

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

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- 116 Minutes of the January 9, 2011 Board Meeting (approved)**
- Sponsor space agreement**
- Membership Flyer (for YOU to give to a potential member!)**
- Books sold by GTHS**

Vielen Dank to our submitters:

Rodney Koenig, Houston
Dan Bode, Dayton
Angela Kretzschmar, San Antonio
Flora von Roeder, Houston
Marjorie Meyer Draehn, Brenham
Anne Stewart, Comfort
Marv B. Mason via A. Kretzschmar

Liz Hicks, Houston
Celie Karger Reeh, via Rodney Koenig, Houston
Brenda Lincke Fisseler, Hallettsville
Margaret Hitzfield, Round Rock
Melba Wolff, Three Rivers, Texas
Connie Krause, New Braunfels
Carol Carpenter via Jean Warneke, Austin

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In Memoriam



Diane Hall Mitchell

Memorial service for Diane Hall Mitchell, 75, of Lubbock will be at 2 p.m., February 9, at the First United Methodist Church. Graveside service and burial will be 11 a.m. at Resthaven Memorial Park's Mausoleum Chapel.

Visitation is 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at Resthaven Funeral Home.

Diane died Saturday, February 5, after a brave battle with lung disease. She was born on May 4, 1935, in Lubbock to Mary and Mancil Hall, who preceded her in death. Diane grew up in Littlefield, Texas, where her father owned the Ford

dealership. At Littlefield High School, she was a cheerleader, a member of the band and student council and valedictorian of her class. She graduated cum laude from Southern Methodist University in 1956. At SMU, Diane met her future husband, Horace A. "Mitch" Mitchell. They were married almost 55 years.

After Mitch completed his military service in Virginia and graduated from SMU law school in Dallas, Diane and Mitch moved to Littlefield in 1959. Mitch bought the Ford dealership from Mancil Hall, which he renamed Mitchell Ford. The Mitchells owned the Littlefield Ford dealership until 1973.

Diane dedicated herself to raising two daughters. She was very active in the Littlefield Presbyterian Church and in civic organizations, including the Littlefield Woman's Club and We the Women, of which she served as president.

In 1974, the family moved to Lubbock where Mitch opened a law practice and Diane became a certified travel agent. During her 31-year career as a travel agent, Diane organized and led numerous group tours throughout the world. With Mitch, Diane walked on all seven continents, including Antarctica.

In Lubbock, Diane was a member of Lubbock Woman's Club, the Symphony Guild, AK Chapter of PEO, and the Texas Tech University Museum Association, where she served on the travel committee.

She was a member of Texas Old Missions and Forts Restoration Association (TOMFRA) and the First United Methodist Church. Diane taught Sunday school classes almost continuously for more than 55 years. She loved fishing and was an avid student of biblical history and archeology.

She is survived by her husband; by daughters, Debbie Price and son-in-law Larry Price of Dayton, Ohio, and Janet Wear and son-in-law Charles Wear of Kansas City, Mo.; and three grandchildren, David Lukens, Thomas Lukens and Amanda Price.

The family suggests memorials to the First United Methodist Church Everliving Trust, Southern Methodist University or a favorite charity.

In Memoriam



Morris Klingeman

Morris Klingeman, 86 of Austin, passed away on Sunday, March 6, 2011. He was born on August 1, 1924 in Redwood, Texas to Martin and Kate Klingeman. A decorated World War II veteran, Morris proudly served his country in the United States Army Air Corps where he flew in the European theater and received many medals, including the Distinguished Flying Cross. Upon returning from the war, he met the love of his life, Clarice Tetens, and they were married on February 18, 1950 in Austin, Texas at St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Morris received his Bachelor of Science and Master's from Texas State University. For thirty-seven years, he was both an educator in the public schools, retiring from Del Valle High School, and owner of Klingeman Realty in Oak Hill. Morris was a member of many organizations, including the Travis Country Homeowners Association and the Kiwanis, American Legion and Rotary clubs. Morris was a loving and caring man who loved to tell stories and never met a stranger. Among his many interests, he was most passionate about gardening and fishing. His family, friends and neighbors will miss him dearly.

Morris is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Clarice Klingeman; daughters, Donna Stoker and husband Paul; Melissa Ingram and husband Danny; son, Jason Klingeman; brother, Carl Klingeman and wife Dorothy; grandchildren, Melanie Keeney and husband Todd, Kristina Bean and husband Mike, Jennifer Rindlisbacher and husband Brian, Kelley Cantu and husband Manny, Jill Stelter and husband Shannon, Stacey Ingram, Drew Ingram, and Brandy Klingeman; 22 great grandchildren and numerous other loving family members and friends.

The family will receive friends on Friday March 11, 2011 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Cook-Walden/Forest Oaks Funeral Home, 6300 W. William Cannon Dr., Austin, TX 78749.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Martin's Ev. Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th St., Austin, TX. A graveside service will follow at 1:30 pm at Cook-Walden/Forest Oaks Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Martin's Ev. Lutheran Church. The family invites you to share your fond memories of Morris at www.cookwaldenforestoaks.com.

Man killed in 1-vehicle wreck

A man was killed Sunday night after his vehicle hit a tree on Southwest Parkway, according to police.

The man, who was not identified because his next of kin had not been notified, was traveling east when his Land Rover left the road and hit a tree. The man was pronounced dead at the site, said Sgt. Robert Hawkins.

Hawkins said that the crash occurred about 8 p.m. and that several lanes of Southwest Parkway were closed for several hours. The man was the only occupant in the car.

Long time GTHS member Morris Klingeman lost his life in a tragic accident on Sunday, March 6, 2011 when the vehicle he was driving left the road and struck a tree. Morris and his wife Clarice helped with Maifest and he was one of our early cookie bakers for the Christmas Market. He always baked Kaiser Brot from a recipe furnished by former member Christa Pruett. Morris was retired from the Del Valle School District and the owner of Klingeman Realty Co. of Oak Hill. He is survived by wife Clarice, 3 children, 8 grand children and 22 great grandchildren. Funeral services were held March 12, 2011 at St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Austin, followed by burial at Cook Walden/Forest Oaks Memorial Park.

Memories from Margaret Hitzfeld,

In Memoriam

Ernest Wolff, Jr.

Ernest Wolff, Jr., passed away on September 28 at the age of 84. He was a farmer and rancher.

He was born on March 16, 1926, in Live Oak County, Texas, to Earnest Wolff, Sr. and Ella Tetens. He married Melba Zaeske on November 20, 1948, in Houston, Texas. He served as a council member and president at Our Savior Lutheran Church. He was also director and chairman of Live Oak Soil and Water Conservation District and director and chairman of Three Rivers Farmers Co-op.

He is survived by his wife, Melba Wolff, one son, Leroy Wolff (Rhonda Custer) of Taft, Texas, and two daughters, Karen Wolff Vickery (George) of Ingleside, Texas, and Sandra Wolff Leska (Tim) of George West, Texas. He is survived by a sister, Barbara Wolff Kopplin of Three Rivers, Texas, and a brother, Bennie Wolff (Billie Jo) of Stockdale, Texas. He is also survived by seven grandchildren; Michelle Vickery Collins (Michael), Michael Vickery, Natalie Wolff, Weston Wolff and fiancée Amanda Floerke, Tyler Liska and fiancée Jackie Kulesza, Travis Liska, and Tara Liska. He is also survived by three great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a son, Steven Wayne Wolff, and two brothers, Horace Wolff and Homer Wolff.

Visitation was September 29, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. with a Prayer Service held that evening at 7 p.m. at our Savior Lutheran Church in Three Rivers. Funeral services were September 30 at 10 a.m. at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Three Rivers with Rev. Norman Sulaica, Jr., officiating.

Pallbearers included Tyler Liska, Weston Wolff, Travis Liska, Randy Kopplin, Ray Wolff, Floyd Wolff, Brady Lee, and Richard Lee. Honorary pallbearers include Michelle Vickery Collins, Natalie Wolff, and Tara Liska. Interment followed at Three Rivers Cemetery.

President's Notes

Once again I am intrigued with great stories to print in the Journal....great job to all that contributed this month. As Rodney suggests, we are truly leaving our German mark! Even Elvis will find himself in the annals of German history periodicals!

Take time to read the minutes in the back of this Journal....they will give you a good idea about the work that comes from the German Free School facility to continue the mission of this great organization. Having finished a very successful Maifest at the GFS, your board is working very hard to make our annual meeting in Dallas a memorable one. Great article on page 77 about the historic Sons of Hermann Hall in Dallas...perhaps we will get a chance to visit it....we will have one more Journal before that event in October so all you Dallas Germans, get me some great stories about that area of Texas.



