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THE JOURNAL OF
THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
VOLUME XXXII, NUMBER 4, WINTER 2010
“Zur Erhaltung der deutschen Tradition”

- 235 In Memorium—Professor Emeritus George Schulz-Behrend**
- 236 President's Notes**
- 237 Message from the Executive Director**
- 238 Leave Your German Mark—Rodney Koenig**
- 239 Genealogy Inquiries—Liz Hicks**
- 243 Letters to and for the Editor**
- 244 Book Review by Kevin Mitchell—*Turning Germans into Texans: World War I and the Assimilation and Survival of German Culture in Texas, 1900—1930* by Matt Tippens**

OUTREACH

- 245 Annual Meeting Highlights, John Siemssen Reporting**
- 246 2010 Pioneer Ball in Dallas**
- 246 Idioms and Expressions in the German of Fredericksburg, Texas by C. J. Latta—A hit at the annual meeting**

COMMUNITY/STATE EVENTS

- 249 Past and Present Places in Texas with German Names, submitted by Terry Smart**
- 254 The “Hilda Mystery” Solved, submitted by Rev. Wesley Schulze**
- 255 Schmeckenfest Set December 2, submitted by Rodney Koenig & Carl Luckenbach**
- 256 Dedication Ceremony held on Sunday at Lindemann-Ott House in Industry, submitted by Joy Neely**
- 257 Comfort's Old Spanish Trail, submitted by Anne and Mike Stewart**

PEOPLE

- 260 Meinecke Historic Texas Cemetery Marker Dedication, submitted by Joy Neely**
- 261 With Ernst Altgate on Cypress Creek, July 1854, submitted by Anne Stewart**
- 261 Challenge from Editor—Fritz Goldbeck's Poems—do we have translations?**
- 262 Von Wedemeyers Ferry Across the Guadalupe River, submitted by Robert Feuge**
- 264 German Became County Judge, State Senator—Reinhard Hillebrand, submitted by Rodney Koenig**
- 265 Fischer Hall, Fisher, Texas, submitted by A. Kretzschmar**
- 265 Coming in the Next Journal: *Emil Habecker embraced his Texas experiences***
- 266 Smell the fresh, oven baked goodness, submitted by Michael Krause**

- 268 German Impressionists Get Their Due**, submitted by Janice Thompson
270 The Faust-Ingenhuett Hotel, submitted by Anne Stewart
271 The Family of John & Ella (Wernecke) Spreen, submitted by Dan Bode

OPERATIONS

- 275 Minutes**
Sponsorship Agreement
Membership Flyer (for YOU and to give to a potential member!)
Books GTHS Sells
2010-2011 Membership Roster

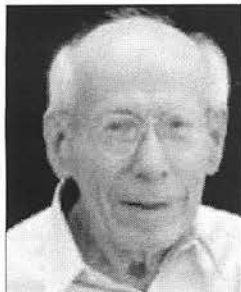
Vielen Dank to these contributors

Rodney Koenig, Houston	John Siemssen, New Braunfels
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Dan Bode, Dayton	

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In Memoriam

Professor Emeritus George Schulz-Behrend



George Schulz-Behrend died in Austin, TX, on August 21, 2010, at age 97. He was born on February 12, 1913, in Greifswald, Germany, to Ernst and Ella Schulz who precedes him in death. With his parents and brother, he immigrated to New York City in 1928 just in time for the stock market crash and Great Depression of 1929. George graduated from Boys High School in Brooklyn, received a BA in English and a MA in German from the University of Colorado at Boulder, followed by the PhD from the University of Iowa in Iowa City. While in Iowa, he married Mary Louise Barker and had children, Anita and Paul. The intent of devoting his life to the profession of scholarship and teaching inspired him first about the time he entered graduate school. This inspiration lasted his entire life. In 1946, George began an over forty year career as a Professor of Germanic Languages at the University of Texas at Austin. German Baroque literature became his field of interest. Being a bibliophile, he took an active role in augmenting the Germanic holdings of UT's Main Library. He was made a Faculty Fellow and later served on the Building Committee for the Perry-Castaneda Library. George collaborated with colleagues to publish a beginning German textbook, ACTIVE GERMAN. During the late 1950s, he initiated Saturday School for Children to introduce young people to conversational German. Allied with his eagerness to make the German language lively and fun, George served for over 40 years as Production Manager of the annual German play directed by his friend, Dr. Wolfgang Michael. SIMPLICIOUS SIMPLICISSIMUS (Simple Simon), a novel by Grimmelshausen is George's wonderfully entertaining translation about the Thirty Years' War. As a graduate student, George began his life long project of working on a critical edition of the works of the poet Martin Opitz (1597-1639) and was able to bring out four volumes and almost completed the fifth and final volume on which he continued to work into his 90s. The West German Government granted George a Gratitude Award and bestowed the Order of Merit on him, but the accolade that pleased him most was that Poland's grand lady of Baroque studies crowned him a poet laureate in Wollfenbuettel, after he had dashed off, at a moment's notice, a poem in Alexandrines. In 1959, George married Betty Stahl Stern and gained a stepdaughter, Janet. Betty preceded him in death in 2001. They had a long and happy marriage that included trips to Germany where George was guest professor in Berlin and Marburg. George is predeceased by his brother Hubert Schulz. He is survived by his daughter, Anita Schoeffler; his son Paul Schulz-Behrend and his wife, Jimmie Nell; his stepdaughter Janet Fleckman and her husband, Perry. He is also survived by seven grandchildren, nine great grandchildren, two great-great grandchildren as well as his sister-in-law Anna Marie Schulz, of Long Island, NY, a niece and a nephew, their spouses and five children. According to the wishes of the deceased, there will be no services. Donations may be made in his name to support German Scholarships at the University of Iowa Foundation P.O. Box 4550 Iowa City, IA 52244-4550 or the University of Colorado Foundation 1305 University Ave. Boulder, CO 80302. The family would like to thank the staff of Westminster Healthcare and Austin Hospice for their devoted care of George.

Professor George Schulz-Behrend was a charter member of GTHS.

President's Notes

Okay, okay, I will change the font on the cover back to the old one so you that really liked it can send me your kudos....

Your Schulhaus Reporter already let you know how much fun we had at the annual meeting and I just want to say one more time how much I enjoyed the days in Fredericksburg. We will return.

Great stories in this Winter Journal and a challenge to you out there that are avid readers, researchers and/or translators. See page 261 for your assignment!



Our year with Jean Warneke at the helm has seen us expand our grants, expand our presence in the community and the nation, and present the German Free School as THE place for weddings and who knows what other events. With the help of a very active German Free School Guild Committee under the capable direction of Charles Locklin, the building is alive with people! Sure wish I lived in Austin!

You can show your appreciation by continuing your membership (perhaps moving up to a higher level) and by donating to the various categories that help us continue our mission of promoting preservation and awareness of the German cultural heritage of Texas. As each generation passes, we are in danger of losing that data...those stories. They can and are being preserved in this document and in our Trenckmann Library and when we celebrate German traditions at the German Free School or at the annual meeting or when we participate in our local communities' German celebrations.

One of our goals for the coming year is to increase our "publishing" focus. I am delighted to say that our newest board member, Bob Flocke from Wimberley has opted to serve on that committee and has already emailed me with his enthusiasm to start right now!! (I believe we will be adding noted author, James Kearney as a board member mid next year!) And speaking of board members, welcome to our newest guys, Bob Flocke and Michael Krause. Dorothy Oelkers had hoped to serve but personal reasons prevent her from doing so...that means we have position #1 (New Braunfels area) and position #8 (San Antonio area) open. And oops, just as I was going to the printer, Charles Frederick is bowing out so his position #4 (Houston area) is open. Consider joining our merry band of brothers and sisters as I believe this next year will be very exciting.

Again, I can't tell you how much I enjoy putting together the *Journal* and "managing" such a great group of directors. Keep those cards and letters coming.

Mary

Executive Director's Report

Briefly ...

As you will see in this issue, it is time to renew membership in the German-Texan Heritage Society.

So you might ask of GTHS: What do I get for my dues payment?

Members pay their annual dues and receive a quarterly Journal and bi-monthly Schulhaus Reporter. But that shouldn't be all they get nor should it be all they give.

A second question might be: What does GTHS want from me?

Today I received a message from a member in response to an e-blast about German heritage holiday celebrations around the state. She mentioned that the food section of the Houston newspaper didn't mention one thing about German celebrations in the month of October. Can you believe that? We (Germans) ought to own October! It's not that German celebrations didn't occur; it's that we didn't spread the word sufficiently. So that is where you come in -

Membership-based organizations grow fastest and get more committed members when it is the current members reaching out to others one on one.

Do you know how many Texans of German descent there are? Well, neither do I but I can tell you, it's a lot. Nearly one in eight Americans has German background; Texas could be higher.

How many Texas history buffs do you know? Our state has the most unique history of all 50 and Germans played a significant role in the development of the Republic of Texas and the State of Texas.

In the New Year, challenge yourself to bring in one new member or renew a lapsed member. If each of you did that, we would double our membership with little effort for any one individual.

Give a gift membership. Like many groups, youth is a relative term at GTHS. Consider giving a gift membership to one of your kids or grandkids. This might be the spark to get them interested.

Donate a little extra. While membership keeps the ship afloat, donations put wind in the sails. You can designate where you want your donation to be used and we have a number of very good projects, such as the statewide German language program, scholarships (college study-abroad scholarships will be announced in 2011 in addition to our high school awards), the Treckmann Memorial Library which houses many family histories, or preserving the Historic German Free School, among Austin's oldest buildings.

Participate in your area of Texas or beyond. Can you help host or help us organize a genealogy seminar or our annual meeting? Can you introduce us to business or corporate sponsors? Could you host a meeting to recruit potential members in your area? Would you like to organize a language class?

Help us add value to membership. With increased numbers, we ought to be able to partner with businesses and services to offer discounts to members. Is there a German or Austrian restaurant in your area? A local theatre, salon, bowling alley, nursery, or gym. Approach them for a discount for our members. They are looking for ways to spread the word too, and by offering a discount to our members, we can all come out ahead. If you give me the name of a business owner, I will be happy to make the contact and request they become a part of the German Texan family.

Remember GTHS in your financial planning. Consider GTHS as a beneficiary in your will or on a life insurance policy, IRA or 401K. Create an endowment to fund a scholarship program. Or an endowment to ensure continued publication of our Journal. Donate a property reserving a life estate.

The German-Texan Heritage Society is you; it is not 'they'. Contact me at the office with your ideas. Any organization is only as good as its members and I know we have a dedicated and creative membership.

Jean

Jean Warneke

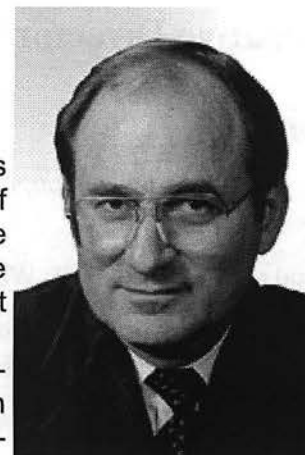
Executive Director

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LEAVE YOUR GERMAN MARK

By Rodney C. Koenig (past President of GTHS)



We all have favorite charities. We hope that one of your favorite charities is German-Texan Heritage Society or another German related charity. Many of us believe we do not have enough to make a difference. This is not true since many individuals collectively can generate a significant fund to promote the common good of our favorite charity. Most charitable Campaigns do seek out large donors but the more significant gifts come from many small donations.

In this issue, I ask that each reader think of the charitable foundations located in your community. In Houston the largest private foundation is Houston Endowment. While its net worth fluctuates, it has had a net worth of \$1.5 billion. Private foundation rules require that 5% of the net worth of a private foundation be spent yearly on gifts to public charities. If every member of GTHS became familiar with one private foundation in your hometown and got to know its Trustees, we would have a significant base of potential foundations to visit with when a charitable project of GTHS came up. For example, if a private foundation is worth \$1,000,000, then it must pay out 5% annually (\$50,000) to charity. The Meadows Foundation is a significant foundation in the Dallas area. In Austin a number of significant foundations exist. Likewise, a number of significant foundations exist in San Antonio, Houston, Corpus Christi, Victoria, Schulenburg, Brenham, Fort Worth, Waco, Lubbock, El Paso, and numerous other Texas towns and cities. Even fairly small towns often have foundations which often support charities in that area. Again, if each GTHS member "adopted" a foundation in your city or the city of your birth and got to know the trustees or directors of that foundation, the chances of being able to successfully ask for donations to GTHS improve dramatically.

I often wonder whether this column is really read. If any of you are willing to take the challenge, please try to find, on the Internet or otherwise, foundations in your community and do research on them. Look at their 990PF which reflects to whom they have donated. It also reflects their managing board and their current assets. Looking at the historical giving patterns of foundations will give you an idea of the public charities which a particular foundation supports. Please write the Editor and let the Editor know of foundations in your community which you believe might be willing to benefit GTHS. Finally, if you cannot find a foundation, perhaps you should create one to benefit your favorite charity. A friend of mine, Eugenia Miller, created the Luck & Loessin Collection Trust which is a foundation supporting the Fayette Heritage Museum and Library. Eugenia created her foundation in her Will. As a result of her creation of such foundation, the Luck & Loessin Collection Trust recently reframed birds-eye-view maps of La Grange, Schulenburg and Flatonia and presented those birds-eye-view maps to the Fayette Heritage Museum Library as well as presenting the Flatonia birds-eye map to the Annim Museum in Flatonia.

Eugenia Miller left her German Mark and honored her two German families, the Luck & Loessin families, by creating her own private foundation which supports the Fayette Heritage Museum Library. How will you leave your German Mark? Get to know the private foundations in your community and work with them to benefit your charity. Remember that each private foundation must give away 5% each and every year. It's not a question of whether they should give away, but only to whom they will give away.

You can leave your Mark by providing for your favorite German-Texan charity in your Will, through the creation of your own private foundation, by designating your charity as a beneficiary under your life insurance policy, your IRA, your 401(k), or your 403(b) plan. Please do take some action. Any of these gifts can be for broad charitable purposes or for specific purposes such as assisting in the printing and distribution of the GTHS Journal or for the creation of an endowment fund for the sending of students from your hometown to Germany for study. The purpose of the gift is only limited by your own imagination. For help in any of these items, please contact Rodney C. Koenig at (713) 651-5333 or by email at rkoenig@fulbright.com. Furthermore, any board member of GTHS will be pleased to help you in this matter. Whatever you do, please do leave your German Mark.

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 or 746 Edgebrook Dr., Houston, TX 77034-2030. We reserve the right to edit queries. Queries are printed as space permits at no charge.

**HEILIG – NITSCHKE – HABERMAN – GRUENWALD - ZIMMERMAN-KLAPPENBACH**

Linda Batchelor, e-mail: mamab2k@sbcglobal.net would like to hear from anyone researching these surnames as trying to connect to Janette Marianne Nitschke born 1793 possibly Seehausen, Germany. She married Carl August Heilig who was b. 1779 in Dresden. Their son, Ferdinand Julius Heilig (1851-1903), died in New Braunfels, had taught in the New Braunfels Academy. Ferdinand married Ultica F. Haberman in 1851. need siblings of Ferdinand, and connection to any other Nitschkes in Texas. Also, researching Gruenwald, Zimmerman and Klappenbach.

Reply: No connection I know of to my Carl Ludwig Nitschke born 30 Aug. 1813 Lunzenau, Sachsen, Germany, and died 9 Oct. 1888 Austin, Travis Co. Possibly, passenger list will have other siblings of Ferdinand? Some family may have remained in Germany? Use <http://pilot.familysearch.org> for Heilig death certificates in Texas. Look at right side of page for any person with parent(s) of Janette Marianne or Carl August. You may spot a brother this way. Check for marriage records of Heiligs in Comal Co. for possible sisters. Check for obituary for all as relatives are usually mentioned.

STERNENBURG

Delayna Crockett, P.O. Box 970303, Orem, UT 84097: e-mail: delayna@xmission.com is looking for information on Rudolph and Hester Sternenburg who lived in Taylor, TX 1883 to 1887. Why did they leave New Ulm area for Taylor? She would appreciate any information on this family.

Reply: Apparently, you have not received a response to your query which appeared in the Winter 2009 issue of the "Journal". Since you are between censuses, I would use the tax rolls for Williamson County to make sure they were there. If they did not own land, look toward the end of the tax roll that particular year for them. You might try reading the newspaper and church records for mention of them. Possibly, some of the Sternenburg family who remained in Austin County can help?

FEUGE - RANSLEBEN

Robert Feuge, 45 Sedona View Drive, Sedona, AZ 86336, e-mail: fritz@npgcable.com. Is hoping to find a copy of the original land contract between Julius Ransleben and Christoph Feuge early 1848 for 320 acres. Are there any Ransleben descendants who have a copy?

Reply: Look in the deeds of Bexar County that were transferred to Gillespie Co. You might check the civil court minutes of Gillespie Co. as well.

LULING - LÜLING/LUELING - MUMME

Marianne Weiss Kim, 7503 Anaqua Dr., Austin, TX 78750, email: weisskim@aol.com would like to know how Luling, Texas got its name. Was there a connection to Charles Lueling of Manhattan, NY and Mummy & Lueling Co. of New Orleans? Charles Lueling was born 1819 in Bremen, died 1877 in New York City.

