

# THE JOURNAL



VOLUME XXXII · NUMBER 3 · FALL 2010

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

## GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

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**Position #11, Term 2010-2013**  
Robert A. (Bob) Flocke  
P.O. Box 1315  
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(512) 847-5421  
[rflocke@austin.rr.com](mailto:rflocke@austin.rr.com)

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227 Mariposa Loop  
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(830) 227-5897  
[jpost227@yahoo.com](mailto:jpost227@yahoo.com)

**Position #7, Term 2009-2012**  
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Dublin, TX 76446-8110  
(254) 445-2587  
[c.frederick@hughes.net](mailto:c.frederick@hughes.net)

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PO Box 1602  
Dayton, TX 77535-1602  
(936) 258-0815  
[danielbode@prodigy.net](mailto:danielbode@prodigy.net)

**Position #14, Term 2008-2011**  
Ewing (Wing) Evans  
309 Ridgewood Road  
Austin, TX 78746-4618  
(512) 327-0876  
[ewingkevans@cs.com](mailto:ewingkevans@cs.com)

**Position #5, Term 2008-2011**  
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104 Live Oak Loop Spur  
Whitney, TX 76692-3000  
(254) 694-5182  
[liehse@windstream.net](mailto:liehse@windstream.net)

**Position #10, Term 2010-2013**  
Christopher Markley  
2000 West Falian TR., #5  
Austin, Texas 78732-1977  
(512) 845-9967  
[cmarkley99@gmail.com](mailto:cmarkley99@gmail.com)

**Position #15, Term 2009-2012**  
Gerri Gehman West  
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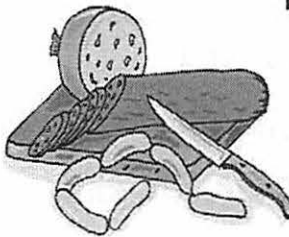


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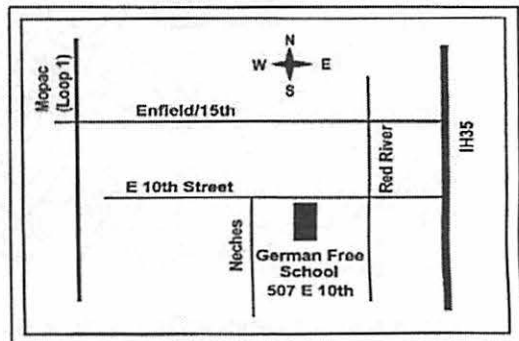
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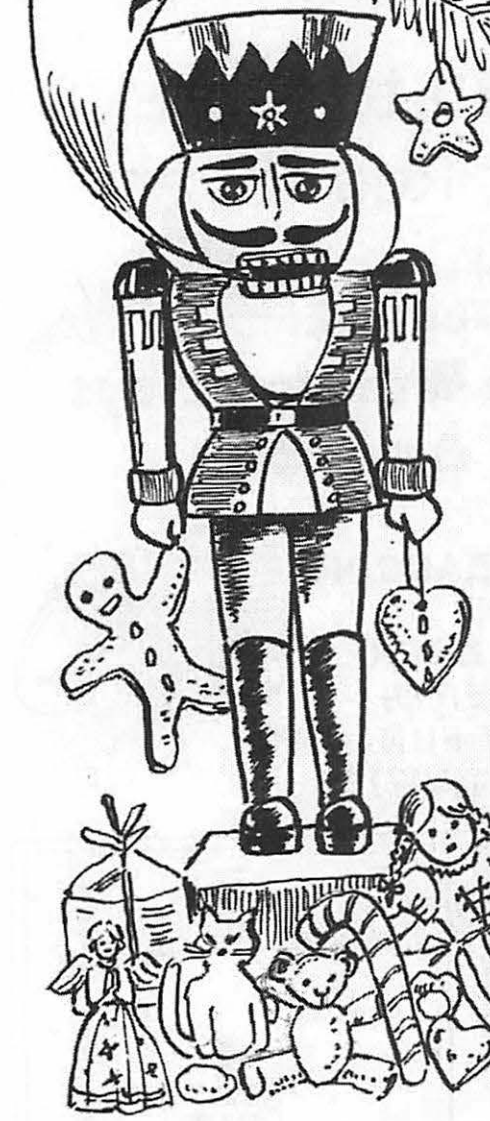




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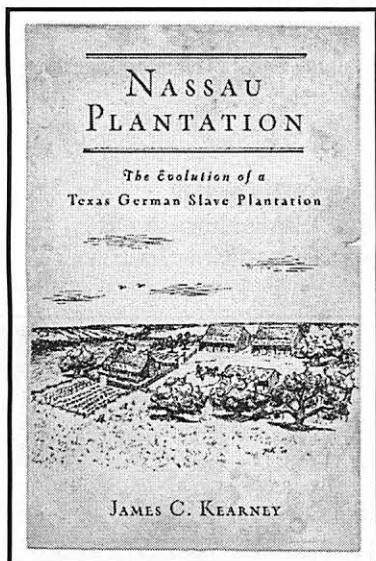
Extra Market Days – Dec. 7, 8, & 9 - 12 pm to 4 pm. Sales tax charged on these days.



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# University of North Texas Press



## Nassau Plantation

*The Evolution of a Texas German Slave Plantation*

BY JAMES C. KEARNEY

368 pp. 19 b&w illus.

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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

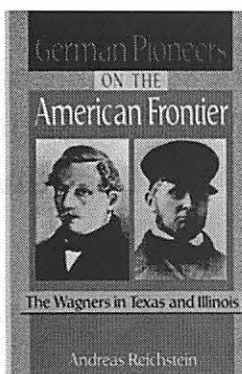
*The Wagners in Texas and Illinois*

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

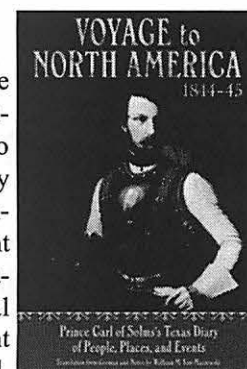
*Prince Carl of Solms's Texas Diary of People, Places, and Events*

BY WOLFRAM M. VON-MASZEWSKI

256 pp. 4 b&w illus. 11 maps.

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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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## REMINDERS



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**THE JOURNAL OF  
THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY  
VOLUME XXXII, NUMBER 3, FALL 2010**

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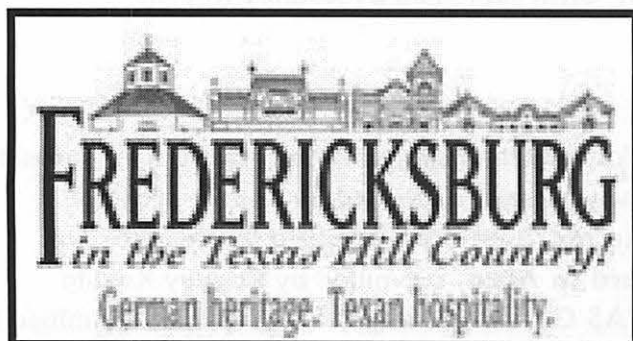
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### **Vielen Dank to these contributors**

Rodney Koenig, Houston  
Van Massirer, Crawford  
Daniel Bode, Dayton  
Hermann Schlortt, Floresville  
Charles Clinger, Austin  
Jean Warneke, Austin

Anne Stewart, Comfort  
Mikki Mayer, Paige  
Carolyn Heinsohn, La Grange  
Susan Teich, Houston  
Terry Smart, San Antonio  
Jo Peebles Adams, Houston



See Registration  
Form/Agenda  
back of *Journal*

**SEE YOU IN FREDERICKSBURG IN SEPTEMBER**



## In Memoriam

### Francis M. Copeland



Frances M. Copeland, age 75, passed away June 24, 2010. She was born on July 3, 1934 in Comal County, TX. She worked and retired from USAA (1952-1991). She was preceded in death by her first husband, John Copeland; second husband, Norwick Harrison; son, Michael Copeland; parents, Erwin & Elsie Heimer. Frances is survived by her daughter, Karen Copeland & husband, Michael Fry; grandchildren, Alyssa Fry and Anjoli Fry; and granddaughter, Christa & her family. Visitation will be 4:00 - 7:00 p.m., Sunday, June 27, 2010 at Sunset Funeral Home. Funeral Service will be 9:00 a.m., Monday, June 28, 2010 at Sunset Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will follow at Sunset Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the National Arthritis Foundation [www.arthritis.org.sg](http://www.arthritis.org.sg) and/or National Migraine Foundation [www.migraines.org](http://www.migraines.org) . Condolences may be offered at [www.sunsetfuneralhomesa.com](http://www.sunsetfuneralhomesa.com)

San Antonio Express News

Frances was born Frances Marie Heimer on July 3rd 1934 in Comal county Texas. Her father, Erwin Heimer, was a blacksmith and her mother, Elsie Heimer, was a homemaker. Frances grew up on her parents' property on old Nacodoches Road, which consisted of the Heimer Blacksmith Shop, a gas station, their house, a smokehouse, chicken coops, a vegetable garden and numerous sheep. She was confirmed at Beitel Lutheran Church in 1947. In her early years, she attended a one-room schoolhouse in Salado Valley but later attended Alamo Heights Junior and High Schools. She. was very proud of the fact that she was in the first graduating class of Northeast High School, now known as MacArthur High School. Frances went to work at USAA in 1952 when it was still located on Broadway and stayed there until her retirement in 1991. She married John Charles Copeland in 1955. Her son Michael was born September 2nd 1956. She was widowed in June 1959 when John Copeland was killed in an automobile accident. Her daughter Karen was born on February 6th 1960. In 1963 Frances married Norwick (Norrie) Harrison. Norrie had 3 children from a previous marriage, Benjamin, Julie and Brett. Norrie and his eldest son, Benjamin, joined Frances and her children in a blended family.

The Harrison household was well known for its hospitality and friends were always welcome to drop in. Frances took great pride in her home and created a warm place for friends and family with lots of food and activities. They also had a house at Lake LBJ that was full of kids, families and fun. She was an active volunteer for Girls Scouts and Boy Scouts when her children were growing up. She was also an avid bowler, winning a number of trophies. Frances had a life long affiliation with the military; both of her husbands and her son Michael were in the Navy and her son Benjamin was in the Army. After 19 years together, Frances and Norrie divorced in 1982.

In this next phase of her life, she began nearly 20 years of extensive traveling. Frances went to Europe on multiple occasions, visited Russia and China and took several trips to Germany researching her family origins. She also traveled extensively in the U.S. - cruising Alaska, taking a paddleboat down the Mississippi and many roads trips in her RV. Frances loved her German ancestry and researched her German roots with extensive genealogy. She was an active member of the *German-Texas Heritage Society* for many years. She loved to dance and would take any opportunity to kick up her heels. Frances liked trying new and different things. Family was important to her; she spearheaded the *Heimer Family Reunion* for many years and kept in contact with relatives across the country. Community and friends were also important to

Frances - she was a member of the Hollywood Park Women's Club, the Rock'n Oaks Garden Club and Hermann Sons Lodge of Spring Branch.

She also served on several committees in Hollywood Park over the years.

She also experienced significant tragedy during this time. Her mother died in 1980, her son Mike died unexpectedly in 1986 and her father died in 1991. Frances developed a life threatening infection in 2002 that led to many later serious health problems. She suffered from severe headaches and arthritis most of her life. Despite all of this, she kept a very positive outlook and disposition. Her unexpected death on June 24th, 2010 shocked her family and friends. They will miss her warmth, humor, loyalty and love.

Submitted by Gert Lewis, San Antonio

Frances Heimer Copeland was a devoted, long-time member of the German-Texan Heritage Society from San Antonio. Frances joined the GTHS in the early 1980s and in 1988 accepted the task of organizing the 1989 Annual Meeting held in San Antonio at the Menger Hotel. She also served as a member of the society's Board of Directors in 1989 and 1990. The following year, Frances was appointed the first chair of a new standing committee, the Annual Meeting Liaison Committee, which coordinated the work of the board and local GTHS members. She served in this position for twelve consecutive years from 1991 through 2002. In 1994, Frances again returned to the Board of Directors and was reelected to several terms. In 2000, she became Vice President of the GTHS, and was VP when she retired from the Board of Directors at the end of 2002 after more than ten years of serve as a director. Until her death, Frances remained an active GTHS member and supporter. *Remembrances from Terry Smart. San Antonio*



## In Memoriam

### Judith Renker

Judith Renker, 70 of Temple passed away on Saturday July 10, 2010. She was born Judith Ann Clark on April 27, 1940 in Kingston, NY the daughter of Kenneth Keator Clark and Gladys Harriet Christiana Clark. She married Robert Leon Renker in Tillson, NY on July 9, 1961. They moved to Houston following their wedding and resided there for 16 years before moving to Temple.

She graduated from Kingston High School, the University of Houston with a teaching degree and Temple Junior College. She was a genealogist for over 30 years and published four books on local history concerning her home town of Tillson, NY. She worked in the real estate business for several years and retired as a cataloging technician at the Temple Public Library.

She was a founding member of Covenant Lutheran Church and a member of: The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Texas, Central Texas Colony; Daughters of the American Revolution, Wiltwyck Chapter (Kingston, NY); Association for a Pet Adoption Center (Animal Shelter); Central Texas Photographic Club; and Belton Iris Society.

She is survived by her husband, Robert L. Renker, daughter Karen Ann Woods and husband W. Robert of Temple, son, Travis Renker and wife Diana Ballard of Round Rock and son Daryl Ray Renker and wife Barbara and granddaughter, Finleigh Rae Renker all of Portland, OR; one sister, Carol Rich of Brewster, MA; sister-in-law Carol Renker of Austin; nieces Cheryl Renker of Austin, Wendy Perry of Rockville, MD and Cheryl Williams of Brewster, MA; and a nephew Stephen Renker of Tacoma, WA. She was preceded in death by her parents Kenneth K. Clark and Gladys H. Christiana Clark; two brother-in-laws, Joseph Samuel Renker, Jr. and John S. Rich.

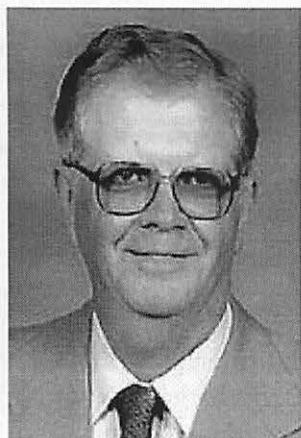
A memorial service will be held at Covenant Lutheran Church on Saturday July 17, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. with Pastor Terry Atkins officiating. Burial will be at Hillcrest Cemetery at a later date.

Memorials may be made to Covenant Lutheran Church, 4202 Hickory Road, Temple, TX 76502 or the Ida Olliffe Foundation, P.O. Box 207, Temple, TX 76503, which provides medical care for the animals at the Temple Animal Shelter.

*Judith used to bake cookies for the Christmas Market when I was still helping with most of it. She baked multiple types and dozens and then sent them down to Austin with her husband. She was a real "Angel" and a very dedicated person. The last few years, she and Marcella Chapple did a lot of work with Cemeteries. Connie Krause, NewBraunfels*

## In Memoriam

### John Henry Kothmann



John Henry Kothmann, 68, of Fredericksburg, died Thursday, May 13, 2010, at Knopp Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, May 18, at 10 a.m. in the chapel of Schaeffer Funeral Home with the Rev. Jeremy Thomas officiating. The Arion Maennerchor sang.

Visitation was held beforehand from 9-10 a.m.

Interment of the cremains in the Art West Cemetery in Mason County is planned at a later date.

Kothmann was born Nov. 3, 1941, in Fredericksburg, the son of A.D. Kothmann Jr. and Nelda Jordan Kothmann. From 1964 until 1993, he worked as a medical technician in the chemistry lab at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. After moving to Fredericksburg, he had been employed by Blumenhandler Florist since 1997.

Included among his surviving relatives is an aunt, Clara, Mrs. Silas Kothmann of Fredericksburg. His parents preceded him in death.

Memorials may be made to the Fredericksburg Bible Church, Hill Country Memorial Hospital, Hill Country Memorial Hospice or to the charity of choice.

John was a Charter Member of GTHS and the Guild and a regular supporter of the Annual Operating Fund. From Rodney Koenig: *"I very much recall John, who was quite active in GTHS, and I know that other early members will remember him. He helped in the GTHS Conventions in Fredericksburg."* John has left his German Mark by remembering GTHS in his will. ***Ruhe in Frieden, John.***



## In Memoriam

### Ruth Hardt Koehler



Ruth Caroline Hardt Koehler passed away on August 7, 2010. She was born on February 27, 1924 to Anton John Hardt and Laura Frick Hardt of Yancey, Texas. After graduating from Yancey High School, she worked briefly in Hondo at the Hondo Army Airfield before attending the University of Texas in Austin. She graduated with a business administration degree, and began work with the Social Security Administration. Her career took her to Lake Charles, Louisiana, and Corpus Christi, Texas, where she married her husband of almost 60 years, Bill. They then moved to Houston to start raising their sons, Bill and Jim. While living in Houston, Ruth enjoyed many activities, hosting family gatherings, and being active in church and civic organizations. When Bill retired in 1985, they moved to Austin, where she took an interest in genealogy, and was an active member of the Austin Genealogical Society. In 1992, they published a book entitled *Henry Christian Hardt, a Genealogy: 1639-1992* on Ruth's paternal grandfather who came to the Republic of Texas with his father at the age of eighteen. The book was awarded a prize by the Texas State Genealogical Society. Ruth was a member of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Austin Genealogical Society, and the German Texan Heritage Society. Ruth was preceded in death by her husband, William Koehler, her parents, and two brothers, Lloyd Hardt and Richard Hardt. She is survived by her two sons, William A. Koehler of Batavia, Illinois and James Brian Koehler, of Pflugerville, Texas, one brother, Calvin "Pete" Hardt, and many nieces and nephews. The family expresses deep gratitude to the staff of Hospice Austin. Visitation will be at Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home in Austin at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 11, followed by a memorial service at the Weed-Corley-Fish Chapel at 11:00 a.m., with Rev. Charlie Baskin officiating. Interment will immediately follow at Austin Memorial Park. Memorials can be made to the University of Texas, Northwest Hills United Methodist Church, or Hospice Austin. To share memories and view obituary please visit [www.wcfish.com](http://www.wcfish.com)

## German Day in Texas

The 9<sup>th</sup> of October this year has been proclaimed **German Day in Texas** by Governor Rick Perry. An annual German Day proclamation by the Texas Governor has been a tradition since 1963, when German Day was officially designated by Governor John Connally to be reinstated after many years without a day honoring German-Texans.

In 1889 the city of Houston paid tribute to the heroic German pioneers, and an annual commemoration and festival took place there for many years. Germans were honored annually in other Texas cities as well. A Dallas newspaper article from 1893 tells of Dallas residents celebrating German Day that year to commemorate the anniversary of the October 6, 1683 arrival of German colonists and the founding of Germantown, Pennsylvania, the first permanent German settlement in what became the U.S. These annual celebrations were held around Texas until about 1910.

In 1963 the nonprofit **Texas German Day Council** was founded in Dallas to resume the annual Texas custom of celebrating German Day. Founding Chairman and German Honorary Consul Gershon Canaan won the support of Governor Connally for an official German Day in Texas, and that year the Governor signed a proclamation designating October 6 as the day.

The Texas German Day Council sponsors the **German Pioneer Ball** in the Dallas area around October 6 each year to celebrate German Day in Texas and to honor its mission of commemorating the settlement of Germantown, Pennsylvania, acknowledging the contributions of Germans and persons of German ancestry throughout Texas history, as well as encouraging German-American cultural exchange and building bridges of friendship between Germany and the U.S.

Over the years, the German Pioneer Ball has honored numerous German-Americans and Germans with U.S. connections, as well as Texas and German cities. In 2009 the city of Arlington (Texas) and its sister city Bad Königshofen (Bavaria) were honored for their strong partnership dating back to 1951.

This year's German Pioneer Ball will be on Saturday, October 9, at the Sheraton Grand DFW Hotel in Irving. This 48<sup>th</sup> annual Ball will honor the city of Fort Worth and its German sister city Trier. If you would like to be a part of this year's German Day in Texas celebration, please see the Texas German Day Council web site at [www.GermanDayInTexas.com](http://www.GermanDayInTexas.com) for further information and for ordering tickets.



STATE OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Texans of German descent have played an important role in building the Lone Star State we know and love today. Drawn to Texas by pioneer Johann Friedrich Ernst's persuasive letters about the fertile soil, a mild climate, and abundant fish and game of his adopted homeland, German settlers began arriving steadily in the 1830s. By 1850, German pioneers made up more than 5 percent of the total Texas population.

The contributions of these settlers helped lay the foundation of the Lone Star State and have taken root in the state's unique culture.

Each year, members of the Texas German Day Council designate a day in October as German Day, celebrating German-Americans' rich heritage and the prominent role they have played in Texas. I encourage all Texans to recognize the many contributions German-Americans have made to the Lone Star State.

Therefore, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim  
October 9, 2010,

### German Day

in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,  
I hereby affix my signature this the  
26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2010.

*Rick Perry*  
Governor of Texas



Submitted by Martha Liehse, Whitney



## President's Notes

Be careful what you ask for...remember my asking in the last *Journal* your opinion about the new font for the front cover? "*Lose the new font on the cover. It looks elementary and difficult to read. You asked for our opinion – Sorry.*" I love a man (and spouse?) who can express himself! I will await more opinions until I ditch it! I kinda think he would make a good board member!?! Not afraid to express his opinion. And then there was this from Jean at headquarters...(Inside cover of the *Journal*) *-I think this looks too industrial.* What am I this month—a punching bag! Seriously, the best part of my "job" is to hear from all of you and this month was very busy. Many great articles were submitted. Take a look at the letters to the editor on p. 172. And I have had some wonderful conversations with Jo Peebles Adams about the article beginning on p. 174. The story submitted by Herb Stappenbeck last *Journal* ("A Possible Inspiration for Heinrich Weltner's 'A King of the Rocky Mountain Drawing'") drew a "response" from Anne Stewart (see page 220) and a donation to our silent auction at the annual meeting!



And speaking of the annual meeting, your registration form is in your *Schulhaus Reporter* and at the back of this *Journal* so no excuses that you didn't have a form! It can also be downloaded from our web site and/or call/email headquarters for a copy. You will want to make this trip. And if you have read or will read the tutorial in this and the last *Journal*, you will feel right at home. Where else will you be able to walk the streets where Meusebach trod (I hear from a reputable source that the man himself will be at our annual meeting), or where the notorious outlaw Waldrip was finally dispensed with AND BY WHOM or learn how to grave witch? So many submissions this time cross referenced each other and referenced Fredericksburg.

A HUGE WELCOME TO Bob Flocke of Wimberley who has agreed to serve as our newest board member! Welcome to our band of brothers!

By now you should have received our new annual fund drive request. Think long and hard about how you can be of service to your organization. I was speaking with Jo Peebles Adams (Houston) several days ago about the story we reprinted (see p. 174). She is sending money toward the purchase of a new microfilm reader. There are many stories locked up in those files that need to be translated/told/brought to light. So if you don't have a specific in mind, think about designating your contribution or part of your contribution toward that much needed piece of equipment for the library.

And finally, kudos to our volunteers across the state: those who send in articles for the *Journal* and the *Schulhaus Reporter*, those who man our tables at events, those who actively solicit new members, those who serve on our very active board, those who work their hearts out at the GFS in Austin. We are because of your involvement.

See you in Fredericksburg....*Mary*

*P.S.* I apologize for not knowing who sent in the article on p. 197...let me know and I will give you credit next *Journal*!

## Executive Director's Report

### *Briefly ...*

I recently had the opportunity to travel to Washington, DC, accompanying my husband on business. I took advantage of being there to visit with staff of Preserve America, a project of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Preserve America is a national initiative started in 2003 with former First Lady Laura Bush as its titular head, whose mission is to recognize America's heritage and advance its protection. Preserve America Community recognition is awarded to towns, neighborhoods and counties around the nation that protect and celebrate their heritage and use their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization and encourage people to experience and learn about their local history through education and heritage tourism programs. In Texas alone, there are 72 communities with this designation, including a number of German-Texan towns like New Braunfels, Shiner, and Fredericksburg.



In 2008, the Preserve America Stewards program was introduced, and on August 5, 2010, the German-Texan Heritage Society became the newest member of this group. The Stewards designation honors groups of volunteers who show successful and innovative efforts in preserving historic places, in our case, the Historic German Free School, the state headquarters of GTHS. This designation comes with a certificate of recognition signed by First Lady Michelle Obama, listing on the Preserve America website, and publicity in their e-newsletter. But truly, the benefit is recognition of the many volunteers who work tirelessly to keep up this beautiful old building and to promote and preserve our German heritage.

We feel such an achievement deserves a party and we will dedicate the 2010 Oktoberfest to our volunteers (of course, they will be volunteering at Oktoberfest!) and celebrate with a brief ceremony and display our new designation. In addition to music, there will be speeches from local and federal officials, and then we will toast to those who brought us to this prestigious designation.

Please join on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, as we honor our many volunteers and officially designate the German-Texan Heritage Society as the newest Preserve America Stewards.

For more information about the program, see <http://www.preserveamerica.gov/stewards.html>

Also in October, the National Trust for Historic Preservation will hold its annual meeting in Austin for the first time. A couple of the field trips will make refreshment stops at the German Free School and the state coordinators for the Main Street project will hold a meeting in our studio. We are excited to share our heritage with people from around the country.

I take pride in working in such an historic building and being able to show off the work of our volunteer team. Danke!

Jean Warneke

Executive Director



THE WHITE HOUSE

August 2, 2010

Dear Volunteers of the German Texan Heritage Society:

Congratulations on your designation as a Preserve America Steward, and thank you for all that you do to care for our Nation's important historical resources. The places you care for hold a treasured place in the American story, and it is through your vision and dedication that our history will be upheld and our future will be renewed.

President Obama and I are proud of your efforts and we applaud your achievement. The Americans who came before us built this country on the strength of their hopes, hard work, and perseverance. Now you are using those same qualities to help share our history with today's Americans and those of tomorrow. With your service, you are strengthening our country. Every volunteer shows that we all have a role to play in shaping a better future, and we can do it by honoring our past.

Thank you again for all that you do, for your continuing commitment to our Nation's heritage, and for your enthusiastic participation in the Preserve America program. I wish you all the best, and I have high hopes for your continued success.

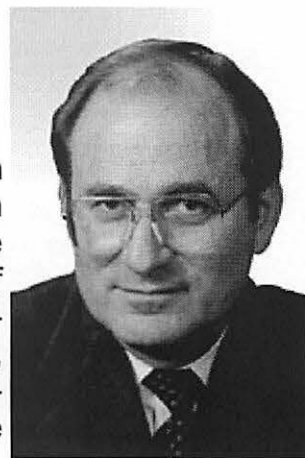
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Obama". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

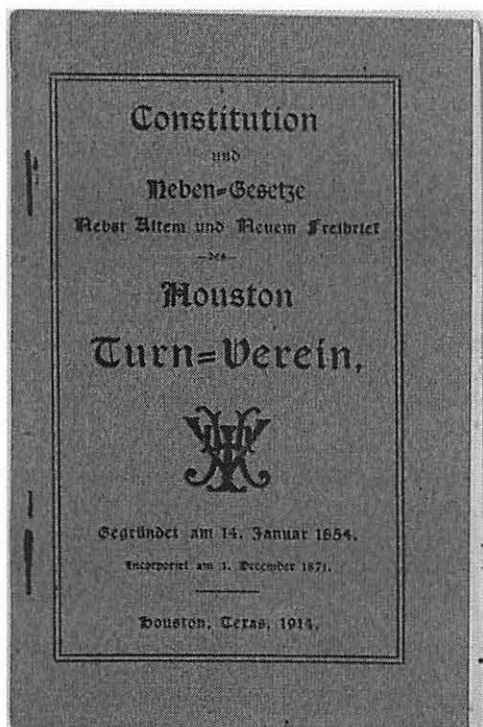
## LEAVE YOUR GERMAN MARK

By Rodney C. Koenig (past President of GTHS)

German Texan Heritage Society is a wonderful society which helps preserve our heritage. I was reminded of the interesting German heritage when Hans Richter of Texas-German Autohaus recently gave me an original copy of the Constitution and Neben-Gesetze (bylaws) of Houston Turn-Verein printed in 1914 by Texas Deutsche Zeitung. It reflects that the Houston Turn-Verein was organized January 14, 1854, and incorporated on December 1, 1871, by a special Act of the Legislature of the State of Texas. Members mentioned in such 1871 Act were G. Loeffler, F.W. Heitmann, I. Veith, L. Harde, L. Kosse, R.H. Cabaniss, J.D. Usener, G.A. Meyer, E.L. Leonhardt, P.R. Westen and F.A. Michels.



In 1901 the President was A. Brunner, Vice-President was Gus Schulte, Secretary was M. Kattmann and Treasurer was C.F. Kuhlmann. Others active in 1901 were Schneider, Schweikart, Schwartz, Christensen, Leopold, Albrecht and Sam. The 1914 Committee was composed of Gillaspie, Kalb, Aydam, Smeaton and Schweikart. Among the Turn-Verein's objectives were to cultivate and encourage gymnastic exercises, to elevate morals, to cultivate the German language, customs and German festivals and to encourage art and literature by lectures, debates and a hearty support of everything pertaining thereto. Unfortunately, the Houston Turn-Verein's building on Almeda Street near downtown Houston was demolished about 1993. However, the members of Houston Turn-Verein left their German mark on Houston.



We have recently lost some precious members of GTHS. Frances Copeland and John Kuhlmann were two diligent, hard-working members that I always enjoyed seeing at Board meetings and membership meetings. Frances was always helping with activities in San Antonio and Austin, while John was active in Fredericksburg and Mason, as well as Austin. I recall reading the history of the Kuhlmann

family which I bought in an antique shop in Mason, Texas. Both Frances and John have left a wonderful German mark through their life and services to German-Texan goals.

How will you leave your German Mark? Join one of the German singing groups. Write up a family history of your German ancestors and present it to your family reunion this summer. Include portions of your German family history in news articles about your reunion. Use the internet to locate long-lost relatives in America and in Europe. Genealogy is a never-ending puzzle which can keep you and your cousins busy almost indefinitely. Have you found and translated old letters sent by your forebears? Providing funds to publish the history of German singing and other groups is important.

Another good way to Leave Your German Mark is by providing funds in your Will or by beneficiary designation of your IRA, 401(k) or life insurance policy. Name German-Texan Heritage Society (GTHS) as one of your beneficiaries to provide for further research of German-Texan history. For help, please call Rodney C. Koenig at (713) 651-5333, or email me at [rkoenig@fulbright.com](mailto:rkoenig@fulbright.com). Any GTHS 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.

**VON RORDROF/RORDROF – PAPE**

Kay Boyd, 1495 S. Meadows Dr., Austin, TX 78758, e-mail: [Mkdb1405@aol.com](mailto:Mkdb1405@aol.com). Was Matilda Franziska Caroline Pape married before she wed Ernest Ferdinand Louis von Rordrof in Houston, Harris Co. in 1865?

**Reply:** Clayton Library has Harris County Marriages on microfilm and abstracted published version as well. Volume E of Harris Co. marriages has Louis Von Rordorf to MRS. Matilda Pape August 25, 1865. The original marriage license is available on microfilm. I did not find a prior marriage of a Pape to a Matilda or Franziska or Caroline \_?\_ in civil registrations. The marriage record has the name of the minister, Rev. Caspar Braun, who performed the 1865 marriage with von Rordrof. Rev. Braun founded the 1<sup>st</sup> German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Houston (Erste Deutsche Evangelische Lutherische Kirche). Clayton has this church's records on microfilm. I would suggest reading these records prior to her 1865 marriage for previous marriage(s). Possibly, her death certificate will give her maiden name?

**COURTINUS/CORNITIUS – BUESCHER – PARSONS - FLEMING**

Lynn Sewell, 238 Snead Dr., Fairfield Glade, TN 38558, e-mail: [lbsewell@frontiernet.net](mailto:lbsewell@frontiernet.net) I would like to identify some old pictures which are in my husband's maternal family. One picture taken at Harper & Co., Houston, TX; one 1890's Deane, Dallas Co., TX; one of older lady taken by C.A. Pewits, Flatonia, TX; one taken by Fey & Braunig, photographers, Hallettsville, TX. A postcard addressed to Mr. G.W. Fleming, Houston with picture of woman and child. These connect to the Courtinus and Buescher families. Torens Heinrich Buescher 1810 -1882 New Ulm, Austin Co., TX; Louisa Buescher died 4/1905 Houston, TX, and husband, Walter August Bernhard Courtinus/Cornitius married May 17, 1866 Colorado Co., TX. Their daughter, Gertrude Ann married Oct. 22, 1947 Ernest Pilger Parsons. Both died in Houston, TX.

**PUPPE – UECKER – MICHEL**

Lillian Starr, 622 Red Rock Ranch Rd., Red Rock, TX 78662-4536, phone: (830) 839-4448 would like to know more about her Uecker and Puppe ancestors. Henry Uecker died in San Antonio about 1990; Oscar Puppe was her grandfather.

**Reply:** Lillian didn't not have much information available when I spoke with her. However, I did manage to find some genealogical information for her.

Using birth records for Lillian, I was able to determine her parents, and then looked for death certificates and census records. Henry Uecker was born Aug. 16, 1898, Died Feb. 26, 1988 San Antonio, Bexar Co., TX. His wife, Elsie Caroline Puppe was born 1910, died Dec. 11, 1989. Texas Death Certificates are available for free online at <http://pilot.familysearch.org>. It is important to start with what you know and work back.

Oscar E. Puppe's death certificate has date of birth as Sept. 6, 1875 Germany; Date of death: May 8, 1943. Father: Carl Puppe born Germany, Mother: no record. He is buried in the City Cemetery No. 6, San Antonio, TX. Burial: Paul-Riebe Funeral Home. Oscar is found on the 1900 Bexar Co. census and states year of immigration was 1881. His wife, Lena Michel Puppe's death cert. give her parents as: Carl and \_\_ (no first name) Veltman. Lena was born Feb. 24, 1877 TX, died Jan. 1, 1970 San Antonio. Death certificate information, census records, and various county records for Bexar Co. should be used for additional information (clues abound in these).

The 1900 Comal Co., TX census lists a Carl Uecker born Texas, parents born Germany with wife, Doratea, children: Alena b. 8/1897, Henry b. 8/1898. Same census page: William Uecker born 6/1845 Germany, immigrated 1852. His wife, Maria b. 12/1844 Germany, emigrated 1868. Children: Herman, Adolph, Louisa. There may be a connection between Carl and William Uecker. Lillian, please let me hear from you if above are indeed your Ueckers and Puppe ancestors.

**1860 Deaths from Yellow Fever in Fayette County**

Lempeg@sbcglobal.net (a name to go with e-mail would have been nice) Is there any list of the many deaths in Fayette Co. in the 1860's from huge Yellow fever Epidemic?