And speaking of annual meetings, I vote for Blanco next year (see page 80) and learn how to bowl the way they do it...Nine Pins, or maybe to La Grange to check out their new micro-brewery (see page 86). There are so many great German places in Texas that need to be checked out. Such that we are thinking about a new project...capitalizing on work already done by Meredith McClain and Hans Boas - developing a German Trails map much like those you see for birding enthusiasts....In the talking stages so if you see an opportunity to help...let us know.

An interesting comment...when I googled "Maifests", there were only two prominently displayed...Brenham's (which happened to be on the same day as GTHS) and GTHS! Trying to figure out if we are ahead of the curve by using the internet and/or where are all the other places that I know have Maifests? HMMMM?

If my remarks seem rambling, they are...I have just put the *Journal* to bed and am sitting here reflecting on all the great stories and what they bring to mind. Oral traditions are great, but the written word is forever. I suspect our organization is one of a few that have some 20+ "reporters" that routinely scour the state for little known facts. What a treasure trove our *Journal* is for future genealogists and those interested in German traditions. Where else could you find out what Nine Pin Bowling really is or where you can practice it or where it came from? If you are not yet one of our "reporters," it's easy....mjwhig@texasbb.com or snail mail: Mary Whigham, 16100 McCraven School Road, Washington, Texas 77880....Next Journal deadline is August 1.

Mary

Mark Your Calendars NOW!



**October 7,8,9 - GTHS Annual Meeting
in Dallas - Agenda and details in the Fall Journal -
we are honorees at the Pioneer Ball on the night of the 8th
- great German band, great food**

Ballroom and Band from last year's event



Message from the Executive Director

Each year as we roll into summer, we think the office activities will show down and we will get some summer clean up done. However with all the activities and programs that the German-Texan Heritage Society is involved in, we just never seem to find that spare time.

We just finished up another successful session of German language classes (in Austin, Round Rock, Bryan, Brenham, and San Antonio) and Maifest in Austin. Then we jump into the summer class session and start planning our Oktoberfest.

I'd like to suggest two ways to beat the summer heat.

An original heritage musical will premiere on July 30 at Festival Hill in Round Top. This story has been swirling around the head of playwright Virginia Mika Leech for years. Why? Because it's a story she grew up hearing about from her own family in LaGrange.

A young woman discovers her grandmother's old trunk in the attic, and the rest is ... history! With the help of the items in the trunk, she learns about the dramatic journey her grandmother, at the time a young woman, took from Czech lands to arrive in Texas. The family settled in the heart of Texas and lived with other immigrant families, many from Germany.

While Virginia has wanted to tell her story for years, she got quite a boost when well-known director, Carolyn Franklin, founder of HITS Theatre in Houston, stepped up. Original songs have been written by Dick Smith and New York choreographer Bethany White will do the dance numbers. All in all, a professional production to tell the story of so many immigrant families in Texas.

July 30, 31, August 6, 7 - Heart of the Tin Trunk

The story takes you from today's generation to the heart of the historic Czech lands, where a mother faces a terrifying decision to take her children on a dangerous journey across an ocean in search of a new life in Texas. **Original songs, energetic dances, colorful characters, and romance** are featured in this celebration of life and family. The story is based on real historical Fayette County immigrants, the Czechs and Germans who made Central Texas their home.

Festival Hill, Round Top

(Can we get a GTHS group to go and make it an event?)

The only thing that could make it better is that it will be staged at Festival Hill in Round Top. If you have not yet attended a performance here, run, don't walk! It is one of the most amazing places in Texas. Recently my nephew and wife were in town from Rhode Island. He is a concert musician and I wanted to share the space with him. We drove country roads, passing longhorns and pump jacks, and turned into Festival Hill and they both were floored! It only gets better once inside the concert hall.

We are in the beginning stages of putting together a GTHS day for one of the performances,

and by the time you read this, we should have some more information and will announce it in the July *Schulhaus Reporter*.

On July 1st, Willkommen to Williamson County, a new exhibit opens at the Williamson County Museum. This museum does a great job of featuring the many ethnic groups that settled there and this new show will include a number of personal artifacts. It will be up for two years but don't wait.

Look in your mail in the next month. We'll be sending our annual appeal letter to you, asking you to help us keep up our programs and outreach. We count on the support of our many members who are the keepers of our shared heritage.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen, Jean Warneke
Executive Director

Editor's Note...the devil made me do it....doesn't she look the part at our Maifest? This is one hard working lady!



LEAVE YOUR GERMAN MARK

By Rodney C. Koenig (past President of GTHS)



The year 2011 has been an eventful year and will continue to be an eventful year. I am currently finishing my fifth year as president of Houston Sängerbund, the oldest continuously operating musical group in Houston. Sängerbund and other German choirs will be performing at the State Sängerkonvent in Dallas on May 15, 2011. We are also taking a choir trip to Germany this fall. Any interested singers are invited to contact us, with rehearsals for the Germany choir trip starting in June. Another wonderful event which will occur this summer is the performance of "Heart of the Tin Trunk" at Festival Hill in Round Top, Texas, premiering July 30-31 and August 6-7, 2011. This is a Broadway style German and Czech heritage musical which depicts a celebration of life and family with wonderful new songs and dances depicting Czech and German immigrants who made Central Texas their home. The story for this wonderful musical was written by Virginia Mica Leech with music being written by Dick Smith, both of LaGrange, Texas. One of the wonderful songs is "Pretending We Are Friends" which discusses Czech and German neighbors in Central Texas. Having grown up near LaGrange among German immigrants, with Czech neighbors, I particularly relate to this musical. My wife Mary and I participated in a preview of some of these songs last fall at "New Dubina" near Weimar, Texas. Another preview was held in Round Top on April 9, 2011. Come to Round Top either weekend in late July or early August to see this fine musical!

Finally if you have not had an opportunity to visit the wonderful concert hall at Festival Hill in Round Top, attending this musical this summer would give you an opportunity to see the extraordinary concert hall at Festival Hill. James Dick, world-known pianist, who is the founder of Festival Hill has created a remarkable venue in Central Texas at the location of the old German Dippel Farm just outside of Round Top. This year is the 40th year of Festival Hill in Round Top. Festival Hill also always has a wonderful July 4 patriotic concert and has very fine music during the Festival Institute from June 5 through July 17, 2011. I am fortunate to serve on the board of trustees for the James Dick Foundation for the Performing Arts which oversees the Round Top Festival Institute each year. All of the above events are ones in which people are leaving their German mark, their Czech mark and their musical mark on the State of Texas.

How will you leave your mark? If you have ancestors who have left diaries, stories, musicals, books, organizational histories, please consider ways in which you can memorialize those stories, diaries, books, minutes so that this precious history will not be lost. Consider doing an article for the GTHS Journal in which your favorite German family story is captured in print. Also consider donating financially to GTHS so that our programs can and will continue. If you have not recently updated your will, consider doing so within the next two weeks. You may have heard that the estate tax laws changed dramatically in December 2010, so you should review and update your Will and estate plan. If you have an IRA, a 401(k) plan or a life insurance policy, consider giving all or a percentage of such account or policy to German-Texan Heritage Society for one of the purposes of preserving German-Texan heritage. If you desire help in any of these areas, please call Rodney C. Koenig at (713) 651-5333 or email me at rkoenig@fulbright.com. Any of our officers or directors would also be pleased to visit with you regarding gifts of your time, talent, and treasure to GTHS.

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.



KUGEL – BIENEK – WESTERFIELD/WESTERFELD - McDONALD

Eugene Watson, 100 Norwood Loop, Dripping Springs, TX 78620, e-mail: dripspring@yahoo.com. Julia Kugel and her mother, Veronica Bienek Kugel emigrated to San Marcos, Hays County, TX around the mid 1840's. At some point in time, Veronica married George Westerfield. The wife buried in George Westerfield's cemetery plot does not match Veronica's names. Granddaughter, Emma Alexis McDonald, was born in Wimberly in 1888.

