emigrated to Texas in October 1848 and settled at Round Top, and was the mainstay and one of the founders of the Lutheran Church. He died January 27, 1873.

"Close to the church he helped to build he sleeps on. Last Sunday, June 8, one of the largest family reunions ever to gather was held at the Brazos river bank, near the new bridge, between Chapel Hill and Hempstead. There was [sic] present, close to 200 people, who came from San Antonio, Bastrop, Ledbetter, Round Top, Cost, Brenham, La Grange, Chapel Hill, Elgin, Beasley, Carmine, Giddings and Sugarland, but by far the greatest number came from Houston and vicinity.

"These were kinfolks who had not met in decades, and many who had never met before; they renewed and started their acquaintance. After a delicious dinner some singers and musicians furnished delightful entertainment, in which Houston talent took active part. Mrs. Leonie Weyand, a great-granddaughter, had thoughtfully provided for the grandchildren of Grandpa Bauer, and it deeply affected the crowd when the grandsons and granddaughters, each close to seventy years of age, sang 'Lorelei' and other familiar German songs.

"All were profuse in their praise for those who had arranged the meeting, and unanimously agreed that the next meeting should be held in historical old Round Top, close to the spot where Carl Sigismund Bauer was laid to rest many years ago. "This from his grandchild, L.C. Rummel."

Subsequently, the descendants gathered irregularly until 1953, when reunions began to be held biennially, and have continued so ever since, meeting in Round Top, TX, the second Saturday in October of odd-numbered years.



Photo of Carl Siegismund Bauer, from *A Goodly Heritage*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., 2007, the Bauer Family history and genealogy book.

# Help FCGS Identify These Ladies From 1909 Cookbook



Part 1  
*The Fayette County Genealogical Society (FCGS) has undertaken quite a large job of getting the 1909 cookbook reprinted but wants to include biographies of the ladies as well. They ask that if you know of someone in the list to follow, that you give a biographical sketch of that person along with any photographs.*

Going back in time with a little history. . . The "La Grange Cook Book" of 1909 was distributed and underwritten back then by the La Grange Journal newspaper. The new publication will include a biographical sketch (with photos), where available, on each recipe donor of 1909. The identified gourmet cooks numbered more than 64 and were referred to simply in this early publication as the "Ladies of La Grange." However, these women, including several young children and teenagers, represented, more accurately, the dynamic elite of their time period and were thus among the "Who's Who" of La Grange and Fayette County.

The 1909 cookbook was underwritten by Benno F. Harigel and 41 other business advertisers within the township of La Grange. These various businesses paint a fairly accurate picture of the times by the nature of their advertisements. They indicate that La Grange was for the most part still living in the horse and buggy era but at the same time was

beginning to embrace some of the attributes of the modern era with the invention of the automobile, telephone service and electric power.

In 1909 the "La Grange Cook Book" was published by Mrs. B. F. Harigel. This picture, although not in the cookbook, includes many of its recipe donors and will be added to the reprint of a new cookbook. The Fayette County Genealogical Society needs the public help with information about these recipe donors plus additional historical material.

Here is the complete list of recipe donors featured in the cookbook. They include:

Mrs. Charles (Cora) Alexander nee Jacobs; Miss Essie Alexander; Miss Gertie Alexander; Miss Rae Alexander; Miss Thelma L. Baker (Mrs. Thomas L. Hodges); Mrs. John. F. (Laura) Beckmeyer nee Boyd; Mrs. John Walter (Bettie) Blaize nee Carter; Mrs. William A. (Margaret) Caldwell nee Walker; Mrs. Joseph (Emma L.) Cottam nee Schuech; Mrs. John P. (Mable May) Ehlinger nee Goodwin; Mrs. Edward (Lucile) Franks nee Harol-son; Mrs. Gabriel (Lottie) Freid-berger nee Wertz (also previous marriages to William Ruppertsberg and William Haase); Miss Annie Gerdes; Mrs. John D. (Lula) Gerdes nee Mebus; Mrs. John D. (Edna) Godby nee Mennike; Mrs. Hermann (Otilie) Hackebeitl nee Voelkel; Mrs. O. E. Hagemann; Mrs. Justin (Bettie) Hans nee Wertzner; Miss Otilie Harigel; Mrs. Benno Ferdinand (Meta Elea-nora) Harigel nee Rose; Mrs. Gus (Rosa) Heilig nee Alexander; Mrs. Fred G. (Louisa) Heim nee Karges; Mrs. August (Johanna Hanna")

Heintze nee Speckels; Miss Bertha Louise Hellman; Mrs. William Her-mes, Jr.; Mrs. Richard T. (Christine) HuetteL nee Knigge; Mrs. Anna



Mrs. Otto E (Alma) Stolz nee Mach

Kainer; Mrs. Christain (Lina) Kaiser nee Weyand (also married earlier to Lee Adams); Mrs. Henry Berkeley (Julia) Kaulbach nee Frede; Mrs.

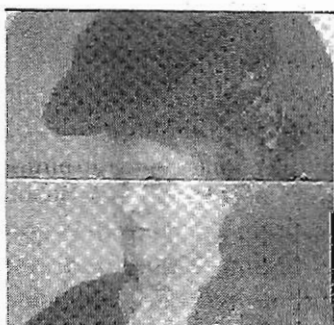


Mrs. G. A. (Exa) Stierling nee Moses

John H. (Nellie G.) Killough nee Bradshaw; Mrs. Anna Klatt; Mrs. Ernest (Anna) Knigge, Jr., nee Vogt; Miss Emma Koenecke; Mrs. Carl



David (Lena Bertha) Krause nee Scholz; Mrs. Albert (Amalie) Lampe nee Melcher; Mrs. C. Edward (Carrie T.) Lane nee Cox; Mrs. Frank (Paulina) Lidiak nee Adamcik; Mrs. Henry L. (Annie) Loehr nee Hausmann; M. R.(?); Mrs. George (Annie M.) Mauer, Jr. nee Kainer, Jr.; Miss Bertha Mebus; Miss Leila Mennike; Mrs. William (Hedwig) Mennike nee Marburger; Mrs. Otto (Olga) Moellenberndt nee Amberg; Miss Lottie Moore; Mrs. Peter (Agnes) Nickel nee Korbel or



Mrs. C. J. (Dora) von Rosenberg  
nee Meyer

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

Mrs. Peter A. (Annie) Nickel nee Finkenstein; Mrs. F. (Emelia "Millie") Presun nee Ehlinger; S. R.(?); Mrs. Louis (Mary) Schneider; Mrs. Theodor Henry (Louise) Scholz nee Meerscheidt; Mrs. A. C. (Annie) Schuech nee Mauer; Mrs. Thomas Lee (Sara Katherine "Katie") Smith nee Andrews; Mrs. Rudolph G. (Minnie) Speckels nee Zweiner; Mrs. George August (Exa) Stierbel nee Moses; Mrs. Otto E. (Alma) Stolz nee Mach; Mrs. August (Martha) Streithoft nee Karges; Miss Leona (Lione) Struve (Mrs. George A. Weber); Miss Monica Agnes Struve (Mrs. Albert Frederick Von Rosenberg); Mrs. W. H. Talley; Mrs. W. H. (Mollie W.) Thomas nee Moore; Mrs. W. L. (Julia H.) Turnage nee Dreyzehner; Mrs. Carl Johannes (Dora Elisa) von Rosenberg nee Meyer; Mrs. Louis (Meta) Walter nee Speckels; Mrs. Albert F. (Amalia Antonia) Weber nee Weikel; Mrs. E. J. (Julia) Weber nee Sommer; Z (?).

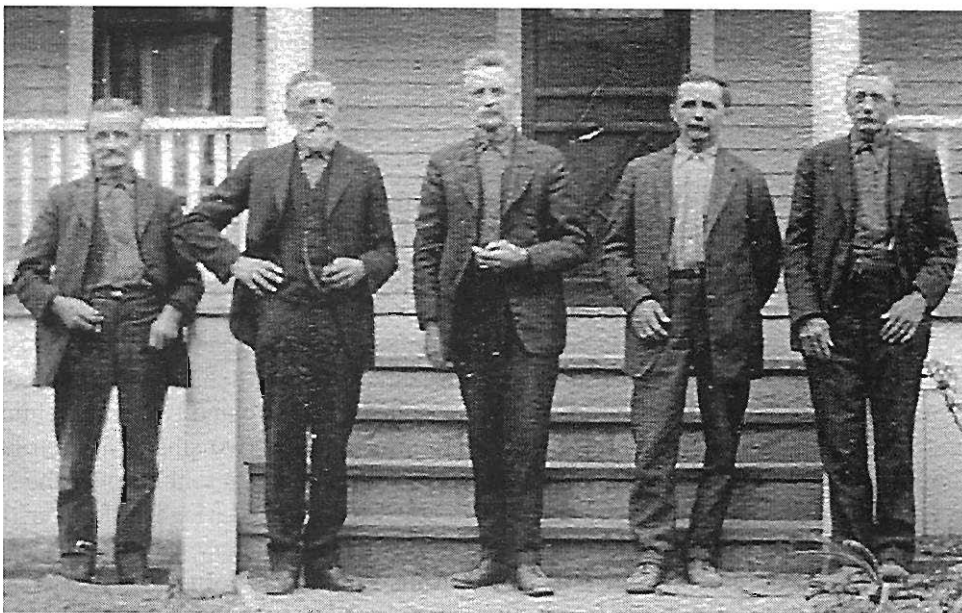
Any information and/or photographs that you may have in your possession on any of these "ladies" can be submitted to the FCGS by contacting Neale Rabtmsburg, vice president, at (979) 702-0525 or via his email at [nealerabensburg@cmaaccess.com](mailto:nealerabensburg@cmaaccess.com)

Several of the 1909 recipe donors are featured in the beginning group photo, which highlights this article.

Fayette County Record, 1/8/2010

## The Backhaus family of Texas

The Backhaus family story begins in Jaderberg Germany with Johann Friedrich Georg Backhaus born in 1824 and married Anna Elise Frels in 1850. To this union eleven children were born, of which five Backhaus brothers immigrated to Texas.



Picture taken in 1927, the last time all 5 brothers were together.  
Left to right are Henry, Wilhelm, Theo, Fritz and Gustav

**1. Heinrich Gustav Backhaus**, born 11/26/1856. An uncle, Eilert Gerd. Frels, a resident of Frelsburg, Texas in Colorado County had returned to Germany for a visit in 1870 and met his 14 year old nephew Gustav Backhaus and persuaded him to return to Texas with him. They sailed to New York and traveled by train to Texas. Gustav lived and worked in Frelsburg for eight years. In 1878 he moved to Milam County and continued to live there for the rest of his life. During his early years he worked at the Streisky Gin, for John Timmerman and on Mr. Staggers farm near Rockdale for \$15.00 a month.

In 1879 Gustav took a trip on horseback to West Texas where he later purchased some land in Runnels County. He returned to Germany for a visit in 1881 but preferred to live in Texas so he returned to America where he had become a naturalized citizen on March 14, 1881.

In 1883 Gustav built and operated a cotton gin and blacksmith shop in the Bushdale community north of Rockdale. He ran the gin at Bushdale until 1915 when he moved to Rockdale where he died in 1937. It was through his influence that the Bushdale Voting Box was established in 1902 and he served as election manager until his move to Rockdale. Gustav was a charter member of the Sons of Hermann Lodge established in 1892, a member of the Lutheran Church, Woodmen of the World and Knights of Pythias. Gustav married Bertha Mayer in 1882 and their family consisted of seven children. Three sons ran a grocery and feed store in Rockdale from 1922 to 1956.

**2. Bernard Theodor (Theo) Backhaus, born 8/1/1864.** Theo was the second brother to immigrate to Texas. He arrived in the Bushdale community in 1882, where he was involved in farming. He became an American citizen in 1906 and shortly afterwards moved to Wall, Texas where he farmed until his death in 1927. Theo married Francis Stork in 1887 and their family consisted of seven children.

**3. Heinrich Gerhard (Henry) Backhaus, born 4/6/1862.** Henry was the third brother to immigrate to Texas. Henry had served in the German military from 1881 to 1884 and left Germany shortly after his discharge. He arrived in the Bushdale community in 1885 where he found work on a farm. On November 25, 1890 he married Louise Meyer in the home of Mrs. Katherine Strube in Rockdale, Texas.

In November 1901 Heinrich and his family moved to Runnels County and settled on a farm in the Groenwald community near Rowena, Texas. Henry traveled by covered wagon and his family traveled by train.

Henry died July 7, 1957 at the age of 96 years 3 months and 1 day at his home near Rowena. Henry was the first of three brothers to leave Milam County for West Texas. He was the last surviving child of Johann Friedrich Georg and Anna Elise Frels Backhaus.

**4. Hermann Friedrich (Fritz) Backhaus, born 11/7/1867.** Fritz was the youngest brother to immigrate to Texas arriving in Bushdale in 1886. In January of 1895 he married Julia Legler at Lexington, Texas. Julia was born in Fayetteville, Texas on August 12, 1875 to Julia and William Legler. Julia Backhaus died January 28, 1902 and is buried in the Sharp Cemetery next to her parents. Fritz was left with three children ages 2-7 to raise. Julia's mother,



whose husband had died the same year, came to live with him to help raise the children.

Fritz became an American citizen, May 17, 1905 along with his brother Wilhelm. Shortly afterwards he moved his family to west Texas where he lived until his death, February 11, 1946 in San Angelo hospital.

**5. Anton Wilhelm Backhaus, born 1/7/1853.** Anton Wilhelm Backhaus, a son of Frederick and Elisa Frels Backhaus, was born January 7, 1853 in Jaderberg Province, Oldenburg, Germany. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church.

On December 12, 1874 he entered the Army. He joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Company of the Oldenburg Infantry, Regiment Number 9. He served until September 17, 1876. During his last year he served as a swimming instructor. He then went to work in a brick factory and became a foreman there. On April 20, 1882 he married Hermine Cathrine Janssen, who was born February 6, 1858.

In 1887 he left Germany to come to the United States. He left his wife and two small children until he could send for them. One child, Fritz, had died as an infant. Later in 1888, after he had gotten settled in in the Bushdale Community near Rockdale in Milam County, he sent for his wife and two small children, Hermann, born March 31, 1886 and Marie E., born November 16, 1887. Hermine and her two small children left Germany on May 5, 1888 for the long hard journey to Texas. She landed in Galveston and was sent all over the state before she could find Rockdale. Wilhelm had started to farm by then. The small daughter Marie, a little over three years old, took the cholera and died February 24, 1891. She is buried in the Bushdale Cemetery near Rockdale. On June 24, 1891 a son, Ernst Gus, was born. On March 10, 1896, a daughter, Anna Emila, was born.

In 1898 Wilhelm and his family moved and settled near Sharp, Texas. Here he farmed and ranched for the remaining 40 years of his life. It was at the same home that he died, July 17, 1938 at the age of 85 years. His wife died at the same home on January 8, 1952 at the age of 94 years, 11 months and 2 days. Both are buried in the Urban Cemetery near Sharp.

Anton Wilhelm Backhaus took out his citizenship papers in Cameron, county seat of Milam County, on May 17, 1905. After this he made a trip back to Germany, taking his younger son, Ernst with him. They stayed in Germany for five months.

Submitted by Minnie Backhaus Schlortt, granddaughter of Wilhelm & Hermine Backhaus

### A footnote to the above story by Hermann Schlortt

Five Backhaus brothers immigrated to Texas at different times between 1870 and 1887 but all five brothers and their families lived in the Bushdale area between 1887 and 1902. Times were very hard but with determination and hard work they improved their life and raised their children. This was the generation before automobiles so they used the horse for transportation, before radio so most people could play a musical instrument, but this generation knew how to get along with and help out their neighbors, friends and families. These were people who spoke little or no English living in America. Most of their children were bi-lingual as most education was conducted in English. These children also endured hard times but also produced America's greatest generation, our parents. Every parent wants his children to have a better life but maybe our parents were too easy on us and we have continued this trend with our children.

Our earliest ancestors who came here saw this land when it truly was "America the Beautiful". It should be our duty to make our own little corner of it something that they would be proud of if they could return. They endured the hardships so that we might have a better life.

We owe our ancestors a great debt so let's remember them and the sacrifices they made for us. One example of this is the Bushdale Cemetery. In this fifteen year period that the Backhaus brothers lived there, nine Backhaus children all under the age of 3 were buried there. There are seven boys and two girls. Photo shows the graves of the two girls, Maria and Anna, one of which was born in Germany.



## The Christmas Tree Ship: The Story of Captain Santa

### Ron Hunka looks back at the tragic final voyage of the Rouse Simmons

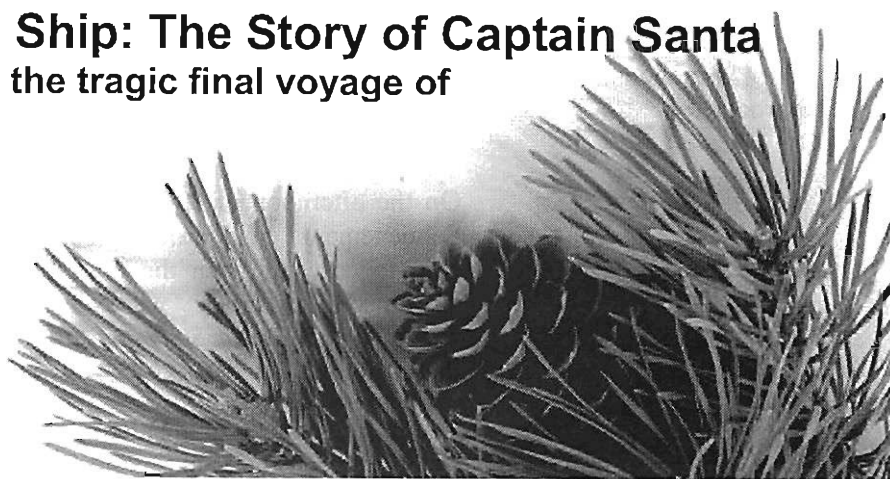
FROM ABOUT 1876 to 1920, people in Chicago purchased their Christmas trees dockside from sailing ships that brought them, freshly cut, from the northern end of Lake Michigan. One of the 24 captains who participated in the trade was Herman Schuenemann.

As the day of sailing ships waned, Schuenemann was also one of the last to deliver Christmas trees. During this era, he was the master of various ships that brought trees to Chicago for the holiday season and hauled lumber at other times. Some of his ships included the *George L. Wrenn*, the *Ida*, the *Bertha Barnes*, the *Maggie Dall* and the *Mary Collins*. However, his last and most well known vessel, though he sailed her for only two years, was the *Rouse Simmons*, named for a manufacturer who had helped finance her construction in 1864.

During Schuenemann's time on the lake, captains often held only a partial interest in the ships they commanded. In fact, Schuenemann owned only a one eighth share in the *Rouse Simmons*.

Every year, the children of the city anxiously awaited the arrival of Captain Schuenemann with his treasured cargo. On the days when his ship arrived, those present cheered at the sight. Chicago in 1892 had an estimated 395,000 persons of German descent, from whose homeland the Christmas tree tradition originated, and the custom was particularly popular in the great city on the lake.