Reply: Great timing! Volume 27, No. 2, 2009 of the "Plum Creek Almanac" (published by the Caldwell County Genealogical Society, 215 South Pecan Ave., Luling, TX) had an excellent article on this subject. According to the article, there was a letter that was published Dec. 2, 1874 in the "Galveston Daily News" which proved the answer. The "Galveston Daily News" is available under historical newspapers on Ancestry.com. It states that Luling was named in honor of Mrs. Charles Luling. She was Elena Michaela Longer Luling, the daughter of Manette de Buys

(1793-1886) and Pierre Victor Amede Longer of Rouen, France and New Orleans, LA.. Article states the Archives of the University of Liverpool has letters and documents of the Luling and Rathbone families. Charles Lueling was a financier and friend of T. W. Pierce, who was an officer of the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railroad Co., which completed a track to Luling, TX in 1874.

KUNZMAN(N) - HECK

Cecile Crawford, 4751 Eagle Trail, Houston, TX 77084, e-mail: ciledavid@aol.com would like to find any information on the Charles Kunzman family in San Antonio prior to 1885.

Reply: Page 130A&B of the 1870 Bexar County census has Charles Kunzmann age 41 born Bavaria; Christiana 39 born Swiss; John 18, Catharina 16, Theodore 14, Henry 12, Ida 7 and Julia 2 all born Texas. I would look for obituaries for all, and check death certificates for children at <http://pilot.familysearch.org> to see if give place of birth for Charles and Christiana. A surname like Kunzmann will show up with various spellings in records. There is a Chas. Kuhzman died 7-25-1884, aged 62 buried in the Hermann Sons Cem. in San Antonio. "Wills & Inventories of Bexar Co., TX 1742-1899" has estate #1417 of Rosina Kunzmann filed 11-26-1884. Heirs: children: Threse, Caroline, Minna and Joseph. Witnesses: John Heck and Ida Kunzmann. Julia 1868-1893, and Christiana Kunzmann 1830-1870 are buried in the Old German Lutheran Cemetery in San Antonio. Have you tried looking for baptismal records for children as should say where (town) the parents were from in Germany. Be sure to check for place of birth on actual tombstones as not all printed cemetery records include this information.

HEROLD – SCHWEERS – WESTENDORF – VORWALDT

Owen Schweers of Cincinnati, OH, e-mail: owen55@comcast.net Why did Lizette Herold, born Dinklage, Germany, emigrated 1850 to Cincinnati, OH and died there in 1890, have her obituary posted in the Jefferson City, TX newspaper? Lizette's mother's name was Westendorf and her grandmother was Vorwaldt.

Reply: Jefferson, TX is in Marion County, TX. The only Herold/Herolds I've managed to find is a Bertha Herold buried in Jefferson. Bertha was born 1824 and date of death was 1881. There is a note that she died in Texarkana, Bowie Co., TX. You could try to find a copy of the obituary from the newspaper in Jefferson to see if any help. I did not see any Herold in the 1880 census of Marion or Bowie Cos., Texas. Do you think she had the wrong state? Use <http://www.newspapers.com> or *American Newspapers 1821-1936: A Union List of files Available in the US and Canada* by Winifred Gregory, ed. 1937 to find newspaper in Jefferson.

HOFFMANN - MEYER(S) - BAER - KEYE - DEAN

Mike Schneider, 808 Abbie St., Pleasanton, CA 94566, e-mail: mike.schneider@ngc.com would like to hear from anyone researching the following of Austin, Travis Co., TX: Phillip Hoffmann/Hauffmann born Nassau circa 1820, married (1) Katherine "Kate" Meyers 25 Dec. 1851 and (2) Joanna "Anna" Miller 7 July, 1860 in Austin, TX. Kate Hoffmann (1838-1859) and a Mrs. Johanna Meyer are buried in the Peter A. and Mary Baer Meyer lot in Oakwood Cemetery, Austin, TX. What is the connection between the Peter A. Meyer, Kate and Joanna Meyer and Hoffmans, Millers?

Reply: Good question. The 1860 Travis Co. census page 385 has P. Hauffmann (Hoffmann) 40 born Nassau, wife A. age 46 born Tenrow?, H. female age 12, F. female age 10, Chs. (Charles) 7 born TX, P. male age 6, F. male 4, K. female age 1, a F. Dean age 29, D. his wife age 26, three Dean children: R. 5, J. 3, and A 1; and a Caroline Meer (Meyer?) age 27 born Nassau. The City Sexton records for Oakwood state Peter A. Meyer age 40, born Nassau, died of epileptic seizure 24 April 1866. Peter's wife, Mary Baer, born Nassau, was from Comal County, TX. Mary married William Keye in 1873. Wonder where they were from in Nassau?

MÖGELIN - MOEGELIN - THOMAS- GIEISS – TRAU GOTT - VOGEL

Caroll Warschak, 1005 N. 44th St., Waco, TX 76710, e-mail: cwarschak@aol.com Need more information on Johann Gottlieb Moegelin/Moeglin and wife, Anna/Annie Thomas. Was Otto Thomas the son of Johann Gottlieb Moeglin? Johann Gottlieb, brothers and sisters came with parents, Johann Michael Moeglin emigrated together as per the 1854 Brandenburg Emigration Index. One sister, Auguste Marie Moegelin married Franz Julius Gieiss at Indianola, Calhoun Co., June 24, 1854. Members of the family were in Comal, Bexar, and DeWitt Counties. I have not found Johann Gottlieb Moegelin in Comal County.

Reply: There is going to be a problem researching this surname (Mögelin) due to the various spellings of the name. It appears to me that Johann Gottlieb Moegelin married a MRS. Anna (possibly Johanna) Thomas, who had a son, Otto. I have not been able to find a marriage record for Anna to her Moegelin or Thomas husband. To find other members of the family, I would try to find estate papers for Johann Gottlieb, Johann Michael, and even Otto Thomas. The obituary for Anna Thomas Moegelin says she died at the home of her son, Otto Thomas. The earliest record I can find for Johann Gottlieb is in Cuero, DeWitt County deed and tax records. He bought land in Travis Co. 5-19-1886 as did Otto Thomas in 1887. I found marriages for sisters: Emma to Friedrich Vogel 8-13-1881 wit. O. Vogel and P. Moegelin; Wilhelmine to Andreas Traugott 10-19-1878 wit. Valentin Zurk, John Heck, both Comal Co. marriages. I have not been able to find Johann Gottlieb Moegelin on any census prior to 1880 DeWitt Co. This is probably due to variation of spelling of the name. Johann G. was buried 4-7-1887, age 60, Sec. 2 Lot 448, Oakwood Cemetery, Austin, as are Anna Thomas Moegelin and Mr. & Mrs. Otto Thomas. Johann G.'s tombstone says born Berlin. There is quite a bit of information on the Moegelins in Bexar County records, but not Johann Gottlieb that I've found.

CLAUS/KLAUS – SCHMIDT - GOEBEL

Peggy H. Neill, 1114 Woodworth Dr., Alice, TX 78332, e-mail: lempeg@sbcglobal.net. On the 1870 Comal Co. census (Smithson Valley) are 2 Schmidt families: Gottlieb 74 & Rudolph 40. Are either related to Katrina Schmidt Claus b. 1821, wife of Conrad Claus? Rudolph Schmidt had a son named Rudolph and Katrina Claus had a grandson named Rudolph Goebel.

Reply: Both Gottlieb and Rudolph Schmidt give Schwarzburg as place of birth on the census. I would look for testate(will) and or intestate(no will) records in Comal Co. or last county you find Gottlieb & Rudolph per the censuses. The final settlement of the estate names all the heirs. According to "A New Land Beckoned" by Geue, a Rudolph Schmidt, single, came on the ship "Elisa & Charlotte" from Bremen to Galveston 10-20-1846 as did a Gottlob Friedrich with wife, Christina nee Ullrich. Possibly, the original passenger list will list your Katrina? Obits may be of help as well. Try Center for American History at UT-Austin for original passenger list. Deed transactions may also indicate relationship between all the Schmidts and Claus/Klaus. There were other Schmidts in Comal Co.: Gustav age 21 in 1860, Jacob age 42 1850-53, John. Gustav 1859, Louis 1873, Martin 1858, Philipp 1858, Conrad born Nassau, 1858; August 1867 and Wilhelm 1850 (dates are from Index to Declarations & Nat. of Comal Co. court proceedings). The only Klaus (none by Claus) listed was Wilhelm Klaus Spr. 1860.

RONSHAUSEN - SCHMIDT – NUHN

N.L. Roshausen, 12757 Lisbon Rd., Salem, OH 44460, e-mail: Nhelbert@aol.com Researching Ronshausens who immigrated through Galveston 1866 and settled in Washington County, Texas. Johann Heinrich born ca. 1819, Marta Schmidt Ronshausen b. 1824, Johann Henrich b. 4-14-1850, Frederick William b. 2-5-1852, Elizabeth Ronshausen Nuhn b. 8-14-1857 and another (name in doubt) b. circa 1859. Where were they from?

Reply: The Bark "Iris" arrived Galveston Oct. 17-1866 with Henrich Ranshausen 42, place of birth:Hessen Cassel, last residence: Cassel, country of alligance: Hessen Cassel, occupation: miner, Also listed Marta age 42 same, Heinrich 17, Friedrich 15, Elizabeth 9 and Wilhelm Ranshausen age 7 all Cassel. The only nationalization I found in the Washington Co. index was Henry age 48 at date of proceedings 10-22-1872. He filed his Declaration of Intent in District Court Volume unmarked, page 53. In WPA Index To Naturalizations in State and District Courts for Gonzales Co., TX there is a Fredrich Wilhelm Ronshausen age 35, filed 8-8-1887 as is a Wilhelm age 27 as of 8-8-1887. I did not find any Ronshausens in Washington Co. cemeteries. A Check of the Texas Death Certificates for Ronshausen at <http://pilot.familysearch.org> show several who died in Gonzales Co. with Washington Co. connections.

TREDEMEYER – RENKEN – FRANKE

Eddie Wolsch, 404 N. Foley, Seymour, TX 76380-2016, e-mail: ewolsch@hotmail.com I am interested in finding a researcher for my Plattdeutsch: August Tredemeyer of Hannover born 1852. His wife, Helena, born 1857 in Schweiburg, in the Oldenburg Principality. August's parents were Friedrich and Anna Franke Tredemeyer born 1820s in Hannover. In addition to research, I would like to contact any Tredemeyer and Renken relatives in Germany.

Reply: The Oldenburg Genealogy Society has a list of parishes and specialists on their Website:

www.familienkunde-oldenburg.de (click on British flag to translate). A list of Emigrants from the former state of Oldenburg is maintained by the OGS at this site as well. Look for the list of "Emigranten" or "Auswanderers". Use www.rootsweb.com to Find a mailing list for Oldenburg and Hannover, and don't forget Prussia-Roots-L-request@rootsweb.com. Cyndislist.com/germany.htm has good information as well. www.genealogy.net/reg/NSAC/nsac.html-scroll down for info. on religious divisions Oldenburg and Hannover (Königreich Hannover). The email address of the President of Plattdüütsche Vereen, Seattle, WA is Walter Grotheer, prost7@aol.com. Have you tried the German telephone book, www.dastelefonbuch.de, for listings of your surnames in the areas you're research? Helga Von Schweinitz, w/GTHS, suggests the Ballinstadt Museum in Hamburg. They have addresses of researchers.

TREBUS

Kay Hudspeth, 118 East 6th St., Ontario, CA 91764, e-mail: kayhuds@earthlink.net and Robert Pruessner found ancestor, Harry Trebus who emigrated in 1870, served in US Calvary, had siblings in Germany. Harry Trebus was from Treben, Germany. How

Do we access records of Treben and possible descendants of siblings in Germany?

Reply: According to microfilm of Registers of Enlistments in the US Army 1871-1877 (at Clayton Library, Houston, TX), Harry Trebus enlisted Jan. 15, 1875 in Boston. The end of this first enlistment was Jan. 22, 1880 at Ft. Concho, TX as a Private. He reenlisted, and is buried in Fort Sam Houston Natl. Cemetery, San Antonio, Sec. C, Site 521. His wife, Emmie is also buried there. The correct name of Treben is Trebbin, website: www.stadt-trebbin.de. Use google maps or www.expedia.com (click on maps) to see on a present day map of Germany. The Evangelische (Lutheran) Church books 1811-1874 have been filmed by LDS/Mormans. You can rent and use at any LDS Family History Library near you. If you use, www.dastelefonbuch.de (German phone book) you can do a search for Trebus in Trebbin or Berlin. There about 8 listed.

Not too soon to be asking members what genealogical topics they would like to hear at the 2011 GTHS Conference in Dallas. Respond to Liz (erootrot@usa.net) or the office (execdirector@germantexans.org.)

1. Genealogy Dept. of the Dallas Public Library, what's available for German Research
2. Using Land Records for Genealogical Research
3. Using Newspapers for Gen. Research
4. Passenger Lists
5. Manuscript Collections-finding unpublished records
6. German Parish Records
7. Maps
8. Church Records - finding and using for gen. research
9. Other _____
10. Websites for Genealogical Research

I just tossed these ideas out there. Maybe you all have some other suggestions?
Thanks, Liz

<http://www.austintxgensoc.org/records/1875census.php>

The 1875 Austin census has been put up. It has all the members of the family listed with ages and country of birth. There are many Germans listed. You can also tell when they got to the US by looking at children's birth. If the child is born in Germany, it will say German but the children born in the US will say American. Robert Sage

Robert is active with the Austin Gen. Society. This census includes many Germans associated with the German Free School.

Letters to and for the Editor:

As a new member and first time attendee I wanted to congratulate you on the great annual meeting! I had a great time and met a lot of neat people. Can't wait for the next one. Ted Franks

WE HAD A WONDERFUL TIME IN FREDERICKSBURG! Mary, Just wanted to thank you, Jean, Carl and Gerri for all the work done. It was a very interesting and informative event and following Glen Treibs was almost like being on a fact-finding mission. Christina Gilliland

Thank you so very much for inviting the public to attend your wonderful and informative Annual Meeting in Fredericksburg.

My husband and I moved to Fredericksburg four years ago and have traced both of our German ancestry lines to when our Jordan, Koym and Hoffmann ancestors arrived in Texas in Dec.1835 and Dec.1868 respectively. (Not sure of the early Hoffmann arrival date yet.) Your weekend of events was especially inviting because my great-great grandfather, J. Ernst Jordan, was in Fredericksburg from 1836-1856 and moved on to establish the community of Art, Mason County, Texas with my other early German relatives (Bickenbach, Dannheim, von Donop, Kothmann, and Lehmborg).

I was so excited to read the GTHS articles in the Fredericksburg Standard Post Newspaper and quickly signed my husband, my sister, Marjorie Cardwell, and myself up for the three-day events this weekend. The talks were each very interesting and we especially enjoyed the tours around town and our visit to Glen Treibs home, the Meusebach grave and the site near San Saba where the Comanche Treaty was signed. We were also excited to meet the people of your organization and guest who attended because we made a lot of family connections and found new leads to continue our family heritage search. Zala Cox Koym

Jean, et al Congrats to all on a great meeting. Janet and I had an absolutely wonderful time. In addition to the wonderful presentations, we really appreciated Glen's narration on the field trips. John Siemssen



WE FOUND IT!!!

BOOK REVIEW: *Turning Germans Into Texans:**World War I and the Assimilation and Survival of German Culture in Texas, 1900-1930*

Matthew D. Tippens, Ph. D.

Available: Amazon.com \$17.95

When German Culture Went Underground

by Kevin Mitchell

In light of the fact that more Americans still trace their ancestry back to Germany than any other country – including England – you have to wonder: Where’s the evidence? Where are all the German-American pride parades? Why don’t more students take German courses, and where are the holidays celebrating German ancestry?

These questions are even more puzzling in places like central and south-central Texas, where Germans settled en masse beginning in the 1840s. In fact, by 1910, more than one out of five Texans in 10 Texas counties were either born in Germany or had two parents who came from there. Even greater concentrations of German natives populated states throughout the upper Midwest. Sure, people today still pull on *lederhosen* every fall for Wurstfest in New Braunfels, and German-named streets crisscross many Texas cities, but German immigrants apparently took the notion of the American melting pot very literally.

Matthew Tippens can explain why. In his book, “*Turning Germans into Texans*,” Dr. Tippens pinpoints World War I as the turning point for German culture in Texas and America.

During the first World War, growing paranoia that German Americans were more loyal to the Kaiser than to the United States led to explicit pressure on Germans to not only assimilate, but prove, their loyalty. Tippens describes a host of wartime pressures on Germans in Texas, including:

- Schools – even those in German-speaking communities – were instructed to conduct classes in English only. German-language courses began disappearing. In 1918, 99 public and private high schools were accredited to teach German. By 1921, there were only 10. There were also cases of German professors at state universities who were fired.
- Many Lutheran and Catholic churches in Texas were pressured to switch to English-only services, and a handful of uncooperative pastors and priests were forced out.
- Local loyalty committees monitored and reported the activities of suspected German loyalists.
- “Halt the Hun” posters showing menacing German soldiers threatening women and children were part of the federal government’s efforts to sell liberty bonds.