**Reply:** The 1860 Mortality Schedule for Fayette County will list names, age, and cause of death. Texas Mortality schedules 1850-1880 and Fayette County's in particular can be found at [www.deathindexes.com/censusmortality.html](http://www.deathindexes.com/censusmortality.html) or [www.mortalityschedules.com](http://www.mortalityschedules.com). A Google search using search term "Yellow Fever"+Texas+Fayette and search using "Yellow Fever"+Texas+1860 yielded several interesting links. Ancestry Magazine Vol. 23, No. 3, May/June 2005 has an excellent article, "Mortality Schedules: Unlocking the Mystery".

**BRAST**

Michael Brast, email: [michaelbrast@sbcglobal.net](mailto:michaelbrast@sbcglobal.net) has done quite a bit of research on Carl and Adolph Brast. Adolph Brast, Sr. emigrated from Mecklenberg, Germany either Dec. 26 1873 or 1869 through Galveston. Carl and Adolph are listed on the 1880 census of Bernardo Prairie, Colorado Co., TX. Some members of the family are buried in Pilgrims Rest Cemetery, Bellville, Austin Co., TX. However, place of origin in the Province of Mecklenburg is not known. **Reply:** Before jumping the pond, you need to determine town/village in Mecklenburg. I would look for obits for emigrant and all children, find baptism records for children born in US as if Catholic or Lutheran usually gives place of birth of parents in Germany and maiden name of mother. Try using the IGI (International Genealogical Index) at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) for place of birth and death of other Brasts (and your guy) around the same time frame your ancestor would have lived in Germany. This should narrow your search to a few places. Try to find the actual passenger lists for Carl and Adolph as may list name of town of origin, and not just Germany or Prussia. You should post a query on the Mecklenburg mailing list on [www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com). There are many links for Deutschland/Germany on [www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com).

**1875 Census for Austin, Travis County Texas**

The 1875 Austin census has been posted on the Austin Genealogical Society website <http://www.austintxgensoc.org/records/1875census.php> Family members are listed with ages and country of birth. There are many Germans listed including those associated with the German Free School. Thanks to Robert Sage for sharing this information.

**Talk About Getting Back to German Roots-This is it!** I hope fellow GTHS members and non-members will join me in attending the meeting in historic Fredericksburg, TX. GTHS has arranged a schedule of interesting activities including a "grave switching" or "grave witching" demo, historic home and cemetery tour, interesting speakers, and hopefully of interest, my genealogical presentation: "Sleeping Beauty": Using Death Records for Genealogical Research. The event of Death creates many records very useful for family research. Records to be discussed will include Funeral home, church, newspapers/obits, death certificates or lack thereof, what does YOUR ancestor's tombstone tell you, Testate or Intestate, How to determine date of death and how to find a cemetery, "Bodies in Transit", "Sleeping Beauty" (memorial photography) and Funeral Customs 1630-present .

Finally, someone saw the wisdom in staying open on Fridays. Here are the new hours for Clayton Library. Monday Closed, Tuesday, Thursday 10:00-6:00, Wednesday 10:00-8:00, Friday, Saturday 10:00-5:00

At the site <http://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/generate.html> you can quickly generate a calendar for any year in the past, i. e. you can see on what day of the week you were born, or on what day of the week anything else happened.

FamilySearch has a digitized version of volumes 1 & 2 of Meyers Orts online. Here is the link to their Research Wiki page on Germany Gazetteers which includes instructions on how to use Meyers Orts as well as links to Meyers Orts and other resources:  
[https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Germany\\_Gazetteers](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Germany_Gazetteers)  
Use Meyers Orts to find town/place in Germany. This useful gazetteer will indicate if it had a church or where the parish was.

Very helpful to get more information is [www.verwaltungsgeschichte.de](http://www.verwaltungsgeschichte.de) Klick Deutsches Ortsbuch <http://www.verwaltungsgeschichte.de/ortsbuch39.html>  
You get alphabetical all places in Germany and in Austria with detailed information.



## A New Book, With a German Connection – *Houston's Silent Garden: Glenwood Cemetery 1871-2009*

by Susan Froehly Teich

A book about cemeteries? It hardly sounds like the sort of thing you'd put out on your coffee table for guests to page through during a lull in the conversation. And it certainly doesn't sound like a large volume of art quality photographs such as was published this year thanks to the efforts of authors Suzanne Turner and Joanne Seale Wilson. But that is what it is. In particular, *Houston's Silent Garden* is the story of one very special cemetery, Glenwood, located on Washington Avenue in Houston.

Glenwood is set apart from other cemeteries in three ways. First, it is one of the early "garden cemeteries" in the United States. The garden cemeteries, which originated in Europe in the early 19th century, were a dramatic departure from the churchyard cemetery and the family cemetery. For the first time, a cemetery could be a garden and an arboretum, a place where the living would come for relaxation and a picnic, not just to remember the dead.

Second, Glenwood has more than its share of famous people. Probably, Howard Hughes is the most famous, but Glenwood's graves include many names associated with Houston's landmarks: Clayton (Clayton Library), Hermann (Hermann Park, Hermann Hospital), Hobby (Hobby Airport), Hoffeinz (Astrodome), Jones (Jesse Jones Hall), Law (Caroline Weiss Law Building, MFA Houston), Rice (Rice University), and Wortham (Wortham Center). To name a few.

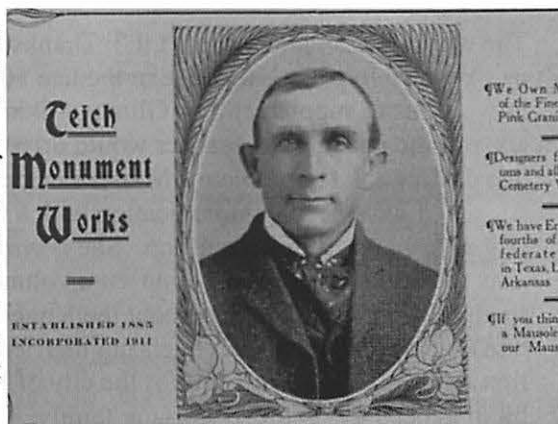
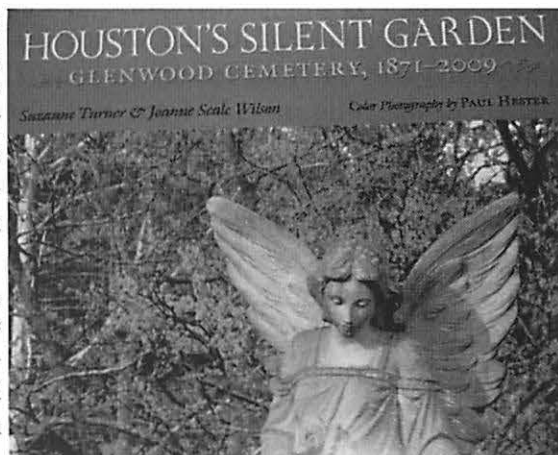
Finally, Glenwood is known for its memorial art, making it a sculpture garden as well as a garden of plant specimens. In celebrating Glenwood's memorial art, *Houston's Silent Garden* makes a strong connection to our Texas-German heritage, and provides the reason for this review. In its memorial art, we see the work of Frank Teich, a sculptor who emigrated from Lobenstein, in Thuringia, and settled in Texas. (His life was the subject of an earlier article, published in *The Journal*, Winter, 2004, pp. 384-392.) His work is pictured throughout the book, but especially in *Part II, Symbolism in Stone*.

One hurdle to identifying Teich's work in Glenwood is that none of the Glenwood monuments are signed. Teich owned a granite quarry just outside of Llano and worked exclusively in granite, so that eliminates the marble monuments as being his. (As an aside, Frank Teich was hired to supervise the cutting and placement of stone on the Texas Capitol. The original plans called for Texas limestone to be used, but Teich persuaded the Legislature that Texas had granite of commercial quality, taking a delegation to quarries by narrow gauge railroad to prove it, and granite was used. Teich became known as the "Father of the Texas Granite Industry." Years later he bought the quarry near Llano.)



Fortunately, Teich photographed much of his completed work and put the photographs into advertising booklets for use in promoting Teich Monument Works and securing new orders. Many photographs of his work in Glenwood were taken after their placement in the cemetery and are contained in a single booklet that has survived. That booklet became a resource for the authors.

*Houston's Silent Garden* is a loving memoir of Houston's past. Charlotte Marie Allen's inheritance allowed her husband, Augustus Chapman Allen, and her brother-in-law, John Kirby Allen, to speculate in land. They did. And Houston was born. Charlotte, now called "the mother of Houston," is buried in Glenwood. With her begins the story of a city and the story of its most famous cemetery, now intertwined in this book. (Available thru Amazon.com)



## Letters to and for the Editor:

Charles E. Clinger (in reference to the last *Journal*)

A quick appreciation for the wonderful stories in this issue. I really liked the one on Nora Braun on page 120. My mother was born and lived in the hills of WV from 1901-1911 and attended a one room school. I visited that area with her in the early 1980's before she developed Alzheimer. When they moved to TX. in 1911 she attended a small school in Medina, TX. She was number one in her graduating high school class. And, then her sister taught in many one room schools along the Mexican border when Pancho Viva was roaming around. She met a young American soldier fighting against Pancho and eventually married him. Life is crazy sometimes.

I'm reading the Summer 2010 Journal as we are heading home from Little Rock. Do you happen to know Dorothy and Tom Rothermel of Brenham? Dorothy submits articles from time to time. Anyway, Tom was my 7th grade English teacher in La Grange. The Dora Braun in another article was a friend of my mother's. The Aileen Loehr who wrote several reprinted. Articles was a classmate. Rodney Koenig was big boy on the school bus when I began riding it.

This is like old home week.

Carl

The world gets smaller, doesn't it? Thanks for forwarding the email to us. Yes, we lived in LaGrange in the late 50s. Tom taught Jr. high,, drove a bus to supplement his Glimmer Adkin base salary for Texas teachers, plus he and another teacher would drive to Sam Houston after school one day a week to complete a Master's degree.

..... I have been communicating with a Cynthia Thornton, a fellow retired teacher, from Round Top. She is writing a book about Round Top. Georgia Etzel Tubbs, a museum volunteer at the Round Top museum told her to contact me about the Vogelsang family for his information on Round Top. Carl Vogelsang married Louisa Brey. He was the first city councilman in 1870 for the city of Round Top. I have quiet a bit of genealogy on the Vogelsang family. Carl Vogelsang was Tom's great-grandfather. His grandmother was Mary Vogelsang Rothermel from Burton. I will visit with Cynthia in about a week or two about the Vogelsang family in Round Top. Ima Hogg lived in a house that was the Vogelsang House in Round Top on her trips to Round Top.



# OUTREACH

Some accordion techniques, at the Brenham TX Maifest, year 2010. Linda is from Wallerstein, Bavaria, Germany. *Gene Hackemack*



**LOCAL REPORTERS NEEDED** One of the goals of the German Texan Heritage Society Journal (GTHS), as we enter a new decade in 2010, is to improve and expand the inflow of news of German-Texan cultural news and activities from around the state to the editors of the *Schulhaus Reporter*, the *Journal*, and our website. Gathering this information will allow its dissemination to all GTHS members throughout Texas. To implement this process, we seek a least one 'reporter' for each membership region: Austin, Brenham, Dallas County Area, Ft.Worth/Tarrant County Area, Fredericksburg, Houston and East Texas, New Braunfels, North and West Texas, San Antonio, Victoria and South Texas, Waco. The duties of each reporter are to collect announcements and articles about German related activities and events in his or her area and submit to GTHS. We think we would all benefit from being more aware of activities beyond our neighborhoods. Who knows, this might inspire us to take a weekend trip and have some fun in another part of Texas!

And this is a two-way street. When we at GTHS headquarters learn of an event in your area, we send it your way and ask to you contact your local media and submit the information. This can include local newspapers, radio stations, and chambers of commerce, and more.

What types of events? Genealogy Seminars, Cultural festivals, German films, Christmas Markets, Maifest, Oktoberfest, just about any event that ends in-fest! Please contact the GTHS office at [info@germantexans.org](mailto:info@germantexans.org) or 866-482-GTHS (4847)



# Special Section—Continued Tutorial on Fredericksburg

Reprint of Articles previously run in the Summer and Fall, 1995 issues that are specific to the area we plan to enjoy in September. Suggested by Jo Peebles Adams, Houston...thank you Jo

My Experiences in Texas  
by Julius Schuetze Texas Vorwärts, June 4, 1886  
(Translated from the original German by Winifred Schuetze Cade)

## The Murder of German Unionists in Fredericksburg, Texas, in 1864

Until now, kind reader, the Texas Vorwärts (Texas Progress) has presented my experiences in this country faithful to the truth, but with an air of humor which in many cases I most certainly did not feel at the time of their occurrences, but which unconsciously came to me when writing them down after thirty years or more. Now as I relate the most horrible time of my life, in order to show old, painful wounds and bring to light political struggles which were fought out more than twenty years ago, this by no means happened. From the beginning I guarded against it in a most earnest manner. I will describe the situation in that period exactly as if it was encountered today. Thousands, even hundreds of thousands now know nothing of it, never having experienced it. But there are hundreds living still and residing in Fredericksburg and its environs before whose eyes passed the terrible events of that time. They will bear witness that I adhere strictly to the truth. I still possess, part in the original, part in copies, all documents of legal proceedings, depositions of witnesses, lists, reports and letters, which have a bearing on these events. From these I draw many names and dates so that in every reference the exposition is indisputably correct.

During the war and until the fall of 1864 I lived in Austin, where I served partly as schoolteacher in order to escape conscription in the Confederate army and partly as a music teacher to earn my bread, for keeping school yielded no livelihood. It was only the sacrifice which must be made for exemption from military service. Like nineteen out of twenty of the Germans in Texas, I, too, was a Union man and could neither be enthusiastic about a federation of Southern states with slavery nor risk my life for such an undertaking. I had the luck to possess as a good and remunerative practice music students from the wealthiest and most distinguished families. So, in order to earn enough to maintain my family, after school was closed at four o'clock in the afternoon, I taught music, often until ten o'clock in the evening. I was in 1860, music teacher to the family of Sam Houston while he was governor and remained music teacher to the family of his successor. In 1864 I also gave instruction to Governor Pendleton Murrah's family. Governor Murrah had no children. He had adopted a distant orphaned kinsman, a dear young girl of fourteen years, to whom I gave music lessons. In addition, his young wife and a cousin also took instruction in Music and singing. Twice weekly, after the evening meal, I went to their home. After the lessons were ended, sometime around ten o'clock, Governor Murrah always came down from his study into the parlor for an hour of small talk and leisure. Murrah was an amiable, clever companion, a man of only thirty-five years, brim full of humor and wit. He was also very liberal in his views and especially opposed the conducting and drift of the court martials since a state of siege was declared throughout the State. In that way he often came into conflict with General Magruder, who was an autocrat in fullest measure and more than once marched through the country not only with his general staff in his train, but also accompanied by numerous lady friends.

I was soon quite friendly with Governor Murrah and many an evening we sat until midnight with a good little drop of liquidity which, though hard to obtain, still stimulated conversation.

It was around mid-day, the 27th of February, 1864, when a heavily armed border soldier stepped into my room and asked if I was a brother of Captain Louis Schuetze of Fredericksburg. I answered in the affirmative.

"Now," he began, visibly upset, "brace yourself to hear terrible news. A detachment of five men of the frontier cavalry to which I belong, was ordered during the night between the 24th and 25th, to bring dispatches over to Austin. As we came through Fredericksburg we learned that a band of twenty men had seized your brother from his home and had taken him away and probably have murdered him. We had to go on to Austin but a friend of your brother asked me to find you here and let you know what has happened. Probably you can still help rescue him, but I doubt it."

I thanked him for his trouble and set about at once making arrangements to leave for Fredericksburg, a distance of ninety-two miles from the capitol city of Austin. I had in mind to immediately leave by horse, ride through the



night while it was moonlight, and thus, by forced riding my horse, which was an excellent one, I could be in Fredericksburg by noon of the next day.

In a very agitated state, I hurried to Governor Murrah and asked him to give me a letter of safe conduct to take with me to the commanding officer of the Border Battalion. Murrah firmly advised me against undertaking the trip alone. I should delay until the detachment, which had to wait here a few days, returned again to the frontier, and accompany them. He informed me that lately the Indians had repeatedly created trouble some twenty to twenty-five miles this side of Fredericksburg and that he himself would send no more dispatch riders between the border and the capitol without military escort. I still stood firm upon my resolution to set out that afternoon and when he saw that there was no alternative he gave me the written safe conduct, the original of which lies before me now, and reads:

Executive Department, Austin, Texas  
February 27, 1864

Mr. Julius Schuetze, a respected citizen of the city of Austin, is traveling to Fredericksburg and vicinity, where his brother, Louis Schuetze, may recently have been murdered: He is for that reason entitled to protection and help on the part of all civil and military troops and I request such troops to render him every possible protection and aid he may require. Major James M. Hunter is herewith ordered to give him all necessary assistance so that he can successfully conclude his investigation.

P. Murrah, Governor

In addition the Governor supplied me with a Confederate officer's coat, believing that it could, in some possible way afford me a measure of protection.

I soon took leave from all loved ones and around the third hour of the afternoon I rode through the Colorado River toward the West. I rode a splendid six year old horse which Alfred Smith had sold to me for \$150.00 in gold a year before, on condition that, in case he wished to buy him back again he would have the right of purchase for the same price. I was armed with a Sharp's breech loader carbine and a Colt revolver. A small light meal was in my saddle pocket and a military cloak buckled on behind the saddle. Light footed as a deer, my fresh lively steed trotted along. I readily calculated that at six miles an hour, which I could make with ease, I would be in Fredericksburg at eight o'clock the next morning.

It was a warm sultry afternoon as I rode through the ford of the Colorado at the upper part of the city. Yet scarcely had I reached the first high western plain than I noticed in the north the well known streak of bluish black cloud bank which spread toward the south with great speed. Soon the effects of the coming storm were quite perceptible and I knew that before long I had to do battle with an icy "blue" norther.

With unbelievable velocity the norther approached. I was scarcely six miles out of Austin when the first icy blast struck me with hard raindrops from the right. I took little notice of the weather, for I had made it through worse. As a freighter twelve years before, I had traveled through the fabled prairies of southwestern Texas in the dead of winter. I hurried forward, defiant of the wet, cold, and storm, and in full manhood. What was a "little weather" to me. Yet, after only an hour the rain had changed to sleet, my hands and feet were numbed with cold and I suspected that when night came it surely would worsen.

It had become dark when, twelve miles from the city I became aware of a house on the left side of the road. Until then the way had led through wooded country. From there on it went over only a few wooded hills until well-nigh Grape Creek. I reflected a moment. If I set out on this road over which I must travel, then no more houses existed on it for a distance of forty miles. A good spirit whispered in my ear: "No farther this night!"

I rode to the house and inquired about a night's lodging for myself and my horse, for which I would willingly be responsible. I had hit upon the right man and the right house. George Hessner! This earth cannot produce a braver more gallant German gentleman than he. It was his hospitable roof I had found. He lives to this day, still enjoys good health and hopefully will yet live long, prosperous and contented years. To his welcomed hospitality I owe my life, for if I had ridden farther on that night, of certainty I would have perished.

(To be continued)

Texas Vorwärts, June 11, 1866.

Around midnight a fearsome snow storm blew in, with lightening and thunder and swept through the woods almost like a tornado. It tore branches from the trees and shortly the house itself heaved. Next morning the sky was entirely clear yet it was bitter cold; the earth was covered with snow and ice; everything was hard frozen. We were snow bound.

The next morning my good host, to whom I had imparted the tragic reason for my journey, was up long before day. He had fed my horse and prepared breakfast for he understood my urgent need for haste. Just as the first rays of the morning sun touched the summit of the hills, I took leave of the hospitable farm and struck out toward the west.



The road had been made completely unsafe. Only by marks and signs in the terrain, discovered here and there, could one trace where the road had been laid out. The journey went slowly in the beginning, for each time the road slanted a little steeply downhill I had to dismount. My horse was not fitted with shoes on his hind hooves and on the steep, icy slopes he was scarcely able to keep his own balance and stay erect. Not until somewhere around ten o'clock did the ice thaw enough under the sun's rays to enable me to allow my mount to proceed faster. I had eighty miles to cover that day and systematically divided the time between pace, trot, gallop and rest. Before I came into the region of the Indians in the high mountains twenty miles this side of Fredericksburg, I rested some and then rode through the area at stride. In this way, should there be a surprise attack, I could always safely rely upon my horse's instant increase in speed and his endurance. Notwithstanding, I kept a sharp lookout. No Indians came in sight. Wherever they had holed up, they had certainly spent a miserable shivering night and were not yet fully thawed out.

The sun dipped markedly toward the western horizon as I rode downward at a rigorous trot into the first settlement between Hessner's house and Fredericksburg - the beautiful valley of Grape Creek. I had met no one on my trip from whom I could have made inquiries about my brother's fate. As I looked from the mountain upon the tempting and pleasantly situated settlement, I thought "here I may possibly put an end to all doubt over what has taken place in Fredericksburg."

I rode through the clear water of the brook. Directly on the other bank stood a house to the right of the road where, I later learned, a farmer named Franzan lived. I called "Halloh" after "Halloh", but no one answered. The door was closed and there seemed to be no one at home. I could not delay longer to investigate, for the sun sank, as it seemed to me, visibly downward behind the summits of the western hills. But just a little farther over stood a house on the left side of the road. There I saw a man pushing a plow in a field. I rode along the fence and when I found myself approximately 100 paces from him I called loudly - "Halloh."

The man looked up from the plow but made no sign of leaving it. I motioned for him to come nearer. Hesitantly he left his horse and stepped somewhat closer, only remained standing thirty or forty feet from the fence and waited upon my request. I had never been in this region before and knew no one there. I asked in English:

"How much further is it to Fredericksburg?"

"Ten miles," was the answer.

"Will you be so kind as to come somewhat nearer? I would like to ask you for some information."

He stepped nearer toward me, but again stopped at a distance of ten paces.

"Do you know a man named Louis Schuetze in Fredericksburg?" I continued in English. Staring and astonished, the man directed gloom filled eyes upon me. Finally he slowly brought out with difficulty, sentence by sentence: "I knew him. They have hung him. Day before yesterday we carried him to the grave."

"Mein Gott! Mein Gott!" I cried, out of horror, involuntarily speaking in German.

"Are you a German?" the man hastily questioned me.

"Oh, yes. I am his youngest brother, Julius Schuetze, from Austin."

"What! You are the Schuetze from Austin?" he exclaimed and immediately leaped over the fence and stood beside me. "Yes, you are. I see the resemblance. Oh, that fate is terrible! Louis was my best friend!"

I dismounted from my horse. From the overtaxing ride, as well as the crushing news, as though paralyzed, I felt that I must lie down on the ground. The good man embraced me as an old and true friend and sobbed on my breast like a child. We wept together.

"My name is Peter Burg," he began after a while. "But it is brave of you to come up here. Everyone in Fredericksburg who knows you told me that you would come as soon as the terrible news reached you. We will follow up on the murder to death. I am one of ten who will go with you wherever you wish to avenge the death of Louis. But oh God! I myself am in a sad state. My dear wife lies within the house dying of consumption. She can only live a few more days; I don't like to leave her for more than a moment, but corn must be planted to provide bread for my seven little children, who will soon now be motherless."

Pain stifled his voice. We were both in need of consolation.

Which of us had, perhaps a foreboding that in a few days the seven poor children, the oldest of whom was only thirteen years, the youngest only two, would stand there motherless and fatherless. That they would be orphaned. Peter Berg, together with his good, peace-loving neighbors and friends, H. Kirchner, W. Feller, and John Blank, would befall the same horrible lot as to my dear brother - death through the hands of assassins!

I had stayed longer than I realized. The sun could be only something less than an hour's time from setting. "You can no longer reach Fredericksburg before night," Peter Burg opined. "Put up with a modest accommodation and stay with me tonight."

"The best of thanks, but I still want to be in Fredericksburg before night. Where can I find Major Hunter, of the Frontier Battalion, there?"

"He lives outside the town. If he hasn't gone home before you arrive you may well find him in the bar room of the Nimitz hotel"

After a last handshake, I swung upon my faithful horse and dashed along the road toward Fredericksburg at full



gallop. As I rounded a corner of the fence I once more drew rein, slowed, and glanced about. There stood Peter Burg in the same place I had left him, gazing after me. He waved with his hand; I answered him; then he disappeared from my sight as my mount took the curve. We were never to meet again.

Although my good strong beast had already covered seventy miles that day he still willingly obeyed the slightest stimulus of the bit on the tongue. I had never yet used spurs on the splendid animal. Where the terrain permitted it somewhat, I rode from Grape Creek on the gallop. Soon after I had passed the old abandoned United States Fort Martin Scott, the sun sank behind the beautiful mountain chain in the west. As I reached Baron's Creek on the town's border it was still not entirely dark. Before Nimitz Hotel I dismounted, let my horse stand untied and went staggering into the coffee room. The long ride had taxed my energy severely, but because of the excitement I had not yet felt its full effects.

Upon my entrance I saw fifteen to eighteen disorderly fellows, all heavily armed, at a large table before the street window. They were occupying themselves playing poker. They looked up, stared fixedly at me with curiosity, then continued their play. The Confederate coat which I wore may easily have led them to believe that I was the bearer of dispatches for the Frontier Battalion.

I stepped up to the bar, behind which was the host, Charles Nimitz. I asked if Major Hunter was still in the city.

"Are you not Schuetze from Austin?" Nimitz answered.

"Ja wohl!" I replied, taken by surprise. "So you still remember me!"

"Please step outside into the vestibule with me," he then continued in an undertone. I followed him. Outside he said: "Major Hunter has just ridden off but if you hurry you might still catch him over on the market place. He may suddenly turn in there again. He rides a large white horse. I called you out here in order to tell you that the whole band in there are under well-grounded suspicion of having taken part in the murder of your brother. Must you really see Major Hunter tonight?"

"Yes, I carry with me an order from the Governor for him."

"Well, then, hurry if you still intend to catch him."

Again I mounted my weary animal and rode at full speed up the main street. I overtook the rider on a white horse ahead of me quickly, greeted him and inquired if I had the honor to address Major Hunter.

"I am he," he replied.

"My name is Julius Schuetze, of Austin. I am the brother of Louis Schuetze who was murdered here, and have this letter of safe-conduct from the Governor to deliver to you."

Astonished, the man looked fixedly at me a few seconds.

"Have you come up here alone from Austin? All alone, without any escort?"

"That is very brave," he opined. "Let's turn in here and see what the governor writes." It was too dark to read and we stepped into Schildknecht's where the Major read the letter in the light. He gave me his hand. "Mr. Schuetze," he said with sympathy, "I am sorry to make your acquaintance under these sad circumstances. We live here in a frightful situation and you will find yourself all the more in danger when it becomes known that you are here. But I will try to protect you myself with all the force I have at my disposal. What do you intend to do here, and how can I be of use to you?"

"First of all I will look after my brother's family and then attend to the legal proceedings against the murderers."

"That last will be hard for you under the terrible conditions here, without extraordinary help, especially from the government in Austin. However, give it a try. I will look after you myself; even if my own life would be in danger by doing so. Do you need any guard whatsoever this evening or will you go with me to the farm and be my guest?"

No, Major, I thank you. I have covered eighty-two miles today and must consider my horse before anything. My brother's family lives four miles from town, on Live Oak Creek, so I will look up a friend, Mr. Von Wrede, here, and can well stay there over night."

"Until morning, then," Major Hunter said, then shook my hand in farewell and rode off.

I concerned myself first to the question of my horse's strength and then set out on foot toward Mr. Von Wrede.

I had been on friendly terms with him earlier in San Antonio and later in Austin, where he was a delegate to the Secession Convention in 1861. I found at his house the most hospitable reception and stayed in his house that night.

(To be continued)

#### Texas Vorwärts, June 18, 1886

My appearance in Fredericksburg and the fact that I carried with me orders from the governor for Major Hunter had, on the same evening, spread like wildfire through the town. As it goes with such news, so was the case here: It enlarged from mouth to mouth. Here one heard that I had two hundred State troopers in attendance who were posted round about the town and held every road (going) out. Another pretended to know that I, a Union man, had willingly entered the Confederate army and forthwith had received an officer's post/appointment. Under the circumstances, my Confederate coat may, of course, have given rise to that. Also, my sudden disappearance in the same evening gave inducement/cause to all possible suppositions/rumors/guesses, for I had not put up at the hotel. No one knew that I had sought the hospitable home of Mr. Von Wrede. The fact is that the band assembled in the

Nimitz place suddenly threw the cards on the table and disappeared shortly after I had left the hotel. The next morning I had scarcely fed and saddled my horse when Major Hunter sought me out and asked to accompany me to my dear brother's family. They lived four or five miles from town. I declined this, In lieu of it, however, he thereupon appointed an escort of two trustworthy men of his battalion to go with me. I accepted that, for I did not know the way to the family residence.

Of witnessing the scene of an orphaned family with eight minor children, of which only one, Mrs. Siemering, was married, wrestling with deepest pain and despair, I cannot, and will not, my esteemed readers, describe again. Every sensitive human being could well picture it in their mind. I could not bear it long there in the abode of heart-breaking grief and affliction. I wished as soon as possible to go back to town in order to institute prosecution of the murderers.

Before I come to that, it is necessary to explain to the reader the purpose and position of the so-called Frontier Regiment.

After the beginning of the war the entire United States army, which protected the frontier against the Indians, on order of their General Twiggs, had been surrendered to the Confederate authorities as prisoners and the frontier counties, unprotected, were given over to the caprice of the Indians. New companies, formed solely to protect the frontier, were composed of volunteers who were granted the privilege to remain stationed in their home counties. Thereupon Gillespie County formed a company under Captain Frank van der Stucken, also a Union man. Those who joined did so because they believed that sooner or later would be, for a certainty, pressed into service in the Confederate anyway, and they preferred to serve at home in their county as border defense against the Indians.

At that time and also under such suppositions, A. Siemering, the son-in-law of my brother Louis, joined F. van der Stucken's company, which was composed solely of Germans. So far, everything went well until the South needed all troops in the field and the Conscription Act exempting those over thirty-five years of age; later the Conscription Act even extended the exemption age up to forty-five years. Stucken's company was made up on the whole of able young men and after the conscription law exemption was enacted, the government felt that there were sufficient troops in the frontier counties for protection against Indian depredations, should the volunteer companies be pulled out and Stucken's company receive the sudden order to go and face the Union troops.

This move would open the frontier to Indian attacks so the state government passed a law according to which the frontier was divided into districts and where all males over 45 and under 18 years of age, as well as such who, through the laws of the Confederate States were exempt from military service should be included in the Frontier Defense under the command of the Governor, to protect the frontier. These were State troops over whom the Confederates had no right to command. They were organized to provide their own defense as well as the defense of their homes and families.

Thereupon many such companies organized. In Gillespie county one of these, thirty-two men strong, composed entirely of Germans, elected my brother Louis as Captain. The complete list of Company II, Texas State Troops, Gillespie County, Third District of the Frontier Defense, many of whom are still living, reads as follows:

- + L. Schuetze, Captain ++
- + W. Feller, 1st Lieutenant
- C. Weihrick, 2nd Lieutenant
- Aug. Schildknecht, 1st sergeant
- + John Blank, 2nd sergeant
- + Peter Burg, 3rd sergeant
- R. Scott, 4th sergeant
- C. Shaper, 5th sergeant Siebensichen, 1st Corporal
- A. Lungkwitz, 2nd corporal R. Mobus, 3rd corporal
- H. Dannenberg, 4th corporal A. Reinhardt, 5th corporal
- D. Aschelger, 6th corporal

Company

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| H. Bernhard          | Joh. Schmidt          |
| W. Diel              | John Tasch            |
| H. Gronau            | Anton Weinheimer      |
| L. Gellermann        | John Weber            |
| G. Gohmann           | C. Zimmermann         |
| W. Heimann           | C. Danz               |
| L. Hasper            | C. Fallner            |
| Chr. Bockmuth        | F. W. Grun (Gruen) ++ |
| + H. Kirchner        | Fr. Geuthemann        |
| Dan Ludwig H. Muller | J. D. Horn            |
| J. Pries             | W. Hams               |
| Ch. Staats           | Anton Jung            |



J. Schneider  
 Jac. Schupp  
 A. Schwolf  
 W. Schonwolf  
 W. Schnerr  
 W. Sanger  
 Heinrich Schupp  
 F. Schandua  
 Jacob Tatsch  
 Fr. Webheimer  
 Fr. Wehmeier  
 A.Rott

A. Kruger  
 C. Rott  
 Chr. Lehne  
 W. Luckenbach  
 A. Wohlsberger  
 Ch. Rodecke  
 Chr. Schramm  
 W. Streher  
 F.W.Schumacher  
 G. Weinheimer  
 John Zilke

Those marked with an asterisk were murdered in a cruel, inhuman manner over a period of ten days. (L. Schuetze: grandfather of the translator; F. W. Grun: maternal grandfather of translator)

My first move, when I had again reached Fredericksburg was to see Justice of the Peace Edward Maier, a brave upright man, who showed the greatest interest in the tragic fate of my unfortunate brother. Before him, on the 26th and 27th of February, the coroner's inquest was held and written depositions and testimony of witnesses heard. First of all I examined the evidence furnished and give here a word for word transcript of the proceedings:

The State of Texas,))  
 Gillespie County.))

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day came Mathias Schmidt, who, after being duly sworn, deposed and said that he on this day had found a lifeless corpse which had been brought to his death by the use of violence. For that reason a coroner's jury was convened by me which, after they were sworn in by me, set out with me to the place where the murder was committed and found the following particulars:

As the jury, directed by Mathias Schmidt, came to the place, approximately three miles north of Fredericksburg, they found the lifeless body of Captain Louis Schuetze with a rope around his neck, hanging from a bough of a live oak. His hands were bound behind his back. On the left side of his forehead a wound was found. His pockets were turned inside out.

We therefore deliver the verdict that he was violently murdered between the 24th and 26th of February, through hanging.

John Zilk	Anton Jung	John Klein
H. Henke	Anton Loth	Johann Schmidt

Subscribed in witness hereof  
 E. Maier, J. P., Prec. IT, Gillespie County

State of Texas,))  
 Gillespie County))

J.P. Court  
 Precinct II

Wm. Wahrmond, under oath, makes the following statement:

In the evening of February 24th, 1864, shortly after onset of darkness, I stepped out of my house. Walking a few steps I heard Louis Schuetze call: help, help! Then I heard a shot fired toward Schuetze's house. I saw the flash from the weapon. Assuming that an accident/mishap had taken place there I hurriedly called on some men for assistance. When I returned with 2 or 3 men to my house, the light in Schuetze's house was extinguished. We walked toward the house. Half way between my house and Schuetze's we could again see a light. We heard a few words spoken and noticed a considerable number of men at the house. I could understand a few broken words. I heard Schuetze's voice as he said "Think of my family," whereupon he was told that he had to go with them. I heard Schuetze say the name of Waldrup many times. They went to the mill where they disappeared from our view. We hurried back to the church and rang the bell in order to bring up all the help we could get hold of.