Far more than any other Christmas tree ship captain, Schuenemann gained recognition as a favorite seasonal subject for area newspapers, who dubbed him "Captain



Santa" for his donation of trees to orphanages and poor families. Utilizing good business acumen as well, he also handed out very large, specially selected trees to hotels and churches.

#### The Days of Sailing Ships on Lake Michigan

Herman Schuenemann was born in about 1865 in Ahnapee in Wisconsin, a German community on Lake Michigan. The main livelihood of this community, cargo shipping, influenced the young man, as well as his older brother August, to take up a sailing career on the lake. The year of Herman's birth was near the zenith of wind-powered vessels on Lake Michigan. At the time, 1,800 schooners hauled cargo, mostly lumber.

By the mid 1880s, in November of each year, Schuenemann and his crew sailed north and brought back one or more loads of Christmas trees to the Chicago River's Clark Street docks. There, Schuenemann put up a large banner proclaiming his vessel "The Christmas Tree Ship", and on chilly evenings, beneath glowing strings of electric lights, he invited customers aboard to choose from among his thousands of trees, priced from 25 to 75 cents.

For poor children, the generous captain found odd jobs to earn the price of a tree. For many a Chicago

native, these dockside sales were a treasured memory of youth. By making and selling wreaths, garlands and other holiday decorations, Schuenemann's wife and three daughters also took part in the business.

August, Herman's brother, also captained Christmas tree ships. He had recently taken over the *S. Thal* when, sometime on 9 or 10 November 1898, his vessel, a 30-year-old, two-masted schooner with a full load of Christmas trees, was caught in a violent storm off Glenocoe, Illinois. Tragically, it broke up and sank with the loss of all hands. Such tragedies were all too familiar to sailors and their families and they, somewhat fatalistically, accepted the risks of their livelihood. Though deeply saddened by his brother's death, Herman made a Christmas tree run later the same month his brother perished.

#### The Rouse Simmons Heads North

Sailing from Chicago in November 1912, Schuenemann embarked with one of his partners, Captain Charles Nelson, on another Christmas tree voyage. Schuenemann was well aware of the risks of sailing in late November. In fact, on the last day of the month, marine bottom insurance expired for the year, and the Coast Guard removed its navigational buoys for the win-



ter. But Schueneman's finances were heavily dependent on the sale of the trees.



Captain Hermann Schuenemann

The *Rouse Simmons*, which had plied the waters of Lake Michigan for 44 years, was one of the few remaining Christmas tree ships. As more and more steamships took over the shipping on the lake, the *Simmons*, a one-time lumber workhorse, had deteriorated greatly over the years. With patched sails and flaking paint, she slipped quietly into obsolescence.

In the Upper Peninsula of Michigan Schuenemann owned over 200 acres of land from which he harvested trees. In earlier years, he had also bought them from folks in the neighboring area, including the resident Chippewa Indians.

Before the *Rouse Simmons*, laden with Christmas trees, departed its berth at Thompson, Michigan for the return to Chicago, some sailors, a superstitious lot, saw forebodings of imminent disaster when rats were observed leaving the ship before its departure. Supposedly, at this occurrence, three crewmen quit on the spot. Their action was at considerable financial sacrifice, as sailors were paid only on the basis of completing entire trips. Longtime friends and associates in Thompson pleaded with the captain to wait out an

approaching storm, but he reportedly said, "The people in Chicago have to have their trees for Christmas."

On the afternoon of 22 November, Schuenemann gave orders for the ship to cast off from the dock at Thompson. Precisely what happened to the *Rouse Simmons* after that is not entirely clear.

The following day, in the afternoon, an observer at the Life Saving Station at Kewaunee, Wisconsin reported seeing a schooner about five miles out in the strong gale that had come up, flying its flag at half-mast in distress. The station keeper phoned ahead to Two Rivers, Wisconsin, the next station south, where a crew set out in a powerboat to attempt a rescue. Arriving at the expected position of the ship, the men could see nothing due to heavy snow and mist, though they searched for hours.

The sighting at Kewaunee of a ship in distress, her identity unknown at the time, proved to be the last that anyone saw of the *Rouse Simmons*. The ship vanished into the same devastating winter storm that enveloped the lake and swept away six other ships. Though the *Rouse Simmons* was an aging sailing craft, in that same year, seven months earlier, the *Titanic*, steaming across the Atlantic with the latest in nautical technology, went down in the north Atlantic on its initial voyage.

#### How the Schuenemann Family Carried On

When a ship disappeared in the manner of Schuenemann's on a body of water as large as Lake Michigan, it took time to determine that it had been lost. It was not unusual for a ship to be delayed days by a storm. It might have made another port to ride out the storm, or it might have been forced ashore on one of the lake's islands with no

communications. Schuenemann's family was tormented with uncertainty during this period, though his wife kept up a brave front, providing reporters possible reasons for the delay. Furthermore, the situation was complicated by reports of sightings of the ship that proved false. Nonetheless, by December 4, newspapers across the area, such as the *Duluth Herald*, the *Chicago Daily Journal*, the *Detroit News* and the *Milwaukee Daily News*, began reporting that the *Rouse Simmons* was almost certainly lost. Yet, the family desperately clung to fading hopes that the captain and crew were still alive.

As Christmas drew nearer, they decided to carry on with the family business. Captain Schuenemann's oldest daughter, Elsie, managed to borrow a ship, the *Oneida*, with a somewhat similar appearance to the *Rouse Simmons* and moored it at the Clark Street pier where the *Simmons* usually berthed.

Before leaving Thompson, Captain Schuenemann had arranged for two carloads of trees to be shipped by rail. Schuenemann's family and friends loaded the *Oneida* with these trees as well as some that had washed up on the shores of the lake, all too obviously from the *Rouse Simmons*. Ironically, Captain Schuenemann had kept his promise to deliver Christmas trees to the people of Chicago.

As the loss of the family's father settled in, his wife and daughter faced bankruptcy with a debt estimated between \$5,000 to \$8,000. Having sailed with her father in all conditions, Elsie assumed the role of captain. Beginning in 1913, Schuenemann's wife, Barbara, went to Thompson each year to oversee the selection and cutting of the Christmas trees. The first year, she declined to risk shipping the trees back to Chicago by boat out of

deference to the families of her crew. Thereafter, some years, in better weather, Barbara Schuenemann transported the Christmas trees to Chicago via her rented schooner, the *Fearless*, and in others years by rail. During World War I, there was a shortage of available ships, and by 1920, the tradition of the Christmas Tree Ship had come to an end. After Barbara's death in 1933, her girls carried on selling trees, shipped by rail, from a lot for a few more years.

### **The Ghost Ship *Rouse Simmons***

Over the years after the *Simmons* went down, there were numerous sightings reported of the ghostly ship suddenly appearing on the lake, struggling southward for Chicago with her load of trees. There were even specific days said to be the most propitious for sighting her, -- Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and November 23, the day she sank. The author of one book on the Christmas Tree Ship, Rochelle Pennington, interviewed a woman in Sheboygan, Wisconsin who said that she had twice seen the hazy, ice-covered

ghost of the *Rouse Simmons*, appearing at dusk near her home off the lake shore.

### **Discovering the Wreck of the *Rouse Simmons***

Though trees from the *Simmons* washed up for years on the shores of Lake Michigan and snarled the nets of fishermen — the captain's well-preserved wallet even washed up in 1922 --- her final resting place remained a mystery. However, in October 1971, a scuba diver searching for the 1887 wreck of another steamer off Two Rivers, Wisconsin, discovered the *Rouse Simmons* on the lake floor in about 170 feet of water. Amazingly, even after all those years, scuba divers found the remnants of Christmas trees still in her hold. Nearly 60 years after she sank, the fate of the beloved Christmas Tree Ship had finally been discovered.

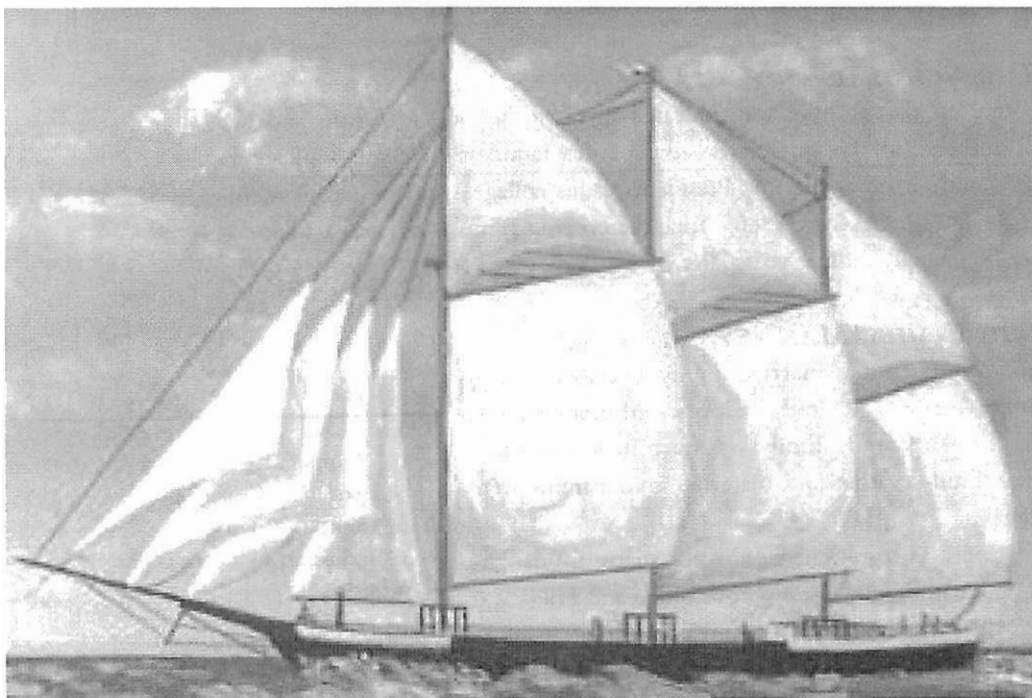
### **The Memory of the Christmas Tree Ship**

Since her sinking almost 100 years ago, the story of the Christmas Tree

Ship lives on in Chicago and along the shores of Lake Michigan. There have been songs, plays, documentaries and histories produced about her. Each December, in commemoration of Captain Schuenemann and his crew, a ceremony is held in Chicago at the edge of Lake Michigan. Afterward, Christmas trees, which have been transported for the occasion from the northern end of the lake by a Coast Guard cutter, are distributed to needy families in the area, in keeping with the tradition established so many years earlier by "Captain Santa".

At the Acacia Park Cemetery in Chicago, legend has it that those who pass by the grave of Barbara Schuenemann sometimes detect the unmistakable fragrance of spruce trees.

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| <p><b>Written and submitted by<br/>Ron Hunka, Austin</b></p> |
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**The Rouse Simmons**



The following is excerpted from *Texas School for the Deaf Sesquicentennial*, by Sharon Kay Crawford Forestal Hovings, Ed. S., with permission from the Texas School for the Deaf Alumni Association, President Kent Kennedy.

GUS F. URBANTKE

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### GUS F. URBANTKE 1913-1919

*"After five years of faithful and efficient service, Professor Urbantke retires as Superintendent of the Texas School. Anyone in position to compare the school and its work, as it was when he took it, with what it is today, must acknowledge that a great work has been accomplished. This school has probably never had a more unselfish and self-sacrificing head. The welfare of the children morally, mentally, physically was ever his chief concern. A man of earnest Christian spirit, he has ever held before the pupils and others connected with the school the highest ideals and noblest purposes of life."*

*The faculty supported Urbantke, in defiance of the new Board of Control. (Lone Star, March 1, 1919, p. 8)*

#### ~ THE YOUNG MAN ~

Gus F. Urbantke was born at Industry (Austin County), Texas, on January 19, 1870. His father, Gustav A. Urbantke, was born in Austria, where his family was in the woolen business. He became a U.S. citizen on April 1, 1866. Urbantke's mother, Caroline Munezler Werner, was born in Texas on January 27, 1849 and died on January 8, 1918. She was a widow with a small boy when his father married her. In addition to his stepbrother Henry Werner, Gus F. Urbantke had six sisters (Mary, Frieda, Helene, Augusta, Sara, and Lydia) and seven brothers (Herman, Karl, Gottfried, Ernest, Emil, Alfred, and Hugo).



*Gustav A. Urbantke  
Super.*

#### ~ THE SCHOLAR ~

As a young child, Urbantke was educated in public schools in Austin and Lee Counties. His brother, Karl Urbantke, was one of the founders of Blinn College in Brenham in 1883 and served as the first President of this college. (Karl wrote his memoirs in *Texas is the Place for Me.*) In 1886, Urbantke entered Blinn Memorial College at Brenham where he graduated three years later.

#### ~ THE FAMILY MAN ~

In 1896, Gus Urbantke married Emily Eversberg when they were both 28 years of age. Emily's 85 year-old mother, Anna Eversberg, lived with the family. Emily was born in her mother's home state, Texas. Emily's father and maternal grandparents were born in Germany.

Gus and Emily Urbantke had two very successful daughters. Elsie became a pathologist in a doctor's office and Hilda was a draftsman with the Texas Highway Commission.

From 1910-1913, Urbantke served on the State Teachers Examining Board. In 1913, he was appointed to a seven-member Textbook Commission to select the first free textbooks to be distributed to public schools.



### ~ THE EDUCATOR ~

Urbantke began his teaching career in a rural school on the Houston and Texas Central Railroad, where he served six months. He returned to Blinn College in 1890 and taught at the college for twenty-three years until 1913. He also studied at the "Texas Summer Normals" and "University Summer School." He sometimes conducted the classes and was made a Summer Normal board member in 1910. He was also a Trustee and President of the Brenham Public School Board.

When TSD opened on October 23, 1914, special railroad cars had to be added to the Fort Worth and Dallas areas to transport the blind and deaf students to Austin. The *Austin American* had a bold headline: "D. and D. (Deaf and Dumb) and Blind Institutes Will be Crowded to Limit."

### ~ THE SUPERINTENDENT ~

In September 1913, Gus F. Urbantke became Superintendent of the school at a salary of \$2,000 per year. When he came to TSD, he had to resign from the two aforementioned prestigious Governor-appointed positions. His focus on the school program was immediate; he divided the school into three new departments: Primary (1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grades) and Grammar (4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades), with older students placed in a rotating Advanced Department. He brought back textbooks for the Grammar and advanced grades.

In February 1915, Urbantke shared with the board that he was not pleased with the morals of some of the students and had resorted to making them take cold baths or do extra physical work. The board agreed that this was mild punishment and supported him.

Mamie Heflybower was hired as Deaf-Blind Teacher at the rate of \$86.10 per month for nine months. *Heflybower remained at the school for forty-six years.* M.J. Townsend was hired as Boys' Deaf-Blind Supervisor at the rate of \$65.00 per month for nine months.

### ~ GENERAL STUDENT HEALTH ~

*1913-1914: Number of Students Ill: Scarlet Fever (15), Measles (5), German Measles (2), Mumps (2), and Typhoid Fever (1), Appendicitis (4), Tuberculosis (1), Acute Gonorrhoea (1). One student died of an acute attack after getting an infected, malignant boil. From 1914-1915, there were no contagious diseases, but three students died: Daisy Long (gastritis complications), Eva Gibson (appendicitis), and Arthur Weiss (inflammatory rheumatism). Measles, mumps, and whooping cough also affected students. During the 1915-16 school year, the pupils were hit hard with malaria and 120 boys were admitted for observation. 70 out of 200 children were treated for hook worm. In 1918, Dr. Albert F. Beverly left the school to serve his country's colors in World War 1 as a Major in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, but after the war ended, he returned to the school in late 1919. That school year, influenza struck the school just three weeks after it started and classes*



**EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:** A free-prescription drug program for employees was discussed, but the consensus was that there was no way to establish a consistent program for all employees, since some would have more need than others. The concept of "injured worker's compensation" was also first discussed in this same meeting. The chief cook had badly burned her hand, so the board allowed \$20.00 compensation for her medical expenses. September 9, 1913 Board of Trustees' Minutes



(Left) 1915 South Austin Drug Store: Girls from the school sit in front of the drug store on South Congress Avenue. Note the water tower to the left on the school campus.

(Below) South Austin Drug Store Ad: This ad indicates that a post office was located within the drug store, so students could have mailed letters home from there. *The Lone Star*; January 15, 1915

were not held until November 4<sup>th</sup> because teachers were taking care of sick pupils, of whom 2 died. Classes were finally in full swing around Thanksgiving. The flu hit the school again in January and although not as wide-spread, it was a much more serious strain, killing the school nurse and another employee.

In April 1917, the Board of Trustees, obviously enamored with Superintendent Urbantke, signed a second (the first was in 1914) very long, eloquent resolution made on behalf of his first four years of service: Some excerpts: "When Gus F. Urbantke was appointed superintendent of the Texas School for the Deaf, it was being run upon the theory that deaf children were not like other children on account of the fact that they were deprived of the sense of hearing and could not speak....they were permitted to spend one-half of each day in idle-

**South Austin Drug Store**

One Block From Deaf and Dumb Institute. Always Ready to Serve the Patrons and Students of the Institution. First Class Soda Fountain

Postoffice Sub-station No. 1

**Dental Office and Barbershop:** New and modern dental and tonsorial (barbershop) offices were set up at the school for \$500.00 in 1913. Purchased were: dental chair, electric engine, cabinet, fountain cuspidor, electric sterilizer, bracket, and table. Dr. E.C. Benwick was the first Dental Surgeon at the school. The dental office was set up in the main school building to minimize student absence from class. The first year, \$25.00 was spent on dental material. Out of 405 examined pupils, 249 required further dental care. 207 amalgam fillings, 27 cement fillings, and 82 extractions were performed. 72 sets of teeth were cleaned and 19 root canals were filled and a number of abscesses were treated. 1913-1914 Annual Report.





(Above) *Laura Stinson and Classmates 1914-1915: Laura Stinson (1916) is seated second from right. Mary Clancy (1915) is seated third from right. Collection of Stinson's sons, Jack (1940) and Harry (1950) Richard.*

(Below) *1916 Open House Invitation: Urbantke took so much pride in the accomplishments of the students and improvements on campus, that he initiated an "Open Day" for visitors to come to campus and view the work students had done as well as to increase appreciation of their taxes at work when they toured the beautiful campus. The first open house was held in January 1914 and on an annual basis while Urbantke was at the school.*

You are cordially invited to attend the

## Third Annual Open House

of

## The Texas School for the Deaf

Thursday, March 23, 1916 1 p. m. to 5 p. m.

All Academic and Industrial Departments will have their  
regular class recitations  
Military Drill at 4:15 p. m., with the Band

Respectfully,  
Gus. F. Urbantke, Supt.

*Gus F. Urbantke*

ness upon the theory that they were not mentally able to endure the hours of study required of children possessing all of their senses..... He converted the half-day of idleness into a half-day of industry.... teaching them that they are to become citizens of this great state and a part in its making and should be independent and self-sustaining—real men and women upon whom will rest a share of responsibilities of the future progress of the state and nation.