Faced with such hostilities, German Texans did what reasonable people would do: They muted any display of German culture and accelerated their assimilation into American society. As Tippens writes:

“The German language disappeared from Texas’ classrooms, German newspapers and societies failed, more and more churches adopted English-language-only services, and public displays of German ethnicity retreated from Texas’ streets.”

Tippens points out that, despite the pressures of World War I, German culture might have gone underground, but it didn’t disappear altogether. Ninety years later, towns like New Braunfels and Fredericksburg still keep the spark alive, and organizations like the German-Texan Heritage Society exist to preserve the tradition. But in Texas and throughout the United States, one clear legacy of World War I is that the nation’s largest single cultural ancestry has left few telltale signs of its once distinct culture.

OUTREACH

Annual Meeting Highlights, Fredericksburg, John Siemssen Reporting

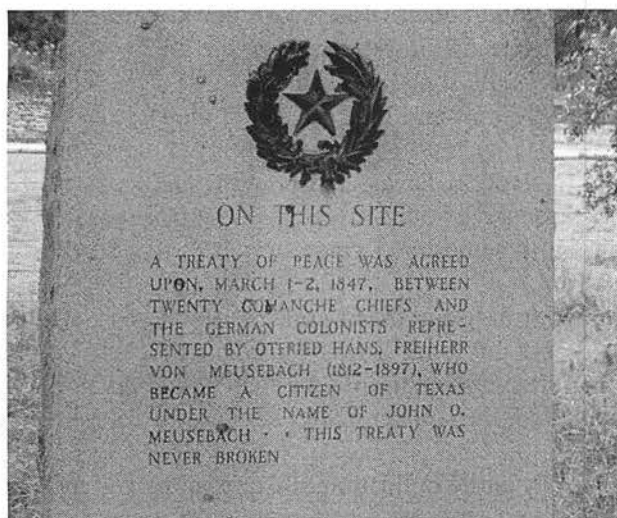


Der Stadt Friedhof - Picture of the entrance gate and the Baines Family grave site. I loved Glen's story of how the Baines' belief in the value of education led to their grandson going on to become a President of the USA.

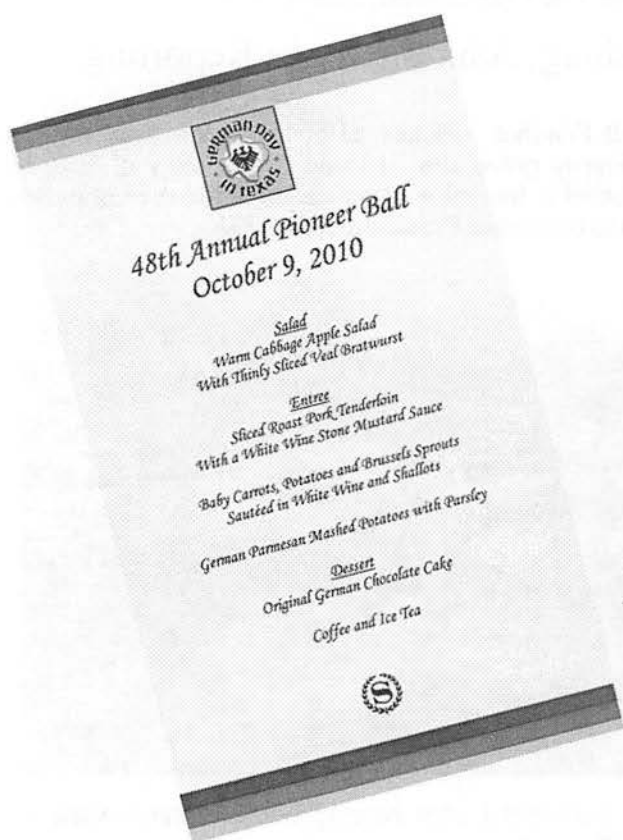


Lehmann Cemetery - Plaque and picture of Hermann and Willie's grave sites. Glen's narrative was very meaningful after hearing Esther Lehmann tell the story of Hermann earlier in the day.

Musebach Treaty Site - After an 'interesting' journey finding the site, we got to meet the great granddaughter (Patsy Marschall Stewart) and great great granddaughter (Christine Pool Bessent) of John O. Meusebach. As Glen said, the Musebach name may have disappeared but his blood still flows in these two ladies. It was very special meeting them.



2010 Pioneer Ball in Dallas



President Mary Whigham and daughter and son in law, Pam and Mark Presswood, Executive Director Jean Warneke, Program Director Melanie Schmidt-Dumont, Board Members Martha and Gerhard Liehsel and Christina and Bill Gilliland attended this great event. We will be honored by this group next October at our annual meeting so make plans now to attend... great food, great music, great people

A Huge Hit at the Annual Meeting:

Idioms and Expressions in the German of Fredericksburg, Texas

C.J. Latta

While I'm not really one of those "shop till you drop" people, I do enjoy reading those funny little signs on the walls in some of our gift shops. My favorite is "Mirror, mirror, on the wall, I've become my mother after all."

My friends tell me I have gone way beyond that and become my grandmother, Valeska Franciska Katherine Klein Mueller, a semi-outrageous lady who loved raising chickens and blue Morning Glories, some of the things I do now.

In remembering Valeska, or Oma, as we called her, and Opa, and as the song goes, all the "dear hearts and gentle people" in my home town of Fredericksburg, I wrote a paper entitled "Idioms and Expressions in the German of Fredericksburg, Texas."

After the usual introduction of telling how the Germans came to settle in Texas, and how the German of Fredericksburg differs from standard "Hoch Deutsch," (that is, the usual absence of the Dative and Genitive cases), I went about the task of compiling expressions. Over the course of an entire semester, I came up with quite a collection, which I alphabetized according to a prominent noun in each expression.

I wrote my paper around my collection of expressions and turned it in to my thesis committee. When I arrived at the appointed time for my final critique, I heard my professors laughing out loud. I was considering fleeing to the ladies' room to hide when I was summoned into the room. My committee chairman told me that he and his colleagues read a lot of papers, and while the papers were almost always quite good, the subject matter sometimes got a little boring. He thanked me for a welcome break.

Due to space limitation, I won't attempt to subject my readers to my entire collection of expressions, but have chosen some examples, which I hope they will find amusing.

“Häng dein’ Maul an ein’ Nagel.”	If you don’t like the food that is put before you, go hang your mouth on a nail.
“Er hat sich ein’ Besen über den Hintern bebunden.”	He tied a broom across his backside. (He experienced an unhappy love affair.)
“Er war dumm geboren und hat Nichts zu gelernt.”	He was born dumb and hasn’t learned anything since.
“Er lässt die Ohren hängen.”	His ears are drooping. (He is not feeling well or he is unhappy.)
“Wenn er ein’ Wolf sieht, das ist ein grosser.”	When he sees a wolf, it’s a big one. (He exaggerates, embellishes stories.)
“Er ist ein Engel mit ein’ B davor.”	He is an angel with a B in front of it, making it <i>Bengel</i> , a rascal.
“Halts Maul und sing mit.”	Shut your mouth and sing along. (Don’t make a big deal of it; just let it pass.)
“Es ist nur ein Katzensprung von hier.”	It’s only a cat’s jump from here.
“Die Katz hat’s gesagt.”	The cat said so. (None of your business, or I don’t know who said so.)
“Er weisz ungefähr soviel davon wie die Katz’ von Sonntag.”	He knows as much about that as the cat knows when it’s Sunday. (He doesn’t know much about it.)
“Ich gehe nach Katzepinn, wo die Hunde mit ‘n’ Schwanz bellen.”	I’m going to Katzepinn, where the dogs bark with their tails. (None of your business where I’m going.)
“Er guckt Löcher in die Luft.”	He is staring holes into the air.
“Er stinkt vor Faulheit.”	He is so lazy he stinks.
“Er hat die Arbeit nicht erfunden.”	He didn’t invent work. (He’s lazy.)
“Er musz sich ruhen dasz er die Nacht schlafen kann.”	He has to rest so he can sleep tonight. (He’s lazy.)
“Morgen, morgen, nur nicht Heute sagen alle faule Leute.”	Tomorrow, tomorrow, not today. That’s what lazy people say.
“Das wissen die Schmetterlinge.”	Only the butterflies know. (Who knows? No telling.)
“Wenn das Denken verboten wär, wär es ihn einerlei.”	If it were illegal to think, it would not matter to him. (He’s not too bright.)
“Was er mit die Händ’ aufstellt, schmeiszt er mit den Hintern um”.	What he sets up with his hands, he knocks over with his backside. (He’s clumsy.)
“Bei den liegt viel auf die Erd.”	A lot of him is lying on the ground. (He has big feet.)
“Er könnt den Pabst fluchen machen.”	He could make the Pope curse. (He is an annoying person.)

“Er ist verrückt wie eine Wanz.”	He’s crazy as a bed bug.
“Sie hat ein’ Fingerhut voll Verstand.”	She has a thimble full of common sense.
“Wenn er ein Maikaifer wär, käm’ er in Dezember.”	If he were a June bug, he’d get here in December. (He’s always late.)
“Er schlept eine Gurke ins Gesicht herum.”	He is lugging a cucumber around on his face. (He has a big nose.)
“Bei die in die Näh’ kann man kein Pferd reiten.”	She is so ugly you can’t ride a horse up to her because it will shy.
“Das hat der Petrus noch nicht unterschrieben.”	Saint Peter hasn’t signed that yet. (I’m not sure about that; I’m still debating the issue.)

In conclusion: The German of Fredericksburg includes many kind and pleasant expressions as well, but those are not *nearly* as much fun!

Editor’s Note: Thank you, thank you....great fun and even greater when you were reeling these off and those in the audience that spoke German chuckled their way through your presentation!!

Community Events

PAST AND PRESENT PLACES IN TEXAS WITH GERMAN NAMES

by Terry L. Smart, San Antonio

The German heritage of Texas is reflected by the names of towns, communities, and counties throughout the state. Some of these are listed below with a brief description of the German origin. This is not an inclusive list. There are many other place names not mentioned here.

ANHALT (in Comal County) This early German community had a general store on a road between Boerne and New Braunfels where travelers stopped. *Anhalt* meant "stopping place" in German. Anhalt also was the name of a duchy in central Germany.

BAMMEL (in Harris County) This community was named for an early German settler, Charles Bammel, who opened its first general store.

BARBAROSSA (in Guadalupe County) The twelfth century German Emperor Frederick I was known as *Barbarossa*, meaning Red Beard.

BEHRENS (in Mason County) This community was named for Julius Behrens, one of the early German settlers.

BEHRENVILLE (in Williamson County) Behrenville was named for H.T. Behren, one of the early German settlers.

BEHRING STORE (in Guadalupe County) This name derived from the general store opened by German settler, Henry Behring.

BERGHEIM (in Kendall County) *Bergheim* meant Mountain Home in German.

BERLIN (in Erath, Washington and Wilbarger Counties) Berlin was the capital city of the Kingdom of Prussia. It became the capital city of the German Empire after the empire was founded in 1871

BETTINA (in Llano County) Bettina von Arnim (nee Elisabeth Catherina Magdalena Brentano) was a nineteenth century German political activist, writer, novelist, publisher, composer and singer.

BEYERSVILLE (in Williamson County) This community was named for an early German settler, Gustav Beyer, its first postmaster.

BIEGEL (in Fayette County) This settlement was named for its founder, Joseph Biegel, a German immigrant.

BLUMENTHAL (in Colorado and Gillespie Counties) *Blumenthal* meant Valley of Flowers in German.

BOERNE (in Kendall County) Ludwig Boerne was a nineteenth century German writer, satirist, journalist, newspaper editor and political activist.

BRESLAU (in Lavaca County) Breslau was a city in the Kingdom of Prussia.

BRANDENBURG (in Stonewall County) Brandenburg was a region in the Kingdom of Prussia. This town was re-named Old Glory shortly after the United States entered World War I against Germany.

BUESING (in DeWitt County) This community was named for an early German settler, Henry Buesing, who donated land for its first school.

CASTELL (in Llano County) Castell was named to honor Prince Karl Frederick Christian of Castell, a German nobleman and business manager of the *Adelsverein* (Society of Nobles). Castell was a small principality in Germany annexed by the Kingdom of Bavaria in 1815.

CHARLOTTENBURG (in Lavaca County) Charlottenburg was the name of a city in the Kingdom of Prussia.

DESSAU (in Travis County) Dessau was the name of the capital city of the German Duchy of Anhalt.

DETMOLD (in Milam County) Detmold was the name of the capital city of the German principality of Lippe.

DRESDEN (in Navarro County) The Kingdom of Saxony's capital was the city of Dresden.

ELMENDORF (in Bexar County) Elmendorf reportedly was the name of a village in the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg.

ERATH (in McLennan County) The town of Erath was founded about 1860 in McLennan County and named for George Bernard Erath, a German veteran of the Battle of San Jacinto.

ERATH COUNTY When Erath County was organized in 1856 it was named for George Bernard Erath, a German veteran of the Battle of San Jacinto.

EYLAU (in Bowie County) Eylau was a town in the Kingdom of Prussia and the site of a battle fought by the Prussian army in 1807 against a French army under Napoleon.

FASHING (in Atascosa County) Fashing was the Anglicized form of *Fasching*. *Fasching* meant carnival in German.

FRANKFORT (in Guadalupe County) Frankfort was the Anglicized form of Frankfurt, an autonomous German city from 1815 until its annexation by the Kingdom of Prussia in 1866.

FREDERICKSBURG (in Gillespie County) This town was named for Frederick William IV, who was the King of Prussia when Fredericksburg was founded.

FREIHEIT (in Comal County) *Freiheit* meant Freedom in German.

FREYBURG (in Fayette County) Freyburg was the Anglicized form of Freiburg, a city in the Grand Duchy of Baden. The city in Baden also was known as Freiburg im Breisgau.

FRIEDEN (in Washington County) *Frieden* meant Peace in German.

FUCHS (in Milam County) This community was named for one of the German families among its early settlers.

GERMANY (in Houston and Navarro Counties) Until 1871, Germany was a geographical term for the German-speaking parts of Central Europe, not the name for a country. There was no nation of Germany until 1871.

GLECKER (in Lavaca County) This community was named for an early German settler, A. Glecker, who opened a general store in 1887 and served as postmaster and justice of the peace.

GROSSVILLE (in Mason County) This community was named for Ludwig Gross, an early German settler.

GRUENAU (in DeWitt County) *Gruenau* meant Green Meadow in German, and reportedly was the name of a town in the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg.

GRUENE (in Comal County) This community was named for Henry D. Gruene, the son of German immigrants who were major landowners in the area.

HANOVER (in Hill and Milam Counties) Hanover was a kingdom in northwestern Germany.

HEDWIG HILL (Mason County) Hedwig was a nineteenth century German girl's name. Hedwig also was the name of a thirteenth century Catholic saint and the name of a congregation of German nuns founded at Breslau known as the Sisters of St. Hedwig.

HEDWIG VILLAGE (Harris County) Hedwig was a nineteenth century German girl's name. Hedwig also was the name of a thirteenth century Catholic saint and the name of a congregation of German nuns founded at Breslau known as the Sisters of St. Hedwig.

HEIDELBERG (in Hidalgo County) Heidelberg was a city in the Grand Duchy of Baden.

HEINZEVILLE (in DeWitt County) This community was named for Fritz Heinze, an early German settler who donated land for its first schoolhouse.

HENKHAUS (in Lavaca County) This community was named for John Henkhaus, an early German settler who was its first postmaster.

HOCHHEIM (in DeWitt County) *Hochheim* meant Hoch's Home in German. This community was named for the stone house built by an early settler, Valentine Hoch, a German immigrant.

HOCHHEIM PRAIRIE (in DeWitt County) *Hochheim* meant Hoch's Home in German. This community was named for the stone house built by an early settler, Valentine Hoch, a German immigrant.

KLEBERG COUNTY In 1913, the Texas Legislature created a new county from parts of Nueces County and named it Kleberg County to honor Robert Kleberg, a German veteran of the Battle of San Jacinto.

LEININGEN (in Llano County) This name was chosen to honor Prince Karl of Leiningen, a German nobleman who was a founder of the *Adelsverein* (Society of Nobles) and its first president.

LINDENAU (in DeWitt County) *Lindenau* in German meant a meadow with linden trees.

MAINZ (in Kendall County) Mainz was a city in the Grand Duchy of Hesse-Darmstadt.

MAN(N)HEIM (in Lee County) Mannheim was a city in the Kingdom of Baden.

MECKLENBURG (in Fayette County) Mecklenburg-Strelitz and Mecklenburg-Schwerin were two German grand duchies.

MENTZ (in Colorado County) Mentz was the Anglicized form of Mainz, a city in the Grand Duchy of Hesse-Darmstadt. In Texas, the community's original name was New Mainz, but when a post office opened in 1889, postal authorities changed the name to Mentz.