(signed) W. Wahrmond

It must here be explained that my brother's family lived on the farm. He himself, however, kept an office and a small store in the town of Fredericksburg, not far from the market square. Generally he went home evenings, but on this evening he remained in town and his second eldest daughter had stayed over with him all that day.

(To be continued)

Texas Vorwärts, June 25, 1886

C. Krauskopf, being first sworn, says:

On the 24th of February, As I got up from supper, I went with Mr. Meusebach into the front room when Mr.

Wahrmund stepped hurriedly into the room and said there must be something happening at Schuetze's house, for he had heard him cry for help. We went toward Schuetze's house and were approximately halfway when we also heard the cry for help, and heard him say "Think of my family." We were armed and walked toward the house when six threatening men ran at us; we saw a still larger armed crowd close to the house. As we were too weak to be a match for such a superior force, we retreated and hurried to the church in order to ring the bell and bring up all the troops which could be assembled.

I had heard Schuetze call a name which sounded like Waldrup. From the church we went with more troops to Schuetze's house but found no one any longer at the house.

(signed) C. Krauskopf

Miss Louise Schuetze, being first sworn, deposed and said:

On the 24th of February, 1864, at approximately seven o'clock in the evening, some one knocked on the front door. My father asked "Who is there?" Someone answered, but I could not understand what he said. Then my father said it was already too late, he should come again in the daytime. According to what I could understand, the man outside said that he would knock the door down if it was not opened. I heard many voices. My father went into the next room, opened the window and called out for help. After he had called many times some one from outside shot through the window. Then the front door was broken in and the men rushed through. They tried to break down the door of the adjoining room which we were in, but we held it from within. When I saw that we could no longer hold it, I told my father to go into the kitchen. Scarcely had he gone in there when the door broke down and the men walked in. One held a lighted candle. I blew it out. Then two ran away to the mill, fetched a firebrand there and lit the candle again. One asked me where my father was. I told him I didn't know, and if I did I wouldn't tell him. They looked behind the door and under the bedsteads. When they didn't find him, another said he was certain that my father was in the kitchen. I stood before the door and tried to hold it shut only I was snatched away with force.

Then they broke open the door. My father stood before the door. I tore myself loose and got to my father in the kitchen. I placed myself before him so that they could not shoot him. Someone tore me away again and four or five strong men seized my father and dragged him outside. He asked them not to do him harm, that they must know that he had formerly always been disposed to be friendly towards them. They ought to at least consider his large family. When they had him outside in front of the house I heard a blow and heard my father cry "Oh!" and "Mr. Waldrup!" Then they spoke awhile together, but I could not understand. One of them held me fast. My father called out: "Louise, come here!" I tore myself loose and hurried to him. "My Louise," he said, "they are going to hang me!"

A number of them held cocked revolvers in their hands. They mounted their horses and dragged him off with them. One said to me they would not hang him, he only had to give testimony against others. One asked me for matches. I know that it was Gibson, the same one who was in our house in the morning and wished to buy a pair of shoes on credit. My father had not given them to him. When he was gone I asked my father who the man was and he told me it was Gibson. He wore a jacket bordered with red binding, trousers made of buckskin and a broad brimmed straw hat. He is probably nineteen or twenty years old. The man who first seized my father must have been Waldrup. My father addressed him so. Another one hit my father on the head with the butt of a musket. Altogether, there were fully fifteen to twenty men. They took an old double-barreled gun, two sabers, and approximately 400 dollars in Confederate gold with them.

I cried aloud for help. One of them came back and said I must give him my father's revolver; he wanted him to have it. I answered him that he possessed none.

"Oh, yes" the man said, "he sent me after it."

I asked him what they wanted with my father to begin with, if he had done some wrong.

"Oh, no," the man said. "He has done no wrong. He shall only bear witness. We just came over from Blanco." Then he rode away at full speed, and I ran to town in order to get help.

Signed Louise Schuetze

Conrad Bender, being sworn, spoke out:

"On the 24th of February, at seven o'clock in the evening, I heard some one call for help and heard a shot. Mr. Wahrmund came to me saying that perhaps a calamity had happened at Schuetze's, that he probably was shot.

Krauskopf and I went with him toward Schuetze's house. We were still approximately a hundred and fifty feet from it when men with arms came toward us and said we must stay away or we would be killed. We then ran to the church and sounded the bells."

(signed) Conrad Bender

A. Loth declared under oath:

"On the 24th of February, between one and two in the afternoon, I went to Schuetze's house to change some ammunition. I saw that he wore a pocket watch. When we found his body there was absolutely nothing in his pockets."

(signed) Anton Loth



The State of Texas,))  
 Gillespie County.))

Action of the Coroner's Inquest over the Corpse of Louis Schuetze.

"We, the undersigned Coroners Jury, after having heard the testimony, believe that Louis Schuetze was murdered and that a certain Waldrup and Gibson participated in the murder.

Anton Loth  
 John Klein

H. Henke  
 Anton Jung

Johann Zilk  
 Johann Schmid

Attested February....., 1864 Fredericksburg  
 E. Maier  
 Justice of the Peace

I now inquired if warrants had been issued for the arrest of the two designated by the jury as murderers and received the answer from the Justice of the Peace that this had not been done because the sheriff would not undertake the risk of such arrests, since these two were constantly seen in association with band of fifteen to twenty heavily armed men, and that they had declared in the streets of Fredericksburg that they would shoot everyone who dared in anyway to undertake to arrest them. I insisted upon the issuing of the warrants for the arrests, which I wanted turned over to Major Hunter for execution, but the Justice of the Peace refused to issue them and asked me to give it up for the present, as the whole town would be in danger of being burned down by the fiends and many townspeople would yet lose their lives. He drew up for me the following certificate concerning this:

The State of Texas,»  
 County of Gillespie.»

To His Excellency, the Governor of the State of Texas:

The undersigned official, a Justice of the Peace for the above named County, hereby asserts to your Excellency that in the assassination of Louis Schuetze no warrants for arrest were issued for it would have brought the lives of many townspeople and the town itself into great danger. He further asserts that the civil authorities of this County are not strong enough for the law to make itself heard.

Respectfully, E. Maier, Justice-of-the Peace

Waldrup commanded a company of twenty-two men in the same battalion under Major James Hunter. I left the proceedings temporarily as they lay before the Justice of the Peace and went to see Major Hunter. I laid the facts before him and requested him, in the capacity as Commandant, to have the two accused murderers arrested. He refused to do this for it was not his official duty and he had no other authority than to protect the frontier against the Indians. But he would do it if he received the order to do so from the governor of the State. Moreover, he was also of the opinion that the inhabitants of Fredericksburg were too much intimidated to be able to do anything about it just now, and that the entire murder band would answer every attempt of arrest with powder and lead. He advised to go about with a guard, for he had received definite information that my life was in eminent danger. He wrote out the following order for me:

Fredericksburg  
 March 1, 1864

Lieutenant C. Weirich:

Dear Sir;

You are herewith ordered to place at the disposal of Hon. Julius Schuetze an escort guard of as many men from Company II as he deems necessary for his protection.

James M. Hunter, Major

I took the order in hand without any intention of delivering it to its addressee for the present, for I would use it only in case of great necessity. Of the band which I had noticed on my arrival in the Nimitz Hotel, not one put in an appearance thereafter, as long as I remained.

I attempted to re-open the coroner's inquest before the Justice of the Peace to permit a number of additional witnesses to be taken before it in order to learn, if possible, the names of other parties concerned besides Waldrup and Gibson. In this I succeeded in part. In the courtroom I kept my loaded carbine always at hand and I had my revolver ready in my belt. Thus I brought the proceedings to an end.

Once again I went to Major Hunter to ask him to place his troops at the disposal of the sheriff as a Posse Comitatus in order to hasten the indictments, only he would and after all could not agree even to that until he received an order from the governor on that point. He also felt that he himself did not know whom he could furnish the sheriff out of my murdered brother's company. He could, perhaps, by chance order some of those who were connected with the murder and the officials might possibly be shot from the rear.

A leaden terror lay over the entire town of Fredericksburg. Had Major Hunter only exhibited more independence and vigor and at least made some effort to make the arrests he may have saved the lives of the following five: Opser, Burg, Blank, Feller, and Kirchner.

I saw that nothing further could be done there until I myself could see the governor and lay before him all the assembled material. So I made arrangements to move to my brother's family and on the sixth of March prepared to set out for Austin. Major Hunter himself, however, came to me and brought me the information that approximately eight miles from the town of Fredericksburg, on the road toward Austin, an armed body of about twelve to fifteen men lay in camp for sometime past and I must certainly not undertake to ride home without an escort.

(To be continued)

Texas Vorwärts, July 2, 1886

Again I approached Major Hunter about placing troops at the sheriff's disposal in order to bring about the arrest of the nine murderers against whom I had finally brought indictments before the Justice of the Peace. Partly through the proceedings and partly through private and confidential communications, I was able to find the names of nine of those who were implicated in the murder. Most of them belonged to the company which Hunter had mustered into service and commanded before he received command over the battalion.

He persisted in his refusal, as he thought it could not be done without at the same time starting a horrible blood bath, since Waldrup himself, as lieutenant commander and many frontier soldiers out of his (Hunter's) company, would make it a common cause. Hunter's company numbered seventy-two men, however only ten thereof were Germans. Waldrup's company, which was first mustered in by W. J. Locke on January 27, 1864, numbered only twenty-four men, of which thirteen were Germans. However, not a single German had taken part in the murder of my brother. In the murder of the other four unfortunates on Grape Creek, one single German, Richard Moebus, born in Aachen, took part. He was at that time twenty-three years old and belonged to Company II, which my brother commanded. Shortly after the war he was, at my instigation, held in Fayette County, where he had fled, brought back to Fredericksburg, made to stand trial and was sentenced to twenty-two years in penal servitude. After he was there two years he developed consumption and knew how to delude the civil authorities so that Governor Edmund Davis, in an unforgivable weak hour (I am sorry to say) unfortunately pardoned him. He now lives this way and that somewhere in Fayette County still. There the children of the brave murdered farmers on Grape Creek may yet balance accounts with him. However, that leads me away for the present from the progress of events in Fredericksburg.

As stated before, I saw nothing could be done about the arrest of the murderers until I could induce Governor Murrah to interfere. I made preparations to leave and wanted to take with me a short report from Major Hunter to the governor about the situation in Gillespie County. However he had not come to town, as yet, so I transmitted to him, through the sixteen year old son of my brother, a written request for a report to the governor. The following was his answer, which now lays before me in the original:

Live Oak Creek  
March 6, 1864  
Julius Schuetze, Esq.  
Dear Sir:

I just received, through your nephew, your request for a short report of the sad events and conditions in this county and would like to comply with the same, but it is my intention to journey to Austin in a few days and personally transmit to the governor all of the facts as far as they are known to me. I hope to see you there in Austin and we can then counsel together and take all the necessary steps and precautions together.

Respectfully  
James M. Hunter, Major  
P.s. Do not fail to take a strong escort with you under Lt. Weirich!

I was now ready to start the journey to Austin on the morning of March 7th. On the evening before, I went to Lt. Weirich and turned over to him the order of Major Hunter. He was ready at once and asked how many men I considered as sufficient. We agreed on twelve men who were on hand promptly the next morning and were also well armed. We struck out in the direction of Austin. Scarcely had we reached Fort Martin Scott when one of the troop noticed, at some thousand paces to the left, an Indian boy brought up in Fredericksburg. He rode past us at full gallop and then took the Austin road.



"Wait!" the trooper commanded. "That is the messenger who is to bring the information to the gang waiting for you, that you have set out on your trip home under escort."

No one was in doubt about it and counsel was now held whether it would not be better to turn back and get considerable reinforcements. I took no part in the deliberations. When, however, it was decided to turn back I gave my opinion.

"Men," I said quietly, "you are all family men and I cannot and will not ask that you should meet death on my account. I, for my part, will not turn back. I have good arms and such a good horse that not one man in the region could overtake me if I had to take flight before a superior force. Go home quietly. I will turn right here through the woods, and take the road to San Antonio. I then have a head start and no one can overtake me."

All hesitated. There was a dead silence. Then Lt. Weirich began: "Men, the proposal you heard is worth considering. It would not be right if we should desert the man now. We can take the road over to Boerne or over to Bandera also; the Bushwhacker gang will think that we have turned around again. We know the territory and the way there and will soon get through."

That struck home. All were ready again. We wheeled about to the right in a quickened trot to reach the road to Comfort. Soon we were jogging on the road toward Boerne.

Around midday we had reached the Guadalupe. There lived on the left bank a man named Scott (Judge Scott, as the people called him) who was known as one of the great baiters against Unionists. I rode in front of the troops with Lt. Weirich, passed his farm. There an elderly man waved to us and called out with a "Halloh." Since he did not know me and also because of all of us, I was most conversant with the English language, the lieutenant requested that I ride down to the river and direct my horse to the fence.

My Confederate officer's coat led the old fellow to address me forthwith as "Captain," and to ask about news of the war. At that time the Confederacy was already in a bad way. The old man grumbled a great deal about the "damned Yankees" and still more of the damned German Unionists in West Texas, but that now it was planned to do away with them. Then he asked me, quite bluntly, where I was going with my troops.

"We are looking for deserters," I replied, "and such men who are conscripts and who would evade military service."

"Aha!" drawled the old man, drawing it out. "I understand." And thereupon pulled his angular face into diabolical smirking forms. "I understand. You are to clear out the country traitors. Now there you can do a good work. Only two miles from here lives a German traitor named Bauer. His only hope is his son-in-laws, Cramer and Simson staying with the Yankees. He gathers together all the traitors in the whole neighborhood. If you don't hang him up, we will do it today. That is already decided-as soon as our boys turn up here. If you need direction, they are quite at your disposal."

The thought of saving this man's (Bauer's) life, although I knew absolutely nothing about him, shot through my mind at once and I resolved to outwit the old rascal. I assured him, as though confiding in him, that that was our own mission, to clean out that nest of traitors; however I did not want him to tell that. He should only keep very quiet about it and tomorrow the country would be less one traitor. The devil's own delight played upon the face of the miserable murderer. I would quite gladly have blown out the dog's brains if, under the circumstances I dared venture it. With an understanding wink, however, I made a turn and followed the others, who were watering their horses in the river below.

"Do any of you know a man here in the neighborhood named Bauer?" I asked at once.

"Yes; he lives two miles above, out of our way. Why?"

"We must ride there at once and save the man. His life is in danger."

I told them about Scott's comment. We rode through the bottoms along the Guadalupe and soon reached Bauer's house. In the beginning no one appeared. Finally an elderly woman walked out, visibly frightened and trembling when she saw many armed men.

"Are you Mrs. Bauer?" I asked instantly, in German.

"Yes," she answered hesitantly.

"Tell your husband he must come out here at once. I have something important to tell him."

"My husband is not at home," the woman answered, uneasily.

"I am sorry. You need not be afraid, dear woman. If you know where he is, call him, for he is in danger and we wish to save him."

I gave her my name and told her that I was the brother of the murdered Louis Schuetze of Fredericksburg. That kindled her trust. She went back into the house and soon came out with her husband. He was a small man, already bent and bowed with age. A younger woman whom I later came to know as the daughter, Mrs. Cramer, also came out. I now told them of the conversation with Scott and that Bauer would not be safe there for another night.

"Now it will be best," I concluded, "that you go with me to San Antonio. There you can stay until the danger or, better, until the war is over. Meanwhile, in the morning the women can tell around the neighborhood, that an armed troop had come and dragged Mr. Bauer away by force and that they feared they had murdered him. That, then, should

bring him and you completely safe from Scott and his gang.

"That satisfied them and soon after a quarter hour the elderly man sat on his pony, trotting freely with us toward Boerne, where we arrived near evening.

There I disbanded my escort with my warmest thanks. Most of them are still living and I have always remembered their friendship gratefully.

The next morning four brave citizens of the charming little town accompanied me voluntarily across the hills to San Antonio. I, of course, needed no more escort, but the good, faithful people who sympathized with me, would by no means let me make the trip to San Antonio alone.

There in San Antonio I then reached my good, elderly mother and my sister, Mrs. Klocke. To them I myself had to bear the mournful news of the murder of our Louis. They had, naturally, through rumors, already heard something about it, but had given no credence to the terrible report.

(To be continued)

### Texas Vorwärts, July 9, 1886

On my arrival in San Antonio I immediately called on Brig. Gen. J. S. Ford and General W. B. Knox to whom I reported the horrible happenings in Gillespie County. Major C. E. Jefferson of the State troops was particularly taken by the unfortunate incidents and made the promise to me that he would do everything in his power to apprehend the guilty parties as soon as he received instructions from the governor. At noon of March 19th I began the journey home to Austin by myself. After reaching New Braunfels in the evening, without delay I sought out Robert Bechem, Brig. Gen. of the 31st Brigade, State Troops, of which Major Hunter's Battalion was part, and told him what had transpired. I was not aware that at Grape Creek at the very same hour 30 to 60 from the horrible band of murderers were perpetrating the most hideous murder of four innocent, good and peace-loving citizens. Later I pieced together the incident, part from official sources and transactions, part from information offered by the relatives of the unfortunate victims, and part from the confessions by some of the murderers. On March 7th, the day of my departure from Fredericksburg, about 18 to 20 of my brother's murderers had camped for several days eight miles from Fredericksburg waiting for my return to Austin, as they said among themselves, to bring me closer to heaven. They, indeed, were informed by the Indian that I was enroute to Austin. It was also their resolve to bring my escort closer to heaven. Our change in course to Boerne however, spoiled their plans. They waited till 11 o'clock and then started for Fredericksburg, thinking they would meet us. Finally they found our horses' tracks which took off in a right angle to the south. They went in pursuit. However, by then we had a lead on them of 20 miles and they must have realized that we would not dally around, that our ride was more like a flight. Still we set out guards during the night in Boerne. Our escape enraged them and they decided to kill all the farmers at South Grape Creek who were members of my brother's frontier company. On March 9th they gathered about 40 men among them Lieutenant William Banta from Hunter's company. Richard Moebus was the only German who joined. Shortly after sunset they fell upon the peaceful and unsuspecting citizens of the settlement. The first victim was Peter Burg on the Austin Road. This man, already tested by fate, had just three days earlier buried his wife. At home were seven children, ranging from 2 to 13 years old. He had just returned from the field after a hard day's work and watered his horses at the creek and started back toward the barns when the bandits rode up. He asked if he could be of help. They replied that he had to go with them to witness against a traitor. Peter Burg realized immediately that his life was in danger. He knew that his fate would be like my brother's and decided to give up his at a high cost. He answered quite innocently that he would certainly accompany them as soon as he had taken care of the horses. Undoubtedly his intentions were to get to the weapons in the house and die fighting. Surrounded by the bandits he walked the horses toward the homestead, tied them up, and started toward the house. A half dozen revolvers were pointed at him and it was made clear to him that he had to come along without entering the house.

No body knows what went through the mind of this desperate man. It can be assumed that he preferred to be killed, and maybe only just wounded, during his last and desperate attempt, to get inside the house and to his weapons. He kicked the horse closest to him in the side, it reared pushing the other horses aside. In the momentary confusion he took big strides toward the house. His children had stared from the door at the armed men in fear as well as in wonder. Before he reached the door he was felled by two bullets. The poor, desperate orphans who were all old enough to comprehend the fate that had befallen them, threw themselves wailing and crying on their father's corpse, kissed him to bring him back to life. They were pushed away and under threat of death ordered to fetch from the house all weapons, ammunition, money and woolen blankets. The poor children in their grief, crying and lamenting, were forced to gather in the house anything of value and turn it over to their father's murderers.

I report here only the truth without distortion and exaggeration. The young orphans of those days have grown to honest men and women and they can verify the truth of those terrible circumstances.

After the lust of these beasts in human form was satisfied on the pitiful orphans, they continued up Grape Creek to Henry Kirchner's house, a neighbor of Peter Burg. They took him prisoner with the same promise that he needed to come along to witness against a Unionist and without further ado put him in their midst. With their prisoner they



went from there up the creek to the next neighbor, Wilhelm Feller. He and his family were at supper when they arrived at the gate and called him out. He stepped up to the gate and asked what they wanted. While he was asked inconsequential questions, two men entered through the gate and placed themselves between him and the house. They indicated that he was their prisoner and was to go along as witness against a Unionist. Mrs. Feller immediately recognized the danger her husband was in. She quickly reached for a revolver, hid it under her apron and ran out to pass the weapon to her husband. One of the guards standing between her and her husband moved quickly and grasped the revolver and apron from her. Other men hurried into the yard and in no time at all the unfortunate victim was dragged through the gate.

Continuing up the creek they met on the trail a man named Herp. They asked him repeatedly for his name and ordered him to come along. After a while they demanded that he spell his name. After he had done so several times, they let him go. They rode on to John Blank's farm, a neighbor of Herp's. It had turned dark when they arrived there. Supper was over and John Blank, a courageous, hard-working and religious man, sat at the table reading the Bible when he was called outside. He stepped out unsuspecting and was immediately taken prisoner. They forced him to saddle his best horse and to come along. In the meantime, 20 to 30 of the murderers ransacked the house and took everything of value, including 100 dollars in silver that he kept in a chest. They broke into all the chests and boxes looking especially for money. John Blank was considered a well-to-do farmer and the gang expected to find a large sum of money. They took also five of his best horses. With all three prisoners they set out on the trail along the pasture fence. A Mexican worked for John Blank and helped with the livestock. He owned an expensive horse harness inlaid with silver. This the thieves took also. This Mexican followed the murderers inside the pasture fence wanting to see what would happen to his employer. When the murderers stopped at the corner of the fence one of them said: "Boys, it is too late to fetch the others tonight. By now the settlement is aroused and warned. It would be better, if we first take care of these three and look for the others later." The Mexican clearly heard the name Luckenbach as one of the intended victims. The men agreed and moved from the fence into the dense post oak forest

The night was very dark and stormy. The murderers stopped about 300 yards from the corner fence, built a small fire and stood around it in a circle. Inside the circle were the three unfortunate victims.. Their hands were tied behind them, a loop put around their necks and the ropes thrown over a branch. Feller and Kirchner were jerked up and strangled. John Blank asked what he had done to die such terrible death. "What harm have I done to you or any other person?" Wm. Banta, who appeared to be the leader, replied, "You are all damned Unionists, sympathetic to the Yankee cause. This is the reason you have to die." - "So give me five minutes to make peace with the Maker. I do not need more. Knowingly I have done no one an injustice in this life," Blank responded and in a low voice said a brief prayer. J. Caldwell, a corporal in Waldrup's company called to him: "John if you tell us where your money is hidden, we will spare your life." - Blank responded, "No, I will not tell you. If I do, my family will be completely robbed and you will kill me anyway. Kill me if you can justify it before God and men, but you will not get my money." There was a jerk on the rope and the poor, courageous John Blank hung twitching between heaven and earth. He was lowered after a short time, the loop was loosened and he was asked if he did not want to reveal where his money was hidden. He sank to his knees and said no word.

"Put an end to him," ordered Banta and the unfortunate man was lifted by a dozen hands. Life was soon gone from these three good, peace loving, hardworking, gallant citizens of Gillespie County, all family men.

After a brief wait, the gang continued up the trail along the creek and reached Petzch's home. They surrounded the place and forced their way into the house. However, having heard the terrible news from his neighbors, he had taken flight. The thieves emptied his place taking everything of any value that could be moved.

From here they proceeded to Martin Pehl's farm. He too had gotten out of their way. When he couldn't be found they took the family's entire provisions and other valuables. Messengers quickly spread the news of the horrible events from neighbor to neighbor. The call for help went to the entire surrounding area. Even the teacher at Grape Creek, Mr. Huelsemann, received the call for help. He shouldered his rifle. Hurrying down the creek he fell into the hands of the gang as they came from Pehl's place. They captured him and asked him his name. Confiscating his double-barreled rifle, they let him go.

In the meantime a small number of farmers had gathered during the night for mutual protection. They carefully searched the area in hopes of finding the murdered men. However, it was so dark in the forest that one could not see the hand before one's eyes. Finally, at daybreak of March 10th, the bodies were found hanging from a tree. The terrible news shook all West Texas. Major James Hunter rode quickly to Austin to see the governor.

I arrived in Austin on the evening of March 10th, and on the 11th handed over to the governor my written report about my brother's death. No one in Austin had heard about the murder of the other four. There was no direct mail service between Austin and Fredericksburg. Letters went by way of San Antonio. Finally, on March 14th, a letter arrived from A. Maier of Fredericksburg. He traveled to San Antonio on March 10th and from there informed the governor of the murder of the four Germans at Grape Creek and in the name of the people of Gillespie County asked for help. The governor had me brought to his office and showed me the letter. Major James Hunter arrived in Austin from Fredericksburg a few hours later.

(to be continued)

Texas Vorwärts, July 16, 1886

My report to the governor:

Your excellency P. Murrah, Governor of Texas

Dear Sir,

With deep sorrow I present you the following facts regarding the brutal and horrible murder of my unfortunate brother Louis Schuetze of Fredericksburg, Gillespie County. On the 24th of the previous month at about 7 o'clock in the evening his town home was surrounded by a gang of about twenty who demanded entry. When my brother denied it, the door was broken down and they forced their way in. When he called for help, he was shot at without being hit. He escaped to the kitchen. The bandits grabbed a candle which my brother's daughter, a girl of 19 years blew out repeatedly until she was restrained by two men. Those two she recognized as the Gibson brothers, frontier soldiers in the company previously commanded by Major James M. Hunter. Accounts from witnesses at the coroner's inquest confirm that both of the Gibsons had been at my brother's house in the morning to purchase a pair of shoes on credit. My brother refused to give them credit. When the murderers found my brother in the kitchen, they told him that he had to go with them. They dragged him out of the house.

His daughter and three citizens who rushed to his assistance were threatened by the murderers with death if they didn't turn around. They heard my brother beg for his life. "Think of my wife and children," they heard him say. "I have done no wrong. I was always friendly toward you." Witnesses heard him say, "Oh, Mr. Waltrip." When they had him out on the street, he called to his daughter, "Louise, come here. Farewell. They will kill me." On her knees she begged the murderers to allow her to go to her father. The answer was a swear word. The murderers bound his hands with a rope and tied the other end to the saddle horn. Then in a smart gait they rode out of town, their unfortunate victim on foot next to the horse. They took from the house an old unloaded double barrel shotgun, two swords, about \$400 in Confederate money, five pairs of shoes, his watch and chain and other articles of value.

The three citizens who were chased away by the bandits, ran to the churches and rang the bells to call together the citizenry. My brother must have been still in earshot. The investigation that I conducted there during my stay, an experienced scout stated that on that night my brother on foot was taken to a deserted farm twelve miles from Fredericksburg. The trail showed clearly that for a stretch he was dragged. It started from a tree stump in the middle of the trail. My brother was very near-sighted and without glasses he could hardly see.

The people of Fredericksburg were so intimidated and in fear that the following day, February 25 no one had dared to go in pursuit of the murderous gang. Major James M. Hunter, under whom my brother had commanded a company, on the 25th (Feb.) issued the following order to the 1st Lieutenant of the company:

Fredericksburg, Feb. 25, 1864

Lieut. C. Weinrich

Dear Sir - You are hereby instructed to assemble your company as quickly as possible and to find Capt. Louis Schuetze who, as you informed me, on the eve of Feb. 24 was forcibly taken from his home by unknown individuals. Furthermore, you are to make inquiries about this incident and submit to me a report.

James M. Hunter

Commanding Major of the 3rd Frontier District.

The members of the company lived scattered throughout the county, some 15 to 20 miles from each other. It took 'till Friday, Feb. 26, before the company was on the way. Around 9 o'clock in the morning, three miles from Fredericksburg, they found the unfortunate man dangling from a live oak. The body was still warm and the limbs still pliable. The rope had not choked him because the knot was above the right ear and he had just a superficial wound on the forehead. How long he had been dead when found could not be ascertained because a doctor was not present. However, in the opinion of the experienced scouts who investigated the tracks Friday, the unfortunate man had hung there 10 to 20 hours before he died.

A letter from the Justice of the Peace who held the inquest, shows your Excellency that no arrest warrants were issued for people who were suspected of the deed because many lives in Fredericksburg would have been endangered. The civil authorities were not strong enough to enforce the law.

These individuals who are not just suspected of the murder but their deed can be proven, came to Fredericksburg, Saturday, Feb. 27, a force of about 30 men. They threatened to harm the JP if he issued an arrest warrant. The above-named Waldrup called out into the street that with powder and lead would he talk and answer. On that occasion he wore the saber that had been taken from my brother's abode.

These are briefly the facts of this sad event based primarily on statements deposited under oath before the coroner, and enclosed I submit certified copies to you.

My brother was 46 years of age and leaves behind a mourning widow and eight children in dire circumstances. He was a peace-loving, law-abiding citizen and had been unanimously elected captain by his company.

In closing, Your Excellency, allow me to thank you for your counsel and support you gave me at the time of my



departure for Fredericksburg. Without your help it would have been difficult to gather facts on this matter. I also wish to express my appreciation to Brig. General John S. Ford, General W. S. Knox, General Robert Bechem and Major C. E. Jefferson for the sympathy counsel and support that they gave me on my trip home.

It is my hope now that your Excellency will take the appropriate steps to bring these murderers to justice. I am convinced that you will do everything in your power to effect this.

I remain your obedient servant  
Julius Schuetze

Governor Murrah was visibly shaken after reading the report. He offered me his hand and said, "Depend on it, I will leave no stone unturned to see those murderers apprehended. As soon as Major Hunter arrives, I will call for you". He called me as soon as the news of the murder of the other four Germans arrived from San Antonio. On March 14, I met Major Hunter in the Governor's office, after both had been in consultation for a long time. Major Hunter remained in Austin for several days. He assured me that the governor had taken the appropriate steps to arrest the murderers. Orders went even to San Antonio as I can attest from a letter which came to me from there on March 17th:

"We talked to General W. B. Knox who under the Governor's orders will personally take command of a troop of state militia to arrest the murderers. The expedition will start from here, take the road by way of Sisterdale to Fredericksburg, go up to William Coebbler's Farm, then cross the main road and go on a side trail to Meusebach Creek where a guide will wait for them. From there within two to three hours those suspected of murder can be arrested at their homes. The settlers along the road will be notified to be ready should the need arise. This week instructions will go to Boerne, Sisterdale and Comfort. Everything is prepared to aid the authorities so the murderers will receive their due punishment. The commanding general here let it be known that he would carry out the governor's orders. Since you are around the governor, do everything in your power for the prosecution. You must have heard by now of the murder of the other four good Germans. Should you succeed please let us know by way of your sister, of your plans and what is the best for you and us."

At his departure from Austin, Major Hunter showed me a broadside with the Governor's proclamation. It was to be distributed and posted in the western parts of Texas. According to this proclamation Major James Hunter was in charge of arresting the guilty parties and it declared the murderers to be free game and also stated that every citizen with a warrant from a Justice of the Peace was free to arrest the named murderers. In case of resistance the murderers were to be rendered harmless. When this proclamation was posted in Gillespie County, a large number of the citizenry volunteered their services to Major Hunter so the message of the proclamation could be carried out. The Governor's order scattered the murderers in all directions. Nine of them were arrested and under guard placed in the old military jail at Fort Martin Scott. Many escaped to Mexico and others sought refuge in the hills. Gibson was fatally shot at the Rio Grande River. Waldrup, who hid, was shot in Fredericksburg shortly after the Civil War.

How the round-up of the murderers was carried out and how the jail at Fort Martin Scott was stormed one night and hundreds of pistol shots fired at the murderers inside will become the topic of a factual narrative at a later time. The purpose of describing these events here is strictly to recount the murder of honest and peace-loving citizens during that horrible time.

The sons and daughters of those murdered who still live in Texas number over twenty. Though the memories of those horrible days are painful, the retelling of these events is for those who are not aware that they happened or who heard a distorted account. It places the martyr's death of these brave men in the proper historic light and removes any doubts or misconception about these past events.

*San Antonio Express Magazine - Sunday, January 1, 1954*  
HE GOT THE DROP ON WALDRIP By Louis B. Engelke

The story of Captain Waldrip has been told and retold in Fredericksburg, and today the children there learn about him in school, but for years the identity of the person who put the bullet through his evil brain remained a mystery.

For the record, it was Henry Langerhans, who, fearing for the safety of his wife and daughter, brought Waldrip to justice at 100 yards.

Had Langerhans admitted his feat of marksmanship, he would have won immediate public acclaim. But his identity probably would have earned got him sudden death, perhaps by the dark of the moon.

As God willed it, Langerhans was to live a happy married life and was to rear eight children. Of these, only one son, Fritz Langerhans, 80, who still resides in Fredericksburg, and a younger daughter, Mrs. Christine Grul, now of Watsonville, California, still, survive.

The death of Captain J. P. Waldrip occurred in 1867, two years after the end of the Civil War and two years after Waldrip had been indicted as a wanton killer.

In fact, Gillespie County records show that Waldrip's entire gang, known as "Waldrip's Wolfpack," was indicted for "mob murder" as soon as the Fredericksburg Germans could emerge from a reign of terror which ended with the

Civil War in 1865. For a period of four years, the pro-slavery Waldrip gang had killed one anti-secessionist German after another.

Victims were usually seized at night and hanged or tortured to death before the eyes of their wives or children. During the war years, no one dared to seek an indictment against Waldrip. That's why the action waited until 1865.

Even then, it was a dangerous procedure, for some of Waldrip's men still lurked on the highways and byways of the county, and continuing post-war murders were attributed to these die-hards.

Consequently, with typical German thoroughness, Gillespie County declared Waldrip "Vogel-frei," which in German means "free as a bird" - to shoot, of course.

Why Waldrip left his hideout 10 miles east of Fredericksburg and rode into town on a swayback mule that fateful day in 1867, nobody really knows. Perhaps it was to burn the courthouse, or more likely to steal a horse.

But whatever the reason, when Waldrip arrived, an unknown party in Fredericksburg wired Capt. Philip Braubach in San Antonio.

The message brought Braubach, U. S. Customs collector for the Western District of Texas, riding as fast as a horse could carry him to Fredericksburg.

A native of Wiesbaden, Germany, who had settled in San Antonio in 1850, Braubach had served in McCulloch's Texas Rangers and had carried the mails across the Indian-infested wastelands between Texas and California. Nevertheless, he was arrested by Confederate agents in Fredericksburg, where he had been visiting his fiancée, Fraulein Louise Schuetze, when the Civil War broke out.

Taken to San Antonio, where a ball and chain was fixed to his leg and he was given the odorous job of cleaning up the San Antonio River, Braubach eventually escaped to the border, where he formed an anti-Confederate company of Mexicans. Becoming lovesick for Louise, Braubach finally decided to risk a trip to Fredericksburg, but Waldrip learned of Braubach's visit and raided the Schuetze farmhouse. Not finding Braubach there, the gang murdered Louise's father.