We believe that the time to present flowers to our friends and faithful officials is while the heart yet beats and the mind can comprehend the motive prompting the gift, therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Texas School for





1917 Faculty Picture

*the Deaf, that... the influence for good already exerted by him will outlive the years, and we hereby pledge him our loyal and hearty support in his efforts to make the "Texas School for the Deaf" the best Institution its kind in America, confidently believing that under his wise leadership and management, that goal will soon be reached."*

*Substitute Teachers:* Due to the influenza epidemic, substitute teachers were needed more often and for longer periods, so the board paid substitute teachers one-half of the salary of regular teachers.



*Texas School for the Deaf*

*Report of Scholarship and Department of*

*Harry Rudolph* GRADE/Class

*For the month of December 1914.*

|                       |                    |   |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---|
| Language              | History of U. S.   |   |
| Reading               | History of England |   |
| Composition           | Physiology         |   |
| Literature            | Nat. Philosophy    |   |
| Arithmetic            | Speech             | B |
| Civil Government      | Lip Reading        | A |
| Grammar               | Writing            | A |
| Political Geography   | Days present       |   |
| Physical Geography    | Days absent        |   |
| Class-room Department |                    | A |
| Study-hall Department |                    |   |

*Jms Max Bickler* Teacher

A is Excellent.  
 B is Good.  
 C is Fair.  
 D is Poor.  
 E is Very Poor.

~ 1914 YOUNGER PUPILS' CLASSROOM ~

This wonderful 1914 portrayal of early Americana at right tells us a lot about the younger children's classroom atmosphere in those days. Beginning on the left side: a doll sitting on a chair, probably for play during recess; visual picture charts hanging from the door; and an abacus hanging on the slate board. Slate board: Speech lesson (froo, proo, troo); antonyms (alive/dead); Manners (Good, Thank you, Good morning, Good By (sic) (hope the teacher didn't write the latter); mirror (probably for speech and lip reading feedback), vowel and consonant lists; spelling of numbers: 1 one, 2 two; present tense=I have, you have, we have; verb tense "is dead", "was alive." They could have been using the figurines on their desks to study about the animals shown.

Chalk and erasers sit at the bottom of the slate board. The American flag with fireworks and birds are drawn on the board. Above the board are various pictures, including a horse on the middle right side. Below: small student slate board at right, a fishbowl containing fish and plants and assorted small toys sit on the ornate, cloth-covered table.

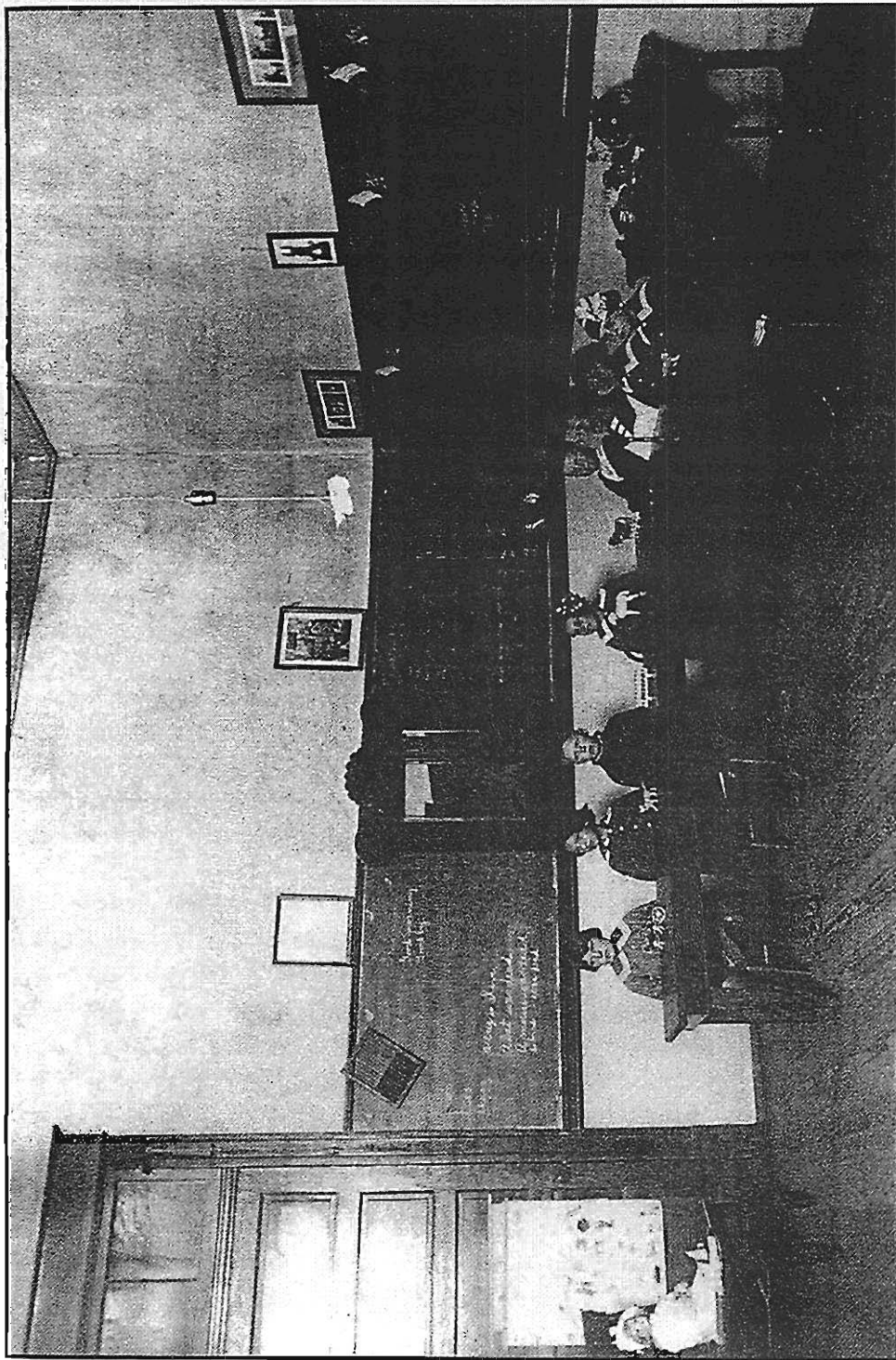
The outdated long tables often had to be propped up at one end with books or chairs so that the larger students could fit under them, probably making the shorter students' materials slide off their end of the table. It was asserted by Kendall that every boy had carved his initials under the tables with his jack-knife. Study halls were later outfitted with individual automatic desks that could be raised and lowered, replacing the long tables. "Among the newest improvements at the Texas Institution, the *Ranger* speaks of fitting up fine study-rooms, one for the boys and one for the girls. They are used only for evening study, and are kept locked, except when in use." *The Silent Worker*, April 25, 1889.

Pupils sat straight up, with hands in their laps. The girls wore blue dresses with white, trimmed rectangular collars. The girl in the middle right side was probably a new student, since she did not yet have on a uniform. Notice the girls' headbands with large bows, all on the left side. Boys wore different shirts with knickerbockers. Girls and boys wore the same kinds of stockings and similar shoes.

Electricity was available at this time, as depicted by the light bulbs hanging from the ceiling. Craftsmanship is evident by the beautiful wide-plank wooden floors, door, baseboards, slate board, and ceiling trim.

*Harry Rudolph's 1914 Report Card: Urbantke and the teachers implemented letter grades, for both scholarship and deportment (posture and attitude) of each pupil. Grades were sent home to parents on a monthly basis. Note that married women in those days wrote their husbands first name, not their own. Mrs. Bickler, a former teacher, had just returned as a Primary Oral teacher, due to the sudden death of another teacher. Within four years, she became supervisor of that department. Collection of Harry Rudolph (1925)*



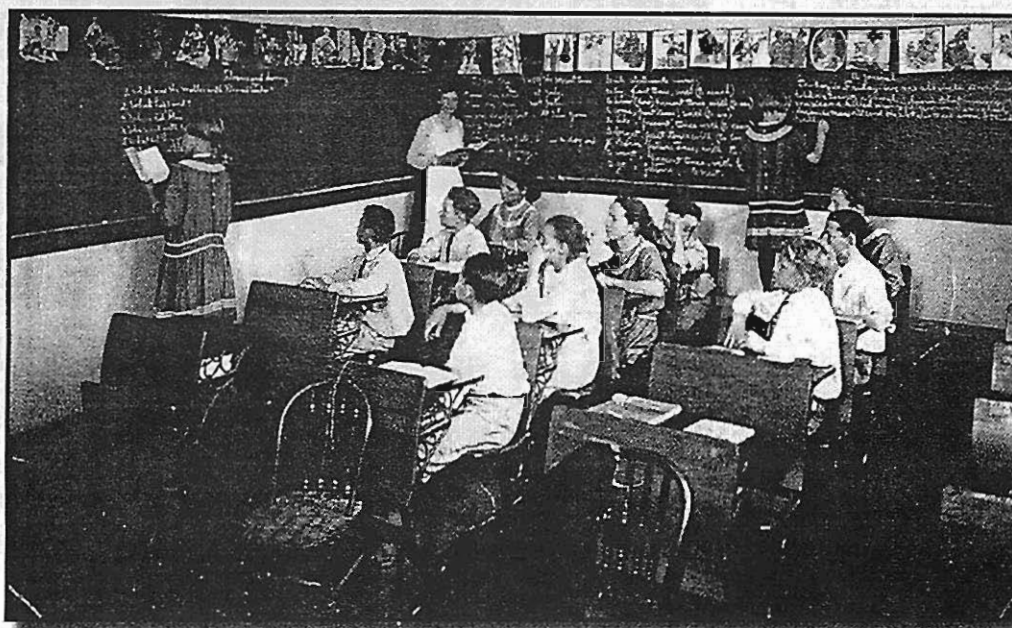


1914 Classroom: The pictures on the chalkboard corner sill of Superintendent Urbantke (left) and Principal Charles Archer (right) date the photograph. Collection of Angela and Edna Watson (1927).



*Student Enrollment: In June 1914, at the end of Urbantke's first year as Superintendent, there were 449 pupils enrolled, instructed by 42 teachers. Twenty-four pupils graduated that month, the largest ever. Eighteen pupils received their diplomas or certificates in 1915, when the admissions age was between 7 and 17. 451 pupils were enrolled. Seven girls and five boys graduated and three entered Gallaudet College. At the end of his tenure in February 1919, enrollment had increased to 478 pupils, with five girls graduating that year. It was estimated that there were 700-1200 deaf children within the state entitled to an education at the school. Forty-two percent of the school's new students were being admitted above the proper age of 7-10 years old, greatly hampering their learning progress.*

*1918 Third Grade Classroom: From the collection of Angela and Edna Watson (1927), who are standing at the chalkboards. Mrs. William M. Davis was the teacher. She and her husband were both deaf. Girls still dressed in the same blue uniforms. Boys wore tan khaki knickerbockers with white long-sleeved shirts and ties.*



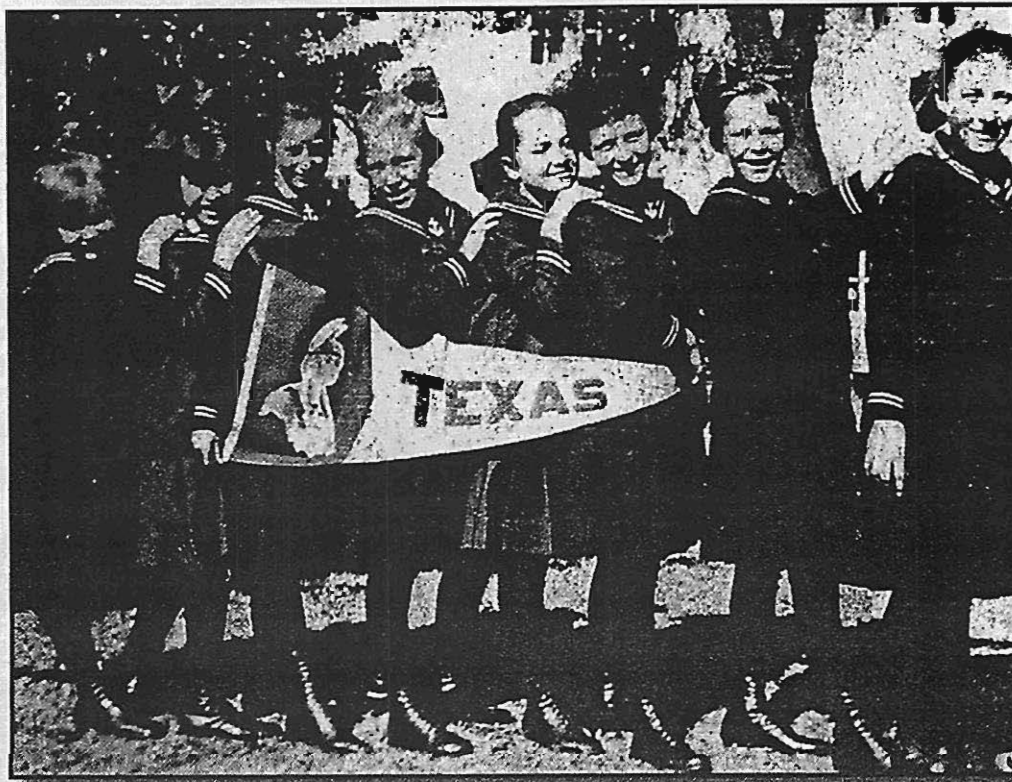
### ~ INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT ~

Urbantke raised the level of educational programming at the school so that it was on par with other public schools in the city. Rather than allowing the students to work or be idle during the latter part of the day, he set up academic classes during the morning and industrial classes during the afternoon. All boys and girls from the sixth grade and up were required to attend one of fourteen industrial classes by the 1915-16 school year. The most important tools for boys were considered the hammer, saw, and plane. The most important need for industrial classes was space.

*Bookkeeping and Typing:* The school revived bookkeeping and typing in December of 1913. Troy Hill (1915) writes of his experience during those days: "At the time this class was organized, I was a little devil in the printing shop, and pretty well disgusted with the printers' trade too, believe me. They didn't have linotypes at TSD in those days, and I was pretty well fed up on hand composition and feeding the job press. In other words, I was stale, and jumped



at the chance to go into the bookkeeping and typewriting class. This first class was under the tutelage of Mr. Louis Buecherl, the Superintendent's private stenographer, and later Mr. W.A. "Bill" Holland, now bookkeeper in the State Board of Control. Of the original ten pupils in the class, Clifton Seals, Perry Markus, Robert Baird, Grover A. Morgan, Guthrie Williams, W.J. Capps, John Branham, Fielding B. Griggs, Hons Byrnes, and myself...there are eight who at this time or within the past years have earned a good living from their trades as a bookkeeper or typist. One became a prosperous farmer (Clifton Seale) and one is a mechanic."



Girls with Texas Flag

Hill taught at TSD a few years and Morgan became a shoemaking teacher at Alabama School for the Deaf. Hill lamented in this article that typewriting was no longer taught and that he had tried to do this for pupils when he was teaching at the school. (*Silent Worker*, May 1925, Vol. 38, No. 8, p. 399 and January 1927, Vol. 39, No. 4, p. 96.)

**Agriculture:** By 1916, Urbantke's priority was to establish agriculture classes for the boys. "Fifty-five per cent of these children come from farms and will go back to farms. I want to send them back able to farm. They can succeed at farming and stock-raising as well as anyone. Students raised many vegetables for meals at the school. (*Austin American-Statesman*, April 30, 1916.) The first agricultural class was established in 1917.

*In 1915, the Superintendent of the school for the blind, Mr. Bramette, was interested in establishing a journal at that school and asked Urbantke if it would be possible for the TSD printers to print the first few issues. This would give the boys more practice and less idle time, especially during evening hours and the school would obtain more revenue. The blind school would pay all expenses. The board supported the idea, as long as the State Expert Printer approved.*



**Hog Farming:** In August 1914, Urbantke suggested that the school buy hogs and feed them the slops (food thrown away by the kitchen), rather than sell the slops to the public. By 1916, Urbantke had set up a modern farm, with several breeds of hogs, which provided meat for the school cafeteria. The 1916 Annual Report indicates that 12,500 pounds of pork were slaughtered for school meals and the only expense was \$285 for a car load of corn, since most of their food came from the school slops. Urbantke also suggested that the school lease the smelly, unsightly stock pens to the north of the school and establish horticultural and agricultural programs there. In the spring of 1918, all the hogs were inoculated against cholera.

**Blacksmithing** was added as an additional curriculum choice for boys in 1917. Approval was given to purchase two horses to replace the ones that were no longer used at the school.



Girls made fancy lace bonnets in millinery class.

**Domestic Science and Millinery:** The winter of his first term, Urbantke added a new sewing class to the domestic science department, which was nearing completion. Ten new sewing machines were purchased. Miss Marwin Taylor was hired as an instructor. Cooking was added to the curriculum in 1917. That January, two new Singer sewing machines were delivered to the school, probably for the second sewing class, which was a new millinery class added for girls, who made their own hats.

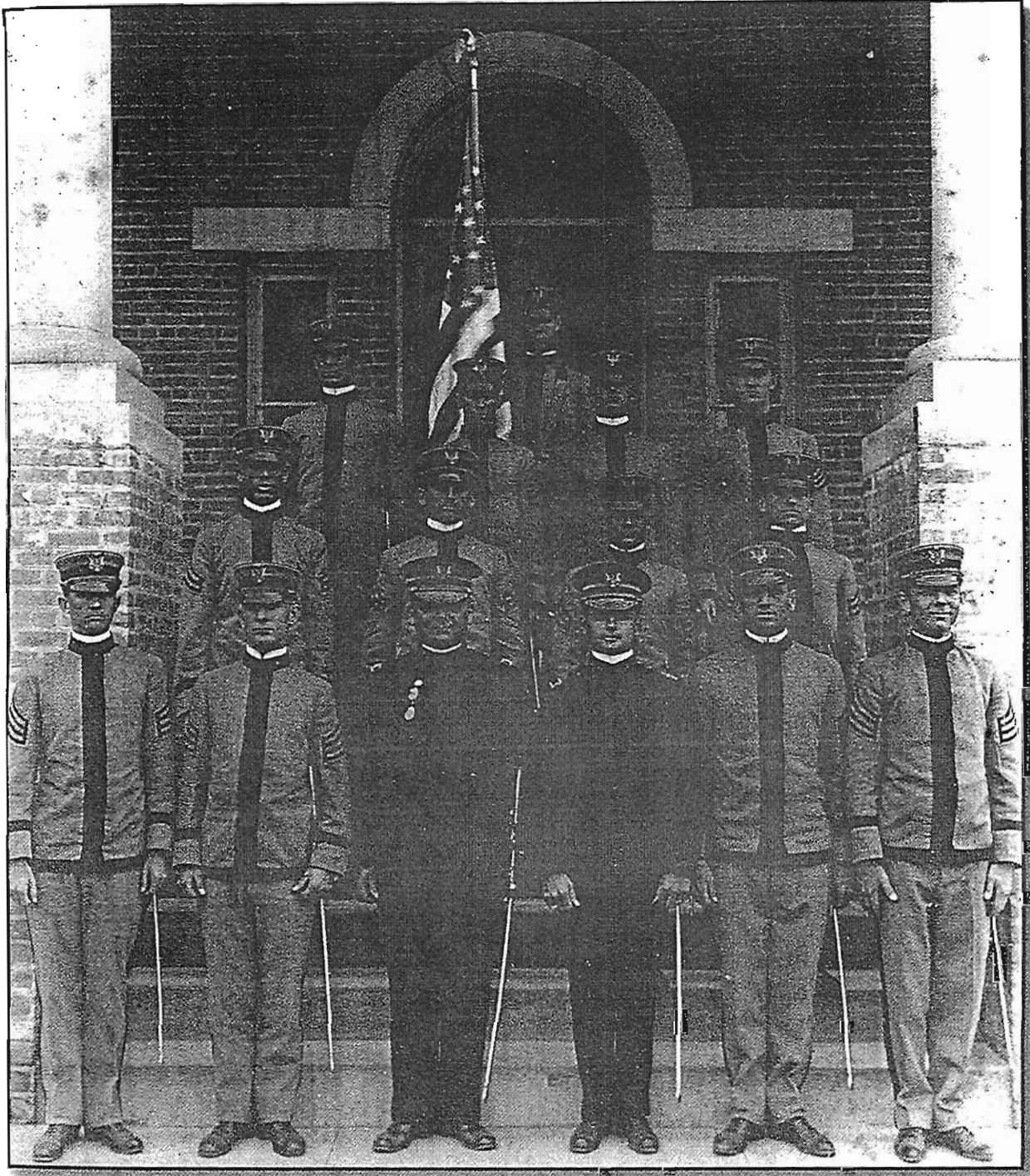
**Woodworking:** Industrial students found some relief when the new boys' gymnasium was completed in 1914. The industrial building was extremely overcrowded and the boys' woodworking equipment and classes were moved to the basement of the new gym.