METZ (in Gonzales County) Metz was a city in Lorraine (*Lothringen* in German). Until 1871, Lorraine was a French territory. From 1871 until 1919 it belonged to Germany.

MEUTH HILL (in Bastrop County) This community was named for two immigrant brothers, Andreas Meuth and Franz Meuth, who were among the early German settlers.

MILLHEIM (in Austin County) Millheim was the Anglicized form of *Muehlheim*, *Muehlheim* in German meant Home of the Mill.

MUELLERSVILLE (in Washington County) This community was named for William Mueller, whose immigrant parents were among its early German settlers.

MUENSTER (in Cooke County) Muenster was a city in the Kingdom of Prussia.

NASSAU (in Fayette County) Nassau was a duchy in central Germany until 1866. The Kingdom of Prussia annexed Nassau in 1866.

NEW BADEN (in Robertson County) Baden was a German grand duchy.

NEW BERLIN (in Guadalupe County) Berlin was the capital city of the Kingdom of Prussia. It became the capital city of the German Empire after the empire was founded in 1871.

NEW BERN (in Williamson County) Bern was the capital city of Switzerland, which had a large German-Swiss population.

NEW BRANDENBERG (in Stonewall County) Brandenburg was a region in the Kingdom of Prussia.

NEW BRAUNFELS (in Comal County) Prince Karl of Solms-Braunfels was the founder of New Braunfels. His family's ancestral castle was *Schloss Braunfels* (the Castle Braunfels)

NEW BREMEN (in Austin County) Bremen was an autonomous, self-governing German city from 1814 until 1871.

NEW ULM (in Austin County) Ulm was a city in the Kingdom of Württemberg.

NIEDERWALD (in Hays County) *Niederwald* is the German word for a coppice or for brushwood.

NORDHEIM (in DeWitt County) Nordheim was a city in the Kingdom of Hanover.

OLDENBURG (in Fayette County) Oldenburg was a German grand duchy.

OLFEN (in Runnels County) This community was named for Olfen, a town in the Kingdom of Prussia.

RABKE (in DeWitt County) This community was named for one of the families among its early settlers

REHBURG (in Washington County) Rehburg was a town in the Kingdom of Hanover.

RHINELAND (in Knox County) The Rhineland was a region of Germany along both banks of the Rhine River. It bordered France.

ROSENBERG (in Fort Bend County) This town was named for Henry Rosenberg, a German immigrant from Switzerland who was President of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad.

RUNGE (in Karnes County) Henry Runge, an early nineteenth century German businessman and banker in Texas.

SACHSE (in Dallas County) This community was named for one of the families among its early settlers. *Sachse* meant Saxon in German. A Saxon was someone from the Kingdom of Saxony.

SANGER (in Denton County) This community was named for the Sanger Family, German immigrants who owned department stores in Dallas and Waco.

SCHERTZ (in Guadalupe County) This town was named for Sebastian Schertz, an early German settler who opened a general store and built a cotton gin.

SCHOENTHAL (in Comal County) *Schoenthal* in German meant Pretty Valley.

SCHOENAU (in Austin County) *Schoenau* in German meant Pretty Meadow.

SCHROEDER (in Goliad County) This community was named for a German-Texan resident who was a casualty of the First World War.

SCHWERTNER (in Williamson County) This community was named for a German family of settlers who arrived from the Habsburg Empire in 1877.

SOLMS (in Comal County) Prince Karl of Solms-Braunfels was the founder of New Braunfels.

SWISS ALP (in Fayette County) That part of the Alps Mountains located in Switzerland is known as the Central Alps or Swiss Alps.

UFNAU (in Comal County) Ufnau was the Anglicized form of Ufenau, a town in Switzerland.

VIENNA (in Lavaca County) Vienna was the Anglicized form of Wien. Wien was the capital city of the Habsburg Empire. It was located in Austria, the German region of the empire.

VOGELSANG (in Milam County) This community was named for one of the families among its early settlers.

VON ORMY (in Bexar County) This community was named for Count Adolph Von Ormy, an Austrian nobleman who was a major landowner in the area.

WALBURG (in Williamson County) Walburg was named for the hometown in Germany of Henry Doering, the community's first postmaster.

WALDECK (in Fayette County) This community reportedly was named for Count Ludwig of Boos-Waldeck, a German nobleman and member of the *Adelsverein*. Or it was named for Waldeck, a German principality until 1866. The Kingdom of Prussia annexed Waldeck in 1866.

WALHALLA (in Comal and Fayette Counties) *Walhalla* in Germanic mythology was the palace of Odin, the chief god, where brave Germanic warriors resided after death in battle.

WARDA (in Fayette County) Warda may have been the Anglicized form of Wartha, a city in the Kingdom of Prussia.

WEIMAR (in Colorado County) Weimar was the capital city of the German Grand Duchy of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach.

WEINART (in Haskell County) Ferdinand C. Weinart, the son of German immigrants, served four terms in the Texas Legislature and was appointed Texas Secretary of State by Governor Oscar Colquitt.

WELFARE (in Kendall County) This community's Anglicized name reportedly derived from its original name *Wohlfahrt*, which means welfare in German.

WESTPHALIA (in Falls County) Westphalia was a region in the Kingdom of Prussia.

WIED (in Lavaca County) This community was named for one of the German families that settled there in 1870 or earlier.

WIEDEVILLE (in Washington County) This community was named for an early family of settlers who opened the first general store.

WIESS BLUFF (in Jasper County) This community was named for Simon Wiess, a German immigrant who opened a general store there in 1840.

WURST (in Comal County) *Wurst* in German meant sausage.

ZIMMERSCHIEDT (in Colorado County) This community was named for Frederick A. Zimmerscheidt, an early settler who arrived in the 1830s.

ZUEHL (in Guadalupe County) This community was named for Wilhelm Zuehl, who opened its first general store and served as its first postmaster.

ZYBACH (in Wheeler County) This community was named for John Zybach, a German from Switzerland who opened the first general store and post office.

From *The German Legacy in Texas* © 2010. Sources of information about German place names include Webster's geographical dictionary published in 1988, *The Handbook of Texas* (online and in hard copy), and *The Handbook and Registry of German Texan Heritage* published by the GTHS (1989) and edited by W. M. Van Maszewski. Among county histories are those on Lavaca County by Paul C. Boethel (1953); De Witt County by Nellie Murphee (1992); Llano County by William Oatman (1970); and Fort Bend County by Clarence B. Wharton (1949). Two of many useful books include Rudolph Biesele's history of German settlement in Texas (1987) and Glenn E. Lich's *The German Texans* (1981 and 1996). No source of information is more important than the GTHS *Journal*. Since Gilbert Jordan's short article in the society's newsletter (May 1983) on place names, the *Journal* has included dozens of other articles providing information about German place names in Texas.

The "Hilda Mystery" Solved

Submitted by Rev. Wesley N. Schulze, KSJ, San Antonio

The Handbook of Texas states: "The town was originally called Beaver Creek Community after the nearby stream but was renamed Hilda when retired minister Gustave Schulze established the community's first post office in his store. Emma Schulze, the first postmistress, is said to have named the post office after Hilda Schulze." This statement is problematic.

None of my grandmother Emma's three stepchildren nor any of her eleven birth children was named "Hilda." Likewise, none of the female descendants of my great-grandparents Ferdinand and Eleanora Schulze was named "Hilda." Also, none of their male descendants married anyone named "Hilda." So, where did the name originate?

In order to find the solution to this mystery, I must delineate the close relationship that developed between my forebears and the Urbantke Family. Three of the Urbantke brothers who came to Texas became Methodist ministers: Julius, Carl, and Gustav.

Julius met my Grandpa Gustave Schulze just after Grandpa's first wife and child had died, and in his grief he was seeking spiritual guidance. His father Ferdinand was a Freethinker, so there had been no Christian training in the home, but his deceased wife was a devout Christian. Grandpa had accepted her faith and desired to follow her example. Julius examined his faith and baptized him and received him into membership in the Methodist Church at Beaver Creek (Hilda) in 1883.

Later Grandpa felt called to be a minister, and Julius advised him to get a suitable education by attending the Institute (Blinn Memorial College) in Brenham. Blinn was founded by Julius's brother Carl. Grandpa postponed his second marriage to the sister of his first wife until he completed his course of study. He was a member of the first class of Blinn in 1883. Julius was his pastor at Beaver Creek (Hilda) from 1883-1886.

Another factor contributing to the close association between my forebears and the Urbantke family was their clergy membership in the Southern German Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church (Northern). This relatively small minority language, church and cultural group had close associations which included all of the family members.

Grandpa's second wife bore three children and then she also tragically died.

Grandpa then married 19 year old Emma Stiehl in 1895. She was a daughter of Rev. Daniel and Johanne Stiehl, and a niece of Julius Urbantke's wife Sophia. Emma reared her three stepchildren as though they were her own, and proceeded to give birth to eleven children. The eldest of these was my father, Rev. Wesley Otto Schulze.

Julius Urbantke's third minister brother, Gustav, later served as a Trustee of Blinn College, along with brother Carl and my Grandpa. Gustav's son, Gustav Urbantke, Jr., was a very popular professor at Blinn College from 1889-1913. Texas Governor O. B. Colquitt then appointed "Professor Gus" superintendent of the Texas School for the Deaf in Austin, where his progressive teaching methods transformed the school. In 1919, because of anti-German sentiment, Gus was discharged. He remained in Austin and became a very successful Aetna Insurance agent.

In 1938, when I was a teenager in Austin, I met Gus—68 years old at the time and an active layman at First Methodist Church. Gus and his wife had two very successful daughters who in their time had careers in fields usually filled by men. Daughter Elsie was pathologist in a doctor's office, and her sister HILDA was a draftsman with the Texas Highway Commission. Mystery solved! Grandma Emma and Grandpa Gustave Schulze were closely associated with all the Urbantke Family, and Grandma chose "Hilda" for the name of the new post office at Beaver Creek.

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This collectible German stein will be available for purchase for tasting wassail at Schmeckenfest the night of Dec. 2.

La Grange merchants and businesses are cooking up another tasting festival with the 2010 Schmeckenfest on the courthouse square.

"This year's Schmeckenfest promises to be even more fabulous than last year's as we have more entries for the wassail competition, more musical entertainment and food booths," says Scott Byler, manager of the city's Main Street program.

The La Grange Main Street Program along with downtown businesses will sponsor the Schmeckenfest Christmas Celebration, which will be from 4:30 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 2.

La Grange Mayor Janet Moerbe and Santa Claus will arrive by fire truck on the Courthouse Square compliments of the La Grange Volunteer Fire Department starting around 4:30 p.m. with the lighting of the courthouse Christmas Tree to follow around 5 p.m. Santa will be greeting children and listening to their Christmas wishes in the newly

Schmeckenfest Set Dec. 2

Fourth Year for La Grange Christmas Celebration

repainted Prosperity Bank Gazebo at the corner of North Washington and West Colorado Streets.

The Cub Scout Lad and Dad Bake Sale will also be held again this year as part of the festivities.

"Schmecken," meaning "taste" in German, will be the theme around the courthouse square with a Wassail Tasting Contest. This will be the fourth year for the festival.

Last year over 20 businesses around the Square set up "tasting stations" and offered samples of their special Wassail. The Wassail Tasting around the Square will be open to the public and all tasters will be able to cast their votes for the best Wassail and the 2010 Schmecken Meister in ballot boxes located on all four corners of the square.

According to several hundred tasters at last year's event, Mike McCathern of Bistro 108 had the best wassail recipe and was voted Schmecken Meister for 2009.

The best way to sample the wassail is in a 2010 Schmeckenfest Collectible Stein, says Byler.

This year's Schmeckenfest Stein features a fired-on logo of the Historic Casino Building from 1881. These Steins came from Germany and will be available for purchase in various downtown businesses starting Nov. 23. "The event continues to grow year after year," said Byler.

Also that night, there will be a concert sponsored by the La Grange Area Chamber of Commerce in the Old Fayette County Jail.

A social will start around 6:30 p.m. followed by a Christmas music concert performed by Dick Smith of La Grange from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Main Street La Grange will also sponsor a Christmas Window Decorating Contest for all businesses wishing to participate. The entry deadline for participation in the Window Display Contest is Wednesday, Nov. 24, with judging to take place on Monday, Nov. 29. Call the La Grange Main Street Office at 968-8701 to enter your window.

Wassail contest entries are currently being accepted and entry forms can be requested from the La Grange Main Street Office at 155 E. Colorado Street in City Hall or by contacting 968-8701.

Anyone interested in volunteering, participating, or needing additional information on any of these festive Christmas activities should contact the La Grange Main Street office at that phone number.

Submitted by Rodney Koenig,
Houston and Carl Luckenbach,
Fredericksburg

Dedication ceremony held on Sunday at Lindemann-Ott house in Industry

New Ulm Enterprise,
Thursday
September 23, 2010

A large crowd attended the historical marker dedication ceremony at the Lindemann-Ott house in Industry on Sunday, Sept. 19.

Jim Lindemann, great-grandson of the house founders, welcomed everyone to the ceremony. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jenna and Lauren Lindemann, granddaughters of Jim and Ann Lindemann. Jenna and Lauren are great-great-great granddaughters of the founders of the house. Rev. Milroy Gregor gave the invocation.

Jim Lindemann then introduced the special guest, Texas Rep. Lois Kolkhorst of the 13th congressional district.

Rep. Kolkhorst spoke on how important it is to preserve history and retain historical structures such as the Lindemann-Ott house.

She thanked the citizens of Industry, the Industry Historical Society and the Lindemann family for preserving history for future generations and said how proud she was to pass legislation naming Industry the Oldest German Settlement in the State of Texas.

Ann Lindemann spoke to the crowd on the furnishings in the house, and the many layers of paint that were removed from the staircase and the walls to get back to the original wood, returning the house as close as possible to the original structure that Jacob Ott built in 1870.

The afternoon concluded with a tour of the house and the Lindemann museum, and refreshments were served.

Following is the text on the new marker:

"This house dates to 1870, when Jacob Ott (1848-1932) began construction on a home with his carpenter neighbor, August Gruensendorf. The bottom story of the two level structure was

used for his baking business and the upper story was Ott's residence.

"Ott had settled in Industry five years earlier after emigrating from Worms, Germany. He married Friedricke Hoehne (1855-1892) in 1872, and in 1875 became a trial minister in the Southern (German) conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, beginning a ministry career that spanned 40 years.

"In 1880, Ott sold the property to Fritz Holze, who operated a general store from the building. In 1884, Edward Lindemann (1859-1931) and Franz Getschmann formed a partnership and purchased the Holze Store. Lindemann, whose family emigrated from Wittenburg, Prussia in 1854, purchased his partner's half of the business in 1889.

"In 1894, Lindemann moved his store across the street and he and his wife Julia (Fishes) (1861-1838), moved their family into this building. In 1899, Lindemann made significant renovations, adding several more rooms and a porch to the house. In 1910, Edward and Julia's second son, Monroe (1888-1966), married Ella Ott (1880-1965), a daughter of the original home owners.

"The couple resided in this house for 55 years. Ella's sister, Bertha Ott (1876-1961), moved here in 1946; she had been a practicing pharmacist in Ohio and was honored by the Texas House of Representatives after her death.

"The House has a center passage floorplan. It features Queen Anne Detailing which includes diamond-shaped shingles in the pediment, gabled dormers, fretwork and supporting posts that are lathe turned spindle style.

"Recorded Texas Historic Landmark - 2010"

Submitted by Joy
Neely, Bellville

Unveiling the historical marker at the Lindemann-Ott house last Sunday in Industry are, from left, Ann Lindemann, granddaughter Jenna, Jim Lindemann and Rep. Lois Kolkhorst.



Flanking the newly dedicated marker at the Lindemann-Ott house in Industry are, from left, Jim Lindemann; Joy Neely, Austin County Historical Commission member who assisted Ann Lindemann in obtaining the marker for the Lindemann-Ott house; Grace Holtkamp, chairperson of the Austin County Historical Commission; and Ann Lindemann.

Comfort's Old Spanish Trail by Anne & Mike Stewart. A Follow Up.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In Emma's journal, the most interesting item pertaining to the Old Spanish Trail was the passage of camels from Camp Verde through Comfort. Emma wrote that the townspeople could hear the camel "bells toll rhythmically" as they plodded on their maneuvers. Children and adults alike were fascinated with the strange beasts. The camel train crossed the Guadalupe River at the low water crossing, the Old Spanish Trail

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Beginning in 1914, Quinon's journal is full of entries regarding outdoor activities at the Guadalupe's low water crossing. Many people suffering from tuberculosis or consumption who came to Comfort for the fresh air lived in tents near the riverbanks. Citizens of the town fished, picnicked, camped out over night and hosted parties on this site. In fact, "Moonlight" Parties were a long-standing tradition. They could be held to honor someone's "natal day" or to benefit a local civic organization. Many of these were held near the low water crossing site.

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

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

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

"Nonsense," said their father. "That is nonsense. Those people aren't coming to our part of Texas." Never the less, "Nonsense" to the contrary, it was spoken of in Comfort, Texas, that Bonnie and Clyde

drove across the low water bridge in one of their many "getaway" cars. Furthermore, they did stop at the Rathskeller and order hamburgers. The story varies on the details: did they go inside to eat, eat their food outside in their car, served by a carhop or if the hamburgers were a "to go" order. Too bad. Rusty should put up a plaque to that effect.