Vowing to avenge Herr Schuetze, Braubach headed back for the border and later made his way to New Orleans, where he joined the Union Army, rising to the rank of captain. After the war, Braubach returned to Texas and married Louise. They were living in San Antonio when the important looking telegram arrived late one afternoon.

After supper, Braubach calmly told his wife he had some "business to tend to in Fredericksburg," and departed on a fast horse.

Never having seen Waldrip before, Braubach entered the Nimitz Hotel before high noon the next day with one hand on the Colt revolver he had used in the Civil War.

Nothing happened when Braubach entered the lobby, so he next entered the hotel's saloon, which had just opened. The only person present was the bartender who knew Braubach.

"Waldrip ist hier - im Fredericksburg," the man whispered.

"Where is he? How can I identify him?" Braubach asked.

The bartender said Waldrip was wearing a big black Beaver hat and had gone on Fredericksburg's broad main street.

Braubach circled north around a two block section, so as to meet Waldrip face to face. The pair met 150 yards west of the hotel in front of Brockman's store.

Noticing Waldrip's black hat, Braubach asked: "Are you Captain Waldrip?"

"Yes, sir," Waldrip replied.

Braubach drew his gun and pulled the trigger. Nothing happened. Braubach cocked the revolver and pulled the trigger and again nothing happened. The revolver was of the cap-and-ball type, and the powder had become soaked with the sweat of Braubach's horse.

Waldrip by now was running as fast as he could toward the Nimitz Hotel with half the village, including Braubach, who was shouting for somebody to throw him a rifle, after him.

Women, who had ventured onto the street to catch a glimpse of the notorious criminal, were now fleeing in every direction. Among them was Mrs. Henry Langerhans, with two-year old Bertha in her arms.

Observing Waldrip wrestle with a man for a gun at the hotel and seeing his wife and Bertha still on the street, Henry Langerhans, standing in the second-story window of his boot and saddle shop, catty-corner from the Nimitz Hotel (where the Sinclair station is now), reached for the Kentucky rifle he had used in many Hill Country turkey shoot.

Waldrip went through the hotel, with Braubach, who now had a Winchester rifle, after him. Waldrip, holding his shoulder where Braubach had winged him, then came vaulting over the hotel's high stone fence.

Langerhans saw Waldrip take refuge behind a great oak near the fence. Waldrip raised his head and looked in one direction then another. If the man was ever to get a horse, he had to get it now.

It had dawned on Langerhans that Waldrip might possibly grab his wife and little Bertha as hostages. Taking careful aim with the long rifle, Langerhans fired. Waldrip toppled into the ditch.

Everybody in town looked at Waldrip's body, particularly the hole in his head, but nobody knew who fired the



fatal shot. Nobody but Langerhans and his wife, that is.

Mrs. Langerhans kept the secret from her children until her husband, the man who had got the drop on Waldrip, died of natural causes.

One couldn't be too cautious when dealing with any of the Waldrips. Even those who had the protection of public office knew that.

This was evidenced by the fact that Gillespie County officials according to the records, waited until 1874 before they paid Charles Basse \$10 for hauling the body of the notorious outlaw 300 yards in a wheelbarrow from the Nimitz Hotel to an unmarked grave on Town Creek. Afraid of the werewolf of the Hill Country? Perhaps.

And to top everything in the Waldrip saga is this weird touch. They buried Waldrip with his big, black beaver hat. And two years later, Waldrip's brother, who somehow learned exactly where Waldrip was buried, sneaked into town by the dark of the moon and resurrected the hat.

Submitted by Jo Peebles Adams, Houston
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*(Editor's note, the spelling of (Waldrup/Waldrip's name is as was reported)*

## Gatorade—a German Texan and GTHS Connection!

How can Gatorade, the most popular worldwide sports drink, have any German-Texans connections? The answer to this question is not so remote when it is known that the inventor, James Robert Cade, had German family relationships.

Cade was a German-Texan through and through. His German family moved from the hill country before he was born, September 26, 1927, to San Antonio, Texas. He grew up near downtown in a small cottage in the 100 block of East High Street that was part a German neighborhood. He graduated from San Antonio's Breckenridge High School, then continued his education in Austin at the University of Texas, and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. It was 1961 when he became an assistant professor of medicine and physiology at the University of Florida at Gainesville. It was later in his career that he got involved in medical research, specializing in kidney research. Then in 1965, Cade invented Gatorade for the University of Florida's football team because they kept suffering defeats due to the swampy heat and loss of their energy. Needless to say, Gatorade turned the tide for them.

After retiring at age seventy-six, Cade was inducted into the University of Florida's Athletes Hall of Fame. Unfortunately, Cade began to suffer declining health for a number of years before he died, November 27, 2007 at the age of eighty from kidney failure.

The Gatorade sports drink was more successful than Dr. Cade, its inventor, ever imagined as a commercial sports drink, and as a life-saver for sick children in third-world countries.

Now, there are more German-Texan family connections in Robert Cade's genealogy to the German-Texan Heritage Society than meets the eye and they are revealed here!

Cade's great, great grandfather was Louis Schutze. He came to Fredericksburg, Texas in 1850 with wife Emily Rutter and three children from Dessau, Germany. He taught school at the Live Oak, Perdernales, and later the town school in Fredericksburg. His family grew by four children after his arrival in Texas. Emil, the youngest, was Cade's grandfather married to Tillie Gruen. They had a daughter, Winifred Schutze who married A. J. Cade. They had a daughter, Thelma Cade Perdue and a son, James Robert Cade.

The real significance here is that Robert Cade's great, great uncle is Julius Schutze because Louis and Julius were brothers. Remember that Julius Schutze was one of the first teachers at the German Free School and that he later purchased the building for his family's residence.

Another connection to the Cade family is Julius Schutze's story about Louis Schutze, Cade's great, great grandfather's murder in Fredericksburg in 1864 that was later published in his weekly newspaper, *Texas Vorwärts*. It has now been reprinted in this *Journal* since it is very timely with the annual meeting in Fredericksburg, under the title, "The Murder of German Unionists." I hope you will read it and enjoy even though it is very sad Texas Hill Country history but it is true. There are more good stories from J. Schutze's *Texas Vorwärts* that are unattainable without a new microfilm reader for the Treneckmann Library. HOW ABOUT A LITTLE HELP?

Submitted (more connections here) by Jo Peebles Adams, membership in GTHS since 1983, Julius Schutze's grand daughter, Louis Schutze's great, great niece, J. Robert Cade and Thelma Cade Perdue's distant cousin. If anyone knows anything about Thelma Cade Perdue from San Antonio, please notify the GTHS office.



# Community Events

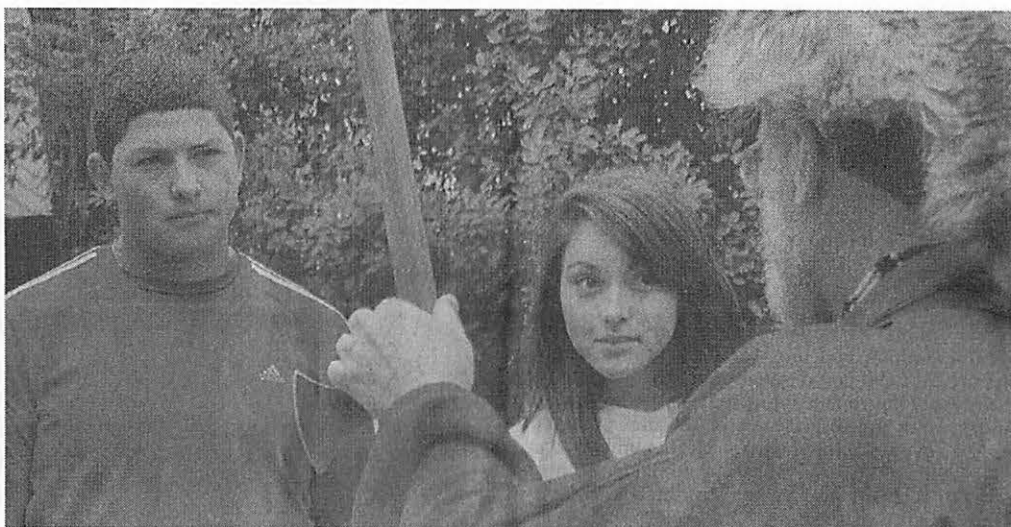
## The Way It Was

## Historical Society Celebrates 75th Anniversary

*Fredericksburg Standard Radio Post, May 12, 2010*



**IT DIDN'T TAKE** any persuasion for Beverly Wood to find takers for husband Bobby Joe's peach cobbler. Served bubbly hot from a Dutch oven, the dessert drew a crowd at Saturday's Founders Day.

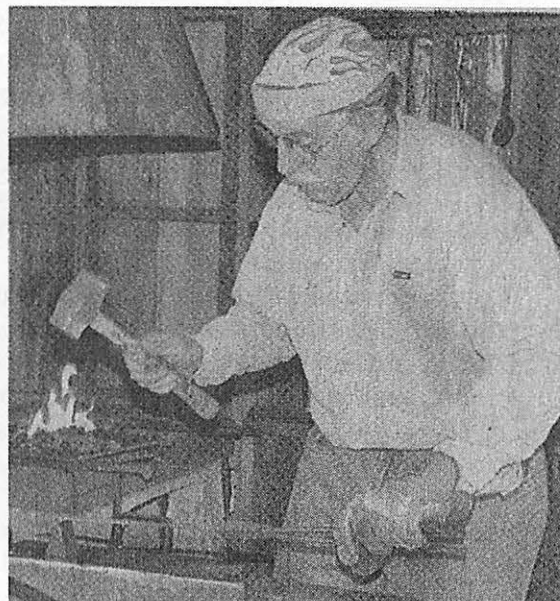


**MOUNTAIN MAN** Roy Moses showed off his tomahawk throwing technique to visitors Daniel Meija (left), and Alyssa Vela of Sonora who stopped here Saturday on their way to Austin where Vela would play in the state tennis tournament.

**HARD AS NAILS** - Making nails was one of the tasks that blacksmith Gary Hilton showed visitors Saturday.

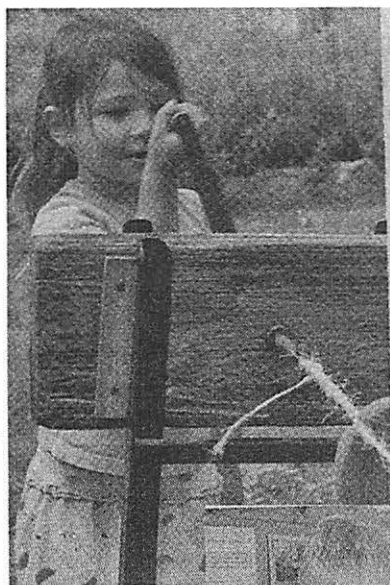
### CELEBRATING

the 75th anniversary of Pioneer Museum, Saturday morning ceremonies included a specially designed cake displayed by Pam Spruiell (left), cochairman of the anniversary fundraiser, and Glen Treibs, who gave a brief history of the museum at the morning program held in the Vereins Kirche.





**TECHNIQUE** was everything Saturday as kids like Kameron Golightly of Bandera helped to make rope under the watchful eye of volunteers at the living history display.



**SHOWING HER** how it's done, Norma Jones of San Antonio, demonstrates the technique for grinding corn by hand for Elisabeth Naugle of San Antonio who was all set to take up the task herself.



Submitted by Carl Luckenbach, Fredericksburg

**PLACING A WREATH** in honor of Fredericksburg founder, John O. Meusebach, Saturday morning at the Vereins Kirche were Gillespie County Historical Society Program Director Liz Brookshire and Jacie Segner, daughter of Jennifer Segner Spies. Mrs. Spies and her father, Sammy Segner, owner of Segner Jewelers donated a diamond for a 75th anniversary Pioneer Museum fundraiser. *Standard Radio Post photos by Cathy Collier*





## Germany 2010

On June 25, 2010, twelve of us from the Austin-Paige area left for Germany for a custom planned twelve-day tour with Ute Boese of The German American Connection. Ute is also a member of the German-Texan Society, so if you are planning a trip to Germany, be sure to contact her to help plan your trip! The purpose of the trip was to explore Germany and to visit the area our Eschberger, Schmidt, and Ihlo ancestors left over 150 years ago.

First, a little about Germany. The day began early in Germany, with daylight before 5am and dark about 10pm. The weather was unseasonably warm when we were there. The mornings were nice and cool but the rest of the day was hot and since the buildings did not have air conditioning, we looked for any shady area! Windows in the rooms could be opened at the top for daytime ventilation or all the way to let in the cool night air. There are no screens on the windows but we did not have any problems with bugs until we arrived in Worlitz. There were lots of mosquitoes there because of the lakes. Beds have a bottom sheet only and a fluffy comforter for night which is folded and placed on the bed during the day. Nights were comfortable with the windows open. People live in villages, town, or cities. If you are a farmer, you live in the nearest village and travel to your farm each day. Germans enjoy walking so evenings in the villages and town are spent strolling around and visiting. Native grasses and weeds are cut along the road way and baled for cattle feed. Crops grown are barley, wheat, potatoes, rye, and vegetables plus others as well. Fields are neatly laid out and few fields had a skippy stand. The soil is rich and everything looked good as we drove by on the road. Germany is very clean with no trash littering the roadways and the houses and yards are also very neat.

Choices are limited on some food items. If you order a salad, you are not asked what dressing you want but will get the house dressing. Sodas are also limited with choices being Coke, Pepsi, and Sprite and a few others but no Dr Pepper! Ice cream is very popular and many little shops sell it in many different flavors. You must ask for ice in drinks but our tour guide always made sure we had ice available and also ice water. Water in bottles is readily available but you have to ask for no gas or they will give you a fizzing, terrible tasting mineral water. Breakfast is served at all the hotels and consists of cold cuts, rolls, cereal, quarks and yogurts, hardboiled eggs, coffee, juices, fruit and much more! The Bratwurst is delicious in all regions and also all other entrees on the menu. Our final night in Berlin we had calf liver which was delicious. You won't go hungry in Germany!

Family businesses are popular in Germany and are on the first floor of the building. Most of the houses are half timbered. Everyone in the family works in the family business and everything is spick and span! The second story is reserved for the family and if there are more stories, rooms are rented out, so you will be climbing stairs to get to your room! We mostly stayed in small family run pensions and there were no elevators. The castles and monasteries we visited required walking to get there and there were lots of stairs to climb inside. Comfortable shoes are a must! Bicycles are popular, especially in large cities and dart everywhere, so stay out of the bicycle lanes!

Bathrooms (water closets) were interesting. At public places, such as convenient stores, you had to pay to use them (50 euros). Most of them were automatically flushed. Some would wash the seat and you had to flush. After our stops, we would often have a conversation about the workings of the toilets! Some even took their cameras in to photograph them! Wonder what the Germans were thinking of those crazy Americans!

After arriving at the Frankfurt Airport and being met by our guide, Ute, and our driver, Sven, we headed to St. Goar and the beautiful Rhine River area. The area is a major grape growing region for the wine industry and we were amazed at the many vineyards clinging to the steep hillsides. We climbed to a scenic outlook to view the Lorelei Rock in the Rhine River. The next morning we drove along the Rhine River toward Heidelberg but because it was a Sunday, the road was closed to vehicle traffic so people on bicycles could ride along the scenic Rhine. We were therefore given a police escort out of town and had to take another route. In Heidelberg we visited the Heidelberg Palace and Monastery Maulbronn. A lot of the castle is in ruins today but it must have been very impressive in its day. Then on to Enzkloesterle for a delightful stay at the Hirsch Hotel. The next morning we visited the Krippena 2000 Museum which houses the world's biggest Christmas crèche. It had wood-carved nativities in every size imaginable, a Noah's Ark display, and a display showing



Krippena Museum - a display showing how lumber was cut in mid-1800's



how trees were cut down and the stages to milling it into lumber-all carved out of wood. It is a small museum but well worth seeing.

We then left for Munich where later that evening we went to the Hofbrauhaus, a festive hall with live music and much beer! The following day we toured Neuschwanstein Castle and Linderhof Palace. They were both built for mad King Ludwig II. Neuschwanstein is the one you see in Walt Disney movies and has many, many steps! It is perched on a mountain side and has a beautiful view. Linderhof is my favorite and is rather flashy but is fit for a king! It is a small castle but the grounds are beautifully landscaped with fountains and walkways. It has lots of gold inside as well as porcelain.



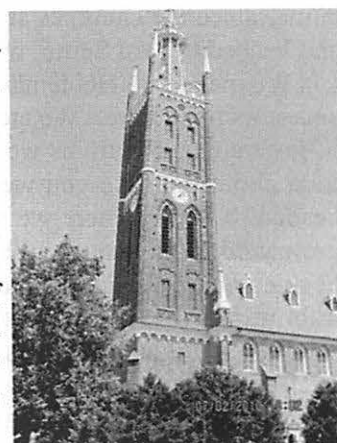
Neuschwanstein Castle, View from Linderhof

We returned to our Tannenbaum Hotel in Munich for a second night and we were very

tired after all the stairs and walking we did! The following morning we left for the Romantic Road and a tour of Rothenberg ob der Tauber (the city dates from 960AD) and has an interesting German Christmas Museum. We continued on our way to Bamberg where we enjoyed dinner at the Brewery Schlenkerla which is known for its smoky beer.

We then crossed into the area which used to be East Germany and visited a glass blowing factory in Lauscha in Southern Thuringia. It was amazing how fast a colored tube of glass could be turned into a mug, which is what they were making the day we visited the factory. Instead of half-timbered houses, they were now covered in slate, which is common to the area. The colors and patterns of the slate were beautiful. We then left for a two-night stay in Erfurt at the Guesthouse Augustinerkloster. The church and the majority of the monastery buildings were constructed in a relatively short time (1276-1340). This monastery is where Martin Luther stayed when he studied to become a monk. Here he prayed, studied, taught and struggled to come to terms with the mercy of God. The following morning while visiting the chapel, a group of Korean tourists asked us if we would let them sing a verse of a song to us. We agreed and they sang a verse of "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God", a Martin Luther hymn, to us in Korean. It was beautiful and touched us deeply, as we were in the chapel where Martin Luther preached and to have one of his songs sung to us! In 1849, this church was converted into a conference hall to house the Union Parliament which convened in 1850 to write a constitution for a united Germany. The church and monastery were severely damaged in the closing months of WWII but restoration was begun in 1982, in connection with the celebration to mark the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Luther's birth. We visited the Merchant's bridge, which is a wide bridge with buildings on both sides, which folks would cross in medieval times upon reaching town. The buildings were shops that included bath houses, rooms to rent, and other businesses they would patronize upon reaching town but before they would conduct their business in other parts of town. We walked through the historic city center and took pictures of another beautiful church. The following day we toured Wartburg Castle, near Eisenach, where Luther was hidden to protect him from the Holy Roman Emperor. He was kidnapped by Frederick the Wise and hidden in his castle and this is where Luther translated the New Testament from the original Greek into German in ten months time. He later also translated the Old Testament into German and also wrote numerous hymns. Frederick the Wise was one of the most influential German princes of his time and even seen as a potential candidate for Holy Roman Emperor so Luther was lucky to have him on his side. We saw the room Luther stayed in while in the castle.

The following morning we left for Worlitz, in Saxony-Anhalt, the town our ancestors departed from over 150 years ago! The town of Worlitz was first mentioned in official records in 1004 and has a beautiful church, St Petri, which was the church our ancestors attended while in Germany. Martin Luther, who had come from the neighboring town of Wittenberg, preached in St Petri church in 1532. The pasture countryside of Worlitz had always played an important role as the hunting grounds of Dessau's princes and in the 17<sup>th</sup> century a hunting lodge was established at the lakeside. The decision of Prince Franz von Anhalt-Dessau (1740-1817) to create extensive gardens after the English







St Petri Church in Worlitz Germany  
Front of St Petri-second level is where the prince and his family sat while attending church

pattern turned the insignificant town into a place of world concern and became a garden kingdom which was open to the public. Worlitzer Park is about 277 acres and includes Worlitz Castle, which is now a museum. The prince attended church at St Petri and had a special section in the front of the church reserved for him looking out over the congregation. Our host, Uwe Kettmann, had our lunch on the table when we arrived in Worlitz and served us the type of food our ancestors would have eaten in their time: blutwurst, leberwurst, and several other types of sausage, pickles, sliced tomatoes, rolls and homemade bread, and a variety of other foods. After lunch, Uwe took us to St Petri church to view church records which included the Eschberger name. A reporter was present and took pictures for the local paper.



Our host, Uwe Kettmann, showing us the church books  
Our group eating our first meal in Worlitz

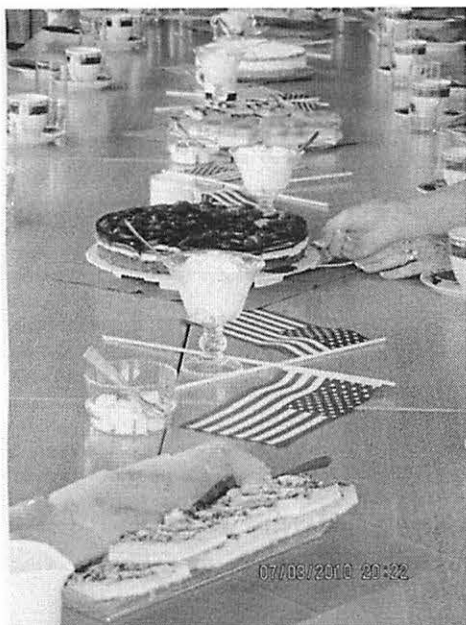


We then left for a horse-drawn carriage ride to Rehsen, a neighboring town where more Eschberger's had lived. Mr Kettmann wanted us to experience the slow mode of travel in the days our ancestors would visit each other. Rehsen dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> century and is surrounded by a ring of flood dikes and is a part of the garden kingdom. We were met at the Rehsen church by some of our German relatives who had not known any of the Eschberger family had left Germany for Texas! They did not speak English so we had to have our guide, Ute, translate or try to speak in our broken Texas-German! They graciously showed us through the Rehsen church and shared some of the church history. That evening our new-found relatives joined us for dinner at a local restaurant where another reporter showed up to interview and photograph us. The following morning, we attended church services at the beautiful St Petri church, again joined by our new-found relatives. We were surprised that only about forty people attended church services, and half was our party! Church is usually held once a month since the pastor also serves other churches in the area. At Christmas and Easter, attendance picks up. In winter, church is sometime held in local homes since the churches are hard to heat with the high ceilings. After church, we said good-by to our new relatives and headed toward Serno, where the Schmidt and Ihlo families came from.

We picked up Heidemarie Gzrech, a local historian who gave us information on what the area was like when our ancestors lived here. We ate a delightful lunch, in the middle of nowhere, at a place where the owner was a collector of toy trains. The trains were used to deliver drinks to the tables. The owner enjoyed teasing people by moving the train about the time you were ready to remove a glass! He showed us around his place, inside and out. We then headed to Serno where we were met by the mayor, Peter Noessler. The soil around Serno is sand and blueberries grow wild in the woods. This must be why our ancestors chose the Bastrop County area, because it is also sand and huckleberries, similar to blueberries, grow wild. The area looks similar, with the gently rolling hills. Our historian informed us that homes, at the time our ancestors lived in Germany, were half-timbered and cooking was done over an open fire since chimneys did not come into being until around the 1900's. They started making brick around the 1850's so homes could also have some bricks in them. Farmers around Serno had to give a tenth of their harvest to the neighboring town of Coswig as a tax. The mayor showed us the local church which was too poor to afford a

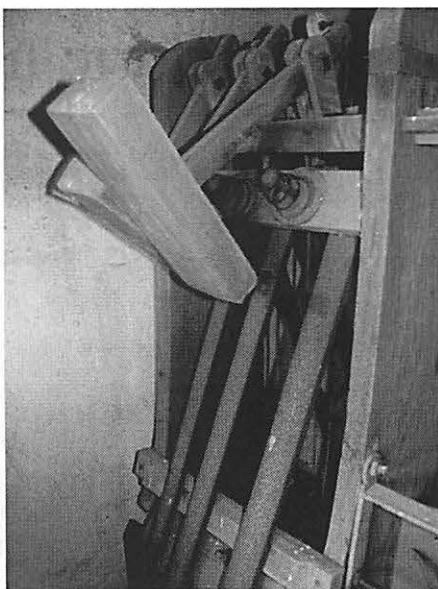


church bell, so wooden blocks were used to strike flattened medal rods and it sounded just like a bell!



Our special July 4<sup>th</sup> desserts in Serno

The day was July 4<sup>th</sup>, so he walked us to the flag poles where they were flying the American flag next to the German flag! The bus stop was also adorned in small American flags. We visited their new swimming pool, a local favorite and then to their fire station where more American flags flew! On Sunday afternoons, their tradition is to serve cake and coffee since meals during the week usually do not include dessert. The table in their fire hall was beautifully decorated in criss-crossed American flags with blue china in observation of our July 4th. They had about six delicious cakes, so they could share their Sunday afternoon tradition with us! We were very touched and



The Serno Church Bell

told them how much we appreciated them! Mayor Noessler presented Milton Ihlo with a framed copy of the church records for his ancestor.

We then headed to Wittenberg, where Martin Luther nailed his "95 Thesis" to the church door and also saw where the Gutenberg Press was located that printed copies of both the 95 Thesis and Martin Luther's Bible. We walked through the beautiful church; saw Luther's grave and a replica of the door where he nailed the Thesis. We strolled through the beautiful town, noting other points of interest and learning its history. We returned to Worlitz and walked through the world famous park which we had not had time to do before.

We said good-by to our gracious host, Uwe Kettmann, the following morning and headed to Berlin. We enjoyed a city bus tour of Berlin, including Checkpoint Charlie, the Brandenburg Gate (it was a former city gate and was built before 1800 by the King of Prussia), what is left of the Berlin Wall, and other points of interest. Berlin is a fairly new town, since about 70% was destroyed during WWII because it was Hitler's headquarters. The following morning we headed home, everyone was tired after a very enjoyable trip!

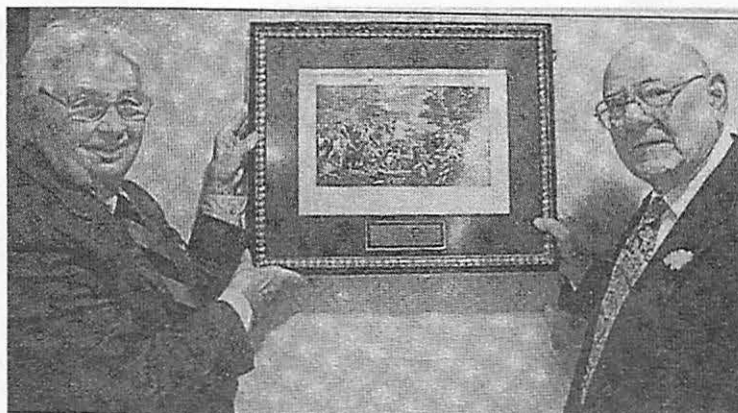
Written and submitted by Mikki Eschberger Meyer  
July 29, 2010

Sources:  
Ute Boese  
Uwe Kettmann  
Heidemarie Gzrech



# Historic lithograph hangs in New Ulm

*Hermann Sons News*, July 2010



George Glotzbach (left), board member of the Hermann Monument Society, and New Ulm Mayor Joel Albrecht hang a lithograph by Friedreich Gunkel titled "Battle in the Teutoburg Forest 9. - 11. September, 9 A. D." in the rotunda of the New Ulm, Minnesota City Hall. Photo courtesy of Steve Muscatello, *New Ulm Journal*.

NEW ULM, Minn. A lithograph by Friedreich Gunkel titled "Battle in the Teutoburg Forest 9. - 11 September, 9 A. D." has been hung in the rotunda of the New Ulm, Minnesota City Hall. A new frame surrounds the rare original lithograph from 1882.

It is the most famous print of Hermann the Cheruscan's victory over the Roman, Varus, which was made for the book, "German Fame." Included is the caption, "The Cheruscan Chief, Hermann, leads the charge of Germans against the Romans, whose leader commits suicide."

The lithograph was presented by First Buergermeister Gunter Czisch and by Dr. Hans-Walter Roth, City Councilor of Ulm, Germany, at the Grand Banquet attended by 330 guests celebrating the 2000th anniversary of the battle at Turner Hall in New Ulm in September 2009. The banquet opened four days of activities with 25 events attracting an estimated 16,800 persons,

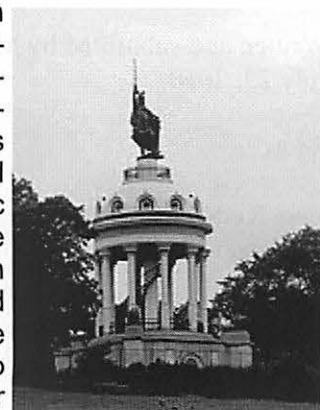
Speaking for the Ulm/NeuUlm delegation Wolfgang Dieterich, managing director of their Tourism board, wrote, "It was so great to be with you in New Ulm and to meet all the friendly people there. We appreciated the visit very much and were overwhelmed by your reception."

Hermann's victory over three Roman Legions (about 20,000 men) commanded by Quincitilius Varus, known as "die Varusschlacht," established early Germanic freedom and unity.

This battle was commemorated during 2009 jointly in Oeutschland and here in America in New Ulm, Minn., "home of the magnificent Hermann Monument."

In the 1840s German speaking people from Central Europe immigrated to the United States. Anti-immigrant resentment followed and in response these new immigrants sought a symbol to unite them. They chose Hermann and formed the Order of the Sons of Hermann as a rallying point throughout the United States.

New Ulm's Hermann Monument was dedicated in 1897 on a commanding bluff overlooking the city. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. In the year 2000 the 106th Congress of the United States designated the Hermann Monument to be an official symbol for the contributions of Americans of German heritage.



For more information go to the website < [hermannmonument.com](http://hermannmonument.com) > or write Hermann Monument Society, 907 Cottonwood Street, New Ulm, Minn. 56073.

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston



# People

## WORLD WAR II prisoner of war looks for German who helped save his life

By **Sue Watkins**, Special to the *Herald-Zeitung*, March 21, 2010

For almost 65 years, Richard Waller of Garland has had a wish he wants to fulfill. He would like to find members of a German family in the New Braunfels area and tell them how their young Nazi sailor saved his life.

Chances are not good for Waller. He doesn't remember the soldier's name, but he does remember the act of kindness that saved him from starvation in a prison camp during World War II. The German soldier confronted a new shipment of U.S. prisoners, asking them if any came from Texas. Waller spoke up, after which the soldier dared to sneak food to him.

"He saved my life," Waller said. Stories of that war have slowly surfaced since its ending in 1945. Waller was working for Brown & Root in 1941 when he wanted to join the Army. As a 17-year-old, he had to have his mother's signature giving him permission to enlist.

That accomplished, he took his oath in Tyler and reported to Camp Wolters in Mineral Wells hoping to join the artillery. Handled like a draftee, he was placed in the medical corps. He joined the 9th Infantry Division in the 47th medical detachment at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Life for the young man was far different from his father's job grading onions in Rockwall.

Changes continued as he was sent to Africa in 1942. His worst days began when German soldiers captured him and 16 others while crawling on their hands and knees in a trench. "We were put in a

mound like dungeon with a heavy wooden door and one small window," he said. He remembers the lice in his straw bed.

Soon after his capture on April 17, 1943, he and the others from his platoon were taken to Naples, Italy; placed in a cargo hold of a ship and issued one small loaf of bread.

It was then the former Texan approached the prisoners and subsequently befriended Waller with extra food. "He was no more an enemy at that time than you are," Waller said.

Memories of Stalag 7A near Poland brought back stories of Waller's respiratory illness, with tonsillitis causing his fever to reach 107 and leave him comatose.

Soldiers rigged a basin for him to inhale, with the steam possibly being his lifesaver. Now years later, Waller said he needs to tell the complete story of his Army service.

In his Garland home with his wife and step-daughter, he can relate stories that most have only read about. He knows the young German from New Braunfels chose to return to Germany in 1939 to fight with his homeland.

But he doesn't know what happened to that man after the war. If anyone has information that could help Waller in his quest to find the man from New Braunfels, contact the author, Sue Watkins, through her blog at [neighborsgo.com/blog/sue](http://neighborsgo.com/blog/sue) or email her at

[community@neighborsgo.com](mailto:community@neighborsgo.com).

Submitted by

## German Immigration To Texas Showcased

*The Fayette County Record*, May 4, 2010

The history of German Texans will be showcased this summer at the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio.

German Texans began to arrive in the 1840s, with their first settlements near Fayette County. From May 29 through Aug. 22, the Institute of Texan Cultures will exhibit "Lone Star and Eagle," an exploration of German immigration to Texas. The Humanities Texas exhibit takes its name from the iconic images of Texas and German heraldry.

The earliest German ventures into Texas were marred by financial mismanagement and disreputable businessmen.

The Fischer-Miller land grant, which was where many Germans settled, was Comanche territory and nearly uninhabitable. But an unbroken treaty paved the way for establishing communities including Fredericksburg, New Braunfels and Sisterdale.

The 12-panel exhibit will include reproductions of archive photographs, newspaper headlines and paintings. The institute contributed archival images to the development of this project.

Regular hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays.

The Institute of Texan Cultures is located on the UTSA HemisFair Park Campus, 801 E. Durango Blvd. in San Antonio.

Admission is \$8 for adults (12-64); \$7 for seniors (65+); \$6 for children (3-11); and free with membership, UTSA or Alamo Colleges identifications.

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston



## Ein bisschen mehr Friede-A little more peace

A little more peace and less strife,  
 a little more kindness and less envy,  
 a little more truth at all times and much more  
 help in peril.

A little more "We" and less "I",  
 A little more vigor and not so timid and many  
 more flowers during our life time because on  
 the graves they are in vain

Submitted by Van Massirer, Crawford



## Bauer Built Successful Lumber Yard in Area

### Charles Bauer

*The Fayette County Record, May 7, 2010*

By CONNIE F. SNEED. *Fayette County Historical Commission*

Mr. Charles Bauer was born June 5, 1845, at Oberensingen, Wurtemberg, Germany, a son of William and Margaret (Hahn) Bauer. His father was born in May, 1810, at the same location and was given a fair education. The education of Charles Bauer was secured in the public schools of his native country, where he was apprenticed to the trade of carpenter, thoroughly mastering every detail of that vocation.

Instead of going to Kentucky with the rest of the family, he came to Texas and located at Round Top, where he engaged in work at his trade. He was industrious and thrifty, and after a few years had accumulated money enough to go to Burton, Texas, and engage in the lumber business, being associated with his brother under the firm style of W. Bauer & Brother.

They bought out the first lumber yard established at that place and conducted it successfully for a period of twelve years, after which Charles Bauer disposed of his

interests and went to Pomona, Calif. He first engaged in farming in that community, later became the proprietor of a feed mill, and finally opened a laundry, but after seven unprofitable years he decided that his best opportunities lay in Texas, and he happily returned to the Lone Star state.