### ~ UNIFORMS AND THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT ~

By August 1914, Urbantke was very enthusiastic to establish a Military Department within the school. The board had given its blessing in the form of a resolution, but recommended that he post bond for protection in case something happened and that he obtain army rifles from the U.S. War Department. Urbantke was quickly able to secure one hundred authentic rifles from the U.S. government for the older boys before school started that fall. The school bought eight dummy rifles for the younger boys to use during drills. He hired Walter E. Kadel from the New York Institute for the Deaf to become the school's first military instructor. Exhibition drills were presented to the public. While cadets went through maneuvers, "America," "The Star Spangled Banner," and "Dixie," music was played.

"I know that the boys always like to march on the grounds every morning. Superintendent Gus F. Urbantke likes to see the deaf boys marching on the ground. Mr. Walter Kadel is our military instructor. He often gives us good advice. The military training is good for our health." Cadet E.C. Dagerath; *The Lone Star*; November 1, 1914, p. 6.





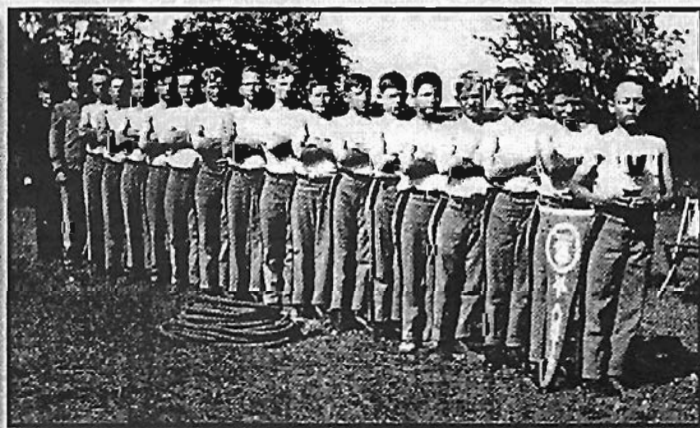
*1915 Batillion officers with Superintendent Urbantke (third from left) and Military Leader, Walter Kadel (third from right).*



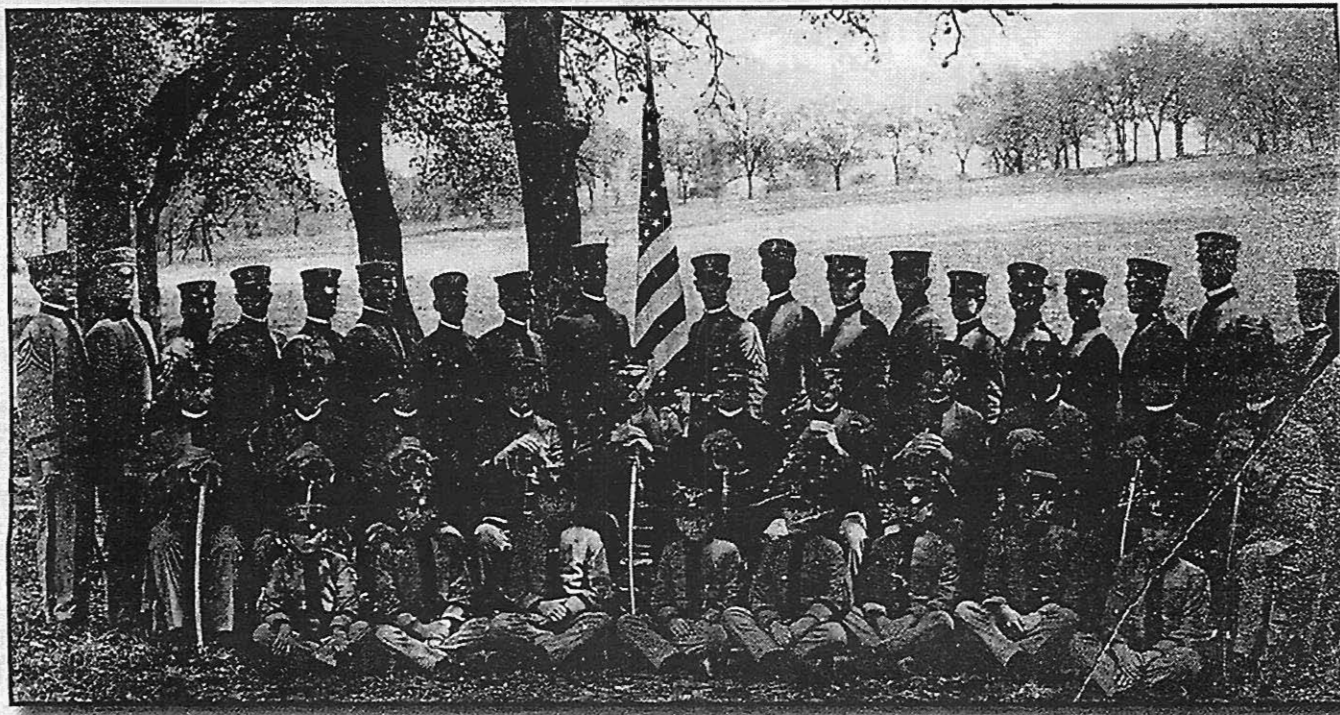


*Younger Students: From 1892-1916, girls wore navy blue dresses with white collar and cuff stripes. Some girls still wore them until about 1920, according to pictures in our archives. Boys wore gray uniforms and hats similar to West Point soldiers from 1915-1917. Photo Circa 1915.*

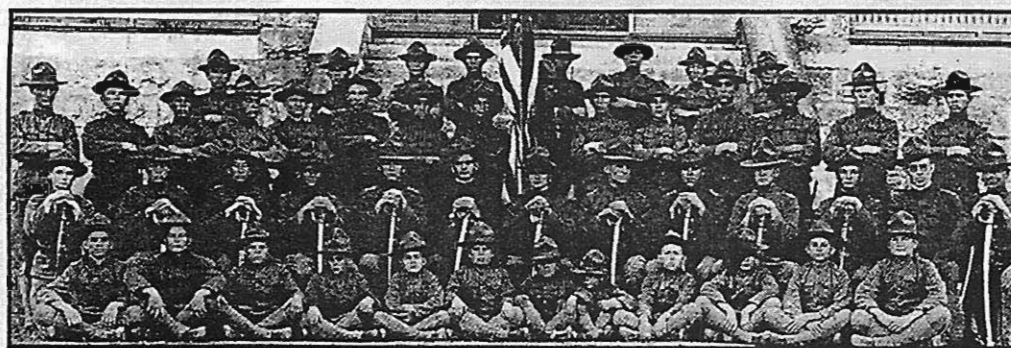
**"Tug-O-War" Trophy:**  
 Each Friday, two out of the three companies (A, B, Casual Squad) would have a "Tug-O-War" competition to see which company fared the best. A trophy was given to the winning company of cadets. On the front is engraved, "Winners of Merchants and Manufacturers Exposition, 1916." On the back, "Won by Texas School for the Deaf, May 13, 1916."







1916 Cadet Officers with Swords



Circa 1917 Cadets with Mountie Hats: Dudley Lewis and Joe Floerke are pictured 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> from left in the 3<sup>rd</sup> row. These khaki uniforms were worn until about 1920. (Collection of Willie Floerke-1944)



Cadet on Horse at South Congress Avenue entrance to the school.

The school ordered new khaki military uniforms from Little Manufacturing Company of Columbus, Ohio. They cost \$12.50 per uniform. "All of the deaf boys have new khaki uniforms. I am so glad. We are going to wear them every day, but not on Sunday. We might wear our old uniforms. Mr. Urbantke said we might go to the fair at Dallas to drill. We got our khaki uniforms yesterday evening. When I got mine, I was so glad, I put it on in a hurry." (Student J.D. Bishop; Lone Star, October 1, 1916 p. 7)



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~ ATHLETICS AND PHYSICAL CULTURE ~

In 1914, many changes occurred to help the pupils grow physically and socially. Urbantke believed that outdoor sports and physical training would help pupils, so he purchased slides, merry-go-rounds, and swings for the school.

**Girls' Physical Culture:** In addition to military drills for boys, Urbantke set up a Physical Culture class for girls in 1917, after two years of asking for appropriations for a teacher. Urbantke informed the board that he had hired a new Physical Director for girls, in the person of Miss Mary Woolslayer, a deaf lady from the Utah School for the Deaf. This was the *initiation of physical education for girls*, whereas the boys had gone through this training for some time.

**Track 1915:** Urbantke urged the board to allow him to build a track on the grounds for athletic purposes. He was asked to investigate what was involved and report back with estimated costs.

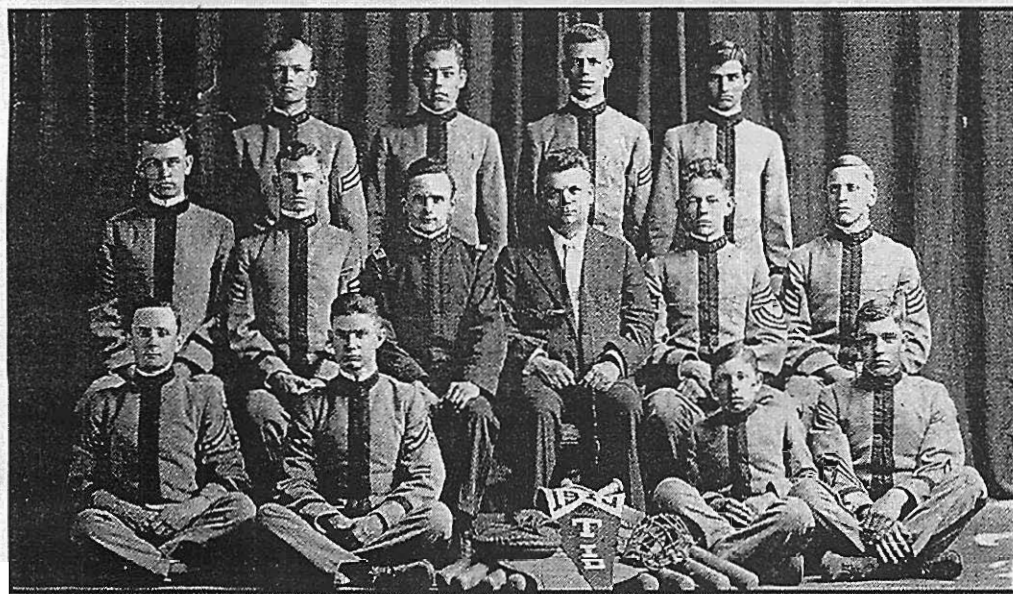


*1914 Football Team: The team won two games and lost four. Kadel (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) and Urbantke (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) pose with the team. Note the banner at top left.*





1914 Girls' Basketball Team



1915 Baseball Team in Military Uniforms (*Record* 13-6) Those we were able to identify are: far left front row, James T. Miller (1917); far left back row, Archie Bradbury; and middle row-third from left, Military Instructor Walter Kadel, Superintendent Urbantke, and Troy Hill (1915).

*Baseball 1914: The 1914 TSD Baseball team won the State Academic Championship. They lost two games to the University of Texas and one to Daniel Baker College, but won 12 games. The team picture was featured in the January 1927 *Silent Worker* Vol. 39, No. 4, page 97). Picture not suitable for reprint.*



~ FAVORITE SWIMMING HOLES ~



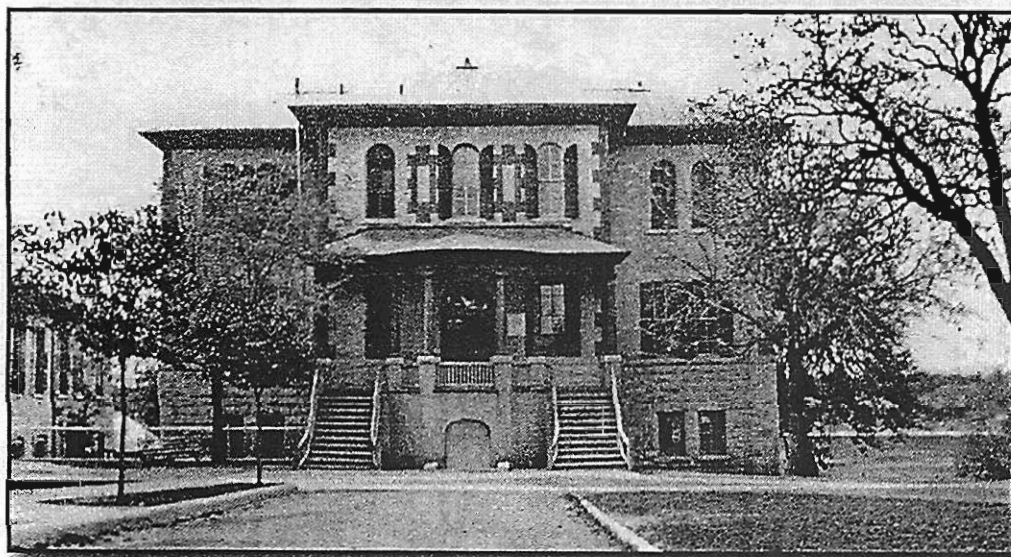
McKinney Falls Flowing into Onion Creek. Circa Late 1910's 1. Auvice McCallon (1925), 2. Galen Pape (1926), 3. Teacher R.L. Davis (1904), 4. Dick Myers (1925), 5. Doyle Kerr, 6. Mr. Todd, 7. Horace William (1923), 8. Harol Rudolph (1925), 9. Dudley Lewis (1922), 10. Abe Nirider, 11. John Bishop (1923), 12. Aquiles Castro (1924), and 13. Leroy Colombo. Collection of Harol (1925) and Harry Rudolph (1925). Deep Eddy: Center Row: Teachers George Brooks is standing in back row at left. Alumnus and Teacher Robert Rives (1888) is sitting 2<sup>d</sup> from left in the center row, next to Edna Watson, unknown, and Angela Watson. The Watson girls graduated in 1927. Circa 1917-20. Bull Creek: This picture was taken between 1917 and 1920. Edna and Angela Watson (1923) are pictured 2<sup>d</sup> and fourth from left in the middle row. Max B. Park is sitting 2<sup>d</sup> from right in the middle row. From the collection of Max B. Park (1924).



~ BUILDING AND GROUNDS ~

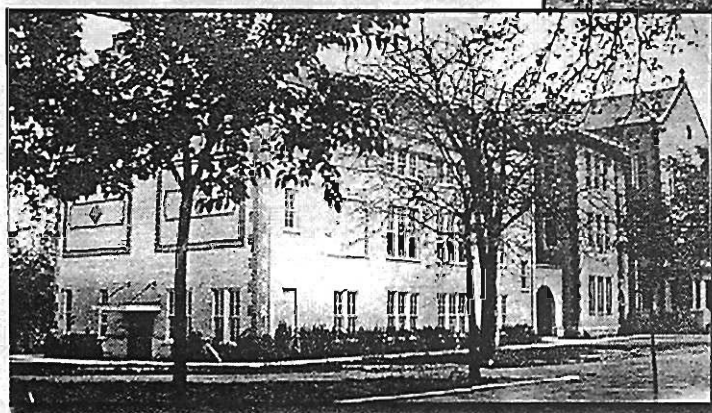
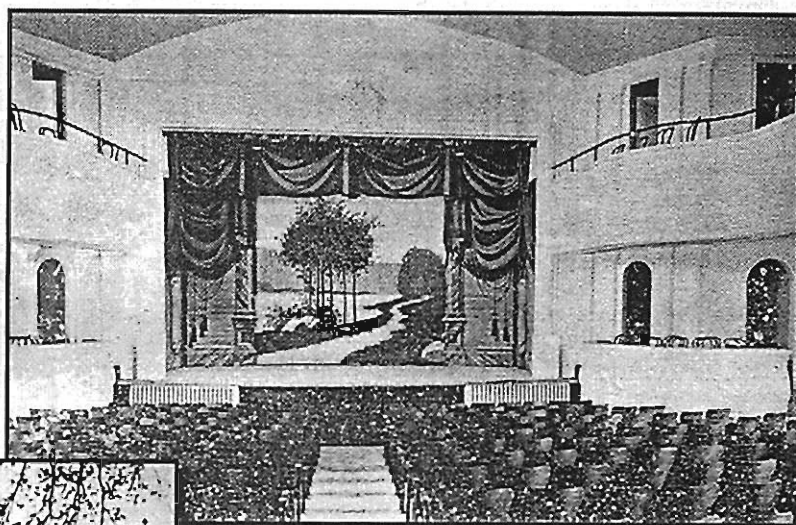
By the end of the 1915-16 school year, the school had ten brick buildings, all well ventilated. On February 3, 1914, the new completed larger boys' gymnasium was accepted from the contractors. This was a huge relief for Urbantke because, although originally intended for use only as a gym, the industrial classes were growing so fast, they needed the space for boys' industrial classes also. The board was obviously excited about the new addition to the campus because a month prior, Urbantke was instructed to advertise bids for new cement sidewalks from existing buildings (school, industrial and dormitory) that would lead to the new gymnasium. By July, 20/20 hindsight prevailed and the board decided that the new Boys' Gymnasium would have two doors cut into a front entrance level with the ground, rather than boys having to descend a flight of stairs to get to the first floor. It was completed at a cost of \$20,000. The gym has had a long and varied history. In 1939, it was a high school oral building. From 1940-42, classes for manual elementary children were held there. After 1942, the oral classes also made use of the building until 1948, when non-rotating oral classes were held there. The building's last service was housing science classrooms and the offices of the Bi-Lingual/Bi-Cultural and American Sign Language Specialist Programs. The Ranger Center, a recreation spot for teens was located in the basement. The building was demolished in 1998.