Reply: Hays County was created March 1, 1848 from Travis County. You mentioned Julia and Veronica Kugel emigrated circa early 1840's. You need to do a search of Travis county records for marriage record of Veronica to George Westerfield, and look at the tax lists to see when they first appear. Julia Kugel born Oct., 1849 Germany according to the 1900 Caldwell County census. She married Donald McDonald 10-26-1881. Her death occurred in Uvalde, Sabinal County, TX Nov. 13, 1915. Her parents are given as Frank Kugel and Benick both born Germany. Possibly, Julia's obituary will provide the place of birth in Germany. It is possible, the wife next to George Westerfield (Westerfeld?) is Veronica. Most Germans rotated what we refer to as our middle and first names. I did not find a passenger list for them. Not all passenger lists are indexed. I checked the easy ones. The obit for Julia might also say when she emigrated.

PFINGSTEN -HEUN -ROSSBACH

T. G. Thompson, e-mail: Thompson25@austin.rr.com seeks information on Wilhelme (Wilhelmina?) Pffingsten. She may have been born in the 1830's-1840's, her family may have come from Illinois. Wilhelme was living in Comal Co. in 1885 where she married Wilhelm Heun. By 1898 she was gone. Wilhelm Heun married Catharina Rossbach. Comal County lists her as Wilhelm Pffingsten Heun Rust. I think this may be her mother not her?

Reply: It would appear you need to do more research. Check for marriage records in Comal and surrounding counties. You should check church records for her possible date of death, as well as cemetery records. Are there any probate records for her? Land (deeds) records? Do the obituaries for her children and their death certificates provide any information on her? Why do you think she or "her family" came from Ill.?

JOHN ERNEST NOACK

Roy Noack, 604 W. Pleasantview Dr., Hurst, TX 76054, e-mail: roy.noack@att.net John Ernest Noack, according to family oral history, came through Galveston. His statement of intent is dated July 30, 1889 Williamson, County Texas. On this document, his age is given as 33, subject of Prussia, place of birth – Rodenberg or Rodenburg. He married in Williamson Co. in 1865. I cannot find passenger list, even though state of intent also says he came through Galveston on or about Dec. 16, 1854.

Reply: Since he states his age as being 33 in 1889, I would use that to calculate his date of birth. Not all Galveston Passenger Lists survive. However, since you have the date of December 16, 1854 I certainly would see if the "Galveston Daily News" survives for that date. I would check the week before and the week after as well for any mention of ships and passengers arriving. Look at obituary for him and his children as date of arrival can be mentioned. You did not say if he was protestant or Catholic? Also, it is possible his surname-Noack is misspelled, and that is why you cannot find him as yet. The 1870 Texas Census lists several Noacks in Bastrop, Austin, and Fayette Counties. It's a long shot, but your guy may be related to some of these. You may find help from someone researching these Noacks.

GEHRMANN - TREDER

Marvin Gehrman, 3102 Great Valley Dr., Cedar Park, TX 78613, e-mail: mgehrman@austin.rr.com, looking for information on Friedrich Ferdinand Gehrman born Feb. 14, 1836 Henkenhagen, Prussia (now Ustronie Morskie, Poland). His father was F. Christian Gehrman, mother was Marie Treder. Also, looking for a brother, Franz Gehrman born March 31, 1838 Germany, Charles Earl "Carl" Gehrman born Jan. 14, 1827 and Wilhelm Gustav Gehrman born Nov. 27, 1842. All emigrated to Minnesota 1867-1874. All were Lutheran as far as I know. Beside Henkenhagen, some other surrounding areas were Kolberg, Koslin, Dagow, Mechenthin, Stockow, Lassehne, and District of Furstenthum.

Reply: you need to concentrate on Henkenhagen then Prussia, now Poland. Records for the time period you seek (pre 1850's) should be in German. It does not appear the parish records have been filmed by LDS/Mormans. From a fellow GTHS member, Maurine Lee, the Evangelical-Augsburg Church Archives is <http://www.lutranie.pl/eng/authorities.htm>. Contact them to see if they can provide parish information for Henkenhagen. Also, www.cyndislist.com/poland.htm, and contact the Polish Gen. Society of Texas and/or Polish Gen. Society of America for research information they may can provide. Contact the Germanic Genealogy Society of Minnesota, 1185 Concord St. N., Suite 218, South St. Paul, MN 55075-1150. Probates/wills and deeds for all may prove relationships.

JOSEPH KINSTLEY (formerly known as JOSEF KUNSTLER

Lynna kay Shuffield, P.O. Box 16604, Houston, TX 77222, e-mail: lksfriday@sbcglobal.net, Need parents, place of birth for Joseph Kinstley/Kunstler, who emigrated Aug. 2, 1850 to NY, age 21, Native of Bavaria, occupation: Butcher. The name of the ship was the "Rhein". About 1851 he married Mary Coats in MS. His naturalization was dated Feb. 24, 1852 Lauderdale Co., MS, and did not provide place of birth other than native of Bavaria.

Reply: I would look for obituaries for him, his wife, and all his children to see if any helpful information. Baptismal records for his children should give the "where from" for him. Look at the IGI (International Genealogical Index) for Kunstler in Bavaria to see if a concentration of Kunstlers in one or more parishes. This will give you places to start looking.

EBERHARDT/EBERHARD - HUMMEL - LIEBETRAUT - SCHERZ

Agnes Dreibrodt, 3816 Dreibrodt Rd., San Marcos, TX 78666, e-mail: dreibrodtfarm@hwtx.com would like to hear from anyone researching Valentin and Dorothea Eberhardt. Valentin was born June 15, 1836, Dorothea was born about 1838. According to census records they emigrated about 1880 possibly through Galveston. Valentin's parents, Georg Bernhard Christian Eberhardt/Eberhard born Oct. 10, 1802, Farnrode, Sachsen, Germany, and wife, Louise Liebetaut Eberhardt, appear on the 1860 Comal Co., TX census. No passenger lists have been found. Any information on these families will be appreciated. Also, researching Ernest Gustav Wilhelm Hummel born Oct. 22, 1832; and Johanne Luise Scherz Hummel born 12-7-1833 Obercunnersdorf Germany, both buried Lone Oak Cemetery, Geronimo, TX.

Helpful websites:

Request for Deceased Individual's Social Security Record: <https://secure.ssa.gov/apps9/eFOIA-FEWeb/internet/main.jsp> Photocopy of original application for social security card (SS-5) If social security number is provided \$27.00 If social security number is not provided \$29.00

To find a newspaper: www.edpdunk.com

Some German language newspapers in the Center of American History at UT-Austin: Austin, TX-Austin Wochenblatt Nov. 29, 1879 OR; June 4, 1881; May 19, 1886 MF, Das Wochenblatt Aug. 5, 1909-May 20, 1938 or; Aug. 5, 1909-Dec. 26, 1929 MF, Jan. 1, 1930-May 20, 1938 MF. Texas Staats-Bulletin Dec. 11, 1874; Nov. 17, 1875 OR Texas Stern April 6, 1877 OR Texas Volkszeitung Nov. 7, 1878, April 3, 1880 OR (oversize) Texas Vorwärts Oct. 26, 1883-Sept. 4, 1914 OR; Oct. 26, 1883-Oct. 17, 1884 MF, Texas Wochenblatt May 27, 1938-Dec. 27, 1939 OR Vorwärts Jan. 6, 1871 OR Bellville, TX- Bellville Wochenblatt Sept. 17, 1891-July 29, 1090 OR

To be continued in Fall Journal

Texas German Trails Project

At the January meeting of the GTHS Board, Van Massirer spoke about a need to have a map or travel guide delineating roads through historically German-Texan areas, not only in the so-called German Belt, but all across Texas. Financing for the project would hopefully come in the form of advertising from individuals, businesses, and municipalities in the areas covered.

The GTHS Board suggested that the Texas German Society be invited to participate as equal partners in this project. We are hopeful that they will accept but are awaiting an answer as The Journal goes to press.

We will need people from German communities throughout Texas to assist with this project. If you are willing to help, able to attend an occasional meeting within the central area of the state, and don't mind parting with a dollar now and then for project-related things, please contact Van Massirer at 254-486-2366 or vmassirer@yahoo.com. E-mail access will be essential.

You are invited to get involved early while this project is in the planning stages and help put German Texas back on the map!