Here, in 1894, Mr. Bauer entered the lumber business, buying out J.C. Hillsman & Son and conducting a lumber yard until April 1914, when he sold out and retired from active participation in business operations. He was a stockholder in the Carmine Creamery and in the Oil Mill and a director and one of the organizers of the Carmine State Bank. He had been a farmer by proxy, his property consisting of 174 acres and being located in the Obediah Hudson League, near Carmine.

He took out his first citizenship papers at La Grange and his final papers at Brenham. Mr. Bauer was married at Round Top, on Nov. 17, 1871, to Miss Mary Ernst, a daughter of Fred and Mary (Krum) Ernst.

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston



## GERMANS WHO SERVED IN TEXAS GOVERNMENT, 1831-1915

By Terry L. Smart, San Antonio

A countless number of the early German immigrants to Texas (and their children) made important contributions to their new homeland at all levels of local, county, state, and federal government. From the time of Texas' independence, Germans were found in a wide variety of elected and appointive positions, ranging from postmaster of small communities to elected lawmakers in the state legislature or the U.S. Congress.

Below you will find immigrant Germans known to have been in public service at one level or another down to the early 1900s. But by no means is this a complete list of all our German ancestors in public service. A list showing nothing but the German postmasters in Texas during the 1800s would include hundreds of names.

### Congress of the Republic of Texas

**George Bernard Erath**, a German from Vienna, Austria, reached Texas in 1833 and fought in the Battle of San Jacinto. Erath later was elected from Milam County to two terms in the House of Representatives in the Congress of the Republic of Texas. **George Washington Smyth** of Nacogdoches, the son of a German immigrant who Anglicized their names, settled in Texas in 1830. He was a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence. After independence, Smyth was elected in 1844 to the House of Representatives in the legislature of the Republic of Texas. Until his death in 1866, Smyth held many other elected and appointive positions.

### United States Congress

Three Germans from San Antonio were elected to the U.S. House of Representatives after the Civil War. The first of these, **Edward Degener**, a native of the Duchy of Brunswick, was a leading opponent of slavery and secession prior to the war. After the war, in 1870, he was elected from Bexar County to the U.S. House of Representatives as a Republican and served one term. Another immigrant, **Gustav Schleicher**, was elected in 1874 to the first of his three terms in Congress. (Schleicher died in 1879 during his third term.) **Rudolph Kleberg**, the son of German immigrants, also was elected to Congress from Bexar County, serving four terms, beginning in 1896. **George Washington Smyth** of Nacogdoches, the son of a German immigrant who Anglicized their names, was elected to the U.S. Congress in 1852. He served one term and did not seek reelection.

### Texas Legislature: the Senate

**George Bernard Erath**, a German from Vienna, Austria, was elected in 1857 from Milam County to the first of three terms he served in the State Senate. Erath resigned from the Senate in 1861. After the Civil War, in 1874, he again was elected and served one last term. **Baron Otfried Hans von Meusebach (John O. Meusebach)**, the founder of Fredericksburg, served in the Texas Senate from 1851 to 1854. He left the Senate when appointed by Texas Governor Elisha Pease to oversee the distribution of land grants to German immigrants of the 1840s. Another German, **Gustav Schleicher** of San Antonio, served in the State Senate from 1857 to the beginning of the Civil War after previously serving in the State House of Representatives. **Theodore Rudolph Hertzberg**, also of San Antonio, was a leading opponent of slavery and secession prior to the Civil War. After the war, in 1870, he was elected to the State Senate from Bexar County as a Republican. He resigned from the Senate after one year to accept the first of several appointive positions he held from 1871 to 1886. Bavarian **George Peuffer** was a Comal County judge before winning election to the State Senate in 1882. As chair of the Senate's Education Committee, Peuffer promoted the development of Texas A&M University and later served as head of its governing board.

### Texas Legislature: the House of Representatives

**George Bernard Erath**, a German from Vienna, Austria, was elected to the House of Representatives in the first Texas legislature after statehood. He later served in the State Senate. **Nicholas Adolf Stern** of Nacogdoches, who was known as Adolphus Stern, served in the Texas House of Representatives from 1847 until his death in 1852. Prior to the Civil War, **Gustav Schleicher** of San Antonio served two terms in the Texas House of Representatives before his election to the State Senate in 1856. **Jacob Waelder**, also of San Antonio, won election to three terms in the state legislature prior to the Civil War. **Friedrich Wilhelm von Wrede**, one of the first settlers at Fredericksburg, represented Gillespie County in the House, 1859-1861. After the Civil War, **Julius Schuetze**, was elected from Bastrop County to the House as a Republican. **Ludwig Carl Ferdinand Francke** was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1872 as a Democrat from Fayette County. In February 1873, when leaving the state capitol in Austin, Francke was assaulted and robbed by unknown assailants and died the next day from his injuries. His remains were returned to Fayette County for burial, escorted by a honor guard headed by State Senator Joseph Sayers (later

governor of Texas). Another German elected to the legislature in 1872 was **Gustav Hoffman** of New Braunfels, who had commanded a Confederate cavalry regiment during the Civil War. **Karl Goeth**, a Blanco County rancher, served one term in the House of Representatives, 1887-1888. **Adolph Ludwig Groos**, a farmer, served one term in the Twentieth Legislature, representing Fayette County. Attorney **Marcellus E. Kleberg**, the son of German immigrants, had a long record of public service at Galveston including election to the state legislature. Late in the nineteenth century, **Ferdinand C. Weinert**, a native of New Braunfels, was elected from Guadalupe County to four terms to the House of Representatives before his appointment as Texas Secretary of State during the administration (1911-1915) of Governor O. B. Colquitt. **William Bierschwale** of Gillespie County, the son of a German immigrant, was elected to the Texas House of Representatives as a Republican in 1908 and was reelected several times, serving in office until 1924.

#### U.S. Collector of Customs

German immigrants **Jacob Kuechler** and **Viktor Friedrich Bracht** both opposed slavery and secession prior to the Civil War. Both left Texas when the war began. Kuechler returned shortly after the war and was appointed by U.S. President Grant to be the Collector of Customs at San Antonio, a position he held until 1870. Bracht returned to Texas in 1869 and in 1871 became the U.S. Collector of Customs at Rockport in Aransas County, where he lived until his death in 1897.

#### U.S. Consul

In late 1881, President Chester A. Arthur selected Prussian immigrant **Theodore Rudolph Hertzberg** of San Antonio to be the U.S. Consul at the industrial city of St. Etienne in France, a position Hertzberg occupied for five years.

#### Texas Constitutional Convention of 1866

**George Washington Smyth**, the son of a German immigrant who Anglicized their names, was elected a delegate to the 1866 post-Civil War convention that was called to draft a new constitution to enable Texas' return to the Union. Smyth died during the proceedings of the convention.

#### Texas Constitutional Convention of 1868-1869

**Edward Degener**, a native of the Duchy of Brunswick, was one of the leading opponents of slavery and secession prior to the Civil War. After the war, Degener was a delegate from San Antonio to the state Constitutional Convention of 1868-1869 that was called by General William S. Hanock while Texas was under post-war military rule. Degener was a leader of a block of Republican delegates in the convention. **Jacob Kuechler**, another German opponent of slavery and secession, was also a delegate at the convention.

#### Texas Constitutional Convention of 1876

Bavarian immigrant **Cayton Erhard** of Bastrop was elected a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1875 that drafted the constitution adopted in 1876, replacing the previous constitution adopted under military rule. Another delegate was **Jacob Waelder** of San Antonio, a native of the Duchy of Hesse.

#### Texas Secretary of State

**Ferdinand C. Weinert** of Guadalupe County served four terms in the state legislature before his appointment as Texas Secretary of State during the administration (1911-1915) of Governor O. B. Colquitt.

#### Commissioner of the Texas General Land office

**George Washington Smyth** of Nacogdoches, the son of a German immigrant who Anglicized their names, was the second Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office at Austin. He held this position from 1848 until 1852. After the Civil War, two Germans headed the Land Office. **Jacob Kuechler**, a native of the Grand Duchy of Hesse, moved from San Antonio to Austin in 1870 to accept appointment as Commissioner by Governor Edmund Davis. He headed the Land Office until 1874, when he was replaced by another German, **Johann Jacob Groos** of New Braunfels. Groos served as Commissioner until his death in 1878.

#### Texas Board of Pardons

In 1911, Texas Governor O. B. Colquitt appointed **Louis Von Der Hagen** of Fredericksburg to the Texas State Board of Pardons. Von Der Hagen previously had been the Gillespie County Attorney for four years, 1878-1882.



Texas Immigration Bureau

**Theodore Rudolph Hertzberg** of San Antonio resigned from the State Senate in 1871 to accept appointment by Governor Edmund Davis to head the Texas Immigration Bureau. This was an agency created to promote European emigration to Texas.

Texas A&M University Board of Regents

In 1884, German immigrant **George Pfeuffer** became head of the governing board of the Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College (now Texas A&M University), a position he held until his death two years later.

University of Texas Board of Regents

**Marcellus E. Kleberg** of Galveston, the son of German immigrants, served as a member of the University of Texas Board of Regents during the administration (1903-1907) of Governor S.W.T. Lanham. Another German on the board in the early 1900s was Dallas businessman **Alexander Sanger**.

County Attorney

Many German Texans were trained in the law, and some of them served as county attorneys. Among them was **Marcellus E. Kleberg**, who moved from De Witt County to Galveston in 1875 and became the Galveston County Attorney. Another was **Louis Von Der Hagen**, who was Gillespie County's attorney for four years, 1878-1882.

County Clerk

German immigrant **August Ferdinand Louis Huth** was among the founders of Castroville in 1844. Following the organization of Medina County in 1848, Huth held several positions in local government including that of County Clerk. **Friedrich Wilhelm von Wrede**, one of the first settlers of Fredericksburg, was the Gillespie County Clerk for nine years. He was followed by **Heinrich Ochs** who held the position for ten years, 1859-1869. Prior to the Civil War, Bavarian **Cayton Erhard** of San Marcos was elected County Clerk for Hayes County. For three years during the Civil War, **Johann Jacob Groos** held this position in Comal County. Immigrant **Henry Bierschwale** was elected County Clerk of Gillespie County in 1880 and held the office until his retirement in 1898. When he retired, his son, **William Bierschwale**, was elected to replace him and held the office until 1906.

County Commissioner

One of the first German immigrants known to have served as a county commissioner was **Bernard Sherrer**, a native of Switzerland. He was elected to the first of two terms on the Fayette County Commissioners Court in 1842. In 1848, **Robert Justice Kleberg** was elected a commissioner in DeWitt County. After Medina County was created in 1848, **August Ferdinand Louis Huth** held several positions in local government, including that of commissioner. Two members of the early Gillespie County Commissioners Court were **Johann Jost Klingelhoef** from the Duchy of Nassau, who headed the court in 1851 and **William Wahrmond**, who was a commissioner from 1852 until 1862. Wahrmond returned to the court to fill a vacancy in 1864 during the Civil War. In 1876, he again was elected and headed the court until his death in 1890. Two other German members of the Gillespie County court were **Karl Feller** and **Henry Kordzik Feller**, a native of the Duchy of Nassau, served three terms, 1871 to 1876. Kordzig, a Prussian, was a member of the court for six years, 1894 to 1900. **Anton Pieper**, who arrived in Texas in the 1830s, was elected to two terms as a Comal County Commissioner, 1858-1862. **Ferdinand C. Weinert**, the son of German immigrants, settled at Seguin in 1873 and thereafter held several position in Guadalupe County government including that of commissioner. **Karl Goeth**, a Blanco County rancher, served on the Commissioners Court prior to his election to the state legislature in 1886. **Caspar Real** was a German-born cattle and sheep rancher who settled in Kerr County in 1857 and later was elected commissioner.

County Constable

After the Civil War, **Clemens George Ludwig Gottlieb Hartmann**, a native of the Kingdom of Hanover, was Constable for many years at Yorktown in De Witt County. He later held several other county positions.

County Judge

One of the first German immigrants known to be elected county judge was **Wilhelm Victor Keidel**, a Gillespie County physician who was elected in 1848. Another early county judge was **Robert Justus Kleberg**. During the years 1837 to 1846 he served in Austin County as Justice of the Peace and also as County Judge. After relocating in DeWitt County, Kleberg was elected county commissioner in 1848 and later became County Judge. **Emil Kriewitz**

settled at Castell in Llano County before the Civil War and subsequently was the Postmaster and later a Llano County Judge. Prussian **Christian Dietert**, Kerrville's Postmaster, also served as Kerr County Judge, 1869-1879. **Julius Schuetze**, a native of the Duchy of Anhalt, studied law after immigrating to Texas and following the Civil War won election as County Judge in Bastrop County. After settling at Seguin in 1873, **Ferdinand C. Weinert**, the son of German immigrants, became County Judge, and in Comal County, German businessman **George Pfeuffer** was elected to this office in 1877. **William von Rosenberg**, the son of German immigrants was an Austin attorney more than thirty-five years, during which he was elected to three terms as Travis County Judge

#### County Justice of the Peace

One of the first German immigrants known to serve as Justice of the Peace was **Bernard Scherrer** from Switzerland. After Texas won independence in 1836, President Sam Houston appointed Scherrer to be Justice of the Peace for Fayette County. Another early German J.P. was **Friedrich Ernst**, the founder of Industry, the first German settlement in Texas. At the time of his death in 1848, Ernst was serving as Justice of the Peace in Austin County. His son, **Johann Ernst**, was Justice of the Peace after his father's death. **Robert Justus Kleberg** also served in Austin County as J.P. during the 1840s. In 1844, **August Ferdinand Louis Ruth** was elected Justice of Peace for the town of Castroville before the creation of Medina County in 1848. **Emil Kriewitz** settled at Castell in Llano County before the Civil War and subsequently became the Postmaster and Llano County J.P. **Baron Ottfried Hans von Meusebach (John O. Meusebach)**, the founder of Fredericksburg, was Justice of the Peace in Mason County after retiring as the *Adelsverein's* Commissioner General in Texas. After the Civil War, other Germans who were Justice of the Peace included **Karl Feller** in Gillespie County, **Ferdinand C. Weinert** in Guadalupe County and **Karl Goeth** in Blanco County. In Travis County, **William von Rosenberg**, the son of German immigrants, was an attorney at Austin more than thirty-five years, during which he was also a J.P.

#### County Sheriff

One of the first German immigrants known to be a county sheriff was **Anton Peiper**, who reached Texas in the 1830s. He later accompanied the *Adelsverein's* colonists who founded New Braunfels and was elected Comal County Sheriff in 1850.

#### County Surveyor

A number of German immigrants in Texas had been trained in Germany as civil engineers. Consequently, they were in demand as surveyors. Some were employed by county government. Among the county surveyors was **Johann Jacob Groos**. He immigrated to Texas in 1845 and was the Comal County Surveyor prior to the Civil War. **Julius Kuttner** left Texas when the Civil War began to serve in the Union Army. After the war, he returned to Madison County and in 1870 became its County Surveyor. Prior to the Civil War, **Jacob Kuechler** was the surveyor for Gillespie County. After the Civil War, **Clemens George Ludwig Gottlieb Hartmann**, who immigrated from the Kingdom of Hanover, served DeWitt County twenty-five years as County Surveyor.

#### County Tax Assessor-Collector

Following the organization of Medina County in 1848, German immigrant **August Ferdinand Louis Huth** held several positions in local government including that of County Tax Assessor-Collector. Another German, **Karl Feller**, a native of the Duchy of Nassau, served as Gillespie County's Tax Assessor-Collector during the Civil War and continued in office for three years after the war ended. He was followed by **Balthasar Blum**, a Bavarian, who held the position for almost thirty years. **Caspar Real** was a German-born cattle and sheep rancher who settled in Kerr County in 1857. In the years following, Real served from time to time as the County Tax Assessor-Collector, as well as acting as the county's Cattle Inspector, and Sheep Inspector, and as a member of the County Commissioners Court.

#### County Treasurer

Prussian immigrant **Conrad Wehmeyer** served as Gillespie County Treasurer from 1858 until 1869. He was followed by **Bernard Meckel**, a native of the Duchy of Nassau. Meckel was treasurer only one year, 1869-1870. **Henry Evers** from the Duchy of Brunswick twice served as Gillespie County Treasurer. His first term was 1895-1902 and the second was 1908-1912. After Medina County was created in 1848, one of several offices held by **August Ferdinand Louis Huth** from 1848 to 1863 was County Treasurer. In the late nineteenth century, Kerr County entrepreneur, philanthropist and rancher **Charles Schreiner**, the descendent of Germans from Alsace, served as Kerr County Treasurer for thirty years.



Mayor

The first German mayor in Texas probably was **Nicholas Adolf Stern**, who was known as **Adolphus Stem**. He was the Mayor of Nacogdoches (and the town's Treasurer) from 1831 to 1833. **Gustav Hoffman** was the first elected Mayor at New Braunfels, serving only one year, 1847-1848. After the Civil War, **Hermann Seele** was New Braunfels' Mayor. Another post-war mayor was **Johann Jacob Groos**, a member of the New Braunfels City Council who served only six months in the mayor's position. **Wilhelm Carl August Thielepape** was the German-born mayor of San Antonio during the Reconstruction years from 1867 until 1872. In 1889, German-Texan **Fritz Lindenberg** was mayor of Hallettsville, the county seat of Lavaca County.

City Attorney

**Marcellus E. Kleberg**, moved from DeWitt County to Galveston in 1875 and later became Galveston's City Attorney. **Hermann Seele** of New Braunfels did not hold an official position, but in the 1850s Seele acted the role of city attorney when defending New Braunfels in litigation brought by the Veremendi heirs to recover ownership of their family's land on which the town was built in the 1840s.

City Council

**Johann Jacob Groos**, an early settler at New Braunfels, was elected to the New Braunfels City Council after the Civil War (and also served six months as mayor). Several Germans were members of San Antonio's City Council in the late 1800s. Following one term in the U.S. Congress, **Edward Degener** returned to San Antonio and from 1872 to 1878 was a member of its City Council. After retirement from business in the 1880s, German-born **Edward Steves** was elected to the Council, and during his long medical practice **Ferdinand Ludwig von Herff** also was on the Council. Another German who served on San Antonio's City Council was **Friedrich Groos**. After the Civil War, **Ernst von Rosenberg** was elected to one term on Austin's City Council. One of Houston's early German settlers, **John Daniel Usener**, was a member of that city's Council in 1874. **Marcellus E. Kleberg**, the son of immigrants, moved from DeWitt County to Galveston in 1875 and in the following years was elected to the City Council. German-born Dallas businessman **Alexander Sanger** was on his city's Council in the 1890s.

City Fire Chief

After the Civil War, **David Hirsch**, a German businessman, served as Chief of the Corpus Christi Fire Department. One of Houston's early German settlers, **John Daniel Usener**, was Houston's Fire Marshall in 1875.

City Health Officer

During his long career of fifty years as a physician and surgeon that began in 1850, German immigrant **Ferdinand Ludwig von Herff** was San Antonio's City Health Officer.

City Tax Assessor Collector

In the late nineteenth century, German immigrant **E.B.H. Schneider** was the Tax Assessor-Collector for the City of Houston.

School Board

A few of the many Germans who served on community school boards were **Friedrich Groos** at San Antonio, **Karl Wilhelm von Rosenberg**, who was elected to Austin's school board in 1880, and **E.B.H. Schneider** at Houston, who was a member of its school board at the time of his death in 1903. **David Hirsch** at Corpus Christi and **Marcellus E. Kleberg** at Galveston both served as president of their school boards.

Selected sources of information: Hugh Best, Debrett's Texas Peerage, 1981; Rudolph Leopold Biesele, The History of the German Settlements in Texas 1831-1861, 1930; Don H. Biggers, German Pioneers in Texas, 1925; Fredericksburg Publishing Company, Fredericksburg, Texas. The First Fifty Years, 1971; Gillespie County Historical Society, Pioneers in God's Hills, 1960 and 1974; Otilie Fuchs Goeth, Memoirs of a Texas Pioneer Grandmother (Was Grossmutter Erzaehlt), Trans. Irma Goeth Guenther, 1982; Texas State Historical Association, Handbook of Texas, 3 vols., 2001; Bill Harvey, Texas Cemeteries, 2003; Allan O. Kownslar, The European Texans, 2004; Tom Lea, The King Ranch, 1957; Lee County Historical Survey Committee, History of Lee County, Texas, 1974; G]en Lich, The German Texans, 1981 and 1996; Anna Pennypacker, Texas History Revised, 1907; Rodman L. Underwood, Death on the Nueces, German Texans True der Union, 2000; W.M. von Maszewski, Ed., Handbook and Registry of German-Texan Heritage, 1989



## Recycled parts breathe new life into vintage church organ

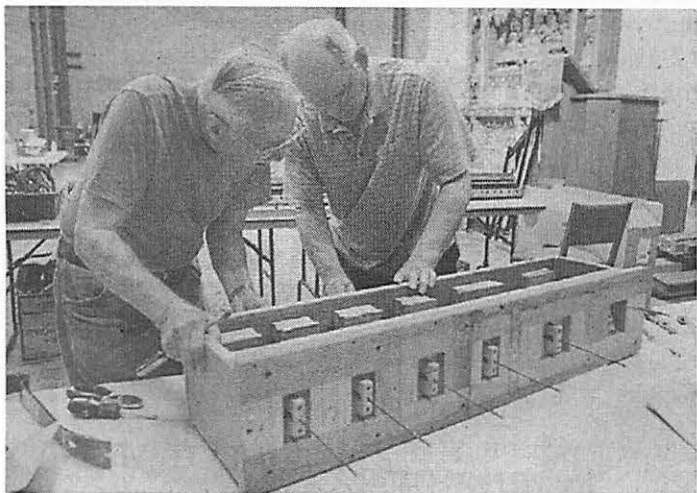


Photo by Jay Janner, *American-Statesman*

Charles Bergstrom, left, and Alfred Holck (a GTHS member), members of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, helped last week on a project to rebuild and add to the church's 1930 pipe organ.

During the week, St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church, near the University of Texas campus, is usually still and cool inside, with its undulated walls and softly lighted stained glass windows. But last week organ pieces lay scattered around the intricately designed woodwork on the altar, and the buzz of handheld drills filled the air while church members worked toward refurbishing the centerpiece of their worship services.

If there has been any upside to the closing of churches around the country, it has been that old organs—instruments central to church music across denominations—sometimes find new life. At St. Martin's, on 15th Street, the head of the church's music program, Thomas Pavlechko, has spent two years restoring the 1930s pipe organ. He has acquired two other organs that have helped expand the range and versatility of the first organ and collected pieces from other organs, that he hopes to incorporate into an organ ensemble that can create the beauty of the Gospel in surround sound.

With professional guidance from Victor Marsilio, who runs the Ohio-based Victor Organ Co., Pavlechko and about 40 of the church's more than 1,500 members have been cleaning organ pipes with Pine Sol; dismantling wind-



Jay Janner photos

### Parishioners help rehab, expand instrument at St. Martin's

By Joshunda Sanders  
*American-Statesman*, July 26, 2010

pipes stand) and categorizing parts from three organs, all of which need restoration. At the same time, they're learning more about how the music they love is created.

Originally, the church organ's sound was confined to the back of the church. When Pavlechko played the Visser Rowland, a three keyboard organ built in 1982 that has more than 1,700 pipes, he realized that it was suitable for church music from Bach's era but not for music from the 19th century and beyond. To add more ranks or sets of pipes, in 1999 Pavlechko purchased a used Kilgen organ, an electropneumatic organ that can add a larger array of voices to existing organs. That organ was used to better accompany the choir and soloists from the back of the church.

His goal was to increase the range of the 'Original' organ even more by eventually adding yet another organ.

Then he left the church for six years to work in Memphis. When he returned in 2006, Pavlechko said church members kept asking when he was going to complete his vision. So the following year he found another Kilgen organ on eBay. He plans to use it to add sound to the front of the church.

His way of collecting organ parts has saved tens of thousands of dollars, Marsilio said. New organs are typically \$15,000 per rank, and the larger organs have about 100 ranks, which would run \$1.5 million, Pavlechko said.

"What makes this project unique is that the congregation has not only shown its support in terms of money,



Charles Oertli, left, and Jo Oliver remove salvageable pieces from otherwise unusable parts.



but they've been able to save 75 percent of what it would cost for a new organ," Marsilio said. And, he said, they've been able to recycle parts of organs from churches that have folded.



Victor Marsilio looks through various organ pieces at St. Martin's. "Giving them new life and combining them into one instrument is a wonderful testament," he said.

"I'm not good at the keyboard," said John Sommer, 77, a member of the choir who was working on organ parts with his wife, Bess, on Wednesday morning. "But I love to listen to the music." He was one of the volunteers who have helped Pavlechko fetch organ parts from such places as St. Louis and West, north of Waco.

In tough economic times saving money has been a god send for the church which hosts well-known choirs like the Minnesota-based St. Olaf Choir and Conspirare, an Austin-based Grammy-nominated choral ensemble. And as Jo Oliver, a member of St. Martin's Symphonic Winds Ensemble (she plays the French horn) puts it, "How many people get to say they helped build an organ?"

Probably not that many. Pavlechko hopes the project will be completed within the year.

People in those churches made an investment in these organs," Marsilio said. "Giving them new life and combining them into one instrument is a wonderful testament."

Submitted by Jean Warneke, Austin

## 2010 Lone Star Land Steward Awards Winners Announced

AUSTIN — When Mother Nature shines as she's done this spring, it makes anyone with a plot of dirt look good. But, it's those times when the rains don't come and the heat turns most of Texas brown and crunchy that a landowner's mettle is put to the test. Those who can keep habitat conditions going in tough times as well as good are true conservation heroes.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Lone Star Land Steward Awards program recognizes those private landowners for excellence in habitat management and wildlife conservation on their lands. The awards also seek to publicize the best examples of sound natural resource management practices and promote long-term conservation of unique natural and cultural resources. This year's crop of award winners represents broad and sometimes unique conservation goals, from traditional wildlife management alongside livestock operations to conservation missionaries who've taken to the Internet to share their gospel.

The Lone Star Land Steward Awards are sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, H. Yturria Land and Cattle, Texas Wildlife Association, U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service, Lower Colorado River Authority, Texas Farm Bureau, Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, Texas Agricultural Land Trust and Llano Springs Ranch, Ltd. This year's ecoregion winners characterize the unique cultural and natural heritage of Texas. Landowners restoring degraded habitats while conserving flora and fauna are a common thread. Following are summaries of stewardship highlights for each of the ecoregion and category recipients.

### **Blackland Prairie — Quebe Farm, Brenham, Washington County; Charlotte von Rosenberg, Owner/Operator**

Quebe Farm in Washington County has been owned by the same family for 122 years. Practices such as rotational grazing, prescribed burning, selective removal of invasive species are used to restore and maintain diverse native blackland prairie for a variety of grassland species. A 12-acre prairie remnant on the property that has never been plowed serves as one of the most diverse examples of native blackland prairie in the county. Charlotte von Rosenberg has hosted many educational programs for Texas AgriLife Extension, Texas A&M University, local Master Naturalists, Native Plant Society, Texas Wildlife Association and others. In 2007, she opened a bed and breakfast on the farm to share her dedication and love of the prairie with photographers and nature enthusiasts.

Submitted by Jean Warneke, Austin



## Swiss Immigrant Welcomed by Germans

By **CONNIE F. SNEED**

*Fayette County Historical Commission*

*Fayette County Record, April 30, 2010*

Bernard Scherrer was one of the first three settlers in the Biegel Settlement, the second oldest German settlement in Texas, which was located in Fayette County. He was born in St. Gallen, Switzerland, on Aug. 20,

**Footprints** 1807. He was educated there but left at the age of 22 and moved to America, arriving in New York. He then went to St. Louis and down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. There he joined Detlef Dunt, a German traveler and writer, and sailed to Texas. Arriving in Brazoria, Scherrer received a passport from the Mexican alcalde, Henry Smith, on April 29, 1833.

From Brazoria he traveled on foot to San Felipe, where he applied for a headright and rejoined Dunt. From there, they traveled to Mill Creek, later called Industry.

Mr. Scherrer stayed for a while with Johann Friedrich Ernst, and while there he taught Ernst how to roll cigars, since tobacco was a major crop. Ernst then began a cigar business.

Scherrer received a headright Certificate Number 27 in Colorado County for one-third league of land. Joseph Biegel had received a land grant from the Mexican government and persuaded Scherrer to buy one-quarter of a league of land from him and settle in what was later called Biegel Settlement.

Since neither Biegel nor his wife could read or write, Scherrer was an asset to them and the community. He owned a freighting business and was a successful farmer and a leading citizen. During the Texas Revolution Scherrer served as a soldier in the John

York Company of Edward Burleson's Regiment. Also, he served in the volunteer unit of the "Dixie Greys" during the Civil War. It was organized on June 8, 1861.

After the republic was formed, Scherrer was appointed justice of the peace of Precinct 3 in Fayette County by President Sam Houston. Also, he served as county commissioner in charge of roads and bridges from Biegel to Rutersville along the La Bahia Road. He was appointed commissioner in 1842 and 1847.

On Feb. 3, 1845, Bernard Scherrer and Gesine Eliza Margarete Koch were united in marriage at Industry by his good friend Friedrich Ernst. They had seven children. Bernard Scherrer lived on his farm in the Biegel Settlement until his death on Nov. 15, 1892.

All that remained of the Scherrer estate in 1990 was a little log cabin in Henkel Square in Round Top. The cabin was his first home in Texas. It bears a historical marker erected in 1992 with the following text:

### **BERNARD SCHERRER (1807 -1892)**

**Bernard Scherrer left his native Switzerland at the age of 22 for extended travels before reaching Texas in 1833. After serving in Burleson's regiment during the Texas Revolution, he received a land grant in Colorado County but settled in Biegel settlement (Fayette County) about 1838. Here he served as justice of the peace; county commissioner, and in 1845 he married Gesine Eliza Margarete Koch. He left his civic, farming and freighting duties to serve in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. This cabin, Scherrer's first residence in Texas, was moved to this location in 1975.**

**The land he owned is now covered by the waters of the Fayette Power Plant.**

*Sources: An Early History of Fayette County; La Grange Journal; Google Books*

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

## 57th Guettler Reunion Held, Cordes Celebrates Birthday

The summer months are the times for family reunions to be held in Fayette County. The 57th annual Guettler reunion was held June 13 at the American Legion Hall in Round Top. Thirty descendants of Henry Guettler and Anna Peschel Guettler met for barbecue lunch and heard a lot of discussion of family history and the occupations of those who had come before them.

Henry Guettler came from Province Silesia in Germany where he was a blacksmith at Konigsdorf. Later he served as a factory engineer. He came to America in March, 1880. He worked at a gin at Walhalla. Grandma Anna (Peschel) Guettler and four children (Gus, Martha, Emelia, and Ida) came later in October of the same year. They spent six weeks on a stormy sea. They lost a one and one-half year old son on the ship. The family started farming near Walhalla. Later they moved to Nassau in Fayette County.

Three more children were born in Texas: Henry, Anna, and Arthur.

Grandpa Guettler died in November, 1893. Grandma Guettler died in March, 1916. They were buried in the Shelby Cemetery. Descendants of Martha, Amelia, Anna, and Arthur attended this reunion. Bill Cordes, descendant of Martha, celebrated his 90th birthday during the reunion. Family members voted to meet again next year.

*The Fayette County Record, June 16, 2010.*



Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston



## “AUNT” CORA CLINGER

Texas School for the Deaf  
Austin, Travis Co., TX.  
1890-1979

By  
Charles E. Clinger

Certainly there has never been a person loved by so many in the deaf community across the state of Texas as Miss Cora Clinger, whom practically every one of all ages affectionately called “Aunt Cora.” During every homecoming or any major activity at TSD, alumni flocked around her just to greet her or engage in lively chats for the sake of “the good old days.” As soon as people spotted her on campus, they almost always made beelines toward her while excitedly signing “Aunt!” written by Jerry Hassell in “Profile of a Successful Alumna: Aunt Cora Clinger,” *Lone Star*, Spring, 2002.

### **CORA CLINGER - Oldest child, ranch hand, student, basketball player, school leader, resident educator, supervisor, hall of fame (education), gym named after her, volunteer & retirement.**

Cora Clinger was born 17 July 1890 on her parents’ ranch near Lone Grove, Llano Co., TX. close to Wright Creek. She was the oldest of 12 children of Victoria Holden and George Henry Clinger (7 girls and 5 boys). Her mother was a daughter of Nancy Powell and Andrew Jackson Holden, pioneers of Llano Co. Cora’s father, born 26 Feb 1864 possibly in Travis Co., TX., left his father and siblings in Travis Co. and traveled by horseback to Llano Co. at the age of 17 in 1881. In the spring of 1888 he traveled with a trail boss herding cattle to Wyoming. Possibly he was following his older brother, Charles Edgar Clinger, who had been on previous cattle drives to Kansas, Wyoming and other states. On 1 Sep 1889 Victoria and George were married at the home of Victoria’s parents.

Cora had a considerable German heritage from her parents and paternal grandfather, Georg Henrich K//Clinger. Georg Henrich was born at 1:00 a.m. on 1 April 1818 in Steinau, Odenwald, Hessen, Germany, according to church records at Grob-Bieberau, Hesse, Germany. Georg’s grandparents built “Obere Muhle” in Steinau in 1782. The Upper Mill was an oil and grain mill. Today it is not operating but is maintained by Gerald Klinger of Steinau. In 1830 Georg along with his parents and only surviving sibling (younger brother named Johann Leonard) left Germany for USA, PA. Georg had 7 siblings, of which 6 died before reaching the age of 2.



Marsha (left) and Brian standing in the market place in Benheim, near Steinau. A lot of Klingers live all around the area.

After living in Paris, Edgar Co., IL. for nearly 10 years, Georg came to TX in 1852 and eventually settled in the rural areas of Bexar, Travis and Llano Cos., TX. Georg’s parents and brother remained in Paris, Edgar Co. IL. and are buried in Edgar Cem. in Paris.

At the age of 18 months Cora could not hear the ranch bell calling all for their meals. After medical examinations it was determined Cora was totally deaf and could not speak. The cause was probably fever. On 25 Oct 1899 (at the age of 9) the family drove Cora to Austin, Travis Co., TX. and entered her into the Texas School for the Deaf. Here Cora began a life full of adventures, learning, teaching, sharing, and inspiring to all. It must have been very hard on her to leave home, family, friends, and pets.

But, she set her sights on goals to enhance her life and the lives of others. On 1 Nov. 1899 the pupil enrollment was 285. At that time uniforms were approved by the Board of Trustees. Large girls’ uniforms included a navy blue college cap, trimmed with white braid, the same as the dress. The dress had three strips each across the neck, chest, waist and skirt.

Cora was on the school’s first girls’ basketball team in 1905. She was also on the 1906, 1908 and 1911-12 basketball teams. It is reported the score of one game in 1906 was 8 to 5. TSD lost that game. Also, they lost another



Helga and Marsha standing next to a mill wheel at the entrance of the Klinger “Obere Muhle”.





game by the score of 11 to 8. The 1908 team taught the TSD's first boys' basketball team the rules and techniques of the game.