**Girls' Hospital:** By August 1917, \$15,000 had been received for a new Girls' Hospital. However, that November, the board decided to send the money back to the general revenue of the state, due to war's effect on the sudden increase in cost of material,



1918 Girls' Industrial Building





(Top Left) 1916 Auditorium Decorative Wall Sculpture: Teacher Jerry Hassell (1946) and his class dislodged the musically-themed Decorative Wall Molding from the wall above the stage in the auditorium just before it was razed in 1956. Several smaller ornaments were rescued also and most have been given to the TSD Heritage Center, where this larger piece hangs above the west entrance.

(Top Right) Front View of Auditorium Circa 1916: An elaborate auditorium and library was added to the main school building during the 1915-16 school year. The medallion shown is slightly distinguishable in the center of the arch above the stage. Balconies lined the sides and the back of the auditorium. The auditorium was steam heated. It was completed at a cost of \$28,047.37, less than half of the \$64,000 appropriated for this construction project. On the lower floor, there was a library, music room, and two classrooms for pupils.

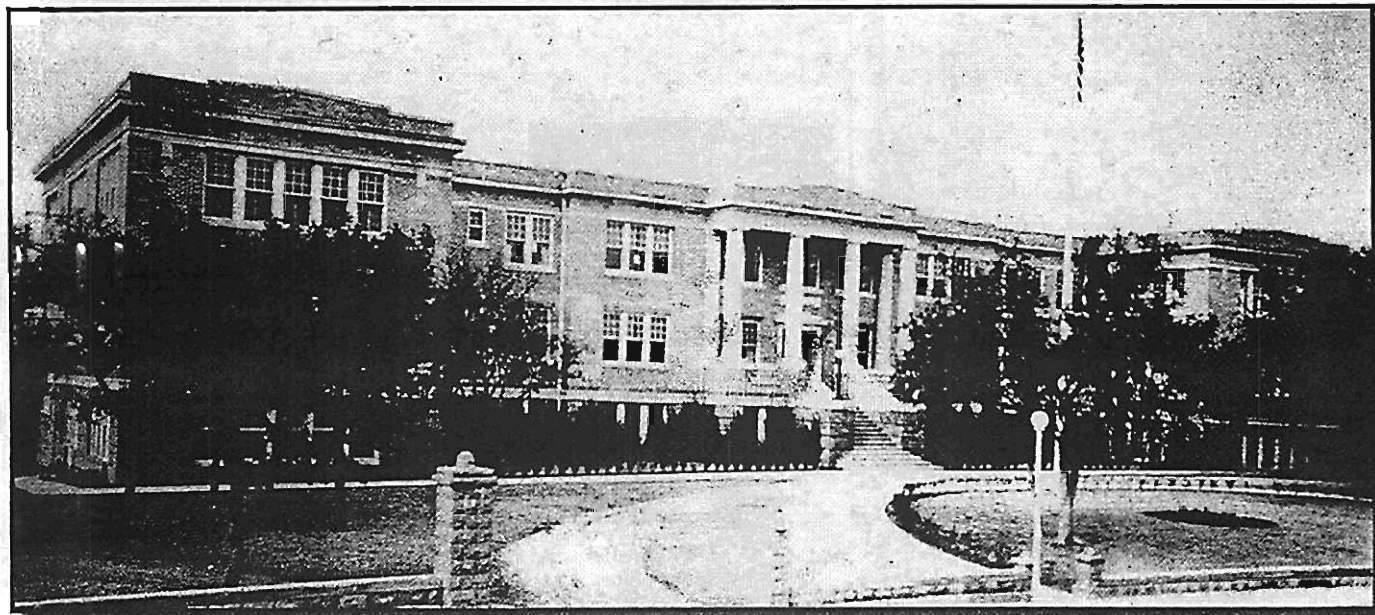
(Above) 1918 Main School Building and Chapel Entryway: Due to increased enrollment, partitioned rooms were set up in the auditorium chapel to make six extra classrooms, with blackboards, so teachers no longer had to share the same room. Note the arch entry to the chapel in the middle of the picture.

making it impossible to do the work or to purchase the equipment needed for the hospital. Urbantke wanted to use the money for salary increases instead of sending it back, but the board prevailed. Word quickly got around campus that the school had returned money to the state, so the board met with officers, teachers, and employees to explain that a payroll adjustment would have benefited only a few employees, creating an injustice to the majority of the employees.

**Primary Oral Building:** Urbantke suggested to the board that a roof garden be built atop the roof of the new Primary Oral Building, but board member Judge White was hesitant because small children would be living and playing in that three-story building and he was afraid they would topple from the roof. Board member Joe Koen came to Urbantke's aid and a stairway was built from the second floor of the building to the roof, in case it was used for pupil entertainment in later years. This solves the mystery of why many people were puzzled that the "fire escape" didn't go all the way to the ground.

In late 1917, the \$80,000 building was completed. The first floor contained separate play areas





for the girls and boys, divided by the dining room. Classrooms filled the second floor, while the third floor served as living quarters.

The Primary Oral Building was renovated in 1957 to function as the vocational department. Admissions and Records offices were housed in the basement until the building was torn down in 1998. Most of the bricks were sent to San Marcos and used to restore the Hays County Courthouse. The lamps on the ledger of the stairs were lovingly refurbished by the maintenance department and installed in the Heritage Garden on the south side of the Heritage Center. The vocational program moved to the Kleberg Vocational Building. In 1998, the program changed not only buildings, but also became known as the Career-Technology Education Program, housed in the new Ford CTE Building.

*Primary Oral Building (513): From the collection of Doris Thompson. Loaned by her daughter, Doris Bailey Thompson, an interpreter at the school.*

*Urbantke felt the real purpose of the Primary Oral Building was to encourage speech and speech reading and wanted to start the school year with them on that level. In the fall of 1916, he kept the smaller children at home until the Primary Oral Building was ready for occupancy, with the philosophy that they would begin the school year as total oral pupils, having no contact with the manual pupils, and that they would have more exposure to speech and lip reading by staying home longer.*

*1917 Primary Oral Building Cornerstone: The following were sealed within a tin box: Austin American 8/8/1917, The (Austin) Statesman 8/8/1917, The Lone Star 6/1/1917, 59<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Reports Ending 8/31/1916, and coins in an envelope signed by Board Member Joe Koen: 1890 Morgan Silver Dollar, 1905 Indian Head Cent, and 1912 Penny. All were in pretty good condition, except the silver dollar, which was shattered. They were discovered when the building was razed in 1998.*



*Cement Construction Classes:* While the Primary Oral Building was under construction, Urbantke kept the schoolboys very busy in the afternoons making cement blocks. These were set along the east side of the campus and Congress Avenue up to the new Primary Oral Building. Taking his plans a step further, he set up Cement Construction classes and purchased a second machine, providing more work for the boys and speeding up the block and fence erection.

*Laundry and Industrial Shops:* The February 9, 1919 Board of Control minutes indicate that the laundry was in bad condition and the industrial shops had become overcrowded. Board member Judge White suggested it might not be a good time, considering the war, to ask for new buildings, but that funds might later be secured to build a second story onto the Boys' Dormitory for industrial classes. Urbantke was ordered to screen all windows, not only to protect the students, but also to keep out insects when they were opened for fresh air.



1914 Girls at Iron Fence.  
Notice the large cement blocks  
holding up the fence.



"The physical plant of the school has been greatly improved during the last five years. The greatest of these improvements are the primary building, library and auditorium. However, there has scarcely been a week when something in the way of permanent improvements has not been in progress—walls, fences, sewers, roads, gardens, barns, lights, plumbing, and all these things that go to keep a big place on the up-grade." *Lone Star*, March 1, 1919. Urbantke had fenced off the west side of the campus and Bouldin Creek banks with hog wiring to protect the children and also built steps up and over the fence so that people going through campus would not be inclined to cut down the wire.

### ~ WORLD WAR I: CLOUD OF SUSPICION AND TERMINATION ~

Anti-German sentiment was running high from 1915 through 1917. The legislature wanted to weed out Germans in charge of state departments. Governor Hobby's orders to the House and Senate committees were to visit and investigate each state department and institution to determine where offices and/or positions could be consolidated or eliminated. Management practices and bookkeeping & accounting procedures were also to be analyzed. The committees conducted their investigation for only three months from October 1917 through January 1918, which does not appear to be sufficient time to gather, then analyze, information on such a broad spectrum.

*World War I: On May 7, 1915, German u-boats sank the British luxury cruise ship, the Lusitania, with 1,924 persons on board. At least 114 Americans died. Since Germany did not heed his warnings, President Wilson asked Congress to declare war against Imperial Germany on April 19, 1916. The Germans and allies signed an armistice (pause in the war to discuss peace) at 11:00 a.m., on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month of 1918. A peace pact was signed in Paris on June 28, 1919. Formerly called Armistice Day, November 11<sup>th</sup> is now celebrated as Veteran's Day with parades in many cities.*

Concern for Urbantke was paramount during wartime. Pupils must have been aware of the situation because they presented the board with a resolution commending him for his good work in this institution and kind treatment to them and pledged their gratitude and loyalty to Urbantke. The board of the First Methodist Church likewise drew up a lengthy resolution supporting Urbantke not only as a fine Superintendent, but also as a loyal citizen. (Urbantke was a Sunday school teacher and board member at this church and had attended the church for many years). The resolution was sent to the school Board of Managers, Governor Hobby, and Secretary of State, as well as to the press.

Urbantke suddenly found the school and himself under the supervision of the State Board of Control, created in 1919 by the state legislature to oversee all state eleemosynary institutions. The Board of Trustees, who had faith in him, was disbanded.



*Red Cross: In January 1918, The Red Cross Society requested use of the Domestic Sciences classroom twice a week for lectures and study for Red Cross purposes. This was to be done at times when students were not using the classroom. The request was granted, provided the Governor approved. In fact, he was very impressed with the idea. The schoolgirls knitted 26 sweaters and sent them via the Red Cross to America's soldiers in World War I. Superintendent Urbantke and Principal Archer were appointed to a committee of the local Red Cross to assist in raising \$40,000 for the war effort.*



*Superintendent Urbantke on Campus: The latter part of Superintendent Urbantke's journey became a long and lonely road to tread because the Board of Control did not trust him due to his Germanic name and the anti-German feelings prevailing in America at the time.*

### ~ SUPERINTENDENT'S DEPARTURE ~

A letter from the Board of Trustees (not yet disbanded), signed by President Joe Koen, was sent to Urbantke on February 10<sup>th</sup>, informing him that he would no longer be Superintendent of the school. When Urbantke wrote to inquire why he was dismissed, the investigating committee (who put pressure on the board) replied that he (Urbantke) "fed 'sour kraut' to the pupils." Because he was of German heritage, Urbantke was suspected of sympathizing with Germany during World War I.

Even in defeat, Urbantke had the interest of the children and parents at heart. He immediately sent out this card to the parents, inserted with bi-weekly letters from pupils to parents, urging their support of the new Superintendent.

Austin, Texas; February 17, 1919

"Dear Parents and Guardians:

I take this opportunity to thank each one of you for the hearty support and cooperation you have given me while I had the welfare of your child at heart during the 5½ years that I was Superintendent of this school.

The new Superintendent, Dr. F.B. Shuford, has been elected, and he will take charge of the affairs of the school on March 1, 1919, and I trust you will give him the same assistance you have given me.

It has been a great pleasure to me to serve you, and especially to serve your child. I love every one of these children and I believe they love me. It is hard for me to leave them; however, I think God knows what is good for us.

I have made mistakes (who, indeed, does not make them?), but I have tried my best in my devotion to these children to be a father to them, and give them the very best that was in me to advance their physical, mental, and spiritual welfare. I herewith commit the seed I have sown to the heavenly Father and pray that my work may bear fruit thirty, sixty, and a hundred-fold.

Wishing you and the school God's richest blessing, I am, with kindest regards,"

Sincerely yours,  
Gus E. Urbantke



Selected periodical clippings bear witness to the love and respect Urbantke's fellow men had for him:

*"When Prof. Urbantke accepted the position at Austin, he knew quite well it was not a life-time job, but it does seem rather unfortunate for the little deaf and dumb kiddies that just about the time a man has become thoroughly familiar with the work and learned enough about the peculiarities of the afflicted children to be able to give them the best possible service, he loses his job, and some one else starts in to learn the same thing and practice on the poor children." Brenham Banner-Press, February 8, 1919 (Urbantke's old hometown)*

*"The news of the change came as a surprise to many in the deaf world, insofar as Mr. Urbantke, for a period of five years, has conducted the affairs of the Texas School faithfully and well. We wish the man success in his endeavors; and extend to our friend the hope that in whatever line of activity his efforts may fall, he may continue along the good progressive ways which characterized his work." Maryland Bulletin, March 22, 1919.*

*After Urbantke left TSD, he worked for many years as a representative for Aetna Life Insurance in Austin at 611-13 Littlefield Building. From 1932 to 1951, he served as a member and chairman of the Travis County Board of Education. Gus Urbantke passed away at the age of 87 on June 15, 1957. He is buried in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery (Lot 1, 149, 5-6).*

**Tumultuous Years Ahead:** The new Board of Control had quickly dismissed and hired a new Superintendent within three months of its inception. It would take a great deal of work on the part of the *Texas Association of the Deaf*, primarily through the leadership of President Louis B. Orill and Vice-President Bill Lucas, to help the school survive another 30 years, before TSD was finally removed from the supervision of the Board of Control and placed under an educational authority. *"I.A.D. flooded the state with printed material and newspaper articles about the deaf and their needs in an educational way. They also made good use of the radio." Silent Worker; August 1949, Vol. 1, No. 12, page. 31.*



*"Gus F. Urbantke,  
Former TSD Superintendent*

Submitted by Charles Clinger, Austin

## THE FAMILY OF WILHELM & HENRIETTE (SCIIRAMME) SPREEN

BY DANIEL BODE, Dayton, TX

**Johann Friedrich Wilhelm Spreen** was born 30 Oct. 1848, in Wehdem, Westphalia, Germany. Wilhelm was baptized 5 Nov. 1848, in the Lutheran Church in Wehdem, and later confirmed in this church. Wilhelm was the son of **Carl Friedrich Spreen** (born 20 Jan. 1819, in Wehdem; died 26 July 1885, in Wehdem) and his wife, **Charlotte Henriette Dreier** (born 1 May 1817, in Wehdem; died 22 Oct. 1856, in Wehdem). Wilhelm's parents were married 21 Nov. 1844, in Wehdem, Westphalia.

Wilhelm's siblings were four sisters. They were:

1. **Marie Charlotte Henriette Spreen** born 18 Nov. 1845, in Wehdem, Westphalia, and she died 14 Oct. 1874, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. Henriette married **Heinrich Konrad Wilhelm Bode** on 20 Oct. 1866, in Salem Lutheran Church, Salem Community, Washington Co., Texas. Wilhelm Bode was born 20 Dec. 1830, in Rosenthal, Hannover, Germany, and he died 6 Dec. 1891, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas.
2. **Henriette Charlotte Louise Spreen** born 27 Nov. 1851, in Wehdem, Westphalia, Germany, and she died 13 March 1941, in Long Point, Washington Co., Texas. Louise married **Georg Daniel Imhoff** on 4 Jan. 1874, in Eben Ezer Lutheran Church, Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. Daniel Imhoff was born 22 July 1840, in Eusserthal/Rhine-Bavaria, Germany, and he died 8 Jan. 1910, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas.
3. **Wilhelmine Henriette Louise Spreen** born 18 Feb. 1854, in Wehdem, Westphalia, Germany, and she died 28 Jan. 1870, in Wehdem.
4. **Infant Spreen** born & died 22 Oct. 1856, in Wehdem.

Wilhelm's paternal grandparents were **Friedrich Wilhelm Hoegemeier** known as Spreen (born 8 Feb. 1778, in Wehdem; died 26 Aug. 1832, in Wehdem) and **Marie Elisabeth Klocke** (born 21 June 1775, in Wehdem; died 26 June 1850, in Wehdem). They were married 16 Dec. 1801, in Wehdem.

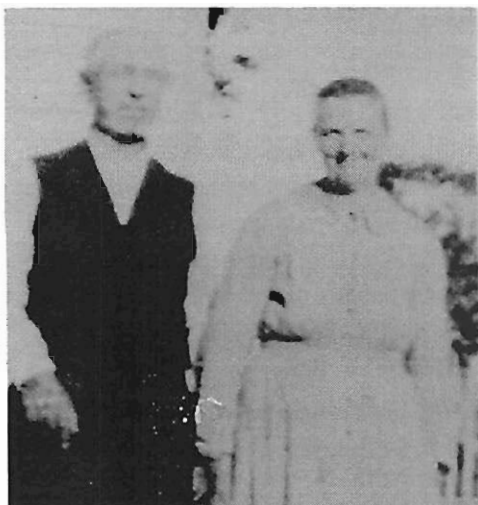
Wilhelm's maternal grandparents were **Johann Christoph Dreier** (born 1 Feb. 1794, in Wehdem; died 2 March 1834, in Wehdem) and **Anna Marie Charlotte Winkelmann** (born 19 June 1797, in Wehdem; died 14 Sept. 1870, in Wehdem). They were married 17 April 1817, in Wehdem.

Wilhelm Spreen's mother, Charlotte Henriette Spreen nee Dreier, died in childbirth at the age of 39 years on 22 Oct. 1856. She died just eight days before Wilhelm's 8th birthday. Wilhelm's youngest sister died unnamed along with their mother. Wilhelm's father, Carl Friedrich Spreen, never remarried. He raised his son and three surviving daughters alone. In 1860, Wilhelm's oldest sister, Henriette, left Germany for Washington Co., Texas with an uncle and his family. Henriette was only 14 when she left her father and siblings. Henriette married a widower, Wilhelm Bode, in 1866. In Sept. 1866, Wilhelm Spreen and his younger sister, Louise, left Germany to join their sister, Henriette, in Texas. Wilhelm was nearly 18 and Louise was 14 when they left their father and youngest surviving sister, Wilhelmine, behind in Wehdem. Wilhelmine later died in 1870, shortly before her 15th birthday, and their father lived until 1885, when he died at the age of 66.

Wilhelm and Louise's ship, the *FORTUNA*, docked in Galveston, Texas, and the brother and sister made their way to Washington County, Texas, where they joined their oldest sister. Wilhelm and Louise lived with their sister and brother-in-law until they established themselves in Texas. The 1870 census shows Wilhelm and Louise living alone together in Washington County with Wilhelm working as a laborer and Louise keeping house. Louise married Daniel Imhoff on 4 Jan. 1874, and later that year, on 14 Oct. 1874, their sister, Henriette Bode nee Spreen, died from complications 10 days after giving birth to her son, Fritz. Henriette was 28 years old. The death of their oldest sister certainly must have been a heartbreaking event for Wilhelm and his sister, Louise; however, they did remain close to the Bode Family even after their brother-in-law remarried.