Book Review: (Not really but a follow up to the article on Fritz Goldbeck) ("In The Far West Lies The Desert")

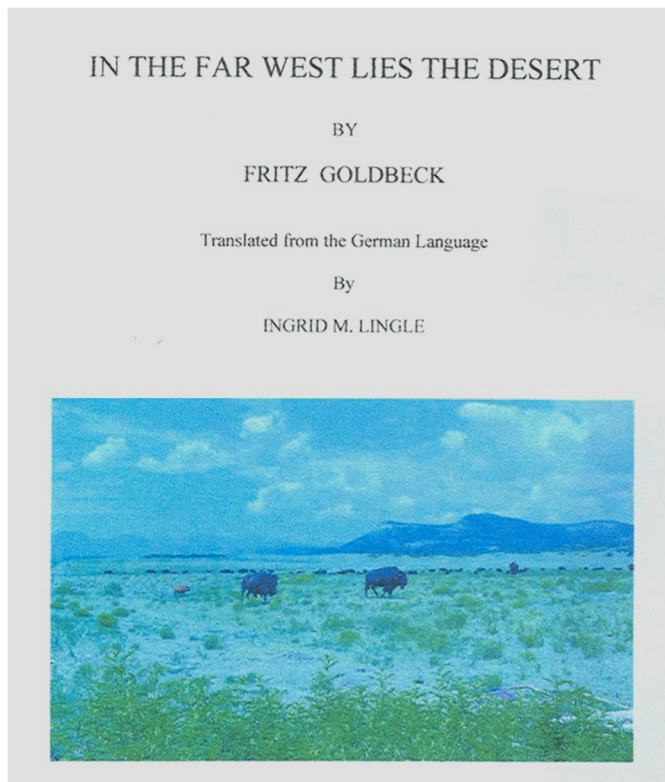
Fritz Goldbeck was a great German Texan poet who lived from 1831-1899. He was born in Germany and emigrated at the age of 14 with his family to Texas. He experienced the founding of New Braunfels and other surrounding settlements as an eyewitness. He was a farmer, a storekeeper, a mail rider in the southwest and elected mayor of New Braunfels. His poems reveal a deep love of nature and family.

Both his books "Since Fifty Years" and "In The Far West Lies The Desert" were translated from the German language into English by Ingrid M. Lingle and published under the title "In The Far West Lies The Desert".

The book is now available at \$19.95 plus \$4 shipping.

To order please contact:

Ingrid M. Lingle
651 Brand Rd
Bulverde, TX 78163
830-438-4032
vasarhel@gvtc.com



Submitted by **Connie Krause, New Braunfels**

Community Events

Dallas' Historic Hall is 100 Years Old

Hermann Sons News, April 2011

DALLAS - The month of April marks an important anniversary in the history of fraternalism in the city of Dallas. The Dallas Sons of Hermann Hall is now 100 years old.

To mark the occasion, the Dallas Home Association has planned "100 Days of Celebration for 100 Years of Existence." The 100 days began on April 1 and will continue through the spring and summer.

The official celebration was held April 9 and was an all day affair. Look for pictures and a report on the celebration in the May issue.

What follows is a history of the hall put together by Randell Fields, chairman of the celebration, and Bobbye Oswalt, a longtime member of Columbia Lodge No. 66 who was instrumental, along with husband Oscar, in making the celebration happen. Both have devoted hours and hours of their time to this celebration.

The hall is located at 3414 Elm Street in the Deep Ellum community of Dallas. It now holds the status of being the last wooden structure standing, and still functioning, in Dallas.

A lot of special attention has been given to the



hall in preparation for the anniversary celebration. Many customs and activities are engrained inside its wall from the meeting room to the bar to the kitchen and the bowling alley downstairs. All of these, along with the beautiful ballroom upstairs with its famous dance floor, tell us that attention was given to the many activities held dear by our Sons of Hermann ancestors. And all of it has withstood the test of time.

The building has received the City of Dallas and State of Texas historical markers.

From 1890 until 1911 the four Dallas lodges met in homes or a rented location. Originally, the land where the historical hall now stands was part of a larger tract of land patented from Sam Houston to John Grigsby in 1841. In 1854 the land was conveyed to a William B. Miller who was a prosperous landowner, known for his antebellum mansion, Millermore, located in Old City Park. Eventually William H. Gaston owned the land and in 1882 Lot No. 11 (a 50-foot x 200-foot tract between Elm and Main Street) was purchased by Ed Bernier. Finally on Aug. 6, 1910, the land was purchased by the Sons of Hermann lodges. In April 1911 the building was completed and the lodges moved into their new home.

Even though thousands of members and guests have flowed through the hall in the



Many musicians have entertained from the stage in the ballroom upstairs in the Dallas Sons of Hermann Hall.

past 100 years, some customs, traditions and designs for usage of the building have been maintained.

Food, and even German cuisine, is still served from the old kitchen on special occasions. The bar grows more beautiful with age and still maintains that "family and guests are welcome" atmosphere. The meeting room, many facelifts later, is still used



The staircase leads to an area where the walls are lined with Hermann Sons memorabilia.

for lodge meetings. During the Centennial, this room will be converted into the Historic Exhibits Room that will display surviving relics, artifacts, ledgers, photos and other historical items.

One of the most interesting points of interest for the tourist is the Old Bowling Alley, OBA. Bowling was so loved that a "house" was planned for bowling from the beginning. Within three years of opening the grand hall, the members worked to open the OBA in 1914. The room is still full of fond memories for all, even with its outdated equipment. Over the years, the OBA has been reconstructed and it now has a great dance floor and is fondly known as the "OBA" ballroom. It is rented for private parties as well as in-house lodge functions.

Unveiling the beautiful wood in the long hallway entrance of the building has become a personal interest and project for member Bobby Wilbanks. Oscar Oswald has spent a lot of time helping him. Those two, along with many volunteers, have worked incessantly to bring the hallway into harmony with the winding staircase leading up to the internationally famous and fabulous "SONS" Ballroom. (As the local radio DJs at KNON 89.3 FM refer to it.)

A quarter century of the Dallas Sons Of Hermann Hall is characterized by events related to music, movies, television and video productions. "Robo Cop," "The Jessie Owens Story," "Dallas" and "Walker, Texas Ranger" as well as "American Idol" are all examples of great movies and television programs that

have utilized the Hall over the past years.

The "Songwriter's Sanctuary," a Friday night event, hosted by Bob Hardy, his wife, Rhonda, and Cousin Doug started in the spring of 1984. The night offered local singers/songwriters a venue for playing their tunes. Several musicians would play each Friday night including Jim Brisson, The Singing Treeman, who lived in the apartment at the hall.

In the fall of 1984, a KNON Community Radio and Sons of Hermann Hall relationship began. Sometime between October 1984 and the early winter of 1985, Jim Brisson contacted Randell Fields and Royce James, KNON Texas Folk Music Show DJs, to invite them to the "Songwriter's Sanctuary" and to discuss the possibility of KNON and Sons of Hermann Hall working together. Randell and Royce organized the first KNON Radio Benefit at the Dallas Hall in October of 1985, the first Saturday of that month. Robert Earl Keen was the headline act for the night's Texas Music Celebration which was followed by eight more months of first Saturday, KNON Benefits by that name.

Robert Earl Keen recorded his second album, the Live Album, at the Dallas Sons of Hermann Hall in 1988. Randell Fields served as the show's Promoter and emcee on the album. Robert and Randell worked together between that first 1985 show and the recording of the Live Album in 1988 to build Robert's and the Hall's popularity. Robert Earl appeared at the Hall more than a dozen times the three years between '85 and '88. It worked, everybody in Texas has heard of Robert Earl and the internationally famous Sons of Hermann Hall.

The ballroom has also been the setting for many weddings, receptions, wakes and more. The building has served its members and guests well.

Photos by David McGhee



The bar area is a popular gathering place for Hermann Sons members from both lodges and their guests.

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

Spring Star Party in Schulenberg

Fayette County Record, April 15, 2011

This month stargazers can visit Blinn College's Schulenburg campus on a special evening devoted to the night skies. A star party is planned for April 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the Schaefer Observatory. Admission is free and open to the public.

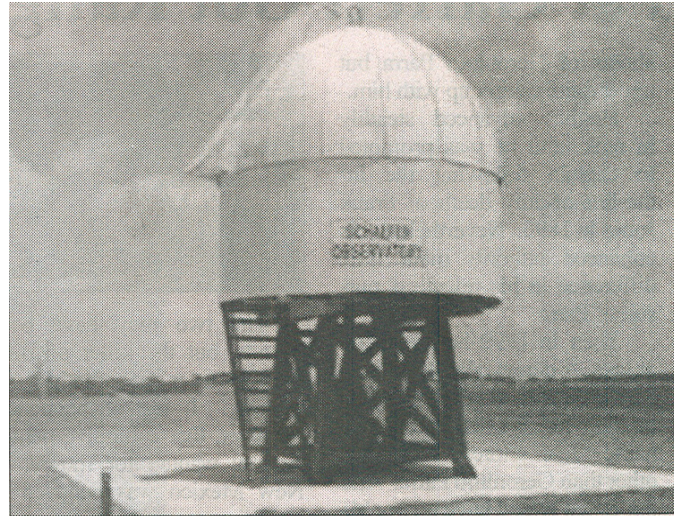
The popular event gives local astronomers an opportunity to share in an evening of observation and conversation. Gordon Houston, Blinn astronomy instructor and Astronomical League Master Observer, will be on hand to assist with the telescope and inform partygoers about the universe.