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

Businesses in the Texas Hill Country exist then and now that are named for the famous Old Spanish Trail. Two "O.S.T." businesses in Comfort were the O.S.T. Service Station and the O.S.T. Cafe, both located where Nancy Billingsley's shop, Antiquities On High, stands today at the North East corner of 7th and High Streets.

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

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

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

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

Sources: Comfort - 1904 by F.H. Lohmann. A Hundred Years of Comfort in Texas by Guido Ransleben. Oral history accounts in the private archives of the authors, Articles by Lew Kaiser, Gregory Krauter and Esther Wiedenfeld in **The Comfort News**. Hand painted map of Comfort, Texas 1854-1855 by Anne Stewart. All photos, The Diary of Stephen Quinon and Comfort businesses courtesy of the Comfort Heritage Foundation Archives. **The Comfort News** on microfilm at the Comfort Public Library

Submitted by Anne & Mike Stewart, Comfort

People



Tom Meineke, Sugarland

MEINECKE CEMETERY

Johann Friedrich and Sophie Koyne Meinecke established this burial ground in 1858, when two of their sons drowned in the Brazos River. The Meineckes came to Kenney after emigrating from Bremen, Germany in 1847. Johann Friedrich Meinecke purchased property from evangelist John Wesley Kenney, the town's namesake, and family members soon established themselves as noted area farmers, ranchers and educators. This family graveyard features vertical stones, curbing and German language inscriptions. Today urban development has spread to the Historic Kenney Community, but this cemetery remains as a record of early settlement here and of the pioneering Meinecke family.

*Historic Texas Cemetery – 2009
Marker is property of the State of Texas*

MEINECKE HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY MARKER DEDICATION CEREMONY

Kenney, Texas - The Meinecke Cemetery located on a hill at 6587 Stokes Road, designated as a Historic Texas Cemetery in June 2009, unveiled the Texas Historical Commission (THC) official marker on June 23, 2010 at the site of the cemetery. The ceremony presided over by THC Austin County Chair, Grace Holtkamp, and THC Austin County Marker Chair, Joy Neely, was attended by over 50 descendents and friends. Descendents came from many towns in Texas as well as from Oklahoma and overseas. The furthest descendents present were, a great, great, great grandson, Chris Meinecke his wife, Tracey and son, Brooks, from England.

The cemetery is on land originally purchased from Reverend J. W. Kenney by Johann Friedrich Meinecke who with his wife Sophie and six children immigrated from Prussia and arrived in Galveston on 26 October, 1847. They proceeded to the Kenney Settlement to make their home and soon established themselves as noted area farmers and educators. The first graves in the cemetery were those of two sons, Johann Meinecke, twenty-two, and Wilhelm Meinecke, fourteen, who drowned in the Brazos River while hauling cotton to Houston on 8 June 1858. The last burial in the cemetery was that of Johanna Meinecke Reinicke, who died on 7 February 1950, at age 84.

The Meinecke Cemetery contains headstones of fifteen graves including those of Johann Friedrich Meinecke, Sr. dated 1891, age 87, and Sophie Meinecke, 5 April 1880, age 74, the immigrant parents from Prussia. Other descendents are also buried there. The master of ceremonies was great, great grandson, Tom Meinecke, of Sugar Land, who applied for the marker with help of Joy Neely in February, 2010 and placed the marker with the help of Thomas Stokes in September of this year. Other descendents that participated in the ceremony and that had also cleaned and prepared the cemetery for the ceremony were descendents, Jackie Brandes, Vernon Goebel, Martha Goebel, Gene Remmert, Calvin Remmert and Imogene Storrs.

Submitted by Joy Neely, Bellville

With Ernst Altgelt on Cypress Creek, July 1854

Comfort Connection
August 2010



Ernst Hermann Altgelt, Founder of Comfort. Photograph from Biographical Sketch compiled by Anne & Mike Stewart.

Ernst Hermann Altgelt of Dusseldorf on the Rhine came to what is now Kendall County in the spring of 1854. Employed by J.V.C. Vles of New Orleans as a land agent, Altgelt hired a man to guide him to the confluence of the Guadalupe River and Cypress Creek. Impressed by what he saw in the lush and fertile Guadalupe River Valley, Altgelt conveyed his findings to his boss. Vles sent him instructions, a letter of credit and power of attorney to purchase such land as he was able. The ownership of this land was established in 1836, when Texas declared its independence.

In 1836, Jose Maria Regalado was awarded "One League and Labor of land" in "western Texas" because at the date of the declaration of Texas Independence he was a "resident citizen of Texas and a married man." He sold his claim for \$1564.25 in 1846, some ten years after he received it. He sold it to a Henry M. Lewis who sold it the following year for \$1000.00 to a Mr. Riddle who in turn sold it to J.F.C. Vles for \$4754.50. It was all recorded in the Bexar District records and referred to as Survey #27, section #2. The community of Comfort was about to come into existence.

Comfort, unlike the great majority of German settlements in Texas, was settled by individuals. They had no backing or support other than their families and their own hard work. No sponsor or organization dictated this community, making it unique since its inception.

In July, 1854, Ernst Altgelt, now at the ripe old age of 22, put together a survey party in New Braunfels and headed into German West Texas. Traveling by ox cart, it took the group about a week to travel to their destination. They chose an idyllic spot (soon to be designated Town Lot #32 in the survey) in which to set up their tents.

The summer of 1854 was wet and warm. Both Cypress Creek and the Guadalupe River were in full momentum but not flooding. For these people who came from the duchies and kingdoms now referred to as Germany, it was the first time they encountered free flowing water in the wild. Frontier water. Water uncontrolled by the governing body where it was located. Water not in canals, locks, wells, municipal water systems or bordered bodies. Water flowing downhill to the Gulf of Mexico, unimpeded by human intervention. Here was another example of the freedom of their new country.

Survey party members were Altgelt's good friend, Fritz Holekamp and his 9 year old son, George, Mr. Beyer, Louis von Breitenbauch, Nicholas Zink who named Dry Creek (which runs from Dr. Hawkins place on North Creek Road down to the Comfort cemetery, behind the VFD, through the Comfort Hatchery property and empties into the Guadalupe not far from the DD Restaurant), Fr. Brunko, Fritz Grothaus - surveyor, Mrs. Anton Beyer - camp cook and Fritz Goldbeck - poet.

It is pure speculation as to why Altgelt included Goldbeck, a poet, among his surveying crew. Perhaps they were friends. Perhaps Altgelt wanted someone to write about his new town. Perhaps Goldbeck came along on a lark. Who knows? Good idea or lucky chance? Whatever! Goldbeck fell in love with our area and wrote about it, in poetry, for the rest of his life. (Part 1 of 3)

Submitted by Anne Stewart, Comfort

Editor's Note: From the Handbook of Texas Online: HAAS, OSCAR (1885–1981). Oscar Haas, historian of New Braunfels and Comal County, was born on October 12, 1885, the eldest child of Ernst Georg and Otilie (Rochau) Haas. Both the Haas and Rochau families were German New Braunfels settlers who moved to the Crane's Mill area "in the mountains" of Comal County....He published a number of other articles in the two newspapers, and after 1957 his first-time translations of Hermann Seele^{qv}'s "Die Cypresse," Fritz Goldbeck's history poems on the settling of New Braunfels in the mid-1840s, and portions of the largely untranslated papers of Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels appeared in the New Braunfels *Herald-Zeitung*.

Would be great to get Goldbeck's poems for the next Journal....Anyone up for it?

von Wedemeyer's Ferry Across the Guadalupe River

By Robert Lamar Feuge, Sedona, Arizona

According to Oscar Haas (1968) and other historians, supply caravans had crossed the Guadalupe River near present-day New Braunfels for well over a century before the arrival of German settlers. They hauled supplies from Mexico to missions in Texas. Even earlier than those caravans, members of local Indian tribes and Spanish explorers had crossed there repeatedly on horseback. Those crossings were usually difficult and always subject to the level of water in the river. At flood stage, wagons arriving at its banks had to wait for waters to recede, sometimes for weeks, and that slowed commerce. The arrival of German emigrants in 1845 and their settlement at the confluence of the Comal and Guadalupe Rivers brought heavier traffic to the crossing, thus increasing the demand for a reliable and safe means to cross the big, swift river.

In May of 1845, Seele reports seeing a group of soldiers laboriously using a wagon box (note 1) to get supplies across the river. He speculated that it would take a week to get everything across the river. Something better was required.

An entrepreneur of German extraction, Adolph von Wedemeyer, determined to meet the requirement by creating a ferry across the river near New Braunfels. At age 22, he had left the Kingdom of Hannover, sailed from Bremen, and arrived in Galveston in late 1844. He survived one of the earliest and most difficult wagon trips inland to settle in what would become New Braunfels. As a founding member of the colony, he was awarded 32 acres at the confluence of the Comal and Guadalupe Rivers. From that spot, he must have seen the demand for a ferry almost immediately and seized upon the opportunity. By charging a fee for each crossing, he realized that he could not only recoup his startup costs but also make a good living operating a ferry. Sometime in 1845, he implemented his idea, obtaining a ferry boat and establishing cables across the river. Its presence was noted by Roemer in February, 1846 and again by Seele in July of that year. Although new to America, von Wedemeyer apparently rapidly grasped the spirit of capitalism and applied it productively on the banks of the Guadalupe River.

In that era, ferries worked by three different methods, all of whose application depended on river conditions. Engines that would work on a small ferry were decades away from existence. The available methods were:

a. **Human propulsion.** In slow moving water, a ferry boat could be propelled across the water by men, either rowing or poling the craft. This method was extremely laborious and was limited by the energy that humans could generate and sustain. It would not have met the requirements for the wide, fast moving Guadalupe River.

b. **Animal propulsion.** Another means to propel ferries across a stream was by using draft animals (Perkins, 1999, cited on pages 90-92 in Query, 2008)). With ropes attached to the ferry, harnessed animals on one shore pulled the ferry across the water to the opposite shore. Since ferries operate in both directions, a set of animals were needed on each shore. Because of the effort required, animals had to be motivated to pull, either positively or negatively. This method was limited by the animal's endurance plus the fact that they had to be fed, cared for, and occasionally replaced to keep the ferry operating at peak performance. Those factors increased operating costs and made that type of ferry less profitable. It too was probably not applicable to the Guadalupe.

c. **Water propulsion.** A third means of propelling ferries across a stream did not use draft animals or humans labor. In a medium or fast moving stream, the ferry could be forced across by harnessing the pressure of the river itself. Through an ingenious use of mechanical principles and gadgets (travelers, pulleys, and capstans) on the ferry and a heavy cable that was tautly stretched between vertical poles on both sides of the stream, the ferry operator could easily maneuver the ferry across by simply changing its angle in the river's flow. This method would not have been efficient on placid, low volume streams but would have worked quite well on the Guadalupe.

It is not known which of the above methods von Wedemeyer's ferry actually employed because none of the existing accounts of his ferry (Roemer, Seele) describe its propulsion. However, all three of the above methods were well known by 1845. Further, von Wedemeyer's experience with ferries, either in Germany or in Texas, is unknown. Likely, he witnessed the soldiers using the wagon box to transport goods across the river. With a little investigation, he probably learned about ferries and how the water propulsion method worked. He adopted it because it fit the requirements of the Guadalupe and because it was efficient. Two sketches of the ferry, made several decades later, provide more but weak proof that he used the water propulsion system. Both drawings show cables spanning the river, attached to large vertical poles on opposite shores. Although those sketches were made well after von Wedemeyer's

era, it is unlikely that subsequent owners changed an efficient method of propulsion.

How did the water propulsion system work? In its design, the ferry was attached to a taut, cross-stream cable by means of another smaller cable. At its connection to the cross-stream cable, the smaller cable was attached to a pulley-like "traveler" device that rolled freely, forward and backward, on the cross-stream cable. The remainder of the small cable was threaded through a pulley at one end of the ferry on its upstream side, wrapped around a capstan (note 2), fed through another pulley at the other end of the boat, and reconnected to the "traveler," thus forming a loop (Query, 2008).

In practice, wagon trains bearing German immigrants arrived on the east bank of the Guadalupe River. One at a time, wagons were driven onto the ferry and secured, with passengers remaining in the wagons. When all was secure, the ferryman would have cranked the capstan to shorten the cable at the west end of the craft, thus effectively bringing that end of the ferry nearer to the cross-stream cable than its counterpart. That action would have forced the ferry to angle sharply in the current, maximizing the stream's force on the east side (upstream side) of the boat while simultaneously lessening it on the opposite (west) side. Since it was tethered to the cross-stream cable, the water's force could not push the ferry down stream but instead, deflected it sideways towards the far bank. With this technique, the ferry operator could force the ferry across the stream in either direction by simply cranking the capstan one way or the other. The river did the work. Crossing was done with very little human effort and with almost no cost. It was an entrepreneur's dream!

Eventually, von Wedemeyer sold the ferry and his land to Justus Kellner, who died in 1851, after whom the ferry passed to Carl Bardenwerper, who operated it until a flood destroyed it. The Kreuz family bought it, reestablished it, improved it, and operated the ferry until it was supplanted by a bridge. Although von Wedemeyer established the ferry, it has been historically referred to as the Kreuz Ferry.

What makes von Wedemeyer's ferry such a fascinating topic is the juxtaposition of a sophisticated solution to a thorny problem in an untamed and primitive environment and in an era where brawn often ruled. It was 1845 and well over 200 miles removed from the highly developed coastal area. When von Wedemeyer established his ferry, the road leading to the Guadalupe crossing was little more than two ruts through the wilderness and German emigration had barely begun. Yet, in less than a year, in such a primitive place, he was able to establish a mechanically efficient ferry and put it into operation. That took a lot of effort and savvy.

Of the four eras of ferry operation, the von Wedemeyer era is the most important for Texans of German descent because it was during his ownership that most of our pioneering ancestors crossed the Guadalupe River. In my own case, both sets of my great great grandparents may have crossed on it in late 1845 and in 1846. Why is his ferry so important? According to Seele's diary, emigrant wagons had to ford at least eight tributaries that fed into the east side of the Guadalupe as they moved northward. Those tributaries were difficult and dangerous to cross, and especially so when they were running high. But always looming ahead was the big, wide Guadalupe River, which was perhaps the major obstacle between Karlshafen and the Adelsverein colonies. Von Wedemeyer's ferry made fording that river safer and easier than ever before. As a result, it can be said that his ferry probably saved lives and many valuable possessions. Because of that, his name should be more prominent in Texas history. Von Wedemeyer's ferry at New Braunfels is just another reminder that the earliest Germans who settled in Texas were not artless rustics but rather an industrious and ingenious lot who found ways to overcome the problems that confronted them.

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Roemer, Ferdinand. Texas. Standard Printing Company, San Antonio TX, 1935
Query, Charles F. A History of Oregon Ferries Since 1826. Maverick Books, Bend OR, 2008.

Note 1: Wagon box here probably means the wooden bed of a wagon.

Note 2: The capstan, a 14th Spanish century invention, is a device that when cranked, takes up slack in a cable and holds tension on the cable by means of a ratcheting mechanism.

Note 2: Thanks to Liz Hicks and Marlena Schlather for their contributions to this story.

German Became County Judge, State Senator Reinhard Hillebrand

Fayette County Record, June 29, 2010

By Katie Kulhanek

Fayette County Historical Commission

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

Reinhard Hillebrand was a man of many professions. He was a revolutionary, a soldier, a county judge, and a state senator. Born in Germany on March 20, 1810, Hillebrand grew up during a time of rebellion. He played a part in the 1848 Revolution in Germany. The revolution showcased the popular discontent with the traditional, autocratic political structure of the government of the German Confederation. The people wanted political and social freedom, democracy, and national unity. Although the revolution failed, Hillebrand still pursued his goal of attaining those same ideals.

Hillebrand immigrated to Texas in the 1850s and settled in Fayette County. When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Hillebrand played a local role in the nationwide war. Throughout the Civil War, the Texas State Legislature provided laws and appropriations to organize companies of men to provide frontier defense. Hillebrand himself organized and formed the Rutersville German Company - a company of volunteer infantry soldiers.

Groups such as this one sprouted up all over Texas counties during the war. When first organized, these men were not part of the Confederate States of America, but served under the command and control of the officers in the employ of the State of Texas. The organization of these groups was along military lines. From mid-1861 up until December 1863, the groups were called "Frontier Regiments." After 1863, they were mustered into the Confederate States of America. In official state records, these groups are listed as "Texas State Troops."

Despite his decision to organize these troops, Hillebrand was involved in anti-conscription measures in 1863 and was subsequently arrested by the Confederate military on the basis of treason.

Regardless of this setback, the negative effects it had on Hillebrand must not have been too bad, because in 1869 he was elected Fayette County Judge. He only served for one year as judge. There is a picture of him on the third floor of the Fayette County Courthouse in La Grange. However, the spelling of his name is shown as "Reinhard Hildebrandt" - not Hillebrand. It is possible that some time after immigrating to America, Hillebrand could have changed his name to make it appear less German.