Wilhelm Spreen married **Marie Henriette Caroline Schramme** on 29 Jan. 1875, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in the Wiedeville Community of Washington Co., Texas. Henriette nee Schramme was born 28 March 1856, in Wehdem, Westphalia, Germany; she was baptized 6 April 1856, in the Lutheran Church in Wehdem. Henriette was the daughter of **Hermann Friedrich Wilhelm "Fritz" Schramme** (born 9 Nov. 1826, in Wehdem; died 12 Aug. 1900, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas) and his wife, **Caroline Margarethe Louise Schaeffer** (born 20 Sept. 1825, in Wehdem; died 2 June 1893, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas). Henriette's parents were married 30 March 1855, in Wehdem. Fritz Schramme's occupation in Germany was listed as a brewer. The Schramme Family



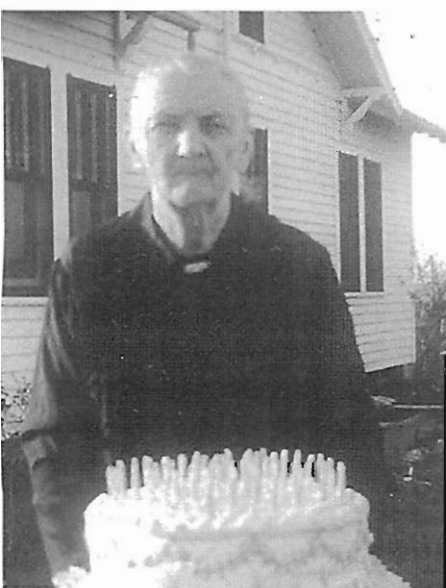


Wilhelm Spreen and his wife  
Henriette Spreen nee Schramme

left from the port of Bremen, Germany on the ship, *Bark Iris*. The ship docked in Galveston, Texas, on 24 Oct. 1868, and the Schramme Family made their way to Washington County where they lived first in the Berlin Community. Henriette was confirmed at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin on Easter Sunday, 1870. Later, the Schramme Family moved to the northeastern part of Washington County to the community of Prairie Hill. Fritz Schramme was listed as a charter member of the St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill, which was organized on 28 May 1877. Henriette had at least three siblings. She had a brother, **Christoph Schramme**, born 14 Oct. 1858, in Wehdem, and died 22 Feb. 1945, at Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tx.; he married **Sophie Reue** on 20 Jan. 1882. Sophie was born 4 Aug. 1865, and she died 31 July 1939. Henriette had a sister, **Caroline Schramme**, born 18 Nov. 1860, in Wehdem, and she died 18 Dec. 1943, at Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tx; she married **Wilhelm Reue** on 8 Dec. 1881. Wilhelm Reue was born 20 Sept. 1858, and he died 23 Jan. 1908. Another sister, **Louise Schramme**, was listed in the ship's records and the records state she was born about 1867. Louise must have died soon after the Schramme Family

arrived in Texas as no other information has been found on her.

After their marriage in 1875, Wilhelm and Henriette (Schramme) Spreen lived the first years of their marriage in the Zionsville Community, northwest of Brenham.



Henriette Spreen nee Schramme on her  
80th birthday—1936

They were members of the Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Their first three children were born in Zionsville. In 1882, Wilhelm and Henriette moved to the Prairie Hill Community in northeastern Washington County where they settled and farmed. They became members of the St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill.

Wilhelm Spreen died at his home in the Prairie Hill Community of Washington County, Texas, on 31 Jan. 1920, at the age of 71 years. His funeral and burial took place on 1 Feb. 1920. Wilhelm and Henriette had been married 44 years at the time of his death. Henriette Spreen nee Schramme was a widow for 28 years. She lived in the home of her son, John F. Spreen, in the Prairie Hill Community. It was at John's home that Henriette died on 17 May 1948, at the age of 92 years. Her

obituary states that at her death, Henriette was the oldest living member of St. John Lutheran Church's membership. Her funeral and burial took place on 19 May 1948. Henriette was buried beside Wilhelm in the St. John Lutheran Cemetery in the Prairie Hill Community of Washington Co., Texas.



William Spreen at his farm in the  
Prairie Hill Community of  
Washington County, Texas



The tombstone of Wilhelm and Henriette  
Spreen, St. John Lutheran Cemetery of  
Prairie Hill, Washington County, Texas

*Wilhelm and Henriette (Schramme) Spreen were the parents of eight children:*



Henriette Spreen nee Schramme on her 80th birthday with most of her children and their spouses: *Standing from left:* Theodore & Emma (Spreen) Schutze, Fritz Spreen, Sr., John & Ella (Warnecke) Spreen, Wilhelm Spreen, Lena (Spreen) Lehmann, Wilhelmine (Lehmann) Spreen, and Henry Lehmann

**I. Friedrich Daniel "Fritz" Spreen** born 8 Feb. 1876, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Fritz was baptized 20 July 1876, in Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville, and he was confirmed 5 April 1891, in St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. Fritz Spreen married **Anna Grebe** on 12 Dec. 1907, at Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas. Anna was born 22 Sept. 1881, in Washington Co., Texas. Fritz and Anna lived their married life in Prairie Hill where they farmed and they were the parents of three sons. Anna Spreen nee Grebe died 21 March 1918, at the age of 36 years. Anna was buried 22 March 1918, in St. John Lutheran Cemetery at Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas. After her death, Fritz married a young widow, **Ida Lehmann Scurlock**, on 7 Nov. 1918, at Prairie Hill. Ida was born 15 Jan. 1886, in Washington Co., Texas; she was the daughter of **Johann Lehmann** and **Karolina Priesmeyer**. Fritz and Ida were the parents of one daughter, and Ida had a son, **Alvin Scurlock**, from her first marriage. Fritz raised Alvin as his own son. In 1920, Fritz and Ida Spreen and their family moved from the Prairie Hill Community to a farm in the Berlin



Friedrich Daniel "Fritz" Spreen as a young man



The wedding of Fritz Spreen and his first wife, Anna Grebe. They married Dec. 12, 1907 at St. John's Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. Anna died 1918 at the age of 36.

Community in Washington Co. They became members of the Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin. Ida Spreen nee Lehmann died of a heart attack at her home in Berlin on 25 Sept. 1931, at the age of 45. Ida was buried 26 Sept. 1931, in Eben Ezer Lutheran Cemetery of Berlin. In 1937, Fritz Spreen moved from Berlin to the Zionsville Community in Washington Co. where he became a member of Zion Lutheran Church. Fritz was also a charter member of Zion Lutheran Church's Brotherhood. Fritz Spreen died in the Milroy Hospital in Brenham, Texas, at the age of 73 years on 8 Jan. 1950. Fritz was buried in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery of Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, on 10 Jan. 1950.

*The sons of Fritz Spreen and his first wife, Anna Grebe:*

**1. Wilhelm Carl Richard "Charlie" Spreen** born 11 Feb. 1909, at Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tex. Charlie was baptized 14 Feb. 1909, by the pastor of St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. Charlie was confirmed 12 Nov. 1922, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin. Charlie Spreen



married **Clara Anna Rosina Spinn** on 18 Oct. 1934, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville, Washington Co., Tex. Clara nee Spinn was born 8 March 1907 at Zionsville; she was the daughter of **Adolf Wilhelm Spinn** and **Sophie Rebecka Kieke**. Clara was baptized 12 March 1907, and confirmed 20 March 1921, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Charlie and Clara Spreen lived their married life in the Zionsville Community where they farmed, and they were members of Zion Lutheran Church. Charlie Spreen died at his home in Zionsville on 11 Dec. 1971, at the age of 62. Clara Spreen nee Spinn died 18 Jan. 1981, at the age of 72. Charlie and Clara Spreen are buried in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery of Zionsville, Washington Co., Tex. Charlie and Clara were the parents of two children: **Charles Edward** (born 1938; died 2003) and **Laverna Mae Schiller** (born 1940).

2. **Friedrich "Fritz" Spreen, Jr.** born 2 June 1910, at Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tex. Fritz, Jr. was baptized 6 Nov. 1910, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill, and he was confirmed 14 Sept. 1924, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin. Fritz Spreen, Jr. married **Norina Laura Selma Spinn** on 18 Oct. 1934, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville, Washington Co., Tex. Norina nee Spinn was born 19 Dec. 1911, in Zionsville; she was the daughter of **Adolf Wilhelm Spinn** and **Sophie Rebecka Kieke**. Norina was baptized 31 March 1912, and she was confirmed 28 March 1926, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Fritz, Jr., and Norina Spreen lived their married life in Zionville where they farmed, and they were members of the Zion Lutheran Church. Fritz Spreen, Jr. died in the Milroy Hospital in Brenham, Tex. on 12 April 1960, at the age of 49 years. Norina Spreen nee Spinn died in Brenham on 15 Jan. 1998, at the age



The wedding of Fritz, Jr. and Norina Spinn.

of 86 years. Fritz and Norina Spreen are buried in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery of Zionsville, Washington Co., Tex. Fritz and Norina Spreen were the parents of two sons: **Raymond Louis** (born 1939; died 1995) and **Marvin Lee** (born 1955).



Fritz Spreen (sitting) with his children: Fritz Spreen, Jr., Charlie Spreen, Henriette Naumann, Melvin Spreen & Alvin Scurlock



Fritz Spreen with grandchildren—from left: Raymond Spreen, Fritz holding twins Barbara & Ruth Scurlock, Charles and Laverna Spreen.



Henriette (Schramme) Spreen with some of her married grandchildren and their spouses: *From left:* Della nee Spreen & Herbert Rust, Clara nee Spinn & Charlie Spreen, Norina nee Spinn & Fritz Spreen, Jr., Lillie nee Rau & William H. Spreen, and Thekla nee Spreen & Bruno Pfeiffer.

**3. Melvin Heinrich Johannes Bernhard Spreen** born 22 June

1912, at Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tex. Melvin was baptized 11 Aug. 1912, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill, and he was confirmed 29 Aug. 1926, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin. Melvin was a World War II veteran. Melvin Spreen married **Mildred Minna Louise Emma Gaskamp** on 17 Jan. 1946, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville, Washington Co., Tex. Mildred nee Gaskamp was born 17 Sept. 1922, at Zionsville; she was the daughter of **Theodor Friedrich Wilhelm Gaskamp** and **Selma Henriette Louise Holle**. Mildred was baptized 5 Nov. 1922, and confirmed 21 March 1937, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Melvin and Mildred Spreen lived their married life in the Zionsville Community, and were members of Zion Lutheran Church. Melvin was employed as a tractor operator for Robert Lange, Inc. in Brenham from 1941 until his death. Melvin Spreen died at his home in Zionsville on 12 Dec. 1979, at the age of 67 years. Mildred Spreen nee Gaskamp died in Brenham, Tex. on 26 Dec. 2004, at the age of 84 years. Melvin and Mildred Spreen are buried in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery of Zionsville, Washington Co., Tex. Melvin and Mildred were the parents of one daughter: **Mary Helen Keienburg** (born 1959).



The wedding of Melvin Spreen & Mildred Gaskamp, Jan. 17, 1946

***The daughter of Fritz Spreen and his second wife, Ida Lehmann:***

**Henriette (Bennie) Spreen** born 15 Aug. 1919, at Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tex. Hennie was baptized 7 Sept. 1919, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill, and she was confirmed 4 Sept. 1932, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin. Hennie Spreen married **Theodore Naumann** on 10 Oct. 1940, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. **Theodore Naumann** was born 8 April 1916, at Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tex.; he was the son of **John Naumann** and **Emma Knuppel**. Theodore was baptized 11 June 1916, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill, and he was confirmed 20 March 1932, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Henriette and Theodore Naumann lived their married life in Washington County, and they were members of Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Henriette Naumann nee Spreen died in Brenham, Tex. on 7 May 1996, at the age of 76 years. Theodore Naumann died in Brenham on 1 Sept. 2009, at the age of 93 years. Theodore and Henriette Naumann are buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham. Theodore and Henriette were the parents of three children: **Theodore, Jr.** (born 1945); **Gloria Jean Rauch** (born 1948) and **Fred**



The wedding of Henriette Spreen & Theodore Naumann, Oct. 10, 1940

**Allen** (born 1950).

***Fritz Spreen's stepson—his second wife Ida's son from her first marriage to Edward Scurlock:***

**Alvin Lloyd Scurlock** born 18 Dec. 1913, in Emory, Rains Co., Tex. Alvin was baptized 25 Oct. 1914, in Salem Lutheran Church in Salem, Washington Co., Texas, and he was confirmed 2 Sept. 1928, in Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin. Alvin married **Minnie Scheffer** on 29 Nov. 1939, in St. Mathew's Lutheran Church of Sandy Hill, Washington Co., Tx. Minnie was born 13 May 1916, in Sandy Hill, Washington Co., Tx. Alvin and Minnie lived their married life in Washington County. Alvin Scurlock died in Brenham, Tx. on 18 Feb. 1989, at the age of 74. Minnie Scurlock nee Scheffer died in Brenham on 11 Oct. 2001, at the age of 85. Alvin and Minnie Scurlock are buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham. Alvin and Minnie were the parents of a son, **Delphine Charlie** (born & died 6 Nov. 1940); and twin daughters, **Ruth Ellen Hemann** (born 1941) and **Barbara Ellen Schroeder** (born 1941).

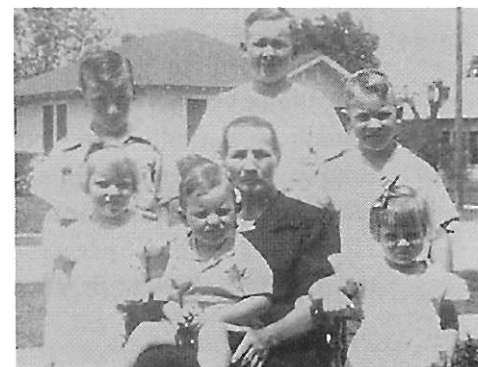
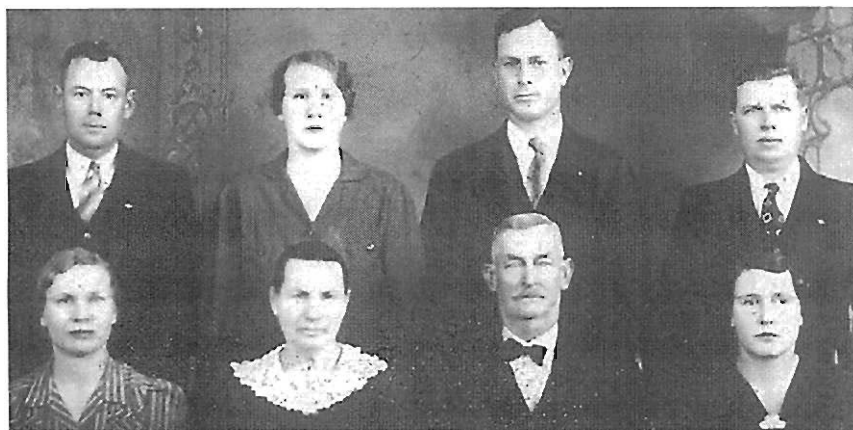


The wedding of Alvin Scurlock & Minnie Scheffer, Nov. 29, 1939.



II. **Wilhelm Spreen** born 15 March 1877 in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Wilhelm was baptized 11 May 1878 in Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville, and he was confirmed 5 April 1891 in St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. Wilhelm married **Wilhelmine (Minnie) Lehmann** on 20 Nov. 1902, at Prairie Hill. Wilhelmine nee Lehmann was born 30 Nov. 1881, in Washington Co., Tx; the daughter of **Johann Lehmann** and **Karolina Priesmeyer**. Wilhelmine was baptized 5 Jan. 1882, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin, and she was confirmed 28 April 1895. Wilhelm and Wilhelmine Lehmann lived their married life in the Prairie Hill and Meyersville communities of Washington County where they farmed. They were members of St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. Wilhelm Spreen died in the Milroy Hospital in Brenham, Tx. on 29 Sept. 1946, at the age of 69. Wilhelmine Spreen nee Lehmann died in the Brenham Rest Home in Brenham, Tx. on 22 March 1961, at the age of 79. Wilhelm and Wilhelmine Spreen are buried in the St. John Lutheran Cemetery in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tex.

*Wilhelm and Wilhelmine Spreen were the parents of four children:*

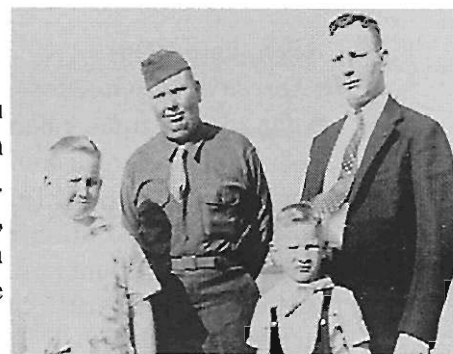


Wilhelmine (Lehmann) Spreen with her six grandchildren. Sitting on her lap is Herbert Edward Rust. Clockwise starting from left are Dorothy Ann Rust, Clarence William Rust, William Fred Spreen, Louis Charles Spreen, and Aneva Rust. Taken in the front yard of the home of William H. & Lillie (Rau) Spreen in San Antonio, Texas.

Wilhelm & Wilhelmine (Lehmann) Spreen with their children and spouses: *Front row from left:* Thekla (Spreen) Pfeiffer, Wilhelmine (Lehmann) Spreen, Wilhelm Spreen, Della (Spreen) Rust. *Back row from left:* Bruno Pfeiffer, Lillie (Rau) Spreen, William H. Spreen, Herbert Rust.

1. **Ludwig Wilhelm Heinrich Spreen** born 30 Aug. 1904, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tx. Ludwig was baptized 23 Oct. 1904, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. Ludwig died 18 Feb. 1905, and he was buried in the St. John Lutheran Cemetery of Prairie Hill on 20 Feb. 1905.

2. **Wilhelm Heinrich (William H.) Spreen** born 20 Oct. 1905, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tx. William was baptized in St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill, and later confirmed in the same church in 1919. William H. Spreen married **Lillie Marie Rau** on 11 July 1933, in Washington Co., Tx. Lillie nee Rau was born 16 Sept. 1901, in Washington Co., Tx. Lillie was baptized 18 Oct. 1905, in St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Gay Hill, Washington Co., Tx., and she was confirmed 16 April 1916, in Immanuel Lutheran Church of Wiedeville, Washington Co., Tx. William H. and Lillie Spreen lived their married life in San Antonio, Tx. William H. Spreen died in San Antonio on 22 Aug. 1984, at the age of 78. Lillie Spreen nee Rau died in San Antonio on 16 July 1999, at the age of 97. William and Lillie Spreen are buried in the Mission Burial Park South in San Antonio, TX. William and Lillie Spreen were the parents of three children: **Infant** (born & died in 1934); **William Fred** (born 1936); and **Louis Charles** (born 1939).



William H. Spreen (standing in back, right) with his sons, William Fred (standing front left) & Louis Charles (standing front right). Standing to the back left is Raymond Schulze-a first cousin to William H. Spreen. This picture was taken in San Antonio during the later years of WWII.



William Fred Spreen & his wife, Esther (Blnmberg) Spreen on their 40th anniversary, June 30, 2002. William F. and Esther Spreen are both natives of San Antonio. After living in Beeville, Tx. for several years, they are now residing in Seguin, TL. William F. Spreen is a son of William H. & Lillie (Rau) Spreen and a grandson of Wilhelm & Wilhelmine (Lehmann) Spreen.