The event is dependent on clear evening skies. Comfortable attire is recommended to climb the ladder to the observatory. Participants are encouraged to use the parking lot on Black Street.

The Schaefer Observatory was built in the 1940s by Schulenburg local hardware store owner H.P. Schaefer and his sons, because Schaefer wanted to see the mountains and craters on the moon.

The college received the observatory in 2009 and quickly began hosting observation parties and holding stargazing classes.

The 27-foot tall galvanized metal dome is 12 feet in diameter and revolves 360 degrees on a pipe track that is operated manually.



Blinn College's Schaefer Observatory on the Schulenburg campus.

It sits behind the main building on the Schulenburg campus and houses community education astronomy classes, periodic star parties and is also available for private events.

For more information on star parties, Blinn's Schaefer Observatory, or for information on additional community and workforce education classes, call the Schulenburg campus at (979) 743-5237.

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

Schoenau News

Geraldine Luetge

Palm Sunday is past. Easter is this Sunday, very late this year. Since Easter comes the first Sunday after the first full moon in spring, it was late because full moon was the day before spring began. The next full moon was not until April 18, so Easter follows on April 24. May all of our readers have a Happy Easter.

Almost a full page in the April 11 Brenham Banner-Press was devoted to a lady by the name of Marjorie Meyer Draehn, the article written by Bud Chambers. This was of special interest to us since Mrs. Draehn is the great-great-great granddaughter of Friedrich Ernst. Just recently she participated in the observance of the 180th anniversary of the founding of Industry. The West End Historical Society observed that important date at their regular meeting, and Mrs. Draehn was there to take part in the program.

There is a Texas State Historical Marker at the Ernst Memorial Park in Industry, indicating that Friedrich Ernst was the founder of this town, and on April 25, 2007, the Texas Legislature recognized that Industry was the first German settlement in Texas. It was due to the fact that Lois Kolkhorst, our legislator from Brenham, made it official by presenting the resolution to the Texas

Congress and it passed.

The article in the Banner Press gave the members of Mrs. Draehn's family, some living nearby, some farther away, told of her interests and involvement in many activities including the Washington County Genealogical Society, member of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, the Texas German Society, the Polish Society, etc. Because of her love of history, in 1980, she and her husband Willie Draehn, bought the Beerwinkel home in Brenham, a house built in 1913, and it is there they have lived and reared their family.

As an addition to this article in the Banner-Press, we remember that Charles Fordtran was a friend of Friedrich Ernst, came with him to Texas and also settled here. It was Mr. Ernst who was "granted a league of land on the west bank of the west fork of 14111 Creek in Austin's colony, 28 miles northwest of San Felipe" (this quote was taken from the article written by Mr. Chambers) and the Ernst family became the first German family to settle in Texas. We know that Mr. Fordtran received a portion of that land and built his home nearby, married Almeida Brookefield, and they reared their family on what we older people in the neighborhood still think of as the Fordtran Place, between the town of Industry and the community of Schoenau.

Submitted by Marjorie Meyer Draehn, Brenham

Waldeck Named for German

Land Agent *The Fayette County Record*
By Connie F. Sneed, Fayette County Historical Comm.

Waldeck is at the junction of Farm Roads 1291 and 2145, thirteen miles north of La Grange in northern Fayette County. The community is predominantly German and is named for and located on lands originally purchased in 1843 by Count Ludwig Joseph von Boos-Waldeck as an agent for the Adelsverein, an association of German noblemen who planned for emigration to the Republic of Texas. Ludwig von Boos-Waldeck, the son of Count Clemens of Boos-Waldeck and Montfort and Lady Johanne of Bibra, was born in Koblenz, on the Rhine River in what later became Germany, on Nov. 26, 1798. He was descended from a line of Rhenish knights and nobles dating back to the thirteenth century. Little is known about his youth and education, but he began his military career in the Prussian army. He left that service in 1832, however, to become aide-de-camp, with the rank of major, to Duke Adolf of Nassau. In 1837, the duke promoted him to the rank of lieutenant colonel. On Oct. 1, 1880, he died at Aschaffenburg, a Bavarian city on the Main River east of Frankfurt.

The general area comprising the Waldeck community was first known as Long Prairie because of its geographic features. A post office named Long Prairie was established in 1860 there; at the outbreak of the Civil War the Long Prairie German Company was formed as a reserve infantry company for Confederate service.

The Long Prairie post office closed in 1876, reopened as the Waldeck post office in 1881, and finally closed in 1929.

By 1900, Waldeck was a voting precinct and had a post office, store, school, gin, saloon, blacksmith shop, Lutheran church, and a reputation for producing good musicians. Cotton was the primary crop, followed by corn.

The soils of the Long Prairie region are generally marginal for agriculture due to a high clay content and propensity to erode. Because the local streams, Albers Branch and Shaw Creek, often flooded, the U.S. Soil Conservation Service constructed flood-control impoundments on them during the 1950s. By 1950 businesses in Waldeck had decreased to two and the population to sixty. Children attended the Round Top-Carmine consolidated schools. Cotton was replaced as a money crop during the 1960s by cattle ranching and oil production. During the 1980s the Lower Colorado River Authority began extensive lignite mining in the area to support the LCRA's Fayette County Power Project.

References: Frank Lotto, University of Texas Press, *An Early History of Fayette County*; LaGrange Journal, *The History of the German Settlements in Texas, 1831-1861*

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

Nine Pins, One Town

San Antonio Express News, Feb. 3, 2011

Old-school German bowling keeps Blanco folks in touch with tradition, each other.

By Roy Bragg



Other pinsetters scramble to get out of their lanes as Colton Barrow sets pins in one of his two lanes at the Blanco Bowling Club. The teen boys who work the lanes earn \$21 a night, but with tips, the pay can be much higher.

BLANCO - In most small towns, locals gather at the café to shoot the breeze at breakfast, catch up on gossip at lunch and unwind with the family after a long day. But in this enigmatic Hill Country town, the real action happens behind the diner, in a long, narrow building that connects the town to its past and the townspeople to each other.

There, in the Blanco Bowling Club, is smoking and drinking and laughter and the familiar sound of rolling thunder as balls strike nine pins at a time. Three school-age kids played with a video game at the alley bar, located at the back of the space. One nursed a root beer while the others took turns on a Coke. ESPN was playing on a high-definition TV on one wall, while a chalkboard with league standings took up the other wall.

Tables of locals kept up a steady stream of laughter and gabbed incessantly. Every few minutes, one would stand up and approach one of the six lanes in the tiny alley for a turn.

"It's a lot of fun," said J. R. Martinez, part of a team fighting for second place on this cold January night. "We come here to hang out and see our friends."

"It's as competitive as you want it to be," said Trey Cortez, another member.

Nine-pin bowling came to America from Germany and survives only in a handful of towns with strong German ties. The best guess is that there are fewer than 20 such

clubs left in the country, all of them within a strike and a spare of the Hill Country, in communities such as New Braunfels, Seguin, Freiheit, Boerne, Marion, Bulverde and Bracken. San Antonio has at least one nine-pin alley, the Turner Club, downtown.



In Blanco, the bowling alley has been open nearly 50 years, and it's been a members-only club for 43 years.

Bowling shoes rest above the bar at the club, which has been a members only establishment for 43 years. But club president John L. Dechert says he knows of no one who has ever been denied admission.

And "membership" rules haven't been that strict, said, John L. Dechert, the club president. "I can't think of anyone who has ever been turned away."

Nine-pin bowling is a great metaphor for small town camaraderie because it's a game in which individual scores aren't important.

I like this game more because it's a true team sport," said Amber Snyder, who plays on the team with Martinez and Cortez. "You work together here."