**Name Sign.** Sports was the reason why her name sign was unusual. Her name sign was a T tapping on chest even though her first and last name had a C, not a T. Involved in basketball, gymnastics, hiking, biking etc., she always wore a sweater shirt with a large T in the front representing TSD.

The Christian Endeavor Society was formed at TSD by Superintendent J. H. Williams and his wife, Bernice



Taylor, on 1 Nov. 1908. Cora was the first Secretary and in her senior year was its President.

Cora and 7 classmates graduated on 12 May 1913. That fall she was hired as assistant supervisor for the older girls, mostly deaf and blind. For 40 years she held many positions at TSD, influencing over 5,000 pupils. Through her counseling and advise that was based on common sense and genuine love, she was a friend and "Aunt" Cora to all. She said she preferred to work with the boys, as the girls were always gossiping.

In 1953 she retired but continued to serve as a volunteer in several capacities. The longest was at the Center for the Deaf at Austin State Hospital. A plaque was presented to her for her 5,000 hours of service. Cora also served as a houseparent at the Arizona School for the Deaf for one year. She traded places with an employee at the Arizona school so that employee could return to Austin to care for her elderly mother. When Cora found money on the ground, she would give it to the TSD's Children's Fund.

She also found time to actively participate in the Austin Silent Ladies' Aid Society, the Les Sourdes Study Club, The Texas Association of the Deaf and the National Association of the Deaf in which she was the first person of Texas to become a life member in 1922. Cora was a member of the deaf congregation at both the Church of Christ and the Congress Avenue Baptist Church in Austin.

Cora continued to live at her Austin home, until she had to move to a nursing home, where she remained until her death. Succumbing to 16 long years of coronary artery disease, Cora died on 8 June 1979 in Austin, TX. She is buried in Board Branch Cemetery, Llano Co., TX.

Cora was an advocate and member of the Deaf Club of Austin. In 1977 she was asked to break ground for a new clubhouse with the club president. Cora was honored posthumously by the Austin Deaf Club for her service to TSD and the community. A picture of her hangs prominently in the club's meeting room. In 1983, TSD renamed the gymnasium built in 1928 "Cora Clinger Recreational Center" in her honor. Every afternoon after school she brought her pupils to the football field near the gym to engage in activities. During rainy days she would bring the pupils into the gym where they could continue their various activities.

In 2002 Cora was inducted into the TSDAA Hall of Fame, Education.



## References:

Photos of TSD - Texas School for the Deaf Museum and Archives.

Photos of Germany - Helga Scheichenost of Lautertal, Hessen, Germany  
Brian E. Clinger & Marsha Clinger Roose of Austin,  
Travis Co., TX.

Text - Sharon Kay Crawford Forestal Hovinga, Ed. S., Texas School for the Deaf (ret)

- Franna Camelish - Texas School for the Deaf Museum and Archives.(ret)

- Genealogy files of Charles E. Clinger, Austin, Travis Co., TX.

Web Site - Elise and Jim Eaves - [www.eaves-klinger-genealogy.info](http://www.eaves-klinger-genealogy.info) ( over 80,000 names).

Submitted by Charles Clinger, Austin



# Gresser Family Cemetery Historical Marker Dedication

*The Fayette County Reporter*, April 30, 2010

Eighty plus descendants of Christian Heinrich (Henry) and Johanna von Roeder Gresser and Sigismund and Albertine Friske von Roeder gathered at the Gresser Family Cemetery three miles east of Fayetteville on Saturday, April 17, to dedicate a Texas State Historical Marker commemorating the 120-year-old family plot.

Following an invocation by Jesse Bruton, III, of Abilene, Fayette County Historical Commission Chairperson Linda Dennis, Certification and Historical Marker Acquisition Committee Chairperson, Dick Berry, Flora von Roeder of Houston, Marjorie Bruton Smith, and Donald Gresser of Austin presented a short program.

Dennis stressed the importance of saving family cemeteries from the bulldozer by the certification and marker acquisition process. She also described the work of the commission in saving other historical sites.

Berry gave an overall view of the complications of and bureaucracy entailed by dealing with the Texas State Historical Commission and the County Historical Commission's role in serving as a facilitator. Flora von Roeder gave a brief history of the cemetery, while Dresser and Smith unveiled the marker itself.

This was followed by some great family anecdotes related to the family by the 86 year-old Gresser who had four generations present including himself.

Following tours of the burial spot and the original house on the property, a Texas barbecue, compliments of Marjorie Smith and her family, was enjoyed. One Gresser descendant drove from Mississippi to Comfort to bring her 92-year old grandmother. A von Roeder descendant drove from New Orleans.

Among others present were descendants from Fredericksburg, San Antonio, Yorktown, Dayton, Crosby, Highlands, Austin, Columbus, New

Ulm, Brenham, Edinburg, Abilene, Bellville, and Houston.

Henry Gresser left Prussia in the early 1860's, planning to come to the United States, but the country was being tom apart by the Civil War, so he landed in Vera Cruz, Mexico. Being an entrepreneur, he acquired a fleet of boats and developed a successful shipping business.

But during one of Mexico's many revolutions, Gresser was chased out of the country and fled to the Rio Grande.

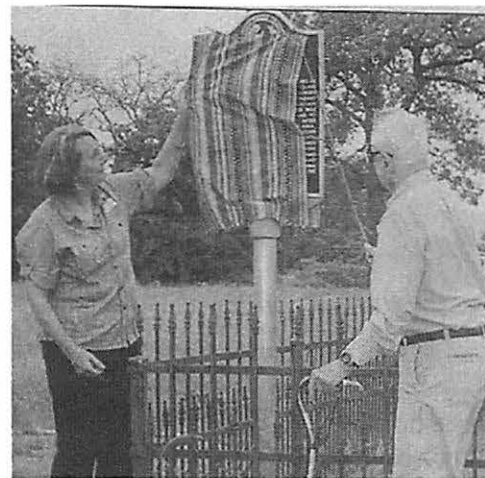
He traveled north and arrived in DeWitt County where he became acquainted with and married Caroline von Roeder. His wife was a daughter of Albrecht von Roeder, a founder of Cat Spring, and Caroline Ernst von Roeder, daughter of Friedrich Ernst and founder of Industry, the oldest German settlement in Texas.

The couple moved to Galveston where Gresser developed a street car line, a cotton brokerage business on the Strand, a livery stable, and a funeral parlor. They had five children; she died giving birth to a sixth. He married Caroline's youngest sister Johanna.

Gresser knew he was losing his eyesight and felt the city was not good for his children so he asked for a loan from his family in Prussia with which to purchase a farm.

In 1888, Johanna and Henry bought 272 acres three miles east of Fayetteville. Less than three years later the couple lost their two young sons in June 1890. Henry set aside .04 acre for a cemetery in which his two young sons were interred.

In 1915 Gresser died and in 1919 Johanna died. Both were interred in the family cemetery. The land was not occupied and became for lease. Johanna's brother, Sigismund von Roeder, had suffered a financial setback



**The historical marker is unveiled by Margorie Bruton, owner of the property on which the cemetery is located, and her uncle Donald Gresser of Austin assists her with the unveiling.**

during World War I and had lost his farm in Caldwell County. He was looking for a farm to lease, thus the von Roeder family became residents of Fayette County for many years.

von Roeder died in 1929 and was buried in the Gresser Cemetery. A son by Henry's first marriage was buried there 20 years later. Randolph Gresser was the only member of the first family to live on the farm the greater part of his life, but all of the second family of Henry Gresser were born and raised there.

In 1951, Albertine Friske von Roeder was buried beside her husband, Sigismund. Nine of her 14 grandchildren were present at the dedication.

In 1959, Henry's and Johanna's middle son, Arnold Gresser, a World War I veteran, was buried in the family ground. In 1968, the von Roeders' son, Emil, was buried there. In 1979, William was interred there.

From 1979 to 2006, the Gresser Family Cemetery saw no burials. Henry's and Johanna's youngest child, Herman Gresser, had acquired the full farm from his siblings and divided it among his children. His older daughter, Eleanor, and her husband, Lt. Col. Jesse Bruton Jr., built a new home on their portion and retired there. They died in 2006 and 2007 respectively and both were buried (cont.)



(Gresser Family cont.)

in the cemetery.

The Brutons' oldest daughter, Marjorie Smith, took a great interest in the farm and cemetery many years before her parent's deaths and completely revived the family burial ground

She installed a new fence, placed a bench inside, and planted shrubs and flowers. The stones that had leaned from sinking ground were straightened and cleaned. The space has taken on a small park like atmosphere in the middle of a pasture.

Flora von Roeder, family historian, German-Texan cultural advocate, and granddaughter of Sigismund and Albertine von Roeder requested permission to apply for and acquire a Texas State Historical Marker for the park.

Submitted by Rodney  
Koenig, Houston

#### A POEM

A clothesline was a news forecast  
To neighbors passing by.  
There were no secrets you could keep when clothes were hung to dry.  
It also was a friendly link for neighbors always knew  
If company had stopped on by to spend a night or two  
For then you'd see the "fancy sheets" and towels upon the line;  
You'd see the "company table cloths" with intricate designs.  
The line announced a baby's birth from folks who lived inside  
As brand new infant clothes were hung, so carefully with pride!  
The ages of the children could so readily be known  
By watching how the sizes changed, you'd know how much they'd grown.  
As extra sheets were hung,  
It also told when illness struck.

Then nightclothes, and a bathrobe, too  
Haphazardly were strung.  
It also said, "Gone on vacation now" when lines hung limp and bare.  
It told, "We're back!" when full lines sagged with not an inch to spare!  
New folks in town were scorned upon if wash was dingy and gray,  
As neighbors carefully raised their brows,  
And looked the other way.  
But clotheslines now are of the past,  
For dryers make work much less.  
Now what goes on inside a home  
Is anybody's guess!  
I really miss that way of life, it was a friendly sign.  
When neighbors knew each other best.  
By what hung on the line!

*Editor's Note: Probably not a strict German tradition, but one I know many of us can relate to. Ahh, those frozen diapers!!!!*

## Kroll Pickle Factory

A reprint of an article submitted by Rodney Koenig in 2002 that leads into the family story next page.

The Kroll Pickle Factory was located in the once lively community of Biegel. Biegel was located eight miles east of LaGrange between LaGrange and Fayetteville. Helmuth Kroll and his wife, Bertha van Els, and their two children, Theodore and Annie, immigrated to America from Germany in 1850. Helmuth purchased 27 acres of land, with cabin, in 1861.

The cabin was built of sturdy logs from the surrounding area which were laid horizontally, filled at the corners, and plastered with mud and moss. The whole construction was fifteen feet wide by sixteen feet long and had some open windows. It had a smooth earthen floor.

It was described as a double log cabin with gallery, passageway and over story.

After Helmuth's death in 1883, his son, Theodore Kroll took over the business. Theodore Kroll was married to Julia Meyer and they along with their children ran the family business. Theodore, his son, and one or two field workers carefully planted the first crop of cucumbers in three acres of sandy fields not far from the factory.

During the spring and summer Theodore paid workers, usually young teenagers, to keep the field free from weeds. When it was time for the cucumbers to be picked, Theodore again paid work-

ers- men, women, children, black or white, one cent per pound. The cucumbers had to be brought to the factory where they were cleaned and pickled.

As the cucumbers were brought to the cabin, Emma, Julie, Louise and Annie Kroll, daughters of Theodore Kroll, carefully washed the cucumbers in large tubs outside the factory. The daughters would tightly pack the cucumbers in 30 gallon barrels, while Theodore combined vinegar, salt and water, which was boiled in an outdoor kettle. After he let it cool, he poured the salt brine in the barrel of cucumbers, and then let it stand. Because the salt brine caused the pickles and liquid to



foam from the bung of the barrel, he had to keep adding more water each and every day. Sometimes he added onions or garlic, depending on what kind of pickles he desired. When the pickling process was complete he opened the barrel, took the pickles out, and packed them into narrow, yellow, five gallon jars or

crocks to be sold for five dollars each to country and town stores, feasts and individuals.

The closing of the factory around 1916 was a very sad occasion for many people who enjoyed Mr. Kroll's delicious pickles. All of Mr. Kroll's children now had their own occupations so they no

longer wanted to take over the trade. Although he hated to give up his thriving business, he had to because of his failing eyesight. Theodore Kroll and his wife are buried in the LaGrange City Cemetery.

*By Sherie Knape, Fayette County Record*

## Helmuth Conrad Kroll 1813-1883. Dates taken from tombstone.

Immigration date is unknown but should be mid 1840's. This date is based on the fact that his son, Theo, was born in Prussia in 1844 per 1870 census. In 1850 Kroll was operating a two man cabinet shop in Galveston. Kroll's shop was considered the second largest producer of furniture in Texas at that time. Sometime about 1855 Kroll moved his operation to Chappell Hill where he was in business until 1861 when he sold it to Charles Niederauer and moved to Fayette County. This information is from the book, "Texas Furniture".

*KROLL, HELMUT CONRAD. MCR 1850; age 37; b. Germany; cabinetmaker; Galveston, Galveston County. In 1850, Kroll was operating a two-man cabinet shop in Galveston which used 40,000 feet of plank valued at \$1,200 to produce \$3,000 worth of furniture, making him the second-largest producer of furniture in Texas in that year. By 1858 he was working in Chappell Hill, and on December 6 of that year he bought "5 setts castors and 2 gross screws" from Hiram Thompson and Sons, Chappell Hill merchants (Thompson, Hiram, and Sons, Business Ledger, Winfield Collection, Chappell Hill). On January 1, 1861, he sold his "upholster and cabinet Shop in the town of Chappell Hill with all tools and machinery incident thereto with the exception of the shop [building] and the land on which it stands with three mules, one hearse, one horse, wagon" to Charles Niederauer, another cabinetmaker (Washington County Deed Records, book S, p. 199). Eight days later he purchased a lot on the east side of Main Street from R. T. Swearingen, who sold it for "certain work executed for me by H. Kroll" (ibid., p. 200). In May, 1861, Kroll sold another lot in Chappell Hill to Niederauer (ibid., p. 201). By December 18, 1865, when he recorded another deed in Washington County, Kroll gave his residence as being in Fayette County (ibid., book V, p. 52).*

### Marriages of Helmuth Kroll:

1. Kroll was married in Prussia where Theo was born in 1844. No name or what happened to her was found.
2. Kroll married Augusta Louise Rutzbach in Galveston on March 17, 1852. Date and cause of death is unknown. From FamilySearch.com
3. Kroll married Bertha van Els in Chappell Hill on October 10, 1856. From FamilySearch.com

### Bertha van Els

This name is often incorrectly listed as von Els. "von" is a German title for the nobility, however "van" is of Dutch heritage.

Bertha was the older daughter of Peter Hubert Joseph van Els 1788-1840 and Anna Maira Hagg 1786-1866. She was born March 27, 1812 in the city of Dusseldorf and given the name of Clara Bertha.

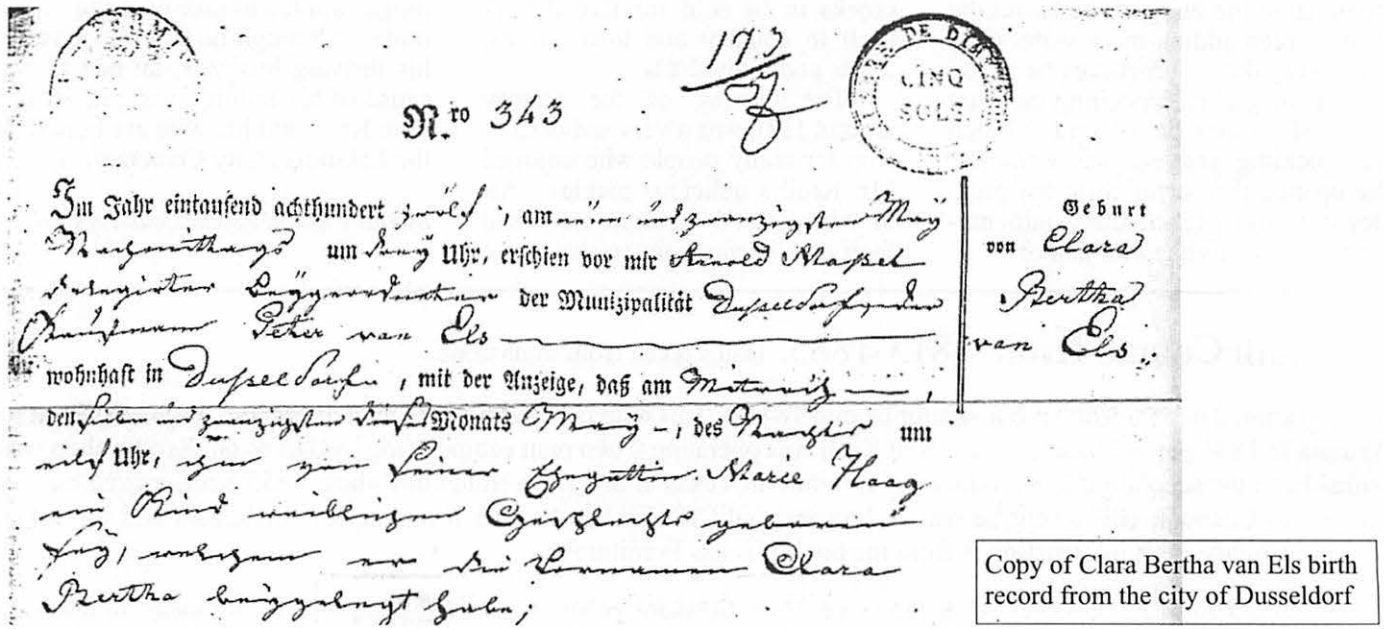
Peter van Els  
Catholic



Anne Marie Haag  
Lutheran







Bertha van Els immigrated in 1853 arriving in Galveston in November on board the Brig Neptune with her niece, Augusta Fuchs. Bertha's sister Julia van Els Fuchs had immigrated in 1849 with her husband, Jacob Karl Fuchs and her two young sons Carl and Emil and was living in Austin County. When they left Germany their young daughter Augusta was ill and not able to travel with them so she was left in Bertha's care. One of the travelers in 1853 was Christine Haun who recorded the account of her travel to Texas and it was published in the German Texan Heritage Society Newsletter, Spring 1983 edition which describes her impression of Bertha and Augusta.



Helmuth and Bertha Kroll



Julia van Els Fuch and her Granddaughter Ella Fuchs

When Helmuth and Bertha relocated to Fayette County, her sister Julia Fuchs and family soon followed and lived in the Rutersville and Round Top area and married into the local families. Carl Fuchs married Clara Hoppe Wolle, Augusta Fuchs married Henry Winnisdoefer and Anna Fuchs married Adolph Helmuth. It is possible that Julia and Bertha had a sister named Emile who also immigrated to Texas but I have been unable to confirm this. Helmuth is known from his pickle factory and store which he established in the Biegel community. If anyone has additional information on these families I would appreciate hearing from you.

Hermann Schlortt 3655 CR 142 Floresville, Texas 78114 830-393-6042 hschlortt@ssi-group.net



## Schlortt – McDonald Reunion was held April 18, 2010 at Harwood, Texas

51 decedents of Robert A. & Nannie Rose (Miller) McDonald and August & Anna (Ahrens) Schlortt met for the 41<sup>st</sup> annual reunion.



Robert & Rose McDonald

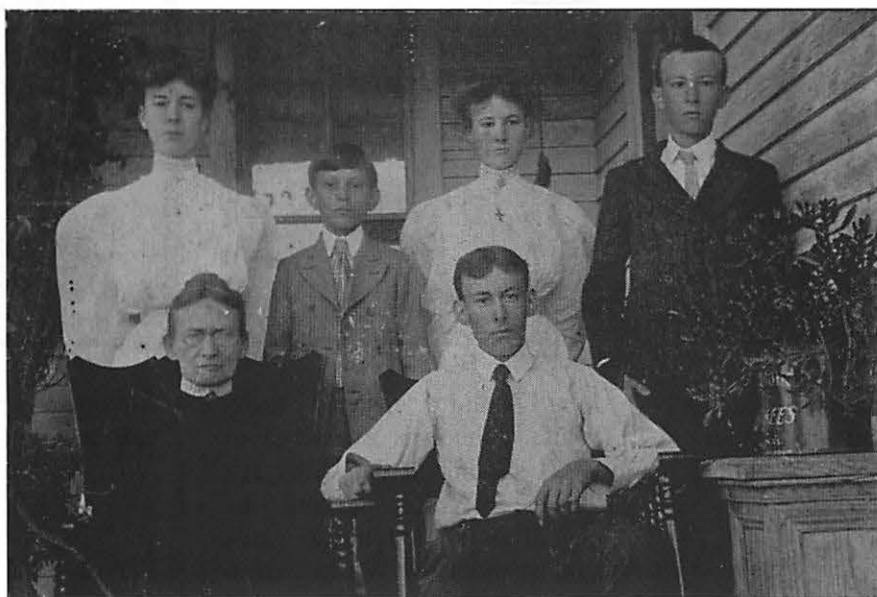


Henry and Henrietta Ahrens



August Schlortt 1858-1901

The McDonald family tree can be traced back to the 1700's in Pennsylvania through St Louis to Texas; however the Schlortt family is more difficult to trace. August Schlortt was from Sehld, Germany and immigrated to America about 1880 and became a naturalized citizen in 1886. He first settled in Macoupin County Illinois where his mother's relatives had settled. In 1883 he married Anna Ahrens, the daughter of Henry and Henrietta Ahrens. To this union 5 children were born. Sometime between 1895 and 1900 the family moved the Galveston County where August was engaged in farming and the nursery business supplying landscape plants to buildings in the city of Galveston. On September 8 1900 August was working at one of the hotels in downtown Galveston. As the weather worsened he decided it was time to leave the island and was one of the last wagons to cross the bridge to the mainland. Back at home in Dickinson, Galveston County, as the storm surge continued to raise the flood levels, August and his family were forced to the upstairs rooms of the house. When the water was entering the upstairs windows the family was forced to stand on the furniture with August having to hold the two smallest children to keep them above water. Having lost everything in the storm they moved to Navasota where August died February 2, 1901 having never recovered from the strain of saving his family in Galveston. Anna lived in Navasota and raised her family there.



The Schlortt family about 1905 at Navasota, Texas  
Back: Hulda, Johnny, Minnie & Henry. Front: Anna & J.W.



J.W. Schlortt married Susie Rebecca McDonald, my grandparents. They raised four children in Upton, Texas where he farmed and did carpenter work.



Hulda Schlortt married Antone Pasler. Antone was born aboard ship while his parents were immigrating to America. He operated a tailor shop in Navasota.



Minnie Schlortt married Max Meyer from Bryan. He operated a bakery shop in Navasota where they raised one daughter.



Henry Schlortt married Aline Rolland. Henry and his brother John operated a bicycle shop/service station in Navasota.



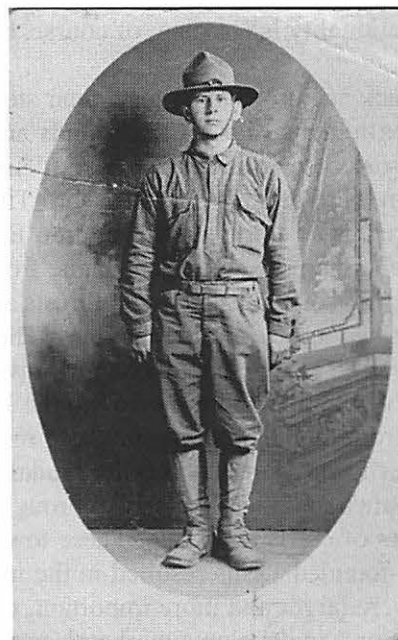
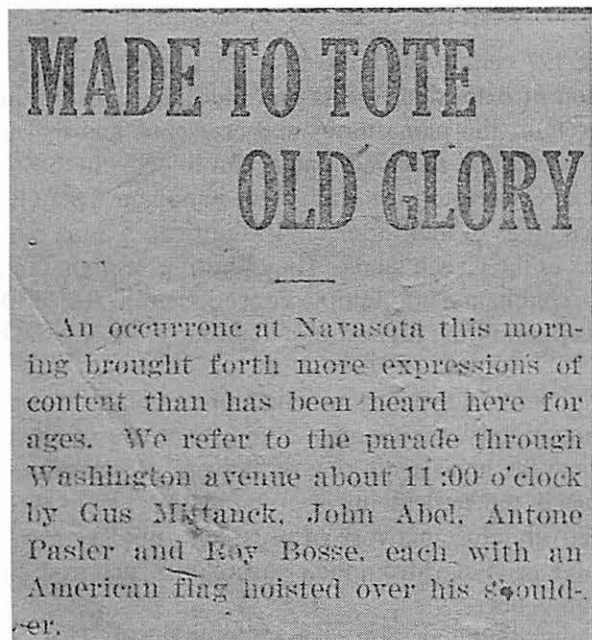
John Schlortt, married Ruby White. John was a veteran of WWI serving in the Army Air Service. While serving he played in an exhibition game against the 1918 World Champion Chicago White Sox



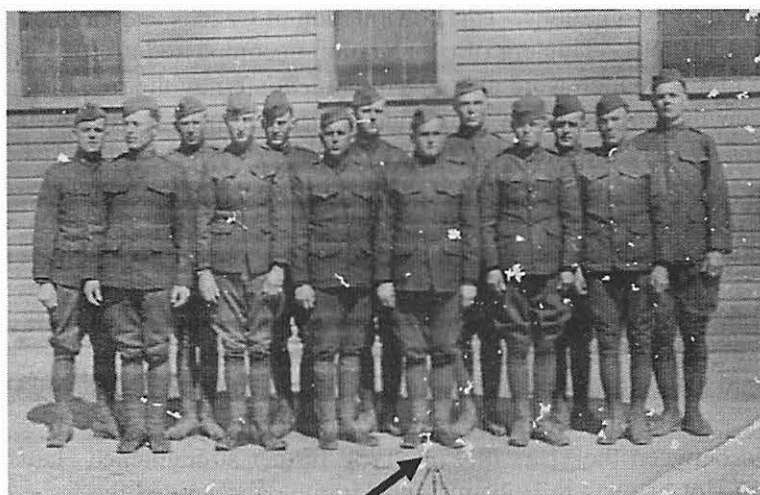
Advertisement July 1930 Navasota newspaper.



World War I presented numerous hardships on the German citizens of Navasota, Texas. As described in the November 1918 newspaper below, Antone Pasler and several other German citizens were forced to demonstrate their loyalty to the United States by carrying the American Flag down Main Street of Navasota while reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. This happened while his wife's brother was serving as a pilot in the Army Air Service and a brother-in-law was serving in the American Expeditionary Force in France.



John Schlortt 1918



Thomas Milton McDonald, Pvt., Battery C, 133 Field Artillery, American Expeditionary Force somewhere in France

Submitted by Hermann Schlortt, Floresville

## THE ORIGINS OF THE GERMAN MORAVIANS OF HIGH HILL, TEXAS

by Carolyn Heinsohn

The history of the German Moravians who settled in the High Hill area of Fayette County is somewhat complicated, thus causing some confusion for their descendants, who may be attempting to research and document their origins. Their nationality is German, of course, but after acknowledging that fact, their history becomes somewhat convoluted.

Looking back at European history, their story begins in the 12<sup>th</sup> century with the systematic colonization of previously unsettled regions of the Czech lands and the conversion of extensive forests and moorlands into arable land with the pressure of necessity and the initiative of the sovereigns, the monasteries and convents, and the nobility, many of whom were of Germanic descent. This process of colonization received a powerful impetus in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, when streams of colonists flowed into Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia and the Hungarian Kingdom from Germanic regions. The German colonists, who came from overpopulated areas of their homeland, significantly took part in the settlement of thick, difficult-to-access forests along the borders of the Czech lands. They likewise brought along with them more refined agricultural techniques. The residences of inhabitants, at one time concentrated in the fertile lowlands, now covered all of Bohemia and Moravia, with the exception of the highest mountain ranges along the border, which were not colonized until the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Colonists from the German regions also relied on a more advanced legal system which precisely defined the relations between the serf farmers and the feudal lords. Most importantly, the German colonists, many of whom were artisans, craftsmen and merchants, also brought along with them the legal institution of "towns", which subsequently became centers of crafts and trade. These towns rose up either in the settlements at prominent castles or were completely newly-founded. This resulted in the increase of a relatively close network of royal and tributary towns. The royal towns were larger and more important, receiving exclusive privileges from their sovereigns, such as the right to build fortifications, to develop a marketplace and the right to brew beer.

The German colonization also pervasively changed the national composition of the Czech lands. The originally integrated, Czech-speaking ethnicity ceased to be the exclusive population of the Bohemian-Moravian area. The German element's share significantly increased, and the Kingdom of Bohemia and the Moravian Margraviate became a confederation of states inhabited by two nations. This cohabitation of Czechs and Germans existed for seven generations until 1946 after the end of WWII. This era of cohabitation encompassed a broad range from peaceful coexistence to a mutual rivalry and malice, which were undoubtedly potentiated by the rule of the Austrian Habsburg monarchy, which began with the death of a Bohemian King and the election in 1526 of Austrian Archduke Ferdinand I, a member of the Habsburg dynasty. By the time that the Thirty Years' War ended in 1648, the Habsburg monarchy had already confiscated all of the remaining estates in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia that were not already under their rule, thus beginning the control of the Czech lands by the Austrians. Also at this time, the institution of serfdom was strengthening, and concurrently the Habsburgs began the systematic process of re-Catholicization after the Protestant Hussite Reformation.

The Habsburgs were also instrumental in "Germanizing" everything in the Czech lands, from changing all of the Czech town names to Germanic names, to decreeing that German should be the official language for all of the subjects in their empire. Had it not been for the tenacity of Czech peasants in the remote areas of the Czech lands to preserve their native language, certain dialects would have been lost forever.

The rule of Maria Terezia between the years of 1740-1780 further strengthened Habsburg absolutism. In 1775 during her regime, the biggest riot of serfs in Bohemia and Moravia accelerated the issue of the "robot", which required the serfs to work a minimum of three days per week for their feudal lords to repay their "debts", thus leaving less time and provisions for their own needs. This created further bitterness among the serfs. Fortunately, the revolutionary movement throughout all of Europe in 1848 resulted in the abolition of serfdom and the lifting of the requirement of the "robot". For the first time, people could leave or change jobs as they wished, attend school, decide upon their occupations, and marry whomever they pleased. This also made emigration possible.

In 1867, following a major loss in a war with Prussia, the Austrians made concessions with the Hungarians, resulting in the creation of the joint-centralized state of Austria-Hungary. Their power was now even more broad-based until the defeat of their empire in WWI.

The immigrants who arrived in the High Hill area in 1860 were descendants of the earlier German colonists, who had settled in northern Moravia centuries before their 19<sup>th</sup> century emigration to Texas. The names of these original families from Neudek, Moravia in the Empire of Austria (now Nejdek, Czech Republic) were Adamek, Bednarz,



Besetzny, Billimek, Heinrich, Hollas, Schilhab and Wick. Interestingly, these families stayed with Czech families in Dubina, Texas, with whom they may have been acquainted in the Old Country, while traveling to their final destination at High Hill. Other German Moravian families from the area around Neudek arrived later. They were not Austrian by nationality, but Germans who lived in Moravia, which was then known as Mahren (the German name for Moravia) in the Empire of Austria, thus making them Austrian citizens, not by choice, but by decree. Their ancestral families were under Austrian rule for over 200 years prior to their emigration to Texas, but they still retained their German heritage and language with an overlay of Czech traditions.

Although the "Germanization" of the Czech lands was not offensive to the Germans living there, the newly-enforced laws, increased taxes and conscription into the Austrian Army after centuries of living among the Czechs were more than likely not acceptable. These factors, along with famine, poverty, lack of farming land, short growing seasons, primogeniture (the right of the eldest son to inherit his parents' entire estate) and increased industrialization between 1848 to 1860, thus eliminating cottage industries, were all instrumental in the emigration of thousands of people from the Czech lands to America in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In addition, the Germans, who comprised approximately one-third of the population in the Czech lands, were becoming apprehensive about their position after the creation of Austria-Hungary, because Czech politicians were beginning their efforts to establish independence with their own statehood. World War I was the pivotal force that provided the impetus to fulfill their dreams of independence in 1918.

The Czechs were embittered about the "Germanization" of all that was familiar to them and more than likely associated their plight with the Germans who lived among them, creating an animosity toward anything "German". These feelings were harbored for generations and were brought along with the Czechs when they emigrated to Texas. In spite of their feelings, however, the Czechs gravitated to German communities when they arrived in Texas, because many could speak or understand the German language and, therefore, did not feel so isolated. They could at least carry on business transactions with one another, but for the most part, the Germans and Czechs in Texas did not cross their barriers to marry one another until the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The Austrian Empire was extensive, encompassing a large part of Central Europe, until the defeat of the country in WWI, when Bohemia, Moravia, a small portion of Silesia, Ruthenia and Slovakia, which had been under the rule of the Kingdom of Hungary for centuries, were all combined to create the new country of Czechoslovakia. Therefore, all immigrants from the Czech lands prior to WWI were citizens of the Austrian Empire, whether they were Bohemians, Moravians, German-Silesians, German-Bohemians or German-Moravians. To say that one's ancestors immigrated from Czechoslovakia prior to its creation in 1918 is erroneous. The country only existed for 71 years from 1918 to 1989.

The Velvet Revolution in 1989 ended the 40-year Communist regime in Czechoslovakia, ultimately resulting in the final split of Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia into the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic on January 1, 1993.

To clarify the persistent confusion about the German Moravians who settled in High Hill and other areas of Texas, a similar analogy could be associated to the early settlers of Texas in the pre-Republic era. They were Americans, who settled in Texas, but were officially citizens of Mexico, which was the ruling country of Texas at that time. Living under the Mexican rule did not make those settlers Mexicans by nationality, only temporary citizens of Mexico. Likewise, the German Moravians had no connection to the country of Austria that exists today; they were merely citizens of the Austrian Empire that had "swallowed up" their adopted homeland of Moravia. Their villages of origin are in northern Moravia, presently the Czech Republic, not in Austria.

Unfortunately, due to the Nazi atrocities in WWII, including the occupation of Prague and other Bohemian cities in the Sudetenland, the massacre at Lidice, and the lingering resentment of the "Germanization" of the Czech lands for centuries, the Czech government mandated that all remaining Germans in Czechoslovakia had to leave the country within a specified 24 hour period of time in January, 1946. If they wanted to stay, they had to become assimilated into the Czech population, speak Czech, and use the Czech spelling for their surnames, thereby severing all ties to their German heritage. The Germans, who decided to leave, had their property confiscated and were transferred in groups into East Germany, which was in a deplorable condition after the war. They first lived in isolation in enclaves located near chosen cities. Thus, it is difficult for the German Moravians and German Bohemians of Texas to find relatives in the Czech Republic today, unless their ancestors long ago changed the Germanic spelling of their names to Czech, which gave their descendants a reprieve from being exiled, or some of their German relatives chose to stay and assimilate the Czech culture. Also, many of the cemeteries with German Moravian burials were destroyed by the Communists during their regime in Czechoslovakia.