3. **Carolina Henriette Bertha Thekla Spreen** born 14 Sept. 1908, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tex. Thekla was baptized 15 Nov. 1908, and confirmed 25 March 1923, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. Thekla Spreen married **Bruno Pfeiffer** on 25 Oct. 1934, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. Bruno Pfeiffer was born 20 Dec. 1901, in Shelby, Austin Co., Tex. Thekla and Bruno Pfeiffer lived their married life in Brenham, and they were members of Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin. Thekla Pfeiffer nee Spreen died in Brenham on 23 Jan. 1972, at the age of 63. Bruno Pfeiffer died in Brenham on 23 July 1981, at the age of 79. Thekla and Bruno Pfeiffer are buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham. Thekla and Bruno had no children.
4. **Della Caroline Auguste Anna Bertha Spreen** born 21 Sept. 1911, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tex. Della was baptized 3 Dec. 1911, and confirmed on 28 March 1926, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. Della Spreen married **Herbert Rust** on 28 Oct. 1936, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. Herbert Rust was born 7 Oct. 1913, at Cedar Hill, Washington Co., Tex. Della and Herbert Rust lived their married life in Brenham. They were members of Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin. Della Rust nee Spreen died of cancer in Brenham, Tx. on 2 Sept. 1959, at the age of 48. Herbert Rust died in Brenham on 9 June 2004, at the age of 90. Della and Herbert Rust are buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham. Della and Herbert were the parents of four children: **Clarence William** (born 1938); **Dorothy Ann Hicks** (born 1942); **Aneva Rogas** (born 1944) and **Herbert Edward** (born 1945).

III. **Carl Heinrich Spreen** born 12 June 1881, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Tx. He was baptized 13 June 1881, at his parents' home by the pastor of Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. This baby died 14 June 1881, and he was buried in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery of Zionsville.

IV. **Carl Christoph Wilhelm Spreen** born 16 May 1883, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tx. He was baptized 22 May 1883, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. This child died 8 April 1884, and he was buried in St. John Lutheran Cemetery of Prairie Hill on 9 April 1884.

V. **Bertha Caroline Louise Spreen** born 19 Feb. 1885, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tx. She was baptized 5 April 1885, and confirmed 2 April 1899, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. Bertha married **Richard A. Kuhlmann** on 26 Nov. 1903, at Prairie Hill. Richard Kuhlmann was born 29 Jan. 1874, at Prairie Hill; he was the son of **August Kuhlmann** and **Wilhelmine Franke**. Bertha and Richard Kuhlmann lived the first years of their marriage in the Prairie Hill Community in Washington County, and were members of the St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. In 1916, they purchased a 78-acre farm closer to Brenham and they lived on this farm the remainder of their lives. They became members of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brenham after they moved to this homeplace. (Their farm was located across the creek from where the Washington County Fairgrounds are located today). Richard Kuhlmann died in Brenham on 3 Aug. 1945, at the age of 71 years. Bertha Kuhlmann nee Spreen died at the home of her daughter, **Nelda Lange**, in Brenham on 26 May 1949, at the age of 64 years. Bertha and Richard Kuhlmann are buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham, Tx.





The wedding picture of Bertha Spreen and Richard Kuhlmann. They married Nov. 26, 1903, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas.



The daughters of Richard & Bertha (Spreen) Kuhlmann: Nelda (Kuhlmann) Lange on left and Selma (Kuhlmann) Boeker.



The homeplace of Richard & Bertha (Spreen) Kuhlmann near Brenham, Tx. The Kuhlmanns purchased this property in 1916. Their granddaughter, Betty (Boeker) Becker, said she was born in this home, and she lived on the farm with her grandparents and parents. They raised cattle, hogs, chickens, corn, cotton, vegetables, and pecans. Betty said her parents tore this house down in 1956 and built a new home, which is where Betty and her husband, James Becker, live today.

***Richard and Bertha (Spreen) Kuhlmann were the parents of two daughters:***

1. **Henriette Minna Nelda Kuhlmann** born 16 Oct. 1905, at Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tex. Nelda was baptized 26 Nov. 1905 at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill, and she was confirmed 20 March 1921, at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brenham. Nelda married **Alvin Lange** on 21 Jan. 1937, at Seguin, Texas. Alvin Lange was born 11 Aug. 1899, at Rocky Creek, Washington Co., Tx. Nelda and Alvin Lange lived the first years of their marriage in Galveston moving to Brenham in the mid-1940's where they lived until their deaths. Nelda Lange nee Kuhlmann died in Brenham on 1 Dec. 1984, at the age of 79. Alvin Lange died in Brenham on 20 July 1986, just before his 87 birthday. Nelda and Alvin Lange are buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham. Nelda and Alvin had no children.
2. **Lina Anna Selma Emilie Kuhlmann** born 20 March 1907, at Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tex. Selma was baptized 21 April 1907, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill, and she was confirmed 20 March 1921, at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brenham. Selma Kuhlmann married **Charlie Boeker** at St. John Lutheran Church in Bellville, Austin Co., Tx. on 3 July 1938. Charlie Boeker was born at Gay Hill, Washington Co., Tex. on 24 Dec. 1905. Selma and Charlie Boeker lived their married life in Washington County, and they were members of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brenham. Selma Boeker nee Kuhlmann died in Brenham on 22 Feb. 1973, at the age of 65. Charlie Boeker died in Brenham on 23 Dec. 1986, the day before his 81st birthday. Selma and Charlie Boeker are buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham. Selma and Charlie were the parents of one daughter: **Betty Jean Becker** (born 1940).

**VI. Henriette Caroline (Lena) Spreen** born 27 Jan. 1888, at Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tex. Lena was baptized 1 April 1888, and confirmed 23 March 1902, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. Lena married **Henry Otto Lehmann** on 19 Dec. 1907, at Prairie Hill. Henry Lehmann was born 25 Aug. 1876, at Zionsville, Washington Co., Tex.; he was the son of **Johann Lehmann** and **Karoline Priesmeyer**. Henry was



The wedding picture of Lena Spreen and Henry Lehmann, married 19 Dec. 1907

baptized 26 Nov. 1876, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Lena and Henry Lehmann lived the first 20+ years of their marriage in the Prairie Hill Community of Washington County where they farmed. They were members of the St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. In 1930, Lena and Henry moved to Hill County, to a farm near Malone, Texas. They became members of the St. Peter's Lutheran Church in the Walling Community near Malone. Henry Lehmann died at his home near Malone, Tex. on 6 June 1946, at the age of 69 years. Lena Lehmann nee Spreen died in the Grant-Buie Hos-



Henry and Lena (Spreen) Lehmann at their farm near Malone in Hill Co., Texas

pital in Hillsboro, Tex. on 13 March 1970, at the age of 82 years. Lena and Henry Lehmann are buried in the Walling Cemetery near Malone.

**Henry and Lena (Spreen) Lehmann were the parents of six children:**

1. **Carolina Louise Henriette (Bennie) Lehmann** born 1 Oct. 1908, at Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tex. Hennie was baptized 15 Nov. 1908, and confirmed 25 March 1923, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. Hennie Lehmann died of a goiter in the Scott & White Hospital in Temple, Texas, on 14 Nov. 1923, at the age of 15 years. She was hospitalized four weeks in Temple before her death. Hennie was buried 16 Nov. 1923, in the St. John Lutheran Cemetery at Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tex.



Lena on her 80th birthday, Jan. 27, 1968

2. **John Wilhelm Lehmann** born 26 Dec. 1909, at Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tex. John was baptized in 1910, and confirmed 25 March 1923, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. John Lehmann moved to Hill County with his parents in 1930. John married **Laura Hodde** on 6 Dec. 1933. Laura was born 27 May 1912. John and Laura Lehmann lived the most of their married life at Whitney, in Hill County, where they farmed. They were charter members of the Our Savior Lutheran Church in Whitney. John Lehmann died in Whitney, Tex. on 21 Dec. 1986, at the age of 76 years. Laura Lehmann nee Hodde died in New Braunfels, Tex. on 3 June 2001, at the age of 91. John and Laura Lehmann are buried in the Hillcrest Garden of Memory Cemetery between Whitney and Hillsboro, Tex. John and Laura were the parents of four children: **Harold Dean** (born 1934; died 2005); **Delores Ann Smith** (born 1937; died 2003); **John Wayne** (born 1943) and **Barbara Hoffman** (born 1945).

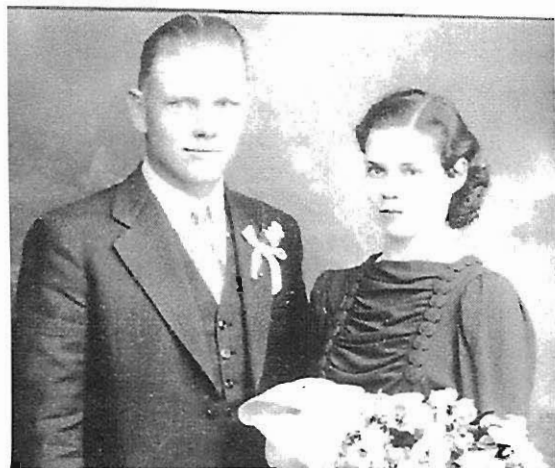


The wedding picture of John Lehmann and Laura Hodde. They married Dec. 6, 1933.

3. **Edward Louis Fritz Carl (Edd) Lehmann** born 15 Jan. 1912, at Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tex. Edd was baptized 17 March 1912, and confirmed 28 March 1926, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. Edd Lehmann moved to Hill County with his parents in 1930. Edd married **Josie Lander** on 23 Nov. 1937, in the Walling Community, Hill Co., Tex. Josie was born 20 June 1919 in the Ross Community of McLennan Co., Tx.; she was the daughter of **Henry Lander** and **Annie Augusta Otto**. Edd and Josie Lehmann lived their married life near Malone, Tex. where they farmed, and they were members of the St. Peter's Lutheran Church in the



Walling Community near Malone. Edd Lehmann died in the Providence Hospital in Waco, Tex. on 15 Oct. 1966, at the age of 54 years. Edd Lehmann was originally buried in the Walling Cemetery near Malone, Tex. on 17 Oct. 1966, but in the early 1990's, his wife, Josie, had his body exhumed and re-buried in the Gerald Cemetery in the Gerald Community in McLennan County where several members of the Lander and Otto Families are buried. Josie Lehmann nee Lander resides today in Hillsboro, Tx., and she is a member of St. Paul's United Church of Christ of Gerald, Tx. Edd and Josie were the parents of two children: **Eddie Ray** (born 1943) and **Connie Taylor** (born 1951).



The wedding picture of Edd Lehmann & Josie Lander, married Nov. 23, 1937 at the St. Peter's Lutheran Church in the Walling Community near Malone, Hill Co., Texas



Edd Lehmann with his wife, Josie, and their daughter, Connie, May 1965. This picture was taken on the day Connie was confirmed at St. Peter's Lutheran Church near Malone, Tx. Connie married Mike Taylor in 1977. Today, Connie & Mike reside in Flagstaff, Arizona.



The family of Edd & Josie Lehmann in 2004. From left, daughter Connie Taylor, Josie, son Eddie, Eddie's daughter Vicki Lehmann Brown and Vicki's daughter, Emily Brown . Photo taken on Josie's 85th birthday.

**4. Henry Wilhelm Robert Lehmann** born 24 June 1913, at Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tex. Henry was baptized 5 Oct. 1913, and confirmed on 1 April 1928, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. Henry Lehmann moved to Hill County with his parents in 1930. Henry married **Ella Piel** on 4 Nov. 1937, at Malone, Tex. Ella was born 28 Nov. 1914. Henry and Ella Lehmann lived their married life in the Malone-Bynum area of Hill County, Tex. Henry farmed for a living and also worked as an insurance agent. Henry and Ella were members of Salem Lutheran Church near Malone. Henry Lehmann died in Hillsboro, Tex. on 15 Feb. 1995, at the age of 81 years. Ella Lehmann nee Piel died 27 March 1997, at the age of 82 years. Henry and Ella Lehmann are buried in the Salem Lutheran Cemetery near Malone, Tex. Henry and Ella were the parents of one son: **Henry Dean** (born 1940).

**5. Infant Lehmann** born 14 Feb. 1915, at Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas, and she died 15 Feb. 1915. This baby girl was buried 16 Feb. 1915, in St. John Lutheran Cemetery at Prairie Hill.



The wedding picture of Henry Lehmann and Ella Piel, Nov. 4, 1937 at Malone, Hill Co., Texas

6. **Lena Lehmann** born and died 23 May 1918, at Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas. This baby was buried in the St. John Lutheran Cemetery of Prairie Hill.

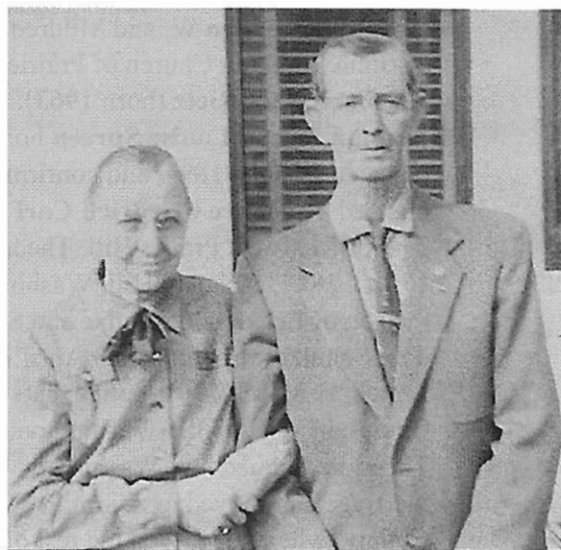
VII. **Johann Friedrich Heinrich (John) Spreen** born 6 July 1890, at Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tex.

John was baptized 3 Aug. 1890, and confirmed 16 April 1905, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. John Spreen married **Ella Wernecke** on 11 Dec. 1913, at Prairie Hill. Ella was born 21 Feb. 1892, in Washington Co., Tex.; she was the daughter of **Friedrich Wernecke** and **Louise Schawe**. Ella was confirmed 8 April 1906, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. John and Ella Spreen lived their married life in the Prairie Hill Community of Washington County where they farmed, and they were members of St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. Ella Spreen nee Wernecke died in St. Jude Hospital in Brenham, Tex. on 1 March 1974, at the age of 82 years. John Spreen died in a nursing home in Brenham on 21 July 1981, at the age of 91 years. John and Ella Spreen are buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham, Tex.

*John and Ella (Wernecke) Spreen were the parents of three children:*

1. **Elsie Louise Henriette Karoline Spreen** born 25 Oct.

1916, at Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tex. Elsie was baptized 12 Nov. 1916, and she was confirmed in 1931, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. Elsie married **Walter Henry Emil Winkelmann** on 25 Oct. 1939, at Prairie Hill. Walter was born 17 Aug. 1916, at Zionsville, Washington Co., Tex.; he was the son of **Carl Heinrich Friedrich "Charlie" Winkelmann** and **Charlotte Margaretha Louise Nolte**. Walter was baptized 22 Oct. 1916, and confirmed 20 March 1932, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Walter was two years old when his mother died, and Walter was raised by his stepmother, **Meta Lou Sophie (Haar) Winkelmann**, whom his father married in 1920 when Walter was four years old. Walter and Elsie Winkelmann lived their married life in Washington County in the Prairie Hill Community where Walter farmed and he also worked for Brentex Mills in Brenham. Walter Winkelmann died in Trinity Medical Center in Brenham on 19 July 2004, at the age of 87 years. Walter is buried in the St. John Lutheran Cemetery at Prairie Hill. Elsie Winkelmann nee Spreen resides today in Brenham, and she is still a member of St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. Walter and Elsie Winkelmann are the parents of two children: **Dorothy Mae Haevischer** (born 1942) and **Walter, Jr.** (born 1944).



John Spreen and his wife Ella (Wernecke) Spreen



The wedding of Elsie Spreen & Walter Winkelmann, Oct. 25, 1939, Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tx. From left: John & Ella Spreen, Elsie & Walter Winkelmann, Meta & Charlie Winkelmann

2. **Herbert Friedrich Richard Louis Spreen** born 9 July 1922, at Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tex.

Herbert was baptized 30 July 1922, and he was confirmed in 1937, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. Herbert served his country in World War II. CPL. Herbert Spreen was killed in an explosion in England on 21 April 1944, at the age of 21 years. Herbert is buried in the National Cemetery at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.



**3. John W. Spreen** born 16 Dec. 1925, at Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tex. John W. Spreen was baptized 11 Jan. 1926, and he was confirmed in 1940, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. John W. married **Mildred Marie Jeske** on 1 Dec. 1946, in Washington Co., Tex. Mildred was born at Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tx on 15 Sept 1928; she is the daughter of **Fred C. Jeske** and **Mary L. Sommers**. John W. and Mildred Spreen reside today in Brenham, Tex., and they are members of St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. John and Mildred Spreen are the parents of one daughter: **Kimberly Ann Rietz** (born 1963).

**VIII. Emma Frieda Louise Spreen** born 24 April 1894, at Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tex. Emma was baptized 24 June 1894, and confirmed 12 April 1908, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. Emma married **Theodore Friedrich Carl Heinrich Schulze** on 27 April 1916, at Prairie Hill. Theodore Schulze was born 17 Jan. 1887, at Sandy Hill, Washington Co., Tex.; he was the son of **Friedrich Schulze** and **Sophie Hodde**. Theodore Schulze was baptized 3 April 1887, and he was confirmed 31 March 1901, both events at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wiedeville, Washington Co., Tex. Emma and Theodore Schulze left Washington County soon after their marriage and moved to a farm in Malone, Texas, in Hill County, where they lived the rest of their lives. They became members of the Salem Lutheran Church near Malone. Some of Theodore's brothers had moved to Hill County, and that is probably what inspired Theodore and Emma to move there. (Coincidentally, Emma had an older



The wedding picture of Emma Spreen and Theodore Schutze, married April 27, 1916



Emma (Spreen) Schutze and her sister, Lena (Spreen) Lehmann, Malone, Hill Co., Texas

first cousin, Sophie Bode Schmidt, who moved from Washington County with her husband and children in 1893 and settled at Malone. The Schmidt Family became members of Salem Lutheran Church. Sophie died in childbirth on 3 March 1907, at the age of 37 years, and she and her infant daughter are buried in the Salem Lutheran Cemetery.) Emma and Theodore Schulze were the parents of four sons and one daughter; however, their oldest son and only daughter both died in early childhood. Theodore Schulze died in the Grant-Buie Hospital in Hillsboro, Tex. on 5 Dec. 1967, at the age of 80 years. Emma Schulze nee Spreen died in the Hillcrest Hospital in Waco, Tex. on 2

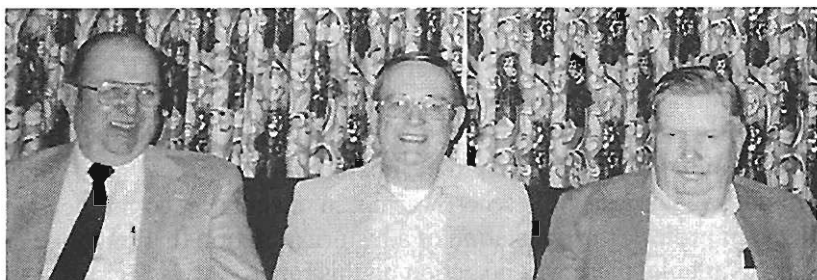
March 1979, at the age of 84 years. Emma and Theodore Schulze are buried in the Salem Lutheran Cemetery near Malone, Tex.