Here's what she means: A six member-team takes aim at a set of nine pins. One pin is bright red. Each member gets two rolls, and the team rolls at the same set of pins until all of them are down. That means a team could knock down six sets of pins in a frame, or it could take all 12 throws to knock down a single set. Knocking down nine pins earns 9 points, said Lyndon Preiss, another bowler. If a team knocks down eight pins but leaves the red pin standing, the team gets 12 points.

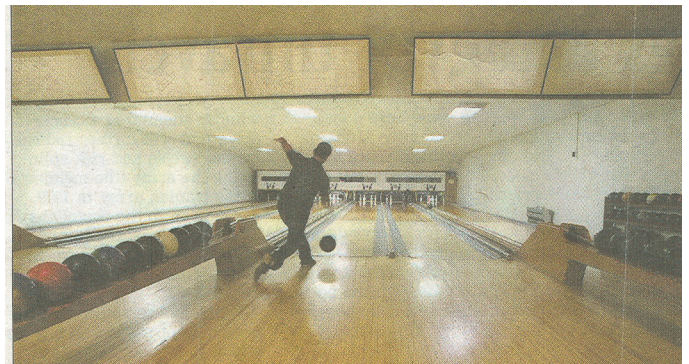
Behind the scenes, where most bowling alleys offer computerized scoring systems, the feeling here was pre-analog: scores were kept on plastic sheets with grease markers and the results shown via over-head projector. And instead of an elaborate pin setting apparatus, the Blanco Bowling Club - like most German bowling societies - is even more low-tech.

It's got two teenage boys, standing on perches at the end of the lanes, who clear each pin that's knocked down and reset the pins by hand. The kids earn \$21 a night, plus tips.

Given rules that prohibit most businesses from hiring younger teens and the fact that jobs are scarce in small towns, a bowling club pin-setting gig is the equivalent of finding Willy Wonka's golden ticket.

"This job pays really well," said pinsetter Tyler Hardin, 15, who has earned \$60 with tips on some nights. "That's a lot of money for 2 1/2 hours of work. It's easy money."

The mere existence of nine-pin bowling in Blanco, says Preiss, is more important than any game played here. "I set pins here when I was a kid," he said, "and this place has been here for a long time. It's a good family sport, and it's good for everyone here to get out and have fun together."



Nine pin bowling came to America from Germany and survives only in a handful of Hill Country towns with strong German ties.

Submitted by Margaret Hitzfeld, Round Rock

From the "American Profile" magazine supplement to the *Round Rock Leader*, January 27, 2011

TEXAS - A former World War II prisoner-of-war camp for German soldiers has been transformed into a museum in Hearne (pop. 4,690). The camp held about 5,000 prisoners, mostly from the German Afrika Corps, including Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's personal orchestra, whose members were allowed to keep their instruments so they could perform free public concerts. The Camp Hearne Museum is housed in a replica of one of the barracks.

Submitted by Margaret Hitzfeld, Round Rock

Historical Society to observe Industry's 180th Anniversary

New Ulm Enterprise, April 7, 2011

The Industry-West End Historical Society will hold its regular monthly meeting on April 10 at 2:30 pm in the Industry Historical Society Building (9021 Highway 109N).

Industry is the "Oldest German Town in Texas" and is celebrating the 180th Anniversary of its founding throughout 2011. The German family of Friedrich Ernst and single-German Charles Fordtran settled here in April 1831 and throughout the year 2011, the Historical Society will have programs about the early citizens who helped found and build the community of Industry during the past 180 years of its existence. This month's meeting will feature one of the town's German founders, Friedrich Ernst.

A Texas State Historical Marker dedicated in 1936 commemorates "Industry 1831". The marker is located in Ernst Memorial Park and gives some biographical information of the Industry town founder German Friedrich Ernst's life and activities.

The Historical Society program will be presented by Marjorie Draehn, the great-great-great-granddaughter of the Industry town founder. Mrs. Draehn is a member of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT), lives in Brenham and has published various articles and presented numerous programs about her famous ancestor Friedrich Ernst. She will relate historical information about the Ernst family and reveal personal information and family knowledge as passed down through the generations about this famous German family.

Visitors, interested persons, Historical Society members and guests are invited and encouraged to attend this program. For details, call 979-357-2772.

Submitted by Marjorie Mayer Draehn, Brenham

Immanuel Lutheran Church Archive, Comfort, Texas. Now Open to the Public

By Anne Stewart

The Immanuel Lutheran Church Archive, which chronicles the story of the Christian faith in a town founded by freethinkers, opened its door to the public for research and study, May 29, 2010.

The Immanuel Lutheran Church Council established the position of Church Historian in the spring of 2009. Harry Seidensticker, longtime member, volunteered for the post. His first move was to organize an archive committee. Committee members Eyrline Bellrends, Joyce Behr Colleen and Leroy Bohnert, Cheryl Bryan and Anne and Mike Stewart met with Harry on Thursday, April 30, 2009. They decided to meet every Thursday until the job was done.

(Immanuel Lutheran con't.)

They collected church records to evaluate and inventory. Where to begin? The attic was said to hold many stored items and down from the dark and dusty rafters came more than twenty-one large boxes holding a wide variety of church items. Next to be scoured were cabinets, chests, closets and bookshelves. As this task expanded to include photos, bibles, artifacts and miscellaneous memorabilia, a wealth of Comfort church history emerged to be scrutinized. Harry called on church members familiar with various aspects of the church to act as advisors. He also asked for and received assistance from the local Comfort Heritage Foundation archival staff.

The first church structure, built in 1892, der Deutsche Evangelische Kirche (the German Evangelical Church), was used by not only the Lutherans but also the other denominations in town from the early 1890's until World War I. In addition to the early Lutheran Church history, the archives include information on the early Episcopal and Methodist churches in Comfort as well as the itinerant ministers who came to Comfort to visit, live and/or work in the early health resorts and guest ranches. Each of these groups and individuals used the 1892 church for worship services. Not only was this the first church but also it was Comfort's only church until early in the twentieth century.

Both local newspapers, *The Comfort News* and *The Comfort Connection*, have supported this project. They publish news articles, up-dates and photographs from the Lutheran Archives. *The Connection* designed a logo for the Lutheran Archive column. Committee members take turns submitting articles informing the public of the state of the archives. This outreach has garnered church related contributions of memorabilia as well as financial donations.

To date the committee has compiled over 40 inches of church history, with contents from a single file cabinet still to be reviewed, evaluated and inventoried. One individual compilation, [The Immanuel Lutheran Book of Pastors](#) is a detailed overview of each of the pastors and their families who have served Immanuel Lutheran. A fireproof safe, deemed necessary to ensure the safety of the collection, was secured with the gracious help of the Marilyn and A.C. Schwethelm Family Foundation.

Students from public and parochial schools and colleges, as well as theologians and historians, are invited to come and use this new archival collection. To date the committee has fielded five queries for information and photographs. Please visit in person. The Archives is open monthly, first and third Thursdays, and by appointment at 1-830-995-3756.

Submitted by Anne Stewart - Comfort

People

The Lincke Hall Westhoff (DeWitt County) Texas

Brenda Lincke Fisseler

Long after the music ends, the melody lingers on.

Charles Ferdinand Lincke was born on September 13, 1858 in the Thuringian region of German in the small village of Luckenmuhle. Charles became interested in playing the violin and took sessions from his father, Carl, who was also a musician.

On October 20, 1873, Charles arrived at the port of Galveston at the age of 15 years. The remainder of the family arrived in 1877.

In 1885/1886, Charles met his future wife, Dorothea Louise Emma Ludtke. Charles and Emma met at a dance held at the Lone Star or Star Hill communities in Austin County, Texas where Charles was playing with a local band. In 1891, the Lincke family moved to the Gruenau Community located about 6 miles north of Yorktown, Texas in DeWitt County.

In 1906, the Southern Pacific Railroad extended its line from Cuero to Stockdale, Texas. A site was selected for a railroad station near the northwestern boundary of DeWitt County and 15 miles northwest of Cuero. A town was surveyed for the station and the early settlers named their new town Bello, which is Spanish for beautiful. The first passenger train reached Bello on August 8, 1906. In 1909, the name Bello was discontinued and the name Westhoff was given to both the post office and the town.

On October 19, 1910, Charles and Emma Lincke purchased five acres of land in Westhoff. Sometime between October 1910 and September 1913, Charles built a two story home and a dance hall on his five acres.

The hall was located on the edge of the current Westhoff city limits on FM 240. The building had a wooden floor, a stage and benches lining the walls. Windows were built into the walls all around the perimeter of the hall and on warm spring and summer evenings, the windows were all thrown open to let in any available breeze.