The names of all of the villages and towns were changed back to their original Czech names in 1946 after WWII. This only adds to the confusion when trying to research villages of origin, since the German names do not exist on

contemporary maps. The following is an abbreviated list of some of the villages and towns in the region of northern Moravia where the German Moravians may have lived prior to their emigration to Texas. They are listed by their old German names followed by their present-day names in the Czech Republic:

German	Czech
Altstadt	Stara Ves
Bolten/Belt/Belthen	Belotin
Bernardsdorf/Bernhartice	Bernartice nad Odrou
Deutsch Jasnek	Jasenik nad Odrou
Dittersdorf	Vetrkovice
Dorfel, Silesia	Veska
Freiburg	Pribor
Friedeck/Friedek	Frydek-Mistek
Fulneca	Fulnek
Gross Petersdorf	Dolni Vrazne
Heinzendorf	Hyncice
Hotzensdorf	Hodslavice
Kunvald/Kunwald	Kunin
Laubeas	Lubojaty
Neudek	Nejdek
Neudorfel	Nova Ves
Neutitschein	Novy Jicin
Odrau	Odry
Petersdorf/Pettersdorf	Vrazne
Sednice	Sedlnice
Schaltern/Slatten	Slatina
Wagstadt	Bilovec
Weiskirchen	Hranice
Zauchtl	Suchdol nad Odrou

Hopefully, this history of the origins of the German Moravians who emigrated to Texas will help to clarify some misconceptions that have resulted from a lack of knowledge about their journey from Germany to Moravia to Texas. A few German Moravian family history books include the history of the Czech people and the German colonists; however, their availability to the general public is limited. The history of the German Bohemians and German Silesians parallels the German Moravians with the exception of where their ancestors settled as colonists – Silesia or the borderlands of Bohemia.

Sources: Cornej, Petr: *Fundamentals of Czech History*; Prague, Czech Republic; 1992.

Polisenky, J.V.: *History of Czechoslovakia in Outline*; Prague, Czech Republic; 1991.

Simicek, Josef, MUDr.: *The Hope Has Its Name – Texas*; Lichnov, Czech Republic; 1996.

## Mittag-Meinhardt Reunion

The second annual reunion of the Mittag-Meinhardt family was held July 25, 2010 at St Andrew Fellowship Hall north of Paige in Bastrop County. Henriette Kutschke Mittag came to Texas in 1882 with 4 children but only 3 survived. She later married Jacob Meinhardt and had 1 more child. There were about 80 descendants present with the Anna Marie Meinhardt Rueffer family, namely Bertha Rueffer Hohenberger family, in charge. A delicious meal of potluck was served. Since this was only the second time we had met our cousins, the group stayed late to visit.

Henry Hohenberger presided at the meeting. Minutes and treasurer's reports were read and approved. It was noted that a friendship quilt hanging in the fellowship hall had two Mittag names embroidered on it from 1934.

(cont.)



## Awards given out were:

Youngest:	Cheyenne Mittag, 18 months
Oldest:	Erna Herms, 85 years
Recently married:	Derek and Betty Mittag, Feb 14, 2009
Longest married:	Herbert and Janoma Rueffer, 59 years
Longest distance:	Joanne Russell, from North Dakota

Next year the Max Mittag branch will be in charge represented by Leona and James Campbell. The reunion will be the last Sunday in July at the same place.

Henry Hohenberger read the following history on Anna Marie Meinhardt and August Rueffer. The Mittag-Meinhardt family lived near Lexington and Anna Marie attended school in the Mesquite community. She worked on the family farm, and at the age of twenty-three, she married August Rueffer. It was said that she knew more about farming than her husband when they first married. They farmed with horses and mules in the Thorndale area on the eastern edge of Williamson County. In 1907 they traveled to Weinert Texas in Haskell County with August's parents, siblings, and their infant son on the train. When the family arrived in Weinert, they were known as the first settlers to help settle that area.

They searched around for a farm and found 100 acres in the Mattson community, which is nine miles southeast of Weinert. The family set up their wagon and lived in the wagon for several years. Later, they built a barn which they used for their kitchen. Then in 1917, the family built a two room bungalow house. In the 1920's, the house was enlarged. In 1946, the house was remodeled; the sidewalk, wooden yard fence, and porches were added. The farm was grown up with brush and mesquite trees. Anna and August, along with August's parents had to clear the land. The good land was used for cultivation and the wet land was used for pasture, where they ran Jersey and Holstein cattle. Anna did most of the plowing their first year. Anna walked behind a single bottom mold-board plow which was harnessed to and pulled by two mules. In the early 1900's, their main crop was cotton. To help pick the cotton, the family hired extra help which were usually black people (men, women, and children) along with August's sisters, in-laws, nieces, and nephews. Max Mittag, Anna's half-brother, would also come from Paige. Throughout August and Anna's lifetime, they purchased 1250-1500 acres of farm land.

August and Anna were blessed with seven children: Gus in 1906, Henry in 1909, Clara in 1912, Bertha in 1916, Oscar in 1921, Louise in 1926 and Herbert in 1929. Herbert is the only surviving child and was able to be at both reunions. In 1916, the family lost Clara in a tragic accident involving a fire. Henry had to have his right leg amputated due to this same accident. As the children became old enough, they helped their parents on the farm with the chores using horses and mules. The children also knew how to pick cotton and use a pitchfork to make hay stacks. Farming started to change from manual labor to tractor horse power and in 1937, the Rueffer family purchased a Case tractor with steel wheels. The family spoke German as their primary language and they also learned English. They belonged to Trinity Lutheran Church in Haskell.

Anna was a right hand helper to her husband August. She helped on the farm and also operated the teams of mules and horses just like a man. She enjoyed her farm life. She also raised a large garden and canned the vegetables for later use. She also sewed the clothes for the family and made quilts.

In addition to the field work, they milked 30 cows morning and night by hand, and raised hogs and chickens. With the milk, they slopped the hogs and also made cottage cheese. They made butter from the cream and some cream was also sold to the area creameries.

The Rueffer children didn't have much time for education. They had to help on the farm to get the chores done. When they did attend the rural school, they had to walk to and from school. Herbert, the youngest, was the only one of the children that rode on the Mattson school bus and graduated from high school.

As the Rueffer sons married, they were each given a 100-acre farm to encourage them to stay in the area and continue farming. The sons did that, but in 1963, Herbert ventured to Bertram, Texas to have a larger farm and ranch. The two daughters also married: Louise made her home in Stamford and Bertha moved south of Marble Falls.

As Anna grew older, she started having health problems, arthritis, circulation problems, and diabetes. She died at the age of 69 years and 11 months on September 18, 1953. She is buried beside her daughter, Clara, in the Pleasant Valley Cemetery in the Mattson community. On June 21, 1967, August passed away and is buried beside his wife and daughter.

After the meeting adjourned, Melvin Rueffer who is deaf, took pictures of each group. He had attended school at the Texas School for the Deaf in Austin, and his hobby is woodworking. He built a beautiful prop for taking the pictures and will have them next year to sell. He also teaches sign language at a college in Waco and brought an interpreter with him. His wife, Ruby, who is also deaf, encouraged everyone to bring a favorite recipe next year to put into a cookbook.

(cont.)



Herbert, only surviving son of Anna & August Rueffer  
With his wife of almost 60 years, Janoma

Written and submitted by Mikki Eschberger Meyer  
For the German-Texan Journal

Sources:  
Linda Weber  
Mikki Meyer, Paige



November 12, 2009  
*The Comfort News*

### Weltner Book received/Questions and Answers at the Archives

#### CHF Recipient of Weltner Book

*By Anne Stewart*

Descendants of Heinrich Weltner gathered for their second annual family reunion at Grady's Barbecue in San Antonio on Saturday, November 7, 2009. Over thirty people came together for Visiting and genealogy. The primary cause for celebration was the release of the new book about their founding father; Heinrich Weltner Comfort's Pencil Artist. Two cousins, Herb Stappenbeck and Patricia Funke, teamed up to produce this well done compilation.

The Heinrich Weltner family lived in Comfort from 1900-1910, Heinrich built a house on the west side of Cypress Creek (where the Spenraths live today). He lived there with his family for a little more than ten years. He worked as a sketch and copy artist. The family has collected ten pieces of his work and they are featured in this new book. The book is 48 pages long, with a copy of Weltner's stag on the front cover. The book is liberally illustrated with reproductions of Weltner's work, old photographs of the Weltner family and a map of places mentioned throughout the book. The authors provided quick and convenience access to their work with a most competently compiled index.

The pleasant and unexpected surprise here is the work of R.C. and Lois Haufler (see pages 11 and 12 of the book) for their significant contribution to Comfort heritage and Weltner family genealogy.

The Hauflers lived next door to the Weltner home and owned it for several years. R. C. and Lois sketched both the interior and exterior of the residence, with the copyright of both sketches registered to R. C. The exterior of the structure proved a



Anne Stewart receiving copy of Heinrich Weltner Comfort's Pencil Artist from co-authors Herb Stappenbeck and Patricia Funke for the Comfort Heritage Foundation Archives

difficult task and R. C. worked with Mike Stewart to place it in the correct perspective. On page 11 is a verbal description of the house and property as recalled by R.C. Haufler,

Needless to say, the Weltner clan was overjoyed to see, at long last, a picture of their founding father's Comfort domicile. As the Hauflers weren't able to attend the reunion and the Stewarts were, the authors, after graciously acknowledging the work of R. C. and Lois, donated a copy of the book to the Comfort Heritage Foundation Archives and it was accepted by Anne Stewart. A limited printing of 25 numbered copies was also donated to the Archives to be sold (price \$20.00), the funds going to benefit the CHF Archives.

The authors made one request to the Comfort community. If anyone knows where the Weltner family should look, or whom they should ask concerning any existing sketch by Heinrich Weltner, please contact Anne and Mike Stewart who will pass on the clue to more of Heinrich Weltner's artwork.

**Get your pocketbooks ready...Anne tells me a copy of this rare book will be placed in our silent auction at the annual meeting in Fredericksburg....thank you Anne!!!**



## THE FAMILY OF FRITZ & FRIEDERICKE (BODE) LEVERKUHNS

BY DANIEL BODE, Dayton

**Johanne Wilhelmine Henriette Friedericke Bode** was born 25 June 1836, in Rosenthal (near Peine), in the Kingdom of Hannover, Germany. Friedericke was baptized 3 July 1836, in the Godehard Lutheran Church in Rosenthal. Friedericke was the youngest child of **Johann Christoph Heinrich Bode** (born 14 May 1793, in Rosenthal, Hannover; died 6 July 1859, in Rosenthal, Hannover) and his wife, **Dorothee Margarethe Herweg** (born 2 Sept. 1792, in Adenstedt, Hannover; died 3 January 1856, in Rosenthal, Hannover). Friedericke's parents were married 20 September 1822, in Adenstedt, Hannover. Friedericke's father, Johann Christoph Heinrich Bode, was a shoemaker. Friedericke had three sisters and three brothers. They were:

1. **Johanne Christine Elisabeth Bode** born 26 December 1823, in Rosenthal, Hannover. She married **Johann Heinrich Conrad Wehrspohn** on 12 February 1860, in Hohenhamein, Hannover.

2. **Johann Friedrich Wilhelm Bode** born 19 August 1825, in Rosenthal, Hannover.

3. **Johanne Iise Luise Bode** born 7 February 1827, in Rosenthal, Hannover.

4. **Heinrich Friedrich Wilhelm Bode** born 6 January 1829, in Rosenthal, Hannover, and he died 22 June 1915, in Copenhagen, Denmark. He married **Charlotte Ernestine Mueller** on 17 July 1858, in Copenhagen, Denmark. She was born 24 December 1828, in Verden, Hannover, Germany, and died 24 April 1881, in Copenhagen, Denmark.

5. **Heinrich Konrad Wilhelm Bode** born 20 December 1830, in Rosenthal, Hannover, and he died 6 December 1891, in Zionsville, Washington County, Texas. Wilhelm Bode is buried in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Zionsville, Texas. Wilhelm married #1. **Catherine Albertine Marie Dorothea Jahnke** on 30 October 1860, in First German Lutheran Church in Galveston, Texas—they met on the ship coming over from Germany. Albertine nee Jahnke was born 14 December 1839, in Solenthin, Prussia, Germany, and she died 2 August 1866, in Berlin, Washington County, Texas. Wilhelm married #2. **Marie Charlotte Henriette Spreen** on 20 October 1866, in Salem Lutheran Church in Salem, Washington County, Texas. Henriette nee Spreen was born 18 November 1845, in Wehden, Westphalia, Germany, and she died 14 October 1874, in Berlin, Washington County, Texas. Wilhelm married #3. **Emma Wilhelmine Louise Kalbow** on 6 December 1874, in Eben Ezer Lutheran Church in Berlin, Washington County, Texas. Emma nee Kalbow was born 28 April 1841, in Plattenhoff, Prussia, Germany, and she died 6 January 1907, in Caldwell, Burleson County, Texas.

6. **Johanne Dorothea Wilhelmine Bode** born 10 May 1834, in Rosenthal, Hannover. She married **Heinrich Erbe** on 1 February 1852, in Rosenthal.

Friedericke Bode's paternal grandparents were **Friedrich Heinrich Wilhelm Bode** (born 12 June 1768, in Rosenthal, Hannover; died 30 September 1841, in Rosenthal, Hannover) and **Marie Elisabeth Dorothee Wolters** (born 22 February 1772, in Mehrum, Hannover; died 25 January 1847, in Rosenthal, Hannover). They were married 2 December 1792, in Rosenthal, Hannover.

Friedericke's maternal grandparents were **Johann Heinrich Herweg** (born 10 October 1753, in Adenstedt, Hannover; died 22 June 1836, in Adenstedt, Hannover) and **Ise Catharine (Maria) Gier** (born 20 October 1761, in Adenstedt, Hannover; died 15 March 1830, in Adenstedt, Hannover).

Friedericke Bode was confirmed on Palm Sunday, 1851, in the Godehard Lutheran Church in Rosenthal, Hannover, and in 1857, she left Germany for Texas. The ship docked in Galveston and Friedericke eventually met and became betrothed to a young man named **Friedrich Conrad "Fritz" Leverkus**. They were married 21 August 1858, in the First German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Galveston. Fritz Leverkus was born 15 April 1834 in Scheweigel, Germany. Fritz came to Texas in



Dorothee Margarethe Bode nee Herwig, mother of Friedericke Bode Leverkus. This photo was taken in Peine, Germany in the early 1850's



Friedericke Bode Leverkus in the late 1880's



1849 with an older brother, Henry, and an older sister, Julia Anna Leverkus, and her fiancé, August Proetzel. Their ship docked in Galveston, Texas, on 31 May 1849, after a voyage of almost three months. Fritz's sister, Julia Anna, was born 3 Nov. 1826, in Scheweigel, Germany, and she died 4 July 1908, in Houston, Tx. She married August Proetzel, who was born 28 April 1817, in Germany, and died 20 March 1885, in Houston. August and Julia Proetzel are buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery in Houston. Fritz's older brother, Henry, was born in 1828, in Scheweigel, and he died on 15 Feb. 1890, in Houston. Henry and his wife, Margaret nee Wichman (born 1850; died 1886), are also buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery in Houston. Fritz also had a younger brother, Heinrich Conrad Karl "Charles" Leverkus, who immigrated to Texas in 1857. Charles was born 22 July 1842, in Germany. He served the Confederacy in the War Between the States. After the war, Charles married Selma Kuhn on 21 June 1867, in Houston. After Selma's death in 1876, Charles married Martha Rebecca Davis on 27 June 1878, in Houston. Charles Leverkus settled in Waller County, Texas, where he had a general store in Hockley, Tex., and later became a farmer-rancher in the Macedonia Community. He was the father of 14 children. Charles Leverkus died in an automobile accident in Houston, at the age of 73 years, on 11 Nov. 1915. His body was taken to Waller County for burial.

After their marriage, Fritz and Friedericke Bode Leverkus lived in Galveston for 2 1/2 years. On 28 Oct. 1860, Friedericke's brother Wilhelm Bode arrived in Galveston on the ship *FORTUNA* and two days later, Wilhelm married Albertine Jahnke, whom he met aboard the ship coming over from Germany. Wilhelm and Albertine Bode lived in Galveston until moving to Washington County, Texas, to the community of Berlin, west of Brenham, in 1862 where the Jahnke Family had settled.



Fritz Leverkus in the late 1880's.

Fritz and Friedericke Leverkus moved to Houston after the outbreak of the War Between the States, and they lived in Houston the rest of their lives. They became members of the First German Evangelical Lutheran Church (today known as the First Evangelical Church or the Central Congregational Church). This church had been established in 1851. Fritz and Friedericke had 10 children born to them, but only four lived to adulthood. Several of their children died in the yellow fever epidemic which swept Houston in 1866-1867. Fritz Leverkus was a blacksmith and he was described as a fine craftsman. He was also employed by the railroad as a coachbuilder. The Leverkus home was at the corner of what is now Washington and Preston Avenues in Houston, next to what is now the police station. Friedericke Leverkus occasionally had visits from her brother, Wilhelm Bode, from Washington County. Wilhelm's son, Fritz, told his children stories of visits to Houston to see his Tante Friedericke und Onkel Fritz Leverkus. Friedericke certainly must have visited her brother's home in Washington County as well. These visits came to an end when Wilhelm died in 1891, and Friedericke seemed to have lost contact with her Bode nieces and nephews.



Fritz and Friedericke Bode Leverkus with one of their children

In 1879, the Trinity Lutheran Church was organized in Houston from the First German Evangelical Lutheran Church. The Fritz Leverkus Family transferred their membership to Trinity Lutheran Church and they were members of this church well into the 1890's when they moved their church membership back to First Evangelical Lutheran Church. In 1893, Fritz Leverkus purchased burial plots in the *Deutsche Gesellschaft* (German Society Cemetery). The cemetery's name was changed to the Washington Cemetery in 1918 because of the anti-German hysteria that came with the U.S. involvement in the First World War. Fritz and Friedericke Bode Leverkus observed 50 years of marriage in 1908. Six years later, Fritz died at their home in Houston on 31 August 1914, at the age of 80 years. Fritz's funeral and burial took place on 2 September 1914. Fritz Leverkus's death certificate gives his father's name as Henry Leverkus and his mother's name as Marie nee? After Fritz's death, Friedericke continued to live in their



home. Even though Friedericke looks quite stern in her photographs, she is remembered for having a quick wit and a wonderful sense of humor. The 1920 census shows Friedericke living alone in her home at 1213 Washington Avenue, at the age of 84 years. Friedericke Leverkuhn nee Bode died of pneumonia at the age of 88 years at her home in Houston on 28 February 1925. Friedericke's funeral and burial took place on 2 March 1925. Friedericke was laid to rest beside Fritz in the Leverkuhn Family plot in Washington Cemetery in Houston.

*The ten children of Fritz and Friedericke (Bode) Leverkuhn):*

**I. August Heinrich Leverkuhn** born 5 June 1859, in Galveston, Texas. He was baptized 18 July 1859, by the pastor of the First German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Galveston. This baby died two days later, 20 July 1859.

**II. Henriette Wilhelmine Caroline Leverkuhn** born 24 Sept. 1860, in Galveston, Texas. She was baptized 1 Dec. 1860, at First German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Galveston. It is believed this child died in the yellow fever epidemic in Houston after the War Between the States.

**III. Friedericke Caroline Leverkuhn** born 17 May 1862, in Houston, Texas. She was baptized 29 June 1862, at First German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Houston. It is believed this child died in the yellow fever epidemic in Houston after the War Between the States.

**IV. Friederich Heinrich Johann Leverkuhn** born 6 Feb. 1864, in Houston, Texas. He was baptized 3 April 1864, at First German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Houston. It is believed this child died in the yellow fever epidemic in Houston after the War Between the States.

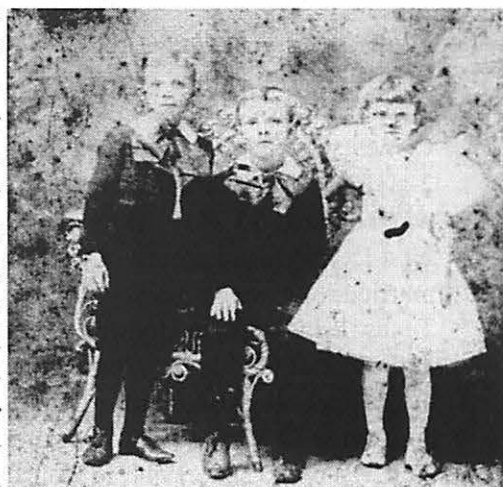
**V. Holbert Wilhelm Christian Leverkuhn** born 28 Feb. 1866, in Houston, Texas. He was baptized 17 March 1866, at First German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Houston. It is believed this child died in the yellow fever epidemic in Houston after the War Between the States.

**VI. Friedericke Emilie "Amelia" Leverkuhn** born 3 Jan. 1868, in Houston, Texas. Amelia was baptized 16 Feb. 1868, at First German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Houston, and she was confirmed 10 April 1881, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Houston. Amelia Leverkuhn first married Herman Gehring, a native of Germany, on 7 March 1886, in Houston. Amelia and Herman Gehring lived their married life in Willis, in Montgomery Co., Texas, where Herman attempted to run a boot and shoe business, but this business was not successful. Amelia and Herman had five children, but only three lived to adulthood. The Gehring's marriage ended in separation and

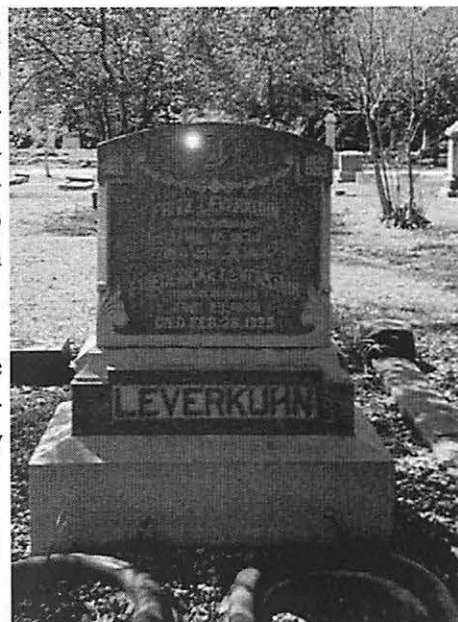


Herman Gehring, a native of Germany, and the first husband of Amelia Leverkuhn, father of her children

Amelia returned to Houston. She married Harry Allen on 21 Oct. 1897, in Houston. There were no children born in this union, and this marriage quickly ended in separation as Amelia discovered her husband also wanted her to support him. Amelia's third marriage was to R. F. Stevens on 15 July 1903, in Houston. There were no children born in this union, and this marriage also ended in separation. To support her children, Amelia started out selling scissor sharpeners door-to-door. She later became a cook for railroad workers and she eventually saved enough money to buy an apartment building on St. Emanuel Street in Houston. She ran her business very successfully, and she always drew big lunch crowds daily into her dining room. Amelia was



Werther, Herman & Ella Gehring, children of Herman & Amelia (Leverkuhn) Gehring. There were five children in all, but the oldest son and youngest son both died in infancy.







Gehring siblings: from left, unidentified young lady, Werther Gehring, Herman Gehring and Ella Gehring

remembered as being a loving and devoted mother and grandmother. She was a member of the First Evangelical Church in Houston, and active in the church's Ladies Aide Society. Amelia was also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. Amelia Stevens nee Leverkuhn died in Herman Hospital in Houston on 27 Sept. 1945, at the age of 77 years. Her funeral and burial took place on 28 Sept. 1945. Amelia was buried in the Leverkuhn Family plot in the Washington Cemetery in Houston.

*The children of Amelia and her first husband, Herman Gehring:*

**1. Friedrich Wilhelm Gehring** born 2 Jan. 1887, in Willis, Montgomery Co., Texas. He was baptized 10 April 1887, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Houston. This child died 14 Oct. 1887, in Willis, Texas, age 10 months.

**2. Herman Friedrich Gehring** born 13 March 1888, in Willis, Montgomery Co., Texas. He was baptized 20 March 1888, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Houston, and he was confirmed on Easter Sunday, 1903, at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Houston. Herman married Lena Mae Runyan on 12 June 1910, in Houston. Lena Mae, or Mae as she went by, was born 12 Jan. 1891, in Springfield, Ohio. She came to Texas as a child with her parents. Herman and Mae Gehring had four children; the first dying in infancy. Herman and Mae eventually separated. Mae continued to make her home in Houston. Mae was confirmed 2 June 1927, at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Houston. Herman's second marriage was to Willilee Hopkins in 1929. Willilee was born 6 Oct. 1905. Herman and Willilee had one son. Herman F. Gehring died at the age of 59 years of appendicitis in Memorial Hospital in Houston on 27 May 1947. He was buried in the Leverkuhn Family plot in Washington Cemetery in Houston on 28 May 1947. Herman's death certificate lists his occupation as the manager of National Terrazzo Tile Co. Herman's widow, Willilee, eventually remarried and she died in Houston on 4 Nov. 1979, at the age of 74. Her body was taken to San Antonio for burial. Herman's first wife, Mae Gehring, died in Houston on 21 April 1986, at the age of 95. Mae was buried 23 April 1986, in the Forest Park Westheimer Cemetery in Houston.

*The children of Herman and Mae Gehring:*

**1-a. Infant son** born & died 20 Oct. 1911, in Houston. This baby was buried in the Leverkuhn Family plot in Washington Cemetery on 21 Oct. 1911.

**2-a. Ella Mae Gehring** born 29 Aug. 1913, in Houston. Ella was baptized 23 Nov. 1913, and confirmed 10 April 1927, at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Houston. Ella never

married. She was a graduate of Rice University and she received a Master's Degree from the University of Texas. Ella taught in Houston I.S.D. 43 years before retiring. Ella Gehring died in Houston on 24 Nov. 1981, at the age of 68. She was buried 26 Nov. 1981, in Forest Park Westheimer Cemetery in Houston.

**3-a. Elizabeth Ann (Bettye) Gehring** born 9 Nov. 1918, in Houston. Bettye was baptized 12 June 1927, and confirmed 22 March 1932, at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Houston. Bettye first married J. Frank Hairston on 30 June 1944, in Houston, and she secondly married Guy Merle Gardner on 17 Feb. 1957, in Houston. Bettye has had a long career as an actress in the Houston theatre. She also is a retired music, dance, and voice instructor. Bettye lived in Oldenburg, Germany for over five years where Mr. Gardner was involved in the theater as a stage singer; in fact, he was the theater's main baritone singer. During this time, Bettye studied the German language and culture. Bettye remembers Oldenburg as being one of the few



Amelia (Leverkuhn) Stevens with her granddaughter, Betty Louise Jarrell.



From left: Ella Mae Gehring, Bettye (Gehring) Gardner, and Mae (Runyan) Gehring. This picture was taken in Houston in 1976 for Mae Gehring's 86th Birthday



towns in Germany not destroyed by the bombing in WW II and so Oldenburg still had its old world charm. Bettye Gehring Gardner continues to reside in Houston today, and she has received several awards and acclaims from her work in the Houston theater.

**4-a. Herman Friedrich Gehring, Jr.** born 9 Feb. 1922, in Houston. Herman, Jr. was baptized 12 June 1927, and confirmed 5 April 1936, at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Houston. Herman was a WW II veteran and he was injured in battle at Bourdeaux, France. Herman married **Saranne Smith** in Amarillo, Tex. on 18 Aug. 1945. Saranne was born in Amarillo on 13 May 1926. Herman and Saranne Gehring lived all their life in Amarillo where Herman worked as a Candy Supplier for the military base in Amarillo. After the base closed, Herman became involved in the real estate business. He was also active in the Youth Sports Program where he was a coach to his sons' Little League teams. Herman and Saranne were the parents of two sons: **Larry Edwin Gehring** (b.1946; d. 2006) and **Kurt Runyan Gehring** (b. 1951). Herman Gehring, Jr. died 8 Jan. 2003, at the age of 80 years, in Amarillo, Tx. He is buried in the Llano Cemetery in Amarillo. Saranne Smith Gehring continues to reside in Amarillo today.

The son of Herman Gehring and his second wife. Willilee Hopkins:

**William Lee (Billy) Gehring** born 4 Jan. 1932, in Houston, Tx. Billy Gehring was a minister in the Episcopal Church. Billy married Janeille Isley on 20 Nov. 1981, in Galveston, Tx. Billy Gehring died in Galveston on 29 Dec. 1982, at the age of 50 years.



Hermann Gehring, Jr., and his wife, Suzanne Smith Gehring

**3. Friedrich Werther Gehring** born 2 Oct. 1889, in Willis, Montgomery Co., Texas. Werther was baptized 1 Jan. 1890, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Houston. Werther Gehring became a salesman for the Underwood Typewriter Company, and he was a Mason. Werther married Ida Catherine Boysen on 22 Oct. 1913, in Brownwood, Tx. Katherine was born in Brownwood on 24 May 1893; she was the daughter of Danish immigrants, Stephen Boysen (born 1859; died 1944) and Mette Katherine Thompsen (born 1865; died 1937). Werther and Katherine Gehring were the parents of one daughter. They lived their short married life on 5307 La Branch in Houston.

Werther died of encephalitis at his home on 28 Oct. 1919, at the age of 30 years. Werther's funeral took place on 29 Oct. 1919, and he was buried in the Leverkusn Family plot in Washington Cemetery in Houston. After Werther's death, his widow returned with their daughter to her parents' home in Brownwood. Catherine met John Lawrence and they were married in Fredericksburg, Tx. on 20 June 1926. They resided in Ysleta, Tx. for a time before moving to El Paso, Tx. Catherine Boysen Gehring Lawrence died in El Paso on 8 Sept. 1979, at the age of 86. She is buried in the Restlawn Cemetery in El Paso.

The daughter of Werther & Catherine (Bovsen) Gehring: Catherine Amelia Gehring born 3 Oct. 1916, in Galveston, Tex. She married John Russell Metzger on 2 May 1942, in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and they made their home in El Paso. Catherine Gehring Metzger died in Sun Towers Hospital in El Paso, Tx., on 25 Feb. 1966, age 49 years. Catherine was buried 1 March 1966 in Restlawn Cemetery in El Paso. Catherine and John Metzger were the parents of three children: **Patti Ann** (b. 1943), **Stephen Lawrence** (b. 1947), and **Carol Lee** (b. 1953). Catherine's husband, John Russell Metzger, was born July 16, 1913



Bettye (Gehring) Gardner in the Houston Grand Opera's 1967 production of "Don Carlos". Bettye was in the chorus in the production. It can be said that Bettye's stage career started as a young child when she would sing a song about a little duck to her great grandmother, Friedericke Bode Leverkusn. Friedericke would laugh and comment on how comical Bettye was.



Werther Gehring, son of Herman & Amelia, died a sudden death at age 30





Catherine Amelia (Gehring) Metzger

and died May 7, 1984.

**4. Ella Louise Gehring** born 17 Aug. 1891, in Willis, Montgomery Co., Tx. Ella was baptized 27 Dec. 1891, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Houston, and she was confirmed on 8 April 1906, at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Houston. Ella first married Warren Montague Romaine on 24 Aug. 1909, in Houston. They lived in Houston before moving to New York to live with Warren's family. Ella and Warren separated and Ella returned to Houston where she met Bert E. Jarrell. Ella and Bert were married in Clayton, Missouri, on 12 June 1920. Bert Jarrell was born 5 Aug. 1887, in Boyd, Illinois; he was the son of James Jarrell and Luella Herron. Ella and Bert lived their married



Catherine (Boysen) Gehring and Catherine Amelia Gehring, the wife & daughter of Werther Gehring. This picture was taken not long after Werther's sudden death in 1919

life in the Clayton and Kirkwood, Missouri area. They adopted a son, James, and together they had a daughter, Betty Lou. Bert Jarrell died of a heart attack on 3 May 1930, in Kirkwood, Missouri, at the age of 42 years. After his death, Ella and her children moved to Houston. Ella supported her children by giving piano lessons at 50 cents a lesson. Ella became a member of the Church of the Advent and the Order of the Eastern Star. Ella Gehring Jarrell died in the Baptist Memorial Southeast Hospital in Houston on 30 July 1972, at the age of 80 years. Ella's body was donated to the Baylor College of Medicine, but her family placed a marker for her in the Leverkus Family plot in Washington Cemetery in Houston.

*The children of Bert and Ella (Gehring) Jarrell:*

**4-a. James Edgar Jarrell** born 24 Dec. 1921, in Nashville, Tennessee. James was adopted by Bert and Ella while an infant. James was confirmed 5 April 1936, at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Houston. James served in the military during WW II. James Jarrell married Mabel Henderson on 18 March 1943, in Houston, and then he married Addie Marie Ainsworth on 14 April 1945 in Houston.



Ella Louise Gehring in downtown Houston in the early 1940's.



First cousins: Bettye Lou Skiff (left) and Bettye Gehring taken at the Jarrell home in Missouri

**4-b. Betty Louise Jarrell** born 16 Feb. 1925, in Clayton, Missouri. Betty Lou was confirmed 2 April 1939, at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Houston. Betty Lou married Ervin Tom Kier in 1945 in Houston. Tom Kier was born 20 July 1923, in San Diego, California; he was the son of Houston Cleveland Kier and Liola Phelps. Tom Kier died of a brain aneurism on 29 Dec. 1951, at the age of 28 in Houston. He was buried in the Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery in Houston on 31 Dec. 1951. Betty Lou later married Thomas B. Skiff on 2 Aug. 1957. Tom was born in Toledo, Ohio, on 9 Aug. 1930. Betty Lou and Tom Skiff lived over 50 years of their

married life in Houston before recently moving to Georgetown, Tx. Betty and Tom Kier had two daughters born in their marriage, and they were adopted by Tom Skiff after his marriage to Betty Lou. Their daughters are: Kathryn Kier Skiff (b. 1946) and Trudy Kier Skiff (b. 1948).

**5.b. Frank Albert Gehring** born 25 Feb. 1893, in Willis, Montgomery Co., Tex. He was baptized 12 July 1893, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Houston. Frank A. Gehring died either in infancy or early childhood because he is not listed on the 1900 Federal Census.