After he left the position of County Judge, Hillebrand chose to run for the Texas Senate. In "The Texas Senate: Civil War to the Eve of Reform, 1861-1889," Patsy McDonald Spaw includes a brief paragraph about Hillebrand's election to the Senate and other interesting information on his political stance;

"Reinhard Hillebrand was chosen in a special election to succeed E.L. Alford of La Grange after the dispute that got Alford permanently banished from the Senate and the Republican party. Hillebrand, who had been imprisoned by Confederates during the war, emerged as a bedrock Radical who opposed business subsidies. He scandalized many when he was seen associating openly with black voters in a German beer hall. Hillebrand had some experience as a county judge in 1869 before his election to the Senate."

Hillebrand succeeded Alford on February 17, 1871, and took over District 26 of Texas. In 1880, records indicated that Hillebrand was still living in Fayette County, along with some of his family members.

But on September 15, 1887, the people of Fayette County were startled to read the shocking news of Reinhard Hillebrand's death in an article from the *La Grange Journal*. The article was published stating the following; "The death of Reinhard Hillebrand was caused by being thrown from his wagon while his team was running away, near the freight depot at this place. The horses ran against the tree, one on each side of it, the tongue striking the tree, throwing the deceased head first against it. Dr. W. W. Lunn was summoned to render medical aid. He had him [Hillebrand] removed to the residence of Mr. Wm. Karges, where everything was done for him that medical science could suggest, but without avail. He lingered until about 5 o' clock, P.M. Tuesday, about 24 hours after the accident, when death relieved him of his suffering.

"Mr. Hillebrand was an old citizen of this county, and was highly respected by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. He leaves several grown children - and a host of warm friends to mourn his death."

Another article was published by the *Dallas Morning News*, which stated a slightly different story, stating that Hillebrand was killed instantly;

(Cont. next page)

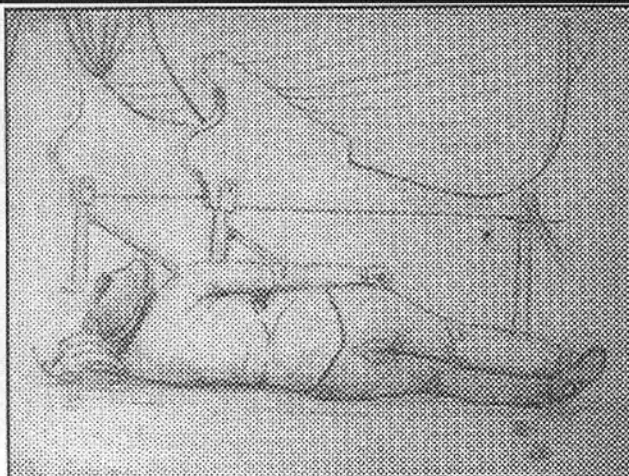
“Death of an Honored Citizen.

La Grange, Tex. Sept. 12. - Hon. R. Hillebrand, ex-Senator of this district, nearly 80 years old, was thrown from his buggy this morning and instantly killed. The ex-senator has been visiting his daughter here and was on his way to his farm. He was an honest and honored old citizen of this county, and many friends mourn his untimely death. He was a prominent revolutionist in Germany's uprising in 1848, on account of which he had made Texas his home. His family, consisting of grown children, grandchildren, and greatgrandchildren, have the heartfelt sympathy of this community."

Reinhard Hillebrand had already left his will to his two sons (Reinhard and Johannes Hillebrand) and his friend, William Karges. He was buried in the Hillebrand Family Cemetery located near Old Park Road near Park, Texas. The cemetery has a single tombstone with five of the family member's names inscribed on it.

The unexpected death of Hillebrand marked the end of an eventful and prestigious life that began in Germany and was continued and ended in Fayette County, Texas.

Coming in the Next Journal: *Emil Habecker embraced his Texas experiences.* German immigrant featured in a special edition of the *West Kerr Current, Family Chronicles*, written by Irene Van Winkle, one of our newest friends from the annual meeting in Fredericksburg.



Long journeys on boats found sleepers wherever they could lay their head. This sketch by Emil Habecker on one of his many journeys shows everyday life, in which he showed his diverse artistic abilities and interests. He always carried a sketchbook in his saddle bag, ready to draw anything that captured his attention.

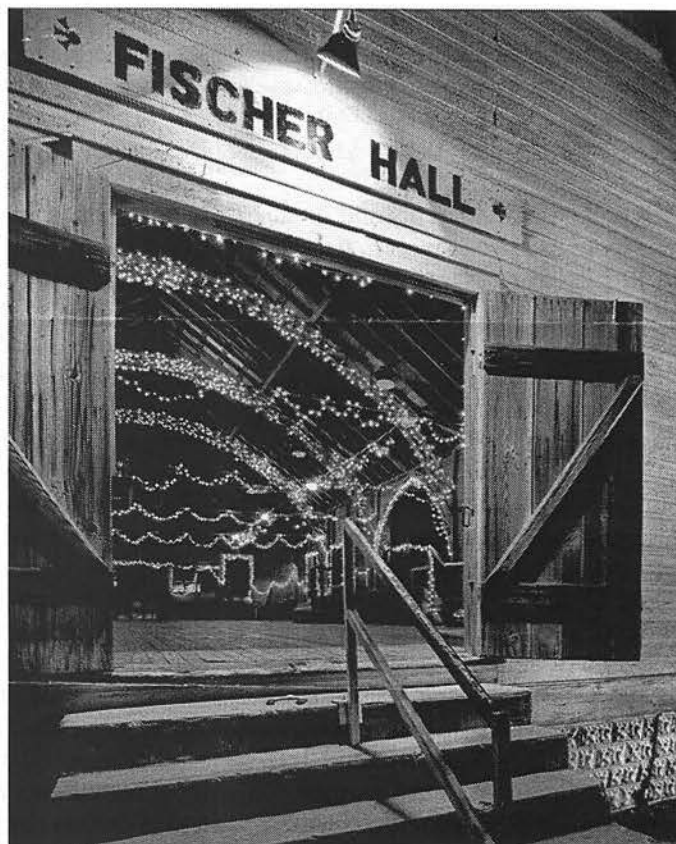
Fischer Hall, Fisher, Texas

Sept. 2010, *Texas Highways*

Sightseers exploring the famous Devil's Backbone, the scenic stretch of Farm-to-Market 32 between FM 12 and Blanco on the western edge of the Hill Country, often stop midway at the former trading-post town of Fischer (population today, fewer than 20) to wonder about its barn-style, whitewashed dance hall. Erected in the late 1800s by the Fischer Agricultural Society as a community gathering spot, Fischer Hall still serves as a venue for weddings, reunions, and other social events.

If you're lucky enough to receive an invitation to an event held here, or to chance into an ad hoc tour (ask at the adjacent nine-pin bowling alley), don't miss the opportunity to tour this relic from Central Texas' rural history. Inside the simple hall, there are no central support beams; instead, the builders relied on a German method of using laminated, curved wooden arches on the ceiling—an architectural style that lends itself to unimpeded dancing.

Submitted by A. Kretzschmar, San Antonio





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AmericanProfile

Submitted by Michael
Krause, New Braunfels
and A. Kretzschmar,
San Antonio

Smell the fresh, oven baked goodness

THE SCENT of fresh-from-the-oven breads and pastries makes Michael Krause breathe a little deeper as he steps inside Naegelin's Bakery in New Braunfels, Texas (pop. 36,494).

"Bear claws are my favorite," says Krause, 52, as he orders one of the golden-brown fried and glazed pastries. "When I was a kid in Sunday school, we'd always stop by here afterward and that's what I'd get."

Krause's grandparents and great-grand-parents also savored pastries and breads from Naegelin's- Texas' oldest bakery which has a history as rich and deep as the chunky apple filling in its famous 2-foot-long strudels. German immigrant Edouard Naegelin, a Civil War veteran, opened the bakery with a sack of flour and less than a dollar to his name in 1868, and the aroma of fresh-baked goodies has lured customers to the same downtown corner in New Braunfels since 1870. "Naegelin would be proud of how this place is still going," says Todd Granzin, 48, who owns the bakery with his brothers Ross, 46, and Jeff, 47. Their father, Wilburn, bought the bakery in 1980 from the Naege-

lin family, and for years the Granzins lived in an apartment above the business as did the Naegelins before them.

"The bakery has survived the Depression and two world wars and has stuck to the same simple recipe for apple strudel," says Todd about the bakery's signature dessert.

Naegelin's sells 25,000 apple, peach and cherry strudels each year, as well as thousands of other temptations—coffeecakes, cream puffs, *kolaches*, fried pies, and four kinds of German cookies: *pfiffernusse*, *springerle*, *lebkuchen* and molasses-that fill the store shelves and glass cases. The bakery's cakes have starred at thousands of birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and other celebrations.

The smells are our best advertising says Todd's son, Derek, 24, who delivers the baked goods to local restaurants and supermarkets, and is among the youngest



Ross and Todd Granzin present a platter of cookies, doughnuts and pastries made at Texas' oldest bakery

Granzins to work in the historic bakery.

Tradition on the rise

Pride in carrying on the tradition of a hometown bakery is shared by Ginny Kirchhoff Elmore, 36, whose great-great-grandfather Franz Kirchhoff, a Prussian immigrant, opened Kirchhoff's Bakery in 1873 in Paducah, Ky. (pop. 26,307). The bakery closed in 1957 and 40 years later, Ginny helped her father, Louis Kirchhoff, reopen the family business in the same downtown building near the Ohio River.

By 4 a.m. six days a week, Ginny is busy baking tarts, cakes and pies and shaping loaves of bread, including the family's trademark Big Boy white bread, which Franz first sold for a nickel a loaf. As soon as Franz heard the whistle

of a riverboat, he'd load his cart with hot loaves of bread and rush to greet the travelers.

"Old-timers come in and say, 'I remember the day that so-and-so and I bought a Big Boy with a stick of butter,'" says Ginny, who was 23 when her father heard that the old brick building was for sale and proposed reviving the family bakery.

"I wanted to bring back the art of baking," says Louis Kirchhoff, 69, who grew up in the business and remembers its heyday in the 1940s and '50s when a fleet of 10 trucks delivered baked goods to grocery stores within a 50-mile radius.

Ginny loved the idea and earned a culinary degree from Sullivan University in Louisville. Today, her daughter, Madeline, 9, helps decorate cookies and wait on customers.

"When you walk into this building there's such a feeling of family," Ginny says. "We have old family photos on the wall."

One of Kirchhoff's regular customers, Anne Graham, 82, arrives about 8:30 a.m. each weekday to eat a cinnamon scone and drink coffee with friends. Her pooch, Koda, patiently waits outside for his bakery dog biscuit.

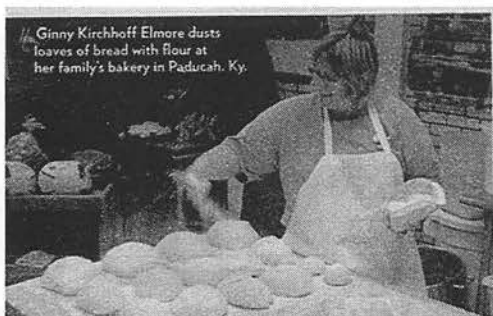
"I can't say enough about how much the bakery means to me," Graham says. "When you get older, you need a support community."

She relishes the bakery's *voll-kornbrot*, too. "It's a dense moist whole-grain bread made with molasses and wonderful to eat with cream cheese.

New appreciation for old recipes

Hometown bakeries across America are discovering a new appreciation-and hearty appetite-for their time-tested recipes.

"We're an old-fashioned bakery, and the recipes here are classics," says Carrie Schubert, 51, owner of Beaverton Bakery in Beaverton, Ore. (pop. 76,129). The glass cases of the 1925 bakery are stocked with ever-popular treats such as banana bread, cinnamon



bread, French pastries, coffeecakes and doughnuts, which are baked around-the-clock.

Schubert supervises 85 employees but still finds time to decorate cakes, which has been her favorite part of the business since she was 14. Her father, Charles Schubert, 77, bought the bakery in 1965 after working there since 1952.

"Our maple bars are famous," she adds. "When President Kennedy would come to Portland, his staff would come and get them for him."

Old-fashioned favorites also are fashionable at Dutch Maid Bakery in Tracy City, Tenn. (pop. 1,679), founded in 1902 by Swiss immigrants John and Louise Baggenstoss.

"One of the neatest things I make is a dense old-time salt-rising bread," says owner Cindy Day, 51, who bakes 15 varieties of made-from-scratch bread using mixers, dough cutters and a brick hearth oven dating to the early 1900s.

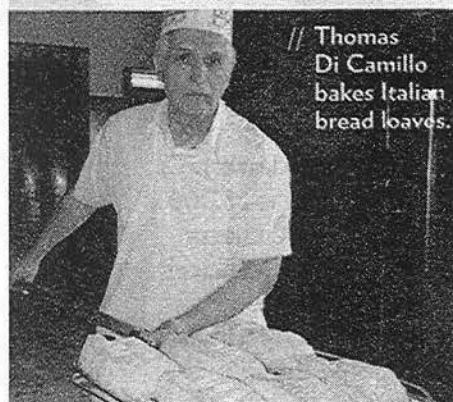
"I want people to taste and see the history," says Day, who offers bakery tours and bread-baking lessons. "How else would people know about the yummy breads from recipes from way back?"

In Niagara Falls, N.Y. (pop. 55,593), residents have followed their noses to DiCamillo Bakery for Italian *scaletta*, a curly loaf bread, since 1920.

"That's our signature piece," says Michael DiCamillo, 60, a third-generation owner. "That's the same bread we've been making for

90 years."

Today, 10 family members continue the tradition at five local bakeries, where they turn out cakes, coffeecakes, doughnuts, cannolis, custard puffs, cream horns, breads and pizzas. Their biscotti is famous nationwide and sold online and at



retail stores, including Nieman Marcus.

"Part of our success has come from the tenacity of the owners," Di Camillo says. "I remember lean times in the 1950's when everything was supermarket bakeries and Wonder Bread. Now, luckily the world is coming around to us.

"All of a sudden, it's quite fashionable and desirable to have a handmade loaf of bread," Di Camillo says.

Visit www.naegelins.com, www.kirchhoffsbakery.net, www.beavertonbakery.com, www.thedutchmaid.com and www.dicamillobakery.com for more information.





JÄRG P. ANDERS : BPK | NATIONALGALERIE, SMB, VERE

STEVENSSTIFT IN LEIDEN: Max Liebermann used a palette knife to achieve tactile effects in this 1889 work.

By Douglas Britt (Arts Writer), *Houston Chronicle*
Friday, Sept. 10, 2010

GERMAN IMPRESSIONISTS GET THEIR DUE

MFAH first U.S. museum to exhibit distinctive landscape paintings

TIMING is everything in art, as in life. Latecomers to a movement may do wonderful work, but if the art world has moved on by the time they've arrived, they may not have much of an impact with future generations. Impressionism is a perfect example. We think of it as a French phenomenon with good reason: France was where the pioneering work occurred. It's not an art-historical travesty that, outside their homeland, little is known about the German Impressionists who hit their stride during the first decade of the

Terrace in the Garden near the Wannsee Toward Northwest: This 1916 piece by Liebermann reflects his later looser brushwork and interest in gardens



GERMAN: Distinct from what French sought to capture

20th century, around the same time Fauvism, cubism and other -isms were making what was once considered a shocking movement look old hat.

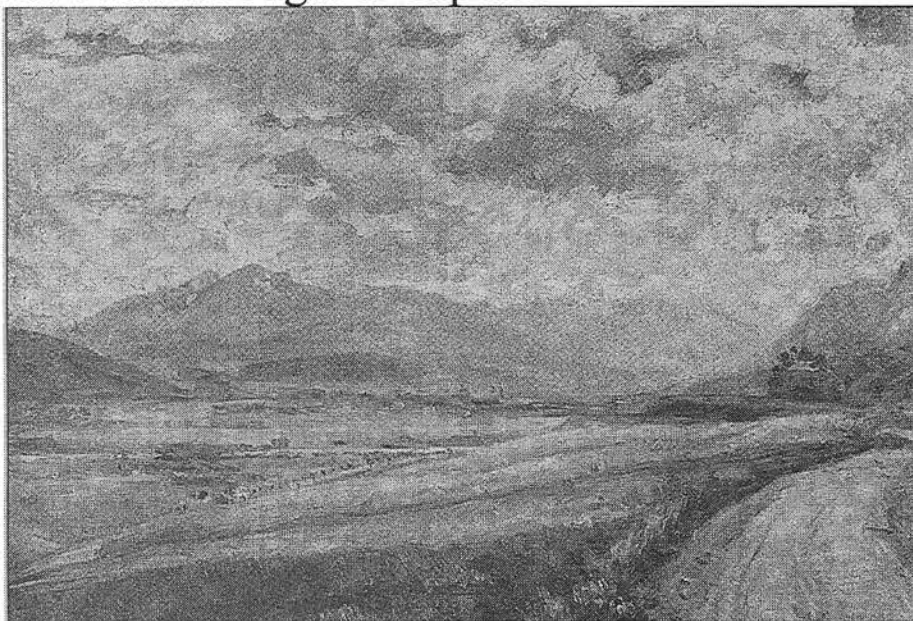
But though they may not rate more than a mention in sweeping art history-surveys, three of German Impressionism's leading lights - Max Liebermann, Lovis Corinth and Max Slevogt - didn't just produce warmed-over versions of their French counterparts' greatest hits, either. Their distinctive landscape paintings are worth celebrating in their own right, and so is the first U. S. museum exhibition devoted to this largely unfamiliar chapter.