Emma (Spreen) Schulze with her husband, Theodore Schulze, and nephew, William H. Spreen, of San Antonio. Taken in August 1953 in Schulze home in Malone, Texas.

*The children of Theodore and Emma (Spreen) Schulze:*

1. **Marvin Wilhelm Heinrich Schulze** born 14 April 1918, near Malone, Hill Co., Tex. Marvin was baptized 19 May 1918, at Salem Lutheran Church near Malone. Marvin died 7 Jan. 1919, and he was buried 8 Jan. 1919, at Salem Lutheran Cemetery near Malone.
2. **Raymond Albert Otto Schulze** born 22 Feb. 1920, near Malone, Hill Co., Tex. Raymond was baptized 28 March 1920, and confirmed 2 April 1934, at Salem Lutheran Church near Malone. Raymond married **Juanita Erna Frieda Radke** on 28 Dec. 1940, at Malone, Tx. Juanita was born 6 Sept. 1916, in Hill County. Raymond and Juanita Schulze lived their married life in the Malone area where Raymond farmed. Raymond is also a veteran of World War II where he served in the Asian sector of the war. Juanita Schulze nee Radke died in Malone, Tex. on 21 Dec. 1996, at the age of 80 years. Juanita is buried in the Hillcrest Garden of Memory Cemetery between Hillsboro and Whitney, Texas. Raymond Schulze resides today in Hillsboro, Tex. Raymond and Juanita Schulze are the parents of two children: **Emma Jean "Jeanie" Killough** (born 1943) and **Billy Ray** (born 1947).
3. **Olivia Malinda Bertha Schulze** born 26 March 1923, near Malone, Hill Co., Tex. Olivia was baptized 12 April 1923, at Salem Lutheran Church near Malone, Tex. Olivia died 20 Jan. 1925, and she was buried 22 Jan. 1925, in Salem Lutheran Cemetery near Malone, Tex.
4. **Vernon Friedrich Gustav Schulze** born 8 Aug. 1926, near Malone, Hill Co., Tex. Vernon was baptized 5 Sept. 1926, and confirmed 26 May 1940, at Salem Lutheran Church near Malone. Vernon married **Clara Belle Sanders** on 16 Dec. 1950, in Hillsboro, Tex. Vernon farmed for a living, and later worked for Germania Insurance until his retirement. Vernon is also a veteran of World War II. Vernon and Clara Belle Schulze reside today in Malone, Tex. Vernon and Clara are the parents of three children: **Rayford Lynn** (born 1951); **Ruby Dianne Luttrell** (born 1955) and **David Wayne** (born 1969).
5. **Herbert Wilhelm Reinhard Schulze** born 16 May 1929, near Malone, Hill Co., Tex. Herbert was baptized 16 June 1929, and confirmed 29 March 1942, at Salem Lutheran Church near Malone. Herbert married **Patsy Sue Schilling** on 28 Feb. 1954, at Malone, Tex. Herbert and Patsy Schulze reside today in Arlington, Tex. Herbert served in the military, and he is retired from General Motors Corp. Herbert and Patsy are the parents of three children: **Deborah Sue "Debbie" Shawen** (born 1955); **Donald Wayne** (born 1957) and **Lisa Ann Stegall** (born 1963).



*From left: Vernon, Herbert, & Raymond Schulze—the sons of Theodore & Emma (Spreen) Schulze. This picture was taken in Malone, TX in 1990 during the 50th wedding anniversary of Raymond & Juanita Schulze.*

*SOURCES:* Lydia Bode Grudziecki, Elma Lehde Winkelmann, Mary Helen Spreen Keienburg, Henrietta Spreen Naumann, Esther Blumberg Spreen, Betty Boeker Becker, Connie Lehmann Taylor, John W. and Mildred (Jeske) Spreen, Laverna Spreen Schiller, Gloria Naumann Rauch, and Clara Belle Sanders Schulze. Church records of Zion Lutheran Church, Zionsville, Washington Co., Tex; St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tex.; Ebeu Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin, Washington Co., Tex; and Salem Lutheran Church near Malone, Hill Co., Tex Cemetery inscriptions from Washington and Hill County, Texas cemeteries. Obituaries from *The Brenham Banner-Press* archived in the Blinn College Library in Brenham, Tex, Records of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Wehdem, Westphalia, Germany, obtained with the help of Wilhelm Niermann of Stemwede-Wehdem, Germany.

*Submitted by Daniel Bode of Dayton, Tx.-a Spreen descendant through my great-great-grandmother, Henriette Spreen Bode, the oldest sister of Wilhelm Spreen.*



# OPERATIONS

## MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 8, 2009 GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY BOARD MEETING

The meeting of the GTHS Board was called to order at 10:05 with a quorum present. President Wing Evans adjourned the meeting until 10:40 for committee meetings to take place. In attendance were Wing Evans, Gerri West, Connie Krause, Martha Liehse, Dan Bode, Charles Frederick, Christina Gilliland, Hubert Heinen, Carl Luckenbach, Charles Locklin and Mary Whigham. Newly elected board member Christopher Markley was also present as was Jean Warneke, Secretary of the GFS Committee. Board members absent were John Siemssen, Randy Rupley and Mary El-Beheri.

The meeting was reconvened at 10:40 and the minutes of the September meeting were read by Secretary Mary Whigham. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Hubert Heinen, seconded and CARRIED. Treasurer Gerri West presented the Treasurer's Report, noting that invested assets continue to recover in value. The Dreman Fund has not yet been sold as approved at last meeting as they continue to trend up. The P&L statement was presented and reviewed. Treasurer West expects income for the year to balance expenses for the year. The report was accepted by the board.

Newly elected board member Christopher Markley presented a video of the successful Oktoberfest held at the German Free School. Attendance was high and feedback was that GTHS's Oktoberfest was the best many had attended – authentic, lots of activities for the children and good food and drink. While the event did not make money, all agreed the amount of publicity received both in print and on the television bodes well for next year's event.

GFS Committee chair Charles Locklin reported on activities at the German Free School. A subcommittee has been appointed to look into reconfiguring our property to make it more usable for different events. A business plan is being developed to help with this project. A visit from the fire marshal as to required exits was very positive. The business plan will concentrate on what can be done with the least amount of dollars to make the facility more useful.

A motion to establish specific procedures to allow for appropriate debate on items to be presented was made by President Evans. The motion was seconded by Hubert Heinen and the MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Executive Committee Report - Mary Whigham gave a factual report on Ft. Martin Scott that had been acquired and given to the Executive Committee from the Gillespie County Historical Commission. Board member Charles Frederick also supplied additional data to the board.

As Publications Committee chair Mary El-Beheri was not in attendance, committee member Hubert Heinen spoke briefly about a potential project, the translation of a historical fiction that might be considered. Since specific financial data was not available, there was no action on this report. It was agreed that a "publications" policy needs to be written by that committee to be approved by the board. This will give some guidance, regardless of what is being considered.

Membership committee member Christina Gilliland reported that the best German Restaurant designee, Bavarian Grill located in Plano will become a member and wants to write articles for the Schulhaus Reporter and the Journal. She believes this will open many avenues to draw in more members. Charles Frederick suggested that they be invited to participate in our Christmas Market since they were also known for their baked goods. Membership chair, Mary Whigham, presented the revised membership letter. A discussion followed encouraging the focus on partnerships with other organization, becoming an umbrella organization for all the German groups. The letter also focused on the newly developed concept of a statewide "guild" suggested by Charles Locklin to recognize those that support the GTHS beyond their membership dues with additional contributions and volunteer hours worked.

Connie Krause informed the board that some research had been done about copyright issues and noted that it appeared none of the books we have published has a registered GTHS copyright. Mary Whigham volunteered to take the files and complete the research.

Annual Meeting Report – Treasurer West reported the financial results of the annual meeting and Jean Warneke, volunteer coordinator for the annual meeting, passed out surveys taken. All agreed it was a great

success with much praise for the Friday genealogy sessions.

Activities Chair Carl Luckenbach reported that the previously scheduled dates for the 2010 annual meeting in Fredericksburg were not available from Zion Lutheran Church where we were interested in holding the meeting. A motion was made by Carl to move the annual meeting dates to the next weekend, September 24, 25, Hubert Heinen seconded and the MOTION CARRIED. Carl is working with Glen Treibs in Fredericksburg. Christina Gilliland requested that the tentative dates be set for the 2011 Annual meeting to be held in Dallas area for September 23, 24. Carl also reported that committee member Martha Liehse had established regions that would be used to solicit volunteer reporters to provide us with events happening in each region that we may publish in our publications.

Unfinished Business – Fort Martin Scott. Charles Locklin made the motion to rescind his earlier motion made at the September board meeting that “Randy Rupley be authorized to report to the city that the GTHS board is favorable to the idea of an involvement in Ft. Martin Scott but will need a written report from the city to negotiate out the specifics of some kind of agreement that will be brought back to the board for approval.” The motion was seconded. Following discussion, it was determined that financial and personnel/volunteer resources were not sufficient to consider this project at this time. President Evans called for the vote on the motion to rescind which passed. Hubert Heinen made the motion that a letter to the city be crafted to express our regret that we do not have the resources or personnel to take over Ft. Martin Scott but we are interested in pursuing a relationship that would be beneficial to the city and to our organization.

Mary Whigham made the motion that President Evans also communicate to the membership that the project was considered thoughtfully but the board declined to pursue due to lack of resources and personnel. The motion was seconded and carried.

Treasurer Gerri West presented the 2010 budget for approval. After discussion, the motion to approve carried.

The date for the 2011 annual meeting was again discussed with Christina and Martha Liehse suggesting an early October date to coincide with the Pioneer Ball held in Irving. It was felt there could be a great deal to be gained by “partnering” with the event. The proposed date of the first weekend in October was acceptable to the board.

Nominations Committee Chair Connie Krause reported the 2010 slate of officers as follows: President, Mary Whigham, Vice President, Connie Krause, Secretary, Martha Liehse, Treasurer, Gerri West. President Evans asked for nominations from the floor and there being none, the slate was elected by acclamation.

A recommendation from Treasurer West that Charles Locklin be added to the signature card at the bank and that Wing Evans be retained was accepted by the board.

The board went into Executive Session to discuss the newly developed “experimental” job description for a new Executive Director. The job description was developed as a result of the volunteer work being done since July when Eva left. The focus of the experimental job description will be on outreach, grant writing and marketing of GTHS to increase our exposure and membership. Early on, volunteer Jean Warneke expressed an interest in the position and her resume was presented to the board along with the recommendation that she be hired in the experimental position to begin January 1. She has been working one day a week in the office, was liaison between the office and the annual meeting chair Mary El-Beheri, to the Oktoberfest chair, Christopher Markley, and has proved her capacities to the satisfaction of the executive committee. Since the job is considered “experimental” for one year, no posting will be undertaken and the few applicants that had applied well before this job description was considered will be notified of the decision of GTHS. A review of the job description for Program Director Melanie Schmidt-Dumont will also be undertaken as this process continues. The board approved the recommendation of the executive committee to hire Jean effective January 1.

Dates for the 2010 board meetings were agreed to:

2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.....January 10, March 14, May 16, July 11, September 12, November 14.....A motion to approve was made by Connie Krause, seconded and carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Mary Whigham, Secretary





# GTHS and German Free School BULLETIN BOARD - 2010

—May 8—11-6pm—  
Maifest at the GFS  
—September 24-25—  
Annual Meeting in Fredericksburg

What's happening in your community  
that we should participating in?  
Contact Activities Committee Chair  
Carl Luckenbach at  
cluckenbach@sbcglobal.net

### 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.



THE JOURNAL



VOLUME XXXII - NUMBER 1 - FALL 2010  
September 2010

May 1 is the deadline for submitting articles and event notices for the Summer 2010 issue of the Journal. Send Journal submissions to editor Mary Whigham at mjwhig@texasbb.com. Or 16100 McCraven School Road, Washington, Texas 77880.

### ONGOING GERMAN FREE SCHOOL EVENTS (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.

**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. (Do you have a suggestion for someone you would like to hear from? Contact the office at info@germantexans.org)

**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.



AMM-ZCFV

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.

Organize a German Film Night in your community. Contact office at info@germantexans.org

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** The Washington County Chapter of the Texas German Society is hosting the annual state convention in Brenham on Saturday, March 6, 2010, at The Fireman's Training Center on Hwy. 290. For further information please contact chapter president Al Fischer at (979) 251-8429.

**German Festival in Tomball, March 26-28**

# German-Texan Heritage Society

## 2010 Membership Renewal Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Partner: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (If renewing in the family, patron or life categories)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip +4: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Promoting awareness  
and preservation of  
the German cultural  
heritage of Texas

**Yes, I want to renew.**  
Establish my membership in the  
category checked below:

| CATEGORY   | ANNUAL DUES<br>Jan—Dec<br>(July-Dec—1/2 Price) |
|--|--|
| Life Member  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 (one time pmt) |
| Patron   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100                |
| International (includes interna-<br>tional shipping) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 65                 |
| Family (2+ at same<br>address)                       | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50                 |
| Library/Society                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 40                 |
| Individual   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35                 |
| Student (w/ valid ID)                                | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 30                 |
| Corporate  | <input type="checkbox"/> contact us            |
| <b>TOTAL DUES PAID</b>                               | <b>\$</b> _____                                |

**Donate Now**  
Member dues account for less than 20% of re-  
quired income. Donations and other fundraising  
efforts account for our remaining needs.

|                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Annual Operating Fund           | \$ _____        |
| Student Scholarship Fund        | \$ _____        |
| Trenckmann Library Fund         | \$ _____        |
| German Free School Preservation | \$ _____        |
| Scholarship Fund                | \$ _____        |
| Other _____                     | \$ _____        |
| <b>Total Amount Donated</b>     | <b>\$</b> _____ |

Please make my donation *in honor of or in memory of*  
 (name): \_\_\_\_\_ (circle)  
 GTHS is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation. All contri-  
 butions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**PAYMENT INFORMATION**     CHECK     MASTERCARD/VISA

CREDIT CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_ Vcode \_\_\_\_\_

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**

**German Language Ability**  
 None    Beginning    Intermediate    Advanced    Fluent

- TELL US ABOUT YOUR GERMAN-TEXAN INTERESTS**
- |                                       |  |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy    | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing & Research    | <input type="checkbox"/> Lecture Programs  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> History      | <input type="checkbox"/> Language Classes      | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Culture      | <input type="checkbox"/> German Interest Tours | <input type="checkbox"/> Other             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> German Films          | <input type="checkbox"/> Festivals         |

I can be a contact person in my area

**Thank you for rejoining GTHS**





For You To Give To A Prospective Member!

# German-Texan Heritage Society

## 2010 Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Partner: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (If joining in the family, patron or life categories)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip +4: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find us? \_\_\_\_\_

Promoting awareness  
and preservation of  
the German cultural  
heritage of Texas

| CATEGORY   | ANNUAL DUES<br>Jan—Dec<br>(July-Dec—1/2 Price) |
|--|--|
| Life Member  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 (one time pmt) |
| Patron   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100                |
| International (includes interna-<br>tional shipping) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 65                 |
| Family (2+ at same<br>address)                       | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50                 |
| Library/Society                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 40                 |
| Individual   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35                 |
| Student (w/ valid ID)                                | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 30                 |
| Corporate  | <input type="checkbox"/> contact us            |
| <b>TOTAL DUES PAID</b>                               | <b>\$ _____</b>                                |

**Donate Now**—Member dues account for less than 20% of required income. Donations and other fundraising efforts account for our remaining needs.

|                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Annual Operating Fund           | \$ _____        |
| Student Scholarship Fund        | \$ _____        |
| Trenckmann Library Fund         | \$ _____        |
| German Free School Preservation | \$ _____        |
| Scholarship Fund                | \$ _____        |
| Other _____                     | \$ _____        |
| <b>Total Amount Donated</b>     | <b>\$ _____</b> |

I would like to receive the Schulhaus Reporter  
 by \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Snail mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please make my donation *in honor of* or *in memory of*  
 (name): \_\_\_\_\_ (circle)

GTHS is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**PAYMENT INFORMATION**     CHECK     MASTERCARD/VISA

CREDIT CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_ Vcode \_\_\_\_\_

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**

**German Language Ability**  
 None    Beginning    Intermediate    Advanced    Fluent

**TELL US ABOUT YOUR GERMAN-TEXAN INTERESTS**

- |                                       |  |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy    | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing & Research    | <input type="checkbox"/> Lecture Programs  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> History      | <input type="checkbox"/> Language Classes      | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Culture      | <input type="checkbox"/> German Interest Tours | <input type="checkbox"/> Other             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> German Films          | <input type="checkbox"/> Festivals         |

I can be a contact person in my area

**Thank you for Joining GTHS**





Founded in 1978

## Sponsor Space Agreement

### German-Texan Heritage Society

P.O. Box 684171  
 Austin, TX 78768-4171  
 info@germantexans.org

www.germantexans.org

Telephone: 512-482-0927  
 Toll Free: 866-482-GTHS  
 Fax: 512-482-0636

**Journal:** Check  desired issues  All 4 Issues **OR**  
 Issue:  Spring  Summer  Fall  Winter  
 Deadline: Feb 1 May 1 Aug 1 Oct 1

**Schulhaus Reporter:** Check  desired issues  All 6 Issues **OR**  
 Issue:  Jan-Feb  Mar-Apr  May-June  Jul-Aug  Sept-Oct  Nov-Dec  
 Deadline: Dec 10 Feb 15 Apr 15 June 15 Aug 15 Oct 15

Copy will be black & white in printed SR and in color for digital version of the SR. Journal copy is in B/W.  
 Copy and payment are required by deadline. GTHS reserves the right to refuse sponsors or copy.

| Member  | Check <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> size desired | Non-Member  |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Page = \$100.00                     |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Full Page = \$110.00                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1/2 Page = \$ 55.00                      |  | <input type="checkbox"/> 1/2 Page = \$ 65.00                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1/3 Page = \$ 45.00                      |  | <input type="checkbox"/> 1/3 Page = \$ 55.00                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1/4 Page = \$ 35.00                      |  | <input type="checkbox"/> 1/4 Page = \$ 45.00                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1/8 Page = \$ 25.00 (Business Card Size) |  | <input type="checkbox"/> 1/8 Page = \$ 35.00 (Business Card Size) |

**Discounts:** 10% off total amount for annual agreements, paid in advance.

**Purchaser Information (Please print clearly)**  Member  Non-Member

Purchaser: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, St, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: Home: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_ Cell: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_ Work: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Information** **Total Amount Due: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK  
 CREDIT CARD (MasterCard / VISA) - # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ V-code \_\_\_\_\_  
 (3 digit code on back of card)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to GTHS. If you pay by credit card, be sure to sign this form.*  
 Mail to: **GTHS, Post Office Box 684171, Austin, TX 78768-4171**

rev. Jan 2010





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**CHARLES KALTEYER, Austin**  
**RODNEY KOENIG, Houston**  
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### NEXT ISSUE

**SUMMER (June)**  
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**May 1, 2010**  
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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.



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