**VII. Lina Friedericke Leverkus** born 28 January 1870, in Houston, Texas. Lina was baptized 13 March 1870, at First German Evangelical Church in Houston, and she was confirmed 18 March 1883, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Houston. Lina Leverkus married Wilhelm Joachim Friedrich Hoop on 8 November 1888, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Houston. Wilhelm Hoop was born in Germany on 19 September 1864; he was the son of Johann J. Hoop (born 20 Nov. 1828, in Germany; died 16 Nov. 1882, in Houston) and Friedericke Genske (born 19 Sept. 1832, in Germany; died 24 June 1922, in Houston). The Hoop Family came to Texas when Wilhelm was three years old. Lina and Wilhelm Hoop lived their married life in Houston. Wilhelm Hoop's occupation was listed as a wheelwright. Lina and Wilhelm were members of the Trinity Lutheran Church where Lina was very active in the Ladies' Aide Circle. Lina was remembered as being a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. She was also very close to her sister, Amelia Stevens. Lina and Wilhelm Hoop were the parents of four children, but only three lived to adult hood. Lina and Wilhelm Hoop celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 8 Nov. 1938, and a week later, Lina died suddenly at their home on 1211 Bingham St. Lina died 14 Nov. 1938, at the age of 68 years. Wilhelm Hoop survived his wife 15 years. He died at his home on 9 Feb. 1954, at the age of 89 years. Wilhelm and Lina Leverkus Hoop are buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery in Houston.

The children of Wilhelm and Lina (Leverkuhn) Hoop:

**1. Marie Hoop** born 6 Dec. 1891, in Houston. Marie was baptized 27 Dec. 1891, and confirmed 8 April 1906, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Houston. Marie first married **Harlan Blodgett** on 30 Dec. 1909, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Houston. This marriage apparently ended very quickly, and Marie married **Alfred James Harris** about 1912. Alfred J. Harris was born in Brownwood, Texas, on 17 March 1892. Alfred and Marie Harris lived in Tyler, Smith Co., Texas, for several years before moving to Houston. Alfred Harris died of a heart attack at his residence in Houston at the age of 59 years on New Years' Day, 1 Jan. 1952. His body was taken by train to Tyler for burial. At the time of his death, Alfred was a salesman for the Bayou Concrete Pipe Company in Houston. Marie Hoop Harris died in Houston on 8 Nov. 1962, at the age of 70 years. Marie and Alfred Harris are buried in the Rose Hill Cemetery in Tyler, Texas.



Lina Leverkus Hoop (left) with her mother, Friedericke Bode Leverkus

Alfred and Marie Hoop Harris were the parents of one son: **William Theodore (Cap) Harris** born 26 July 1913, in Paris, Texas. Cap Harris married **Mary La Donne Matthews**. She was born in Carbondale, Illinois, on 6 Nov. 1914; the daughter of William Bartlett Matthews and Georgia Pearl Taylor. Cap and Mary Harris made their home in Tyler, Tx. Mary was diagnosed with cancer early in 1951, and she died six months later in Herman Hospital in Houston at the age of 36 years. She died 7 July 1951, leaving two small sons. Mary's body was transferred by train back to Tyler for burial. Cap Harris and his sons moved to Houston in 1953. Cap did not remarry. Cap worked as a Deputy Sheriff in Law Enforcement. Cap Harris died a tragic death at the age of 54 years on 26 April 1968. He died by choking on a piece of meat in a Houston restaurant. William T. (Cap) and Mary La Donne Harris are buried in the Rose Hill Cemetery in Tyler, Tex. Cap and Mary Harris were the parents of two sons: **William Michael** (born 1946) and **Timothy Scott** (born 1949).

**2. Esther Hoop** born 26 Oct. 1894, in Houston, Texas. She was baptized at Trinity Lutheran Church in Houston on 26 Nov. 1894. Esther died at the age of eight months on 22 June 1895. This baby is buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery in Houston.

**3. Leona Hoop** born 6 Nov. 1897, in Houston, Tex. She was baptized 5 Dec. 1897, and confirmed 9 April 1911, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Houston. Leona never married. She lived all her life in Houston where she did secretarial work. Leona was hospitalized at the Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler, Texas, where she died of cardiac arrest on 28 Feb. 1969, at the age of 71. Her body was donated to the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

**4. George Hoop** born 26 Aug. 1899, in Houston, Tex. He was baptized 1 Oct. 1899, and confirmed 5 April 1914, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Houston. George married **Mildred Blanche Hoffman** on 1 Sept. 1923, in New Braunfels, Tex. Mildred nee Hoffman was born in New Braunfels on 27 Jan. 1902. George and Mildred Hoop lived their married life in Houston. George became the Chief Clerk for the Baker, Botts, Shepherd & Coates Law Firm. George Hoop died of cancer at Memorial Baptist Hospital in Houston on 18 Nov. 1964, at the age of 65 years. Mildred Hoop nee Hoffman died in Houston on 13 July 1985, at the age of 83. George and Mildred Hoop



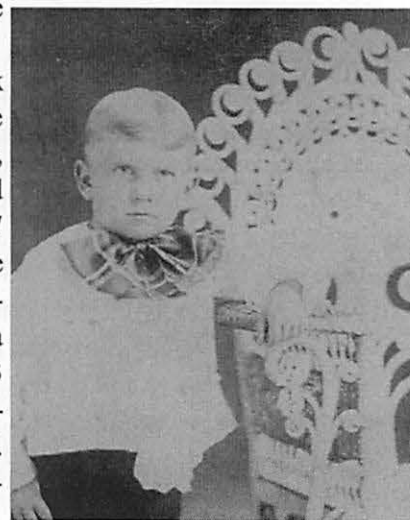
are buried in Trinity Lutheran Cemetery in Houston.

*George and Mildred (Hoffman) Hoop were the parents of one daughter: Mildred Claire Hoop* born 8 Feb. 1927, in Houston. She married **John Bitterman Rogers** on 13 June 1954 in Houston, and they made their home in Denver, Colorado. Claire and John Rogers were the parents of two children: **Michelle** and **Mark Allan**.

**VIII. Friedrich Herrmann Leverkus** born 7 March 1872, in Houston, Tex. He was baptized 28 April 1872, at First German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Houston. This child died at a young age.

**IX. Johann "John" Friedrich Leverkus** born 10 Sept. 1873, in Houston, Tex. John was baptized 29 Oct. 1873, at First German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Houston, and he was confirmed 25 March 1888, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Houston. John Leverkus married **Dinah Jane Osborne** on 8 April 1897, in Houston. Dinah was born in Carlisle, Cumberland, England, on 12 April 1878; she was the daughter of Joseph Osborne and Dinah Gibson. John and Dinah Leverkus lived their married life in Houston until they separated. They were the parents of one son, **Levine**. After their separation, Dinah moved to the Beaumont, Texas area. The 1920 census shows Dinah living in the home of her sister in Hardin County, Texas, and the 1930 census shows Dinah living in the home of her son, Levine Leverkus, in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Dinah is remembered as being a small, petite lady. Dinah remained a member of the Episcopal Church. Dinah Osborne Leverkus died in the Jefferson County Tuberculosis Hospital in Beaumont, Tex. on 2 June 1940, at the age of 62 years. Dinah was buried in the Forest Lawn Cemetery in Beaumont on 4 June 1940. After his separation from Dinah, John Leverkus moved to the Lake Charles, Louisiana area where he married **Caroline Rosalie Harmon**. Caroline was born 14 July 1886, at Welsh, in Jefferson Davis Parish, Louisiana. John and Caroline were the parents of one son, **John C. Leverkus**. John F. and Caroline Leverkus made their home in the English Bayou community near Lake Charles. John F. Leverkus was hospitalized in Lafayette, Louisiana, where he died on 12 Dec. 1944, at the age of 71 years. His body was brought by train to Texas, and John was buried in the Leverkus Family plot in the Washington Cemetery in Houston on 14 Dec. 1944. His second wife, Caroline Leverkus nee Harmon, died at her home in the English Bayou community on 29 March 1961, at the age of 74 years. Caroline Leverkus was buried in the Highland Memory Gardens Cemetery in Lake Charles, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana. Caroline Leverkus was a charter member of the Eastland Baptist Church in Lake Charles, La..

*The son of John and Dinah (Osborne) Leverkus: Levine Frederick Leverkus* born 9 Aug. 1897, in Houston, Tx. Levine Leverkus was twice married. The identity of his first wife is not known, but they had a daughter, Verline. Levine's second marriage was to **Helen Ruth Drake**, and they had two sons: Milton and Johnny. Levine and Helen separated. Helen was born 17 March 1901, and she died 10 Aug. 1983. Levine Leverkus lived his adult life in the Lake Charles, Louisiana, and Beaumont, Texas areas. Levine's occupation was given as a boilermaker. He was also a musician playing the harmonica and violin. Levine Leverkus died at the age of 50 years in Beaumont on 23 Sept. 1947. Levine was on a frog hunting trip near the Spindletop area of Beau-



Levine Leverkus, son of John F. & Dinah (Osborne) Leverkus, grandson of Fritz & Friedericke (Bode) Leverkus



From left: Verline Leverkuhn Conley, Milton L. Leverkus, Helen Drake Leverkus and Johnny J. Leverkus, children of Levine, mid 1970's

mont with his son, Milton, and Mr. R. M. Rives. According to *The Beaumont Enterprise*, Levine was accidentally shot as they were preparing to go home. His son, Milton, was putting the 16-gauge shotgun in the car when it went off, striking Levine in the right side, killing him on the spot. Levine Leverkus was buried in the Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Beaumont on 25 Sept. 1947.

*Levine Leverkus's daughter from his first marriage: Verline Leverkus* born 19 Nov. 1917. Verline was married three times: #1. to a Mr. Jones; #2. to Alfred E. Boswell on 28 Sept. 1939, in Beaumont; and #3. to William (Bill) Conley. Verline had no children. Verline died suddenly at her home in northern Louisiana in the late 1970's.



*Levine Leverkuhn's sons from his second marriage to Helen Ruth Drake:*

**1-b. Milton Levine Leverkuhn** born 27 April 1923, in Beaumont, Tex. Milton was first married to Ethyl Lois Esclavon on 18 Dec. 1941, in Port Arthur, Tx., and they were the parents of four children: **Jerry Levene** (b. 1942); **Milton Lewis** (b. 1946); and twins, **Joseph Lee** and **Judy Lynn** (b. 1947). Milton Leverkuhn secondly married **Lillian Juanita Baer** on 18 Feb. 1950, in Beaumont, and his third marriage was to **Irma Kathleen Woosley** on 4 April 1952. Irma Kathleen was born 13 March 1918, and she died 5 March 1999. Milton Leverkuhn retired as an ironworker in Nederland, Tex. Milton died in the Christus St. Mary's Hospital in Port Arthur, Tex. on 18 March 2002, at the age of 78 years. Milton and Irma Kathleen Leverkuhn are buried in the Memory Gardens Cemetery in Nederland, Jefferson Co., Texas.

**2-b. Johnny James Leverkuhn** born 16 Jan. 1925, in Beaumont, Tex. Johnny served in the U.S. Navy in World War II. Like his brother Milton, Johnny was an ironworker until his retirement. Johnny Levekuhn married **Shirley Gene Bryson** on 26 Sept. 1948, in Hardin Co., Texas. Johnny Leverkuhn died in the V. A. Hospital in Houston, Tx. on 19 Dec. 1984, at the age of 59 years. At his wishes, Johnny's body was cremated and his ashes were scattered at sea. Johnny and Shirley Leverkuhn were the parents of three children: **Shirlene** (b. 1953); **John Robert** (b. 1955) and **Lydia Helen** (b. 1962).



From left: Johnny Leverkuhn with his son, John Robert Leverkuhn, and wife, Shirley Bryson Leverkuhn

*The son of John F. Leverkuhn and his second wife, Caroline Harmon*

**Leverkuhn: John Calvert Leverkuhn** born 21 Feb. 1918, in Louisiana. John C. Leverkuhn married **Dorothy Sidan** on 8 May 1939, in Lake Charles, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana. Dorothy was born 17 Feb. 1918, in Lake Charles. John C. Leverkuhn was a veteran of WW II where he served in the U.S. Air Force. He worked as a marine mechanic for over 30 years before his retirement. John C. Leverkuhn died in a Lake Charles hospital on 4 Nov. 1992, at the age of 74 years. His wife, Dorothy Leverkuhn nee Sidan, died in Lake Charles at the age of 84 years on 18 Dec. 2002. John C. and Dorothy Leverkuhn are buried in the Le Bleu Cemetery in Chloe, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana. John and Dorothy Leverkuhn were the parents of two sons and three daughters: **Frank Henry Leverkuhn** (married **Kimberly June Elliott** in 1983), **John Calvert Leverkuhn, Jr.** (married **Sedelia Fay Higginbotham** on 22 Dec. 1978), **Marion Leverkuhn** (married **Charlie Elmer Hoffpauir**), **Jacklyn Debbie Leverkuhn** (married **David Ray Craver** on 4 Feb. 1977, and **Charles Elbert Dodd** on 24 June 1982), and **Patsy Johanna Leverkuhn** (married **Calvin Neuman Carney** on 20 Sept. 1968).

**X. Frank Christan Leverkuhn** born 16 Sept. 1876, in Houston, Texas. Frank was baptized 22 Oct. 1876, at First German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Houston, and he was confirmed 30 March 1890, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Houston. Frank Leverkuhn married **Mina Agnes Schrimpf** on 18 Dec. 1901, in Houston. Mina nee Schrimpf was born in Minnesota on 8 Oct. 1882; she was the daughter of Carl A. Schrimpf (a native of Muhlhasen, Saschen Thuringia, Germany) and Mary Hertz (born 4 April 1856, in Cleveland, Ohio; died 31 May 1938, in Houston, Tx). Frank and Mina Leverkuhn lived their

married life in the Leverkuhn home at 1213 Washington Ave. in Houston. Frank was a self-employed tailor and among his clients was the mayor of Houston. As Frank's eyesight weakened, he worked for an Ice Company in Houston delivering blocks of ice.

(His granddaughter has Frank's ice tongs today at her Houston home). Frank also had his own grape vineyard and made his own homemade wine. Frank and Mina rented out their two front bedrooms and one of their boarders was a member of the Houston Symphony. Frank and Mina would often have members of the



Frank and Mina (Schrimpf) Leverkuhn





Houston Symphony at their home to partake of some of Frank's homemade wine. Frank C. Leverkusn died at his home on Washington Ave. in Houston on 2 May 1961, at the age of 84 years. Frank and Mina were married 59 years at his death. Mina Leverkusn nee Schrimpf died a year later on 1 July 1962, at the age of 79. Frank and Mina Leverkusn are buried in the Leverkusn Family plot in the Washington Cemetery in Houston.

Frank and Mina Leverkusn were the parents of one daughter: **Rhoda Lois Leverkusn** born 8 May

1902, in Houston. Lois Leverkusn was baptized 21 June 1902, and she was confirmed in 1916, at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Houston. Lois married **William A.**



Lois (Leverkuhn) Barhorst, daughter of Frank and Mina (Schrimpf) Leverkusn

**Barhorst** on 11 Aug. 1922, in Houston. A native of St. Louis, Missouri, William Barhorst was born on 13 Dec. 1894; he was the youngest of 13 children. William came to Houston when he was about 18 years old. He was also a veteran of WWI. William and Lois Barhorst were both involved in the Houston Theater where William was a scenic designer and Lois worked in the wardrobe department. Wil-

liam began painting scenes for the St. Louis Opera when he was about ten years old and it remained his life's passion. William Barhorst died at his home on 7026 Sherman in Houston on 3 Oct. 1966, at the age of 71. Lois Barhorst nee Leverkusn died 19 years later at the same residence on 17 Dec. 1985, at the age of 83. Lois and William Barhorst are buried in the Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery in Houston.

William and Lois (Leverkuhn) Barhorst were the parents of two children:

**I-a. Ivan Dolph Barhorst** born 9 Dec. 1924, in Houston. Ivan was a veteran of WWTI. Ivan first married **Dovie Pauline Lee** on 9 Oct. 1946, in Houston. They were the parents of two sons: **Douglas Lee Barhorst** (b. 1949) and **Dennis Lee Barhorst** (b. 1951; d. 2003). Ivan and Dovie separated, and Ivan married **Virginia Arlene Fern** on 22 Jan. 1976, in Houston. Ivan Barhorst died in an automobile accident in Fort Bend County, Texas, on 7 March 1980, at the age of 53. Ivan is buried in the Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery in Houston.

**2-a: Rhoda Elizabeth Barhorst** born 23 Sept. 1927, in Houston. Rhoda married **Gus Berman Freitag, Jr.** on 7 Feb. 1948, in Houston. Gus Freitag was born in Houston on 5 Dec. 1925. Like her mother, Rhoda was also very involved in the Houston Theater in the wardrobe department. Today, Rhoda and Gus are owners of a Hobby Shop business in Houston. Rhoda and Gus Freitag are the parents of four children: **Derwood James** (b. 1949); **Rhonda Agnes** (b. 1953); **Deborah Irene** (b. 1956) and **Diane Elizabeth** (b. 1960).

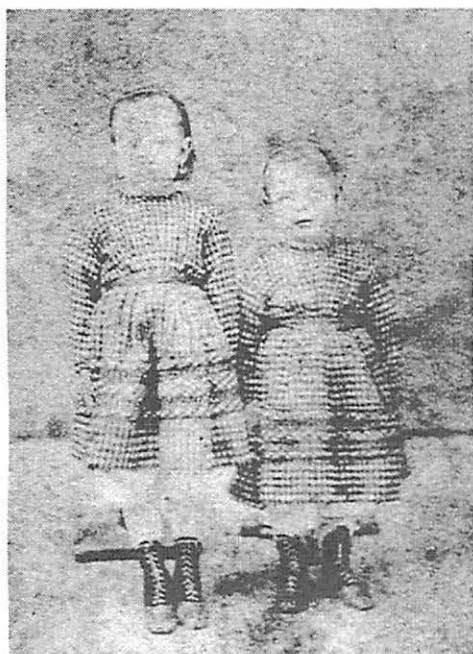


William and Lois (Leverkuhn) Barhorst



Ivan and Rhoda Barhorst (Freitag), children of William and Lois (Leverkahn) Barhorst





Amelia Leverkuhn Stevens and Lina Leverkuhn Hoop.



Friedericke Bode Leverkuhn with her two sons and two daughters. *Sitting from left, Frank C. Leverkuhn, Friedericke, and John F. Leverkuhn; Standing from left; Amelia Stevens and Lina Hoop.*

SOURCES: My late great-aunt, Lydia Bode Grudziecki (1908-1996) who first told me about *her* great-aunt, Friederike Bode Leverkuhn; Rhoda Barhorst Leverkuhn of Houston, Bettye Gehring Gardner of Houston, Betty Lou Jarrell Skiff of Georgetown, Saranne Smith Gehring of Amarillo, Shirlene Leverkuhn Smith of Beaumont, and Steve Metzger of San Antonio. Church records from Trinity Lutheran Church and Central Congregational Church (First Evangelical Church) of Houston. Obituaries from the archives of the Houston Post and Houston Chronicle, Beaumont Enterprise, and the Lake Charles newspaper. Records of the Godehard Lutheran Church in Rosenthal, near Peine, Germany, obtained with the help of Mr. Wilhelm Niermann of Stemwede-Wehden, Germany.

*Submitted by Daniel R Bode of Dayton, Tx-a great-great-grandson of Heinrich Konrad Wilhelm Bode-a brother of Friedericke Bode Leverkuhn.*

# OPERATIONS

## MINUTES OF THE MAY 16, 2010 MEETING GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS (approved)

The May 16, 2010 meeting of the German-Texan Heritage Society Board of Directors was called to order at 10 a.m. in the German Free School in Austin with GTHS President Mary Whigham presiding. Board members present were Charles Frederick, Martha Liehse, Carl Luckenbach, Daniel Bode, Mary Whigham, Charles Locklin, Wing Evans and Gerri West. Board members absent were Connie Krause, John Siemssen, Christina Gilliland and Christopher Markley. Also present was GTHS Executive Director Jean Warneke.

### Minutes of the March 13, 2010 Board Meeting

C. Luckenbach moved acceptance of the minutes of the board meeting of March 13 as scribed by the Secretary M. Liehse.

**MOTION APPROVED**

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer G. West passed out copies of the current Investment Report and Budget Report and reviewed them with the board.

W. Evans moved acceptance of her report. **MOTION APPROVED**

### Executive Director's Report

Executive Director J. Warneke reported on activities at the GFS, including the help received from American YouthWorks on the recent stage construction. Also, she reported that two restaurants have signed up to offer discounts to GTHS members and we will continue to look for other businesses that would like to participate in this program.

### Activities Committee Report

Committee Chair C. Luckenbach brought the board up to date on the September annual meeting plans.

G. West moved that GTHS provide a \$100 stipend to the Rev. Dr. William Russell for conducting a Sunday German church service at our upcoming annual meeting. After being seconded, the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**. W. Evans moved that we offer to TGS members the same registration rates that GTHS members will be paying for this year's annual meeting. After being seconded, the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**

### Development Committee Report

Interim Committee Chair G. West reported that the Gift Acceptance Policy draft is near completion. Also, the plaque listing the names of donors to the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Club fund will be ordered in 2011 when all pledges have been received.

### German Free School Committee Report

Committee Chair C. Locklin provided the board with a detailed cost analysis of the improvements carried out on the two GTHS lots this year, and reviewed a draft report for this year's Maifest showing a profit of approximately \$900.

### Publications Committee Report

C. Frederick agreed to chair the committee. W. Evans moved acceptance of Hans Boas's request to copy information from the GTHS copyrighted book "Handbook and Registry of German-Texan Heritage" as long as he credits GTHS and that publication. After being seconded, the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**

### Unfinished Business

J. Warneke reported that the new GTHS dues structure did not significantly influence the membership renewal rate this year. M. Whigham requested that the plans for Guild status recognition be reported on before the annual meeting and also reminded the board that vacant positions still need to be filled.

Upcoming dates announced:

Next board meeting – July 11

GTHS Oktoberfest – October 16

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Submitted by Martha Liehse, Secretary

Minutes approved July 11, 2010



[unapproved]

**MINUTES OF THE JULY 11, 2010 MEETING  
GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The July 11, 2010 meeting of the German-Texan Heritage Society Board of Directors was called to order at 10 a.m. in the German Free School in Austin with GTHS President Mary Whigham presiding. Board members present were Martha Liehse, Carl Luckenbach, Mary Whigham, Charles Locklin, Wing Evans and Gerri West. Board members absent were Connie Krause, John Sienmsen, Charles Frederick, Christina Gilliland, Daniel Bode, Christopher Markley. Also present was GTHS Executive Director Jean Warneke.

**Minutes of the May 16, 2010 Board Meeting**

C. Luckenbach moved acceptance of the minutes of the board meeting of May 16 as scribed by Secretary M. Liehse. **MOTION APPROVED**

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer G. West distributed copies of the final Maifest Report, the Morgan Stanley Investment Report, the Profit & Loss Budget Report and her narrative Treasurer's Report, which she reviewed with the board.

**Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director J. Warneke went over her narrative report, which included a draft proposal for an annual college scholarship for German study abroad which would require the applying student to be a GTHS member. She asked board members to send their thoughts to her concerning this proposal as well as concerning the present awards program for high school essay contest winners at the State German contest.

She also reported on the proposed plan to create a German Texan Heritage Trail and will communicate further with Dr. Meredith McClain, who has already laid the groundwork for such a project. Dr. McClain has offered to loan her German Texan exhibit to GTHS for display this fall.

J. Warneke announced that the German Free School is now listed under "Historic Sites" in the *Official Visitors Guide to Austin*, and she also reported that while on a personal visit to Washington, D.C. later this month, she would like to donate one copy of each of our GTHS-published books as well as one year's worth of the *Journal* to the German-American Heritage Foundation at the new German-American Heritage Museum. W. Evans moved that we donate those publications and, after being seconded, the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**.

Program Director M. Schmidt-Dumont's report was presented, with an update on the GTHS German language classes in Austin and around the State as well as the mention of plans for a book/media check-out library for our language class participants.

**Activities Committee Report**

Committee Chair C. Luckenbach gave an update on the September annual meeting. The Rev. Dr. Russell is moving to another state and will be unable to conduct the Sunday German worship service. Information about the meeting in Fredericksburg has been sent out to members with the July/August *Schulhaus Reporter*.

**German Free School Committee Report**

Committee Chair C. Locklin reported that the Free School building has passed the City fire inspection, which is part of the requirements to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy, which we must have before we can formally advertise and rent the facility for events such as weddings. Work on the Business Plan continues. He went over the committee's list of priorities for improvements and maintenance for the building.

W. Evans moved that three mid-sized flag poles be purchased and installed on the wall facing the street in order to provide more visibility of our facility from the street. They will be used for the U.S., Texas and German flags, and possibly special Maifest or Oktoberfest flags to advertise our events. After being seconded, the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**.

J. Warneke reported that GTHS is applying for a grant from the ACVB/Historic Landmark Commission to obtain funds for needed preservation work on the building.

Security for the property was discussed and there was agreement that a higher entrance gate (at the bottom of the front steps) would be a beginning for security improvements. J. Warneke will get a bid for a higher wrought iron gate and will put together a fundraising plan for it.

**Development Committee Report**

Interim Committee Chair G. West passed out copies of the draft Gift Acceptance Policy and asked board members to send her any comments by July 31. It will then be ready to consider for approval at the September board meeting. A fund drive brochure is being worked on and the Endowment Policy is still to be drafted.

**Membership Committee Report**

J. Warneke asked board members to submit names of businesses in their respective geographical areas to contact for inclusion in the discount program for GTHS members. A membership card for members was proposed, which could be produced at minimal expense and could be shown by members at participating businesses to obtain a discount.

J. Warneke asked board members to convey their thoughts to her concerning a proposed lower student membership fee that would include the e-mailed *Schulhaus Reporter* but not the *Journal*.

**Publications**

J. Warneke offered to contact the Institute of Texan Cultures and other museums to ask if they would consider selling GTHS-published books and possibly some of our German Christmas items in their gift shops. M. Whigham will research copyright questions and procedures for the next board meeting.

The next board meeting was set for September 12, 2010.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Submitted by Martha Liehse, Secretary





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# German-Texan Heritage Society

## 2010 Annual Meeting

September 24 - 26 - Fredericksburg, Texas

- Please print or write legibly. Your name tag will be made from this information.
- Use one sheet for registrants at the same address.
- Make copies of this sheet for multiple registrants at different addresses
- Membership in GTHS is not required to attend.

NAME (first registrant) \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (second registrant) \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

- **GTHS Membership:**  I am a current GTHS Member     I am not a current GTHS Member
- **Volunteering:**  Yes I will volunteer at the meeting. What would you like to do? \_\_\_\_\_
- **Carpooling:**  I need a ride.     I can offer a ride to \_\_\_ people from my area.

**REGISTRATION:** Please make your selections by telling us how many will attend EACH event and placing dollar amounts in the appropriate blanks. Events with NC (no charge) should be filled in, so that we may have a good head count and prepare. To avoid a late registration surcharge, your payment and completed form must be post-marked no later than September 3. Call 866-482-4847 with questions.

**VENDORS/EXHIBITORS:** Indicate below the number of vendor or exhibitor tables you would need. You are considered a vendor if you plan to sell merchandise or services. **All vendors and exhibitors must also pay the main registration fee.**

Event with approximate times—GTHS Member Pricing		Cost Per	How	Total per event
FRIDAY Sept. 24	Genealogy sessions, 1 - 3:15 pm	\$8		\$ _____
	Cemetery Tour 3:30 - 5 pm	NC		
	Willkommen Reception & Light Supper 5:45 pm	\$10		\$ _____
SATURDAY Sept. 25	GTHS Meeting with lunch, 8 am	\$30		\$ _____
	Historic Homes Tour, 2 - 4pm	NC		
	Cemetery Tour, 4:15 - 5:45 pm (as needed, repeat of Friday tour)	NC		
SUNDAY Sept. 26	Tour to San Saba, departing at 10:30 am	NC		
	Late Registration Fee (after September 03)	\$5		\$ _____
<b>TOTAL</b>				\$ _____
<b>Non-Member + \$10 per person</b>				\$ _____
<b>TOTAL</b>				\$ _____
<b>Exhibitors and Vendors</b>				
	Exhibitor Table (one 6'x2' table)	Free		
	Vendor Table (one 6'x2' table) Extra table +\$5	\$20/\$25		\$ _____
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>				\$ _____

*Note: Students with valid ID (enclose a copy) may subtract 10% from their total fees.*

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

Charge to my MasterCard / Visa \_\_\_\_\_ exp \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ V-code \_\_\_\_\_ (3 digit # on back of card)

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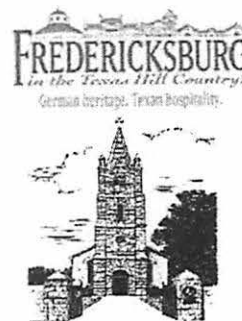


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## German-Texan Heritage Society

### 2010 Annual Meeting

September 24 – 26 Fredericksburg, Texas



### Tentative Program

#### Friday September 24, 2010

12:00 noon - Registration

1:00 PM - Genealogy Workshops with Liz Hicks

*Sleeping Beauty: Using Death Records for Genealogical Research*

3:30 PM - Der Stadt Friedhof—Cemetery Tour by Glen Treibs

5:30 PM - Willkommen Reception at the Glen & Peggy Treibs residence

#### Saturday September 25, 2010

8:00 AM - Registration

8:30 AM - Welcome by Mayor of Fredericksburg

8:45 AM - History of Fredericksburg including local churches by Glen Treibs

10:00 AM - "Captured" presented by Esther Lehmann, niece of Hermann Lehmann

10:30 AM - Presentation on Admiral of the Navy Chester Nimitz

11:00 AM - Grapetown Area Presentation by Debra Klinksiek

11:30 AM - Presentation on Hulda Saenger Walter by Dr. Betty Crenwelge Scroggin

AM— Presentation on German idioms by Jean Nielsen LaRatta

12:00 N - Lunch in Parish Hall

**12:45 PM - German-Texan Heritage Society Annual Business Meeting**

2:00 PM - Tours of local historical homes of German interest, Cherry Springs

to see the Lehmann family museum and view Baron von Meusebach's grave

#### Sunday September 26, 2010

10:30 AM - depart for San Saba to view the site of the signing of the treaty with the Comanches hosted by Meusebach descendants

*Schedule subject to final confirmation.*

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## 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

<b>Journal:</b>		Check <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> desired issues		<input type="checkbox"/> All 4 Issues		<b>OR</b>	
Issue:	<input type="checkbox"/> Spring	<input type="checkbox"/> Summer	<input type="checkbox"/> Fall	<input type="checkbox"/> Winter			
Deadline:	Feb 1	May 1	Aug 1	Oct 1			
<b>Schulhaus Reporter:</b>		Check <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> desired issues		<input type="checkbox"/> All 6 Issues		<b>OR</b>	
Issue:	<input type="checkbox"/> Jan-Feb	<input type="checkbox"/> Mar-Apr	<input type="checkbox"/> May-June	<input type="checkbox"/> Jul-Aug	<input type="checkbox"/> Sept-Oct	<input type="checkbox"/> 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
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**Discounts:** 10% off total amount for annual agreements, paid in advance.

<b>Purchaser Information (Please print clearly)</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member
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<input type="checkbox"/> CREDIT CARD (MasterCard / VISA) - # _____			
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Signature _____		Date _____	

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 Mail to: GTHS, Post Office Box 684171, Austin, TX 78768-4171

rev. Jan 2010

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**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 Jan—Dec (July-Dec—1/2 Price)
Life Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 (one time pmt)
Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100
International (includes international shipping)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 65
Family (2+ at same 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* (circle)

(name): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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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**



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## BOOKS PUBLISHED BY THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

<b>The Journal</b>		ISSN 0730-3106, 4x per year, 8½ x 11, paperback. Since 1978. Each issue of this member publication contains over 100 pp of German-Texan genealogy, history and related info in English, with occasional German articles translated.	\$5 members \$6 non-GTHS members
<b>A Sojourn in Texas, 1846-47</b>		ISBN 1-57168-237-6, 400 pp, 6 x 9, hardback. Illustrations, maps, index. Edited by W.M. Von-Maszewski. A. Sörge's Texas Writings. This dual-language edition is filled with observations, advice, and warnings for those who chose to come to Texas.	sale price <b>\$15.00</b> (list \$21.00)
<b>Church Records of the Pioneer Families of Berlin, Texas</b>		ISBN 1-57168-241-4, 292 pp, 8½ x 11, hardback. Index. By Breitenkamp and Dabbs. Records of births, deaths, marriages, baptisms and more.	sale price <b>\$12.50</b> (list \$35.00)
<b>Diary of Hermann Seele</b>		ISBN 1-57168-238-4, 504 pp, 6 x 9, hardback. Illustrations, bibliography, index. Translated and edited by Theodore Gish. Gives a revealing and intimate picture of 19th century Texas. Includes Seele's Sketches from Texas.	sale price <b>\$15.00</b> (list \$27.50)
<b>GTHS German Immigrant Ancestors</b>		ISBN 1-57168-240-6, 292 pp, 8½ x 11, paperback. Index and maps. Edited by Christa Prewitt. Genealogical records.	sale price <b>\$12</b> (list \$15)
<b>Handbook and Registry of German-Texan Heritage</b>		ISBN 1-57168-239-2, 192 pp, 8½ x 11, paperback. Index. Edited by W.M. Maszewski. Contains information on early German-Texan businesses, churches, cemeteries, schools, etc.	<b>\$9.00</b>
<b>History of the German Settlements in Texas, 1831-1861</b>		ISBN 1-57168-236-8, 280 pp, 6 x 9, NEW edition, paperback. Maps, illustrations, appendix, index. By Rudolf Biesele. Covers the actual founding and history of many German settlements and towns in Texas prior to the American Civil War.	<b>\$28.95</b>
<b>The Cabin Book</b>		ISBN 0-89015-525-9, 296 pp, 6 x 9, hardback. Illustrations. By Charles Sealsfield. Sealsfield's hopes about America focused on Texas when he wrote this in 1841. This novel, in part about Texas life in the 1830s, became a best-seller.	<b>\$9.00</b>
<b>Texas in 1848</b>		ISBN 1-57168-242-2, 240 pp, 6 x 9, hardback. Bibliography, index. By Victor Bracht. Originally published in German in 1849, this book has been described as a "treasure of German-Texan history." Filled with early Texas observations.	sale price <b>\$15.00</b> (list \$21.00)

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**WHERE DO YOU SEND THINGS FOR THE JOURNAL?**

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

**WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING MATERIALS TO THE JOURNAL?**

NEXT ISSUE

WINTER (DECEMBER 2010)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

November 1, 2010

**POLICY STATEMENT**

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

**GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY**

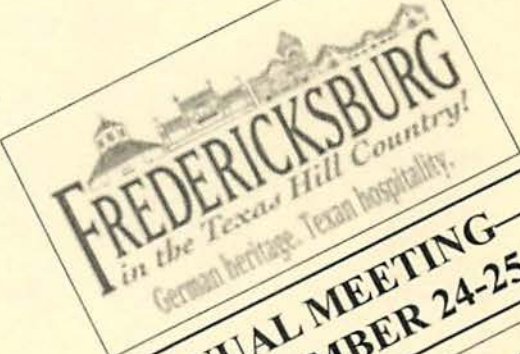
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SEPTEMBER 24-25**

**Registration form and  
information in the back  
of this Journal**

ISSN 0730-3106

Price: \$5 ( members) \$6 ( non-members )