Co-organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and the WallrafRichartz-Museum and Foundation Corboud in Cologne, Germany, *German*

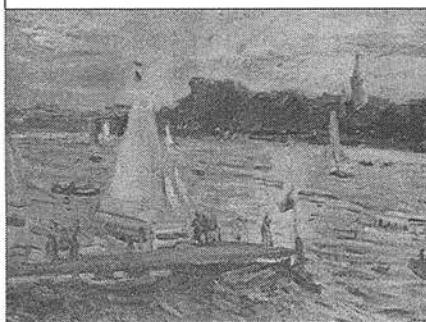
Impressionist Landscape Painting: Liebermann -Corinth - Slevogt opens Sunday at the MFAH. Its charms sink in the moment you enter the Beck Building upstairs galleries, where the MFAH normally keeps its Italian Renaissance and Baroque paintings. (Credit exhibition organizers Helga Kessler Aurisch, MFAH curator of European art, and Gotz Czymmek, the Cologne museum's senior curator, along with the MFAH's tip-top preparers, who painted the walls a margarita green that makes every painting pop.)

Liebermann's paintings tend to be comparatively sober and the least devoted to capturing the fleeting impression. An interest in the socially oriented realism of Jean-Francois Millet; seen in early canvases including the 1882-83 painting *Bleaching Field at Zeeloo*, which depicts Dutch washerwomen at work, gave way to French Impressionist influences by about 1900. Liebermann's palette lightened; his brushwork got looser; and for subject matter he increasingly turned to leisure scenes and gardens.

The latter came to dominate his late work, which invites comparison with that of Claude Monet. The brushstrokes in Liebermann's 1920s garden paintings



Jarg P. Anders: BPK Nationalgalerie, SMB, Vere
INN VALLEY LANDSCAPE: Lovis Corinth's 1910 painting uses a bird's-eye view



CHRISTA BEGALL: BPK/
Nationalgalerie, SMB Vere
SAILBOATS ON THE ALSTER RIVER IN THE EVENING: This 1905 Max Slevogt work captures the river's atmospheric qualities created by the evening light and breeze

get as frenzied as what you'll see in Monet's *Japanese Footbridge at Giverny* (1922), which is in the MFAH's French Impressionist galleries. Both look like precursors to abstract expressionism - but unlike Monet, Liebermann wasn't suffering from cataracts. His brush-work, already free in the MFAH's recently acquired *Terrace in the Garden Near the Wannsee Toward Northwest* (1916), goes hog wild a decade later, yet the geometric rigor of his compositions never goes away.

Corinth, on the other hand, seems to attack the canvas first and ask

questions later. Light blazes through whatever opening it can find in the otherwise dark, streaky *In the Forest at Bernried* (1892).

Later works highlight his penchant for painting landscapes and street scenes from vertigo-inducing heights, often featuring a forceful diagonal. Relatively few works, such as *Terrace in Klobenstein, Tyrol* (1910), a tranquil hybrid of a family portrait and a landscape painting, bear much resemblance to what we think of as Impressionism. His post-World War I landscapes, which Czymmek writes "represent the pinnacle not only of his own achievements but also of German landscape painting as a whole," are heavy and brooding even when they're vibrant.

Interested in atmospheric phenomena, inclined toward a luminous palette and joyous pain handling, Slevogt produced landscapes that can seem like a cross between Impressionism and Vincent van Gogh on meds - especially in the unabashedly lovely *Spring in the Palatinate* (1910).

You can see his paintings expressing the connection Slevogt drew between visual art and music: "The eye sees full of imagination, sees entirely music,

Impressionists (cont.)
rhythm, and intoxication."

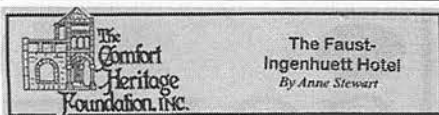
As catalog contributor Bernhard Geil writes, "Whereas the French Impressionists sought 'the perfect artistic form for what is seen,' the German Impressionist sought the 'form for what was also felt while seeing.'"

That distinction captures what makes German Impressionism distinctive - and what makes this exhibition, along with the companion show *Drawing From Nature: Landscapes by Liebermann, Corinth, and Slevogt*, so salutary.

German Impressionist Landscape Painting

- ◆ **When:** Sunday thru Dec. 5
- ◆ **Where:** Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1001 Bissonnet, 713-639-7300
- ◆ **Companion Show:** Drawing from Nature: Landscapes by Liebermann, Corinth, and Slevogt

Submitted by Charles & Janice Thompson, Houston



The Comfort News, Feb. 11, 2010

Years ago, Jim Lord and Bobby Dent donated the historic Faust-Ingenuhuett hotel registers, now the Comfort Commons, to the Comfort Heritage Foundation Archives. Talk about interesting reading.

Each guest signed the register and gave their city of residence. No doubt the single most interesting entry came on Sunday, February 21, 1937, when a Mr. Jay Taylor signed in stating his residence was a "cafe down South Africa." Needless to say I intend to look in *The Comfort News* for that date and see if I can find out what Mr. Taylor was doing here.

People came to our town from all points in Texas: Gonzales,

Menard, Austin, San Antonio, San Angelo, Junction, Boerne, Marble Falls, Eagle Pass, Dallas and beyond, including Florida, Colorado, California, Tennessee, Maryland, Missouri and Kentucky.

Browsing among the register pages, you read the signatures of salesmen who came and stayed every month for a couple of days. One salesman was a saleswoman from Coleman. She registered on Wednesday, July 1, 1936 and had come to Comfort to tout her product, "Bird Brand Shortning." (sic).

Families came for the health of a loved one. Mothers came with two children, followed by the father and another child. One judge rode up from San Antonio any number of times with his wife and daughter, and was driven by their chauffeur who brought his daughter.

Singing and musical groups participating in Comfort's Saengerfests (singing events) came from New Braunfels and San Antonio. When the New Braunfels Casino Club Orchestra arrived Saturday, May 12, 1934, they took a half page signing in. "Frank F. Friken with Maria Dawn and his Casino Orchestra." His musicians wrote all over their portion of the register: "Clara Galvan, Alberto Rios, Bartolo Cobarrwia, Pat Rios, Tony Morales Jr., John Rios 763 Seguin Street, New Braunfels, Tex. Rowan Ganuay, and Jet Rios." Obviously their music was great because two

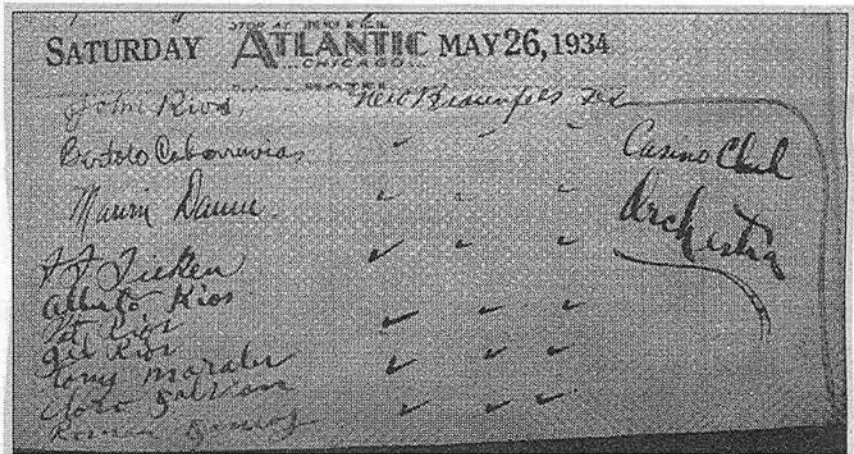
weeks later they were back, Saturday, May 26, 1934, at the hotel and ready to play their Comfort gig again.

Baseball teams came up to play Comfort's finest. The Alamo Heights baseball team came up Sunday, May 15, 1932, and the entire team, manager and coach rented two rooms, numbers 7 and 8. Whether they were victorious or defeated was not stated.

Desk clerks wrote notes in the register page margins. Several families and individuals in Comfort put up visitors at the hotel and it was so noted. The clerk recorded all pertinent information: if the room was a D or S, the room number, at what time a guest requested a wake up call and other miscellaneous reminds. On Thursday, November 15, 1934, six gentlemen signed the register: three from Austin and three from Taylor. They were given rooms 12 and 18. There is no date of departure noted so the length of their stay is unknown. The desk clerk did record what he knew: "Deer hunters who never saw a deer."

We invite you to come and read for yourself these early Faust-Ingenuhuett Hotel registers. The Archives are open on Tuesdays from 9:00 - 12:00. And thanks again, Jim and Bobby, for helping preserve Comfort's heritage.

Submitted by Anne Stewart, Comfort



A page of history. Thoughtfully provided by Mike Stewart.

THE FAMILY OF JOHN & ELLA (WERNECKE) SPREEN

Washington County, Texas, By Daniel Bode

Johann Friedrich Heinrich (John) Spreen was born 6 July 1890, in the Prairie Hill Community in northeastern Washington County, Texas. John was the youngest son of **Johann Friedrich Wilhelm Spreen** (born 30 Oct. 1848, in Wehdem, Westphalia, Germany; died 31 Jan. 1920, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas) and his wife, **Marie Henriette Caroline Schramme** (born 28 March 1858, in Wehdem, Westphalia, Germany; died 17 May 1948, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas). John's parents were married 29 January 1875, in Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wiedeville, Washington County, Texas.

John's siblings were:

1. **Friedrich Daniel (Fritz) Spreen** born 8 Feb. 1876, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and he died 8 Jan. 1950, in Brenham, Washington Co., Texas. Fritz married #1. **Anna Grebe** on 12 Dec. 1907, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas. Anna was born 22 Sept. 1881, and she died 21 March 1918, in Prairie Hill. Fritz married #2. **Ida Lehmann Scurlock** on 7 Nov. 1918, in Prairie Hill. Ida was born 15 Jan. 1886, in Washington County, and she died 25 Sept. 1931, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas.
2. **Wilhelm Spreen** born 15 March 1877, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and he died 29 Sept. 1946, in Brenham, Texas. Wilhelm married **Wilhelmine Lehmann** on 20 Nov. 1902, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas. Wilhelmine was born 30 Nov. 1881, in Washington Co., Texas, and she died 22 March 1961, in Brenham, Texas.
3. **Carl Heinrich Spreen** born 12 June 1881, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and he died 14 June 1881, in Zionsville.
4. **Carl Christoph Wilhelm Spreen** born 16 May 1883, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas, and he died 8 April 1884, in Prairie Hill.
5. **Bertha Caroline Louise Spreen** born 19 Feb. 1885, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas, and she died 26 May 1949, in Brenham, Texas. Bertha married **Richard August Kuhlmann** on 26 Nov. 1903, in Prairie Hill. Richard was born 29 Jan. 1874, in Washington Co., Texas, and he died 3 Aug. 1945, in Brenham.
6. **Henriette Caroline (Lena) Spreen** born 27 Jan. 1888, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas, and she died 13 March 1970, in Hillsboro, Hill Co., Texas. Lena married **Henry Otto Lehmann** on 19 Dec. 1907, in Prairie Hill. Henry was born 25 Aug. 1876, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and he died 6 June 1946, at Malone, Hill Co., Texas.
7. **Emma Frieda Louise Spreen** born 24 April 1894, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas, and she died 2 March 1979, in Waco, McLennan Co., Texas. Emma married **Theodore Friedrich Karl Heinrich Schulze** on 27 April 1916, in Prairie Hill. Theodore was born 17 Jan. 1887, in Sandy Hill, Washington Co., Texas, and he died 5 Dec. 1967, in Hillsboro, Hill Co., Texas.

John Spreen's father, **Wilhelm Spreen**, immigrated to Texas with his youngest sister, Louise, in 1866, where they joined their oldest sister, **Henriette Spreen Bode**, in Washington County. John's paternal grandparents were **Carl Friedrich Spreen** (born 20 Jan. 1819, in Wehdem, Westphalia, Germany; died 26 July 1885, in Wehdem) and **Charlotte Henriette Dreier** (born 1 May 1817, in Wehdem, Westphalia; died 22 Oct. 1856, in Wehdem). They were married 21 Nov. 1844, in Wehdem. John's maternal grandparents were **Hermann Friedrich Wilhelm "Fritz" Schramme** (born 9 Nov. 1826, in Wehdem, Westphalia, Germany; died 12 Aug. 1900, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas) and **Caroline Margarethe Louise Schaefer** (born 20 Sept. 1825, in Wehdem, Westphalia; died 2 June 1893, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas). They were married 30 March 1855, in Wehdem. The Schramme Family immigrated to Texas in 1868. They were charter members of the St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill, which was organized in 1877.

John Spreen was baptized on 3 August 1890, by Pastor O. Samuel at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. John grew up with his siblings on his parents' farm in the Prairie Hill Community, and he attended the Prairie Hill School. John was confirmed at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill by Pastor J. Appel on 16 April 1905.

John Spreen married **Ella Wilhelmine Dorothea Wernecke** on 11 Dec. 1913, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. Ella was born at Prairie Hill on 21 February 1892; she was the daughter of **Christoph Friedrich Wilhelm "Fritz" Wernecke** (born 13 Sept. 1852, in Perleburg, Prussia, Germany; died 29 Sept. 1927, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas) and his wife, **Louise Sophie Caroline Schawe** (born 18 Jan. 1856, in Laaslich, Prussia, Germany; died 17 March 1953, in Prairie Hill). Fritz Wernecke came to Texas with his mother, stepfather, and siblings in 1867, and they settled

in Salem, Washington County. Louise Schawe came to Texas with her parents and siblings also in 1867. The Schawe Family landed in Texas on 3 July 1867, and settled in the Salem Community of Washington County. Fritz Wernecke and Louise Schawe were married January 14, 1876 in Salem Lutheran Church in Salem, Washington Co., Texas. Fritz and Louise lived in Salem until 1884 when they settled in the Prairie Hill Community in north-eastern Washington County. They were the parents of eight children.

Ella siblings were:

1. **Wilhelm Hermann Wernecke** born 18 July 1877, in Salem, Washington Co., Texas, and he died 27 July 1969, in Brenham, Tx. Herman married **Karoline Kramer** on 7 Feb. 1901, in Prairie Hill, Tx. Karoline was born 29 Aug. 1881, in Washington Co., Texas, and she died 3 Sept. 1943, in Prairie Hill.
2. **Theodor Hermann Friedrich Wernecke** born 15 Sept. 1882, in Salem, Washington Co., Texas, and he died 14 Aug. 1883, in Salem.
3. **Anna Louise Sophie Wernecke** born 8 June 1884, in Salem, Washington Co., Texas, and she died 27 March 1929, in Prairie Hill, Texas. Sophie married **Louis Finke** on 19 Dec. 1904, in Prairie Hill. Louis Finke was born 10 May 1883, and he died 6 March 1954, in Washington Co., Texas.
4. **Lina Louise Caroline Wernecke** born 1 Oct. 1886, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas, and she died 22 July 1887, in Prairie Hill.
5. **Theodor Heinrich Fritz Wernecke** born 11 June 1888. in Prairie Hill. Washington Co., Texas, and he died 18 June 1968, in Richmond, Fort Bend Co., Texas. Theodore married **Rosa Loesch** on 19 Jan. 1913, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Tx. Rosa died 25 Nov. 1974, In Rosenberg, Fort Bend Co., Tx.
6. **Otto Henrich Andreas Wernecke** born 12 Jan. 1891, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas, and he died 3 Feb. 1891, in Prairie Hill.
7. **Robert Albert Friedrich Wernecke** born 21 Sept. 1894, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas, and he died 3 Sept. 1962, in Brenham, Texas. Robert married **Minna Kruse** on 4 Dec. 1919, in Prairie Hill. Minna was born 2 April 1897, in Washington Co., Texas, and she died 12 Nov. 1977, in Brenham, Texas.



The wedding photo of John & Ella Spreen. They married 11 Dec. 1913, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas. They were married 60 years.

Ella's paternal grandparents were **Johann Joachim Christoph Wernecke** (born 24 Oct. 1813, in Boberow, Prussia, Germany; died 12 May 1864, in Perleburg, Prussia, Germany) and **Louise Marie Schawe** (born 7 March 1828, in Laaslich, Prussia, Germany; died 21 Oct. 1883, in Salem, Washington Co., Texas). They were married 11 Nov. 1850, in Boberow, Prussia. After the death of her first husband, Louise married **Johann Wilhelm Gottlob Mueller** on 6 Dec. 1864. Mr. Mueller was born 30 Aug. 1835, in Prussia, and died 28 Oct. 1875, in Salem, Washington Co., Texas.