Almost every Saturday night, dancers would enjoy the music of local and out of town bands. Some of the bands that performed included the Lincke String Band, Nordheim Band, Cuero Band, Westhoff Jazz Band, Yorktown Dance Orchestra and the Alfred Buske Orchestra. Events held in the hall included trade days and grand mask balls for adults and children along with private parties.



Charles Ferdinand Lincke, Age 15, Houston, Texas



The Lincke Hall, Westhoff, Texas

Many a Lincke grandchild fell asleep on a quilt tucked underneath a table at the Lincke Hall. Roland Lincke, one of Charles and Emma's grandchildren remembers sleeping under a table while his father, Leland, collected dance tickets and his mother, Anna, cooked hamburgers for the hungry dancers.

As the 1920's rolled on, business was booming at the Lincke Hall. Dances were held many Saturday nights, along with masquerade balls and children's mask balls complete with prizes for the best

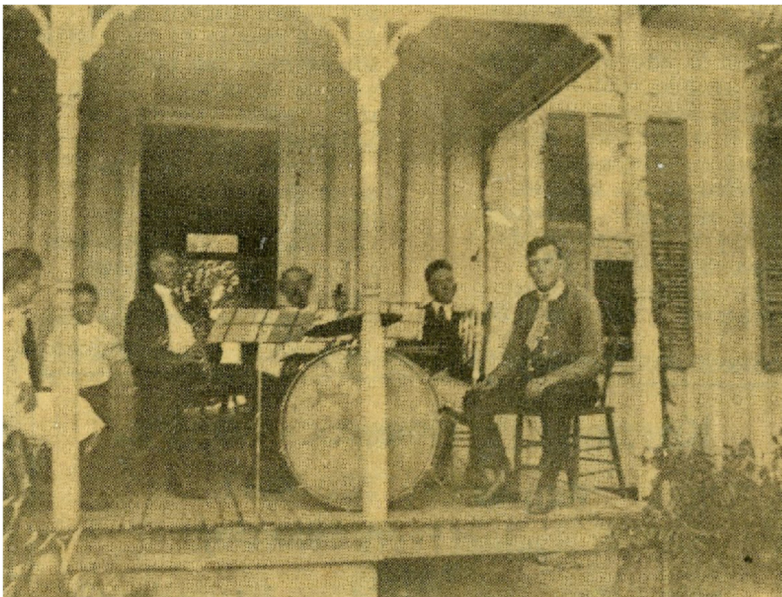
masks. In 1924, the hall hosted a 4th of July celebration complete with a dance, refreshments and public speaking. At the end of the year, a big Christmas dance was held on December 25th. While local bands still performed, many new bands now traveled to Westhoff to make appearances in the hall. Bands such as Rother's Syncopators, the A. Buske Orchestra, the Texas Tantalizers, the Red Hot Rompers and Pieper's Snappy Six entertained crowds with their own style of music.

Shortly after the Linckes died, Emma on Oct. 10, 1931 and Charles on July 20, 1932, the hall ceased operations. The property was then owned by their youngest son, Alfred, and it was during his ownership that the hall was dismantled. Alfred's only son, Sterling, was the next owner. The property is now owned by one of Charles and Emma's great granddaughters, Brenda Lincke Fisseler.



Lincke Hall

Charles Ferdinand Lincke : Musician



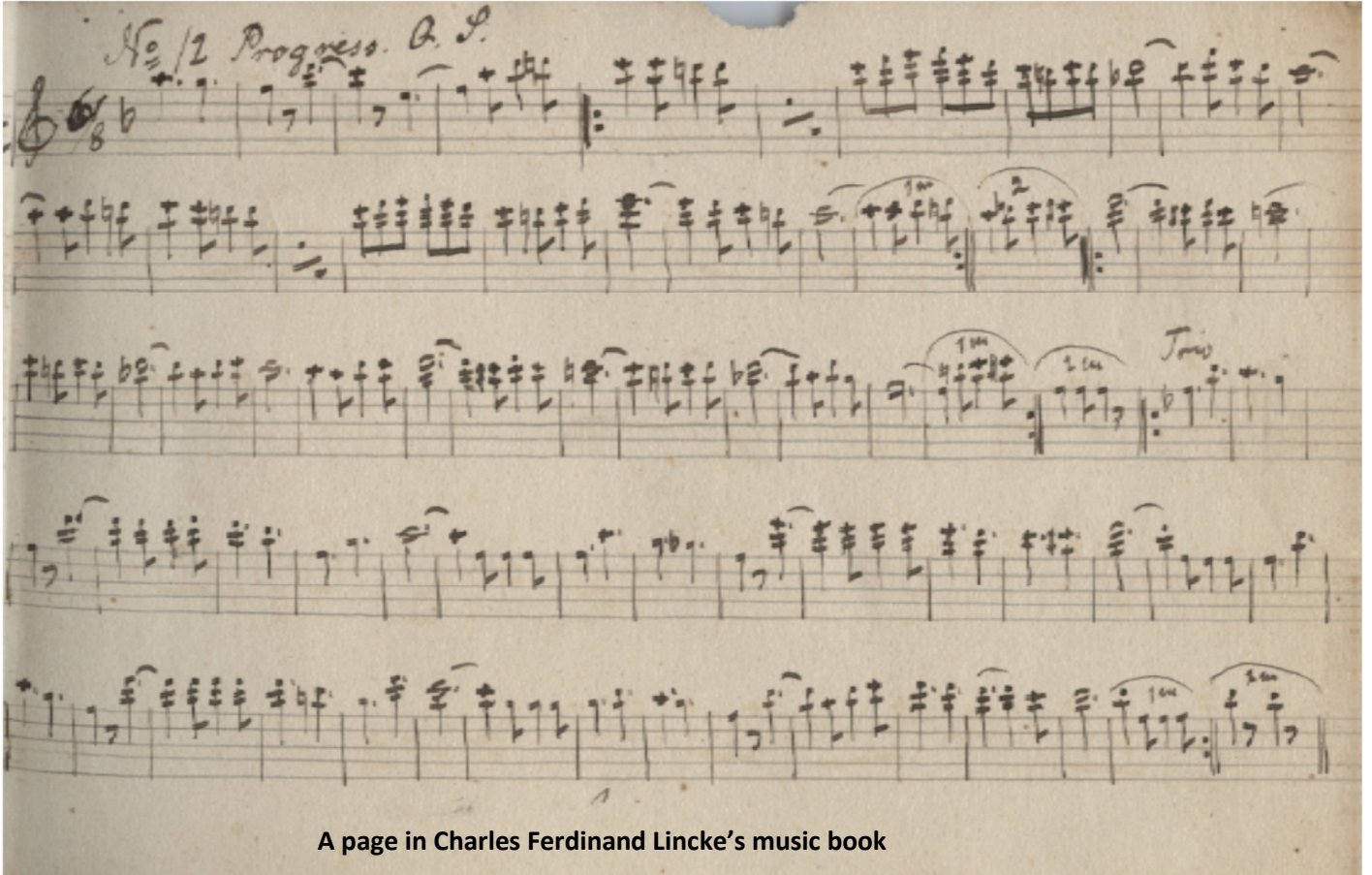
Linke Orchestra 1920

Some area residents will remember the Linke Orchestra here at Carl Linke's house in Westhoff. The four orchestra members are (left to right) Richard Linke, Carl (Charles) Linke, Hugo Sanders and Alfred Linke. Richard Linke, now deceased, used to own the Linke Grocery in Nixon. Alfred, still living, owns the Linke Grocery on Highway 80 near Belmont. Carl Linke was Richard and Alfred's father and taught music lessons in Smiley at one time. Hugo Sanders is retired and lives at Pandora.

(Editor's Note: Some family members chose to spell

Long after the music ends, the melody lingers on.

The Lincke Band was really a family affair. While members of the band changed over the years, Charles always remained the leader of the band. Members of the band included Charles; who played many instruments including the coronet, sons Harry; bass fiddle, Leland; violin, Richard; clarinet, Alfred; drums and neighbor Hugo Sanders. According to the Westhoff correspondent to the *Shiner Gazette*, the band was performing as early as October 1910 when they played at a grand ball at Wallis School. The band performed together until the early 1920s. Charles also



A page in Charles Ferdinand Lincke's music book



Unknown Band

Charles F. Lincke, seated, second from left

taught music to many aspiring local musicians. The Seifert sons formed a band that played at house dances and Gruenau and Garfield Halls. Their musical instructor was Charles Lincke, their neighbor in the Davy Community. Caesar Metting, a very popular musician in DeWitt County was also a Lincke pupil. The story is told that Metting "blew" several clarinets to pieces before he learned to play.