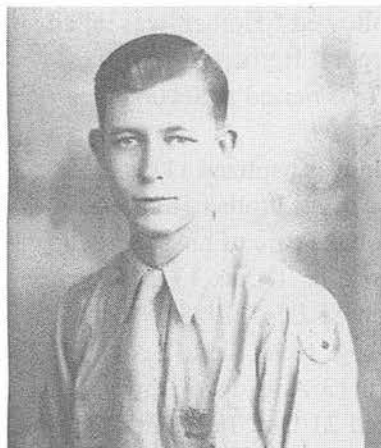
Ella's maternal grandparents were **Christoph Schawe** (born 3 Aug. 1819, in Laaslich, Prussia; died 19 Aug. 1868, in Salem, Washington Co., Texas) and **Sophie Marie Dorothea Barthels** (born 7 Oct. 1832, at Reetz, near Laaslich, Prussia; died 24 June 1885, in Salem, Washington Co., Texas). They were married 4 June 1852, in Laaslich, Prussia. After the death of her first husband, Dorothea Schawe married **Andreas Buls** in 1869, in Washington County.

Ella Wernecke was baptized 5 June 1892, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill by Pastor O. Samuel She attended school at Prairie Hill and worship services at St. John Lutheran Church. Ella was confirmed 8 April 1906, by Pastor J. Appel, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill.

After their marriage, John and Ella Spreen set up housekeeping and began farming in the Prairie Hill community. They were lifelong residents of this community, and lifelong members of the St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. On 7 Dec. 1918, John and Ella purchased the farm of his parents. The farm consisted of 191.89 acres. John's father, Wilhelm Spreen, had purchased the farm in three separate tracts. The first tract of land was purchased from H. Kokemohr on 2 Jan. 1894; the second tract from H. Reue on 22 Aug. 1894; and the third tract from Chris Schramme on 4 Jan. 1897. After John's father died in 1920, John provided a home for his widowed mother until her death 28 years later in 1948 at the age of 92.

John and Ella were the parents of three children: **Elsie**, **Herbert**, and **John**. All three children attended the Prairie Hill School, and they had their share of chores to do on their parents' farm such as milking the cows. John W. Spreen remembers learning to milk cows when he was five or six years old. John and Ella suffered the heartbreaking loss of their oldest son, Herbert, in World War II. Herbert was killed in an explosion in England in 1944. Herbert's brother, John, remembers the day when the military came to tell the family of the news. John was 19 at the time, and he remembers the

military car stopping at the end of the road. John walked towards the car and the military personnel told him of the news of his brother's death. John was the one who took the news to his parents of their oldest son's death. What must have been even more difficult to bear was the fact that Herbert's body was not returned to the family because he and the men he was with were all severely mutilated. The bodies were all eventually buried in a mass grave. No funeral was held for Herbert. It certainly must have been difficult for John and Ella not to have that closure. Only a deep faith and the strength of God could help them in that difficult situation.



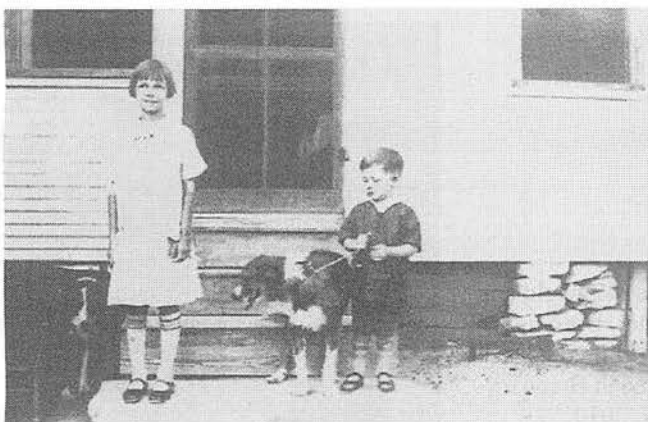
Herbert W. Spreen (1922-1944). He was killed in an explosion in England in World War II.

John and Ella suffered many health and medical problems in their lifetime, but they were blessed to both live well into their golden years. Ella Spreen nee Wernecke died in the St. Jude Hospital in Brenham on 1

March 1974, at the age of 82 years. John and Ella were married 60 years at the time of her death. John Spreen lived seven more years until he died in Brenham on 21 July 1981, at the age of 91 years. John and Ella Spreen are buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham, Texas.

The children of John and Ella (Wernecke) Spreen:

1. **Elsie Louise Henriette Karoline Spreen** born 25 Oct. 1916, in Prairie Hill, Washington County, Texas. Elsie was baptized 12 Nov. 1916, and she was confirmed in 1931, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. Elsie



Elsie and Herbert Spreen at the Spreen Homeplace in Prairie Hill, Washington County, Texas

married **Walter Henry Emil Winkelmann** on 25 Oct. 1939, in Prairie Hill, Washington County, Texas. Walter Winkelmann was born in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, on 17 Aug. 1916. Walter was baptized 22 Oct. 1916, and he was confirmed 20 March 1932, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Walter was the youngest son of **Carl Heinrich Friedrich "Charlie" Winkelmann** (born 9 April 1886, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas; died 25 April 1942, in Zionsville) and **Charlotte Margaretha Louise Nolte** (born 8 June 1885, in Zionsville; died 19 Oct. 1918, in Zionsville). Walter was two years old when his mother died of pneumonia, and in 1920, Walter's father married **Meta Louise Sophie Haar** (born 24 Sept. 1899, in Germania, Austin Co., Texas; died 15 Aug. 1987, in Brenham, Tx). Walter was raised by his stepmother, Meta.

Elsie and Walter Winkelmann lived in the Prairie Hill Community where they farmed, and Walter also worked for Brentex Mills in Brenham. In their later years, they moved into Brenham. Walter Winkelmann died in the Trinity Medical Center in Brenham on 19 July 2004, at the age of 87 years. Walter and Elsie were married 64 years at the time of his death. Walter was buried in the St. John Lutheran Cemetery in Prairie Hill on 21 July 2004. Elsie Winkelmann nee Spreen continues to reside in Brenham today, and she is still a member of St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. Elsie and Walter are the parents of two children: **Dorothy Mae Haevischer** (born 1942) and **Walter, Jr.** (born 1944).

2. **Herbert Friedrich Louis Richard Spreen** born 9 July 1922, in Prairie Hill, Washington County, Texas. Herbert was baptized 30 July 1922, and he was confirmed in 1937, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. Herbert



Ella & John Spreen (sitting) with their children. Standing/ from left: John W. Spreen, Elsie Spreen Winkelmann, and Herbert Spreen.

enlisted on 30 Oct. 1942, in Houston, Texas, as a private in the U.S. Army. His enlistment record states his education consisted of one year of high school. Herbert's civil occupation is given as a dairy farmer. His marital status is given as single, with dependents (his parents). Herbert's height is given as 68 inches (5 feet, 8 inches) and his weight is given as 121 pounds.

It is not remembered where Herbert did his basic training before he was shipped to England. Herbert achieved the rank of Corporal before his untimely death. Herbert was a radio technician on a bomber. Herbert's brother, John, recalls the day that Herbert was killed: "They were loading the bombs to make a mission, and somebody messed up and dropped a bomb. There were 13 men killed in the explosion that followed." Herbert was killed at the age of 21 years on 21 April 1944, in England. By Administrative Decision, Corporal Herbert Spreen was buried in the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He is buried at Section One Site 247-Q, along with the remains of the other 12 men who were killed with him.

3. John W. Spreen born 16 Dec. 1925, at Prairie Hill, Washington County, Texas. John was baptized 11 Jan. 192 and he was confirmed in 1940, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. Because of his brother Herbert's death in World War II, John did not have to do military service. He stayed home to take care of his parents. John

married **Mildred Marie Elisabeth Jeske** on 1 Dec. 1946, at Prairie Hill. Mildred was born at Prairie Hill on 15 Sept. 1928; she was the daughter of **Fred Carl Jeske** (born 21 Aug. 1892; died 15 Nov. 1972, in Brenham) and **Mary Sommers** (born 13 Aug. 1889; died 13 Jan. 1967, in Brenham). Mildred was baptized 21 Oct. 1928, and she was also confirmed, in St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill.

John W. Spreen had a 40-year career working as a salesman for the Sealy Mattress Company before his retirement. Today, John W. and Mildred Spreen reside in Brenham and they are still members of St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill.

John W. and Mildred are the parents of one daughter: **Kimberly Ann Weilbacher** (born 1963).



John W. & Mildred Spreen holding the shotgun that belonged to John's grandfather, Wilhelm Spreen. Photo taken at John and Mildred's home in Brenham on June 15, 2010.

Elsie Spreen Winkelmann and daughter, Dorothy Haevischer. Photo taken at Elsie's home in Brenham on June 15, 2010.



SOURCES: John & Mildred Spreen, Elsie Spreen Winkelmann, and Dorothy Winkelmann Haevischer, all of Brenham, Tx. Records of St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill, Washington County, Texas. and of Salem Lutheran Church of Salem, Washington County, Texas.

Cpl. Herbert Spreen's military record on ancestry.com

Schawe Family History compiled by the late Elizabeth Lehmann of Brenham.

Submitted by Daniel Bode of Dayton, Texas. John Spreen (1890-1981) was a first cousin of my great-grandfather. Fritz Bode (1874-1950).

OPERATIONS

MINUTES OF THE JULY 11, 2010 MEETING (Approved) 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 Siemssen, 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
Minutes approved November 14, 2010.

[unapproved] MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 14, 2010 MEETING GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The November 14, 2010 meeting of the German-Texan Heritage Society Board of Directors was called to order at 10:10 a.m. in the German Free School in Austin with GTHS President Mary Whigham presiding. Board members present were Connie Krause, Martha Liehse, Carl Luckenbach, Christopher Markley, Bob Flocke, Mary Whigham, Charles Locklin, Wing Evans and Gerri West. Board members absent were John Siemssen, Charles Frederick, Christina Gilliland, and Daniel Bode. Also present were GTHS Executive Director Jean Warneke, Michael Krause and Liz Hicks.

Minutes of the July 11, 2010 Board Meeting

C. Luckenbach moved acceptance of the minutes of the board meeting of July 11, 2010 as scribed by Secretary M. Liehse. **MOTION APPROVED**

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer G. West distributed copies of the Morgan Stanley Investment Report (through October 31), the Profit & Loss, Budget vs. Actual Report (through November 14), the 2010 Annual Meeting Report and the 2010 Oktoberfest

Final Report, all of which she reviewed with the board. The reports for the Annual Meeting and the Oktoberfest showed both events to have been highly successful. The attendance at the Oktoberfest is estimated to have been 1,000.

W. Evans moved that a debit card be issued to Executive Director J. Warneke. After being seconded, the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director J. Warneke reviewed her narrative report with the board. She reported that GTHS had received a grant from the Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau/Historic Landmark Commission to repaint the ironwork on the building. She also reported that the City of Austin had proclaimed October as German Texan Heritage Month and that the Mayor came to the Oktoberfest to tap the first keg of beer. The Preserve America plaque was officially presented to GTHS at the Oktoberfest by our Congressman. The board received a synopsis of the survey results from the Annual Meeting.

GTHS has received a request from Alton Rahe for permission to reprint a small quote from the GTHS-published *The Diary of Hermann Seele*, with proper credit given. W. Evans moved that President M. Whigham give him written permission to do so. After being seconded, the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**. The request from Arcadia Publishing for GTHS to put together a book on German Texans will be discussed at a future board meeting.

J. Warneke requested that the board decide whether GTHS should start a scholarship program for college students studying German abroad and whether we should continue presenting awards to high school essay contest winners at the state level. For awards for the high school students, W. Evans moved that we present awards of \$750, \$500 and \$250 to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners respectively. The motion was seconded, but discussion was tabled till after the Budget Report later in the meeting.

Program Director M. Schmidt-Dumont's report was presented, with an update on the fall and winter semester GTHS language classes in Austin, Brenham, Bryan and Round Rock.

Executive Committee Report

President M. Whigham introduced new board member Bob Flocke.

Activities Committee Report

Chair C. Luckenbach reviewed the Annual Meeting in Fredericksburg and thanked everyone for helping make it a great success. It was reported that possible sites for the October 2011 Annual Meeting in Dallas are being investigated.

Budget & Finance Committee Report

Chair G. West gave a review of investments and the draft budget for 2011. We are still awaiting the results of the Annual Fund Drive as well as this year's contributions to the 150th Club fund. She will refine the budget for the January 2011 board meeting.

The board resumed discussion of the earlier motion to present \$750, \$500 and \$250 awards to high school essay contest winners. When put to vote, only three were in favor; thus the motion did not pass. C. Locklin made a motion not to present any such awards in 2011. It was seconded but did not pass. G. West made a motion to lower the award amounts to \$500, \$250 and \$125 for 2011. After being seconded, the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**.

C. Locklin made a motion for GTHS to present a \$500 college-level scholarship next year to a student for the study of German overseas. After being seconded, the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**. Executive Director J. Warneke will present the criteria for the scholarship to the board for approval.

Development Committee Report

No action was taken by the board on the proposed Gift Acceptance Policy. The question was raised as to whether a separate policy/agreement document should be developed for gifts of real estate.

Membership Committee Report

There will be no increase in membership dues amounts for 2011. C. Luckenbach moved to lower the student membership rate from \$30 to \$20, with the stipulation that that membership would include no "snail mail" publications, that is, there would be no quarterly *Journal* included, and the *Schulhaus Reporter* would have to be received by e-mail. After being seconded, the MOTION was APPROVED.

German Free School Committee Report

Chair C. Locklin expressed his gratitude for the Free School volunteers and their donations of time and money and also said that younger "understudies" are needed for the leadership roles in order to provide continuity. Work on the Business Plan continues, as well as on ideas for GTHS to collaborate with other public events. The idea of moving the front entrance gate from the top to the bottom of the steps is being looked at for security reasons. Recommendations are being worked on for the preservation of the Free School's historical collections.

Publications Committee Report

An active committee is needed and a Publications Policy needs to be developed. GTHS members are being encouraged to accept the e-mailed edition of the *Schulhaus Reporter* to save money on postage costs. Submissions to *The Journal* and the *Schulhaus Reporter* are accepted from members and non-members, subject to individual item acceptance.

Unfinished Business

Board Position #8 is still open. C. Krause reported that Dorothy Oelkers, who was elected at the Annual Meeting to fill Position #1, is now unable to fulfill the board member duties. Position #1 will now need to be filled as well.

New Business

It was proposed that we solicit submissions to the *Schulhaus Reporter* that describe the work of individuals all over the state (whether GTHS members or not) who contribute to preserving German-Texan heritage. GTHS could present an award to an individual for German-Texan community service.

Committee appointments were made for 2011:

Activities -- M. Krause, C. Luckenbach, C. Gilliland

Budget & Finance -- G. West

Development -- all board members

German Free School -- C. Markley, C. Locklin

Membership -- L. Hicks, W. Evans

Publications -- B. Flocke, M. Liehse

A review of the Investment Policy by J. Siemssen will be sent to the Executive Committee.

G. West requested that for the January board meeting Executive Director J. Warneke should review her experience with the "experimental" Executive Director job description that was developed at the end of 2009. The board will also evaluate the accomplishments of the Executive Director in January.

C. Krause reminded the board that the books loaned to GTHS by Glen Treibs in 2007(?) need to be located and returned to him.

The election of officers for 2011 was held, with the following results:

President -- M. Whigham

Vice President -- M. Krause

Treasurer -- G. West

Secretary -- M. Liehse

Dates were set for the 2011 board meetings: Jan. 9, March 6, May 8, July 10, Sept. 11, Nov. 13.

C. Krause suggested that recognition certificates be presented to outgoing board members at each Annual Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Submitted by Martha Liehse, Secretary



Sponsor Space Agreement

German-Texan Heritage Society

P.O. Box 684171
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German-Texan Heritage Society

Promoting Awareness and Preservation of the
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Fulbright	Robert & Dee Hillje	P O Box 205	Hebbronville	TX 78361-0205	3615273 146	
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Gebert	Hildegarde	17401 Steger Ln	Manor	TX 78653-9761	5122725 310	
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George	James	14721 Bear Creek Pass	Austin	TX 78737-8935	5122884 635	N3BB@mindspring.com
Gerken	Herbert	800-A Lloyd Dr	Kerrville	TX 78028-2523	8307920 684	hgerken@stx.rr.com
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Glennon	James M	6919 Palm Bay Dr	San Antonio	TX 78218- 3425	2106550 604	jglennon1 @earthlink.net
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Herring	Billie Grace Ungerer	1510 Glencrest	Austin	TX 78723-1154	5124527093	
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Koehn	Lorchen Freier	213 Burnet St	Port Lavaca	TX 77979-2612	3615534 713	
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Luetge	Earl & Nancy	8789 Sturbridge Dr	Cincinnati	OH 45236-2247	5137932337	
Makowski	Edwin	2109 Colorado St	Mission	TX 78572-7482	9565830086	waconative33@aol.com
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Schlortt	Hermann	3655 CR 142	Floresville	TX 78114-4318	0	
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Schmidt	Weldon J	2133 Garlic Crk	Buda	TX 78610-5082	5122823 267	
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