Submitted by Brenda Lincke Fisseler, Hallettsville

Here's to Heinrich

A Namesake Brew for Mr. Kreische

By JEFF WICK *The Fayette County Record, April 5, 2011*

It's been more than 125 years since Kreische Beer was last brewed in La Grange. Now it's about to make a comeback.

A new microbrewery called La Grange Brewing Company plans to begin production here in late summer and has gotten permission to use the Kreische beer brand name for one of their products.

And to make that particular brew, they're even going to use the same gravity-powered process that Heinrich Kreische did when his brewery on the bluff in La Grange became one of Texas' first commercial breweries started in 1860.

"We're going to do it just like the old man did," said Vince Wright, who together with his wife Kim bring more than 30 years of brewing knowledge to the table as the brewmasters of this new venture.

The Wrights have worked at breweries and brewpubs all over the Rocky Mountain region of the U.S., but when they and the investment team behind this project decided to open a brewery in Texas, La Grange became an easy choice - though the Wrights had looked at several locations.

"For me as a brewer, I just kept coming back to the water," Vince said. "There's great water here."

"That, and the people here have just been so nice and welcoming," Kim added.

With utility work help from the City of La Grange, which owns the premises, the Wrights are in the process of turning a 6,000-square-foot warehouse space on Reynolds Street into a microbrewery.

And surprisingly, those are not very common in Texas. Texas has fewer than 20 microbreweries (a designation that is based on output).

"California is No.1 in the nation in consumption of beer and has more than 500 microbreweries," Vince said. "Texas is No.2 in consumption but has less than 20 microbreweries."

A big reason for that is some unusual laws in Texas related to beer production and its sale.

For instance, the Wrights cannot sell their beer directly to the public (so don't come by the brewery hoping to buy a six pack), but instead they must use a distributing company. Legal hurdles aside, the Wrights are excited about getting started.

"Texas, at one time, was full of breweries," said Vince, who grew up in Texas. "Let's make it here, not bring it in from out of state."

They don't plan to just brew a Kreische beer, but rather will have three "flagship" types of beer, a light, a medium and a dark, and they plan to use Texas-grown grains and ingredients.

The Wrights will also brew beer here for the Wild Bunch Brewing Brand of Beers.



With a beer filtering machine in front and kegs in the back, brewmasters Vince and Kim Wright toast at their new facility in La Grange. The La Grange Brewing Company is expected to begin production in late summer and will be one of about 20 microbreweries in Texas. *Staff photo by Jeff Wick*

Their goal is to brew 1,000 kegs in the first year here in La Grange, but Vince said his ultimate goal would be to outgrow the building they've currently leased - originally used by Echo Publishing Co. - and expand.

But first they've got to get all their brewing equipment in. Once they start the brewing, though, it will take less than a month before the first batch is ready to drink.

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

Texas Homeland for Germans

Save Texas History Program

April 20, 1842, Mainz, Germany. After winning independence, Texas is seen as an immigrant paradise, especially for Germans looking to escape poverty and repression.

Today, twenty-one German noblemen form a group to help Germans start a new life in the young republic. The Society for the Protection of German Immigrants, or Adelsverein, wants to build a new German fatherland on Texas soil.

Two years later, the group's first commissioner, Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels, establishes colonies at New Braunfels and Fredericksburg.

While dreams of the fatherland fail, the Adelsverein brings more than 7,000 Germans to Texas by 1847.

The German invasion of Texas began 169 years ago, this month in Texas history.

Learn more at savetexashistory.org or call 800-988-4GLO

Submitted by A. Kretzschmar, San Antonio

Solving a Family Mystery

By Carol Carpenter February 2010

As in all families, ours is rife with family lore explaining as reasonably as possible lost parts of the family's history. Over time these tales take on the quality of facts. To explain why my maternal grandmother's family had no relatives with her maiden name in Medina County except those related to her immediate family, the old folks said that my great, great grandfather, Andreas Martin¹, had come to Texas from Germany with his father who helped him get his land grant. Then, Andreas' father returned to Germany.

This was so unlike the other Germans in the county where most had immigrated as whole families. Puzzling, too, was Great Uncle Henry's remark that he thought his grandfather, Andreas, had at least two brothers. So, where were their descendants? How unlikely was it that a father and three sons made the expensive and dangerous trip from Germany to Texas in the mid 1800s only to see one son remain and the father and two sons return to the old country? For over a hundred years, generations of my family heard this tale and repeated it.

We were the Martin (pronounced Marteen) family of Medina County and remain so today. Even now, when most of us know that the mystery has been solved and our real surname found, there are still those who continue to hold onto and to perpetuate the old lore. They reject the evidence and denigrate the discoverer. Genealogy has its risks!

In the mid 1990s, I purchased an 1878 County map of Medina County because Andreas Martin's name was on it as the original owner of 320 acres. Adjoining his land was another 640 acres listed as belonging to Johanne Nietenhoefer, Sr. My great aunt Minnie Martin had married Arnold Nietenhoefer, but as he had passed on by this time, she could not give me the family connection.

In 1998-99, I was writing a Martin family history and genealogy book. The deadline for completion was the family's reunion in Hondo in the fall of 1999. The family's history needed more material so I got busy.

I went to the Medina County court house and copied a dozen or more deeds for the land Andreas had owned and/or sold. The originals were hard to read and the copies even harder; however, they proved to be a treasure trove and a Pandora's Box of family information.

In a deed, bearing the original transaction date, 1 Oct. 1847, Henry Castro sold to Andreas Martin 20 acres of land numbered 34 that was part of 1,000 acres of land adjoining the town of Vandenburg². At the end of this deed dated, 15 Sept 1850, was a strange statement: "signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of us; (the name Nietenhoefer being erased before signing)." Who was Mr. Nietenhoefer³ whose name was erased?

Another entry in the deed book was a genealogist's dream! On the 15th day of February, 1850, Andreas Martin gave a power of attorney to Henry Castro to select the 320 acres due him from the General Land office Certificate he was to receive as one of Castro's settlers. The power of attorney ended with, "Andreas Martin Nietenhoefer erased before signing." This time, however, there was an explanation. An oath by Andreas was attached. It stated: "I, Andreas Martin Nietenhoefer, do solemnly swear that I was introduced into Texas by Henry Castro according to a contract signed between us in virtue of the Colonization Contract of said Henry Castro with the government of Texas and before the 15th day of Feb. 1847." Signed Andreas Martin.

I had to read it three times before the enormity of the discovery sank in. We were not the Martin family of Medina County, we were in reality a branch of the Nietenhoefer family! It is my guess that Andreas wanted to Anglicize his name so he dropped his very German sounding surname and assumed his middle name for that purpose. Eventually all memory of his original surname was forgotten, if, indeed, it was ever known by his children.

¹Sometimes referred to as Andrew Martin

²Also spelled Vandenberg, Vandenburg

³Also with various spellings such as, Nietenhoffer, Niteneaver, Vietenhofer

The Texana Room at the San Antonio Library houses tax records for all the counties in Texas. Henry Castro's tax records reveal that Andreas Martin, the Johanne⁴ Nietenhoefer, senior and junior, sold their 320 acres⁵ back to Castro, or his wife, at the same time on the same day. On 16 June 1851, when Andreas Martin received the deed to his town lot (#84, Bl. 4, R.4) in Vandenburg, Johanne Nietenhoefer signed as a witness. I later found that the Medina County Abstract Co. had an "Old book of county land records and field notes." In Book 'A' dated 20 Nov 1846, listed one after the other are Andreas Martin and the John Nietenhoefer, Sr. and Jr. They have town lots, 84, 86, 85 respectively. Surely this is not a coincidence that these three men seem to be at the same place at the same time and even live next to each other in Vandenburg⁶.

I have not yet discovered an actual document that states Andreas was the son of Johanne, Sr. However, Andreas purchased 160 acres on the Verde Creek a little south of Vandenburg and within a year of Johanne, Sr.'s death in 1855, Andreas sells part of his 160 acres to Gottlieb Britsch, whose wife was Katerina Nietenhoefer, and an additional 45 acres to Adolph Nietenhoefer. In addition, Andreas buys lot #5 in New Vandenberg which joins lot #3 owned by Gottlieb Britsch. Next, he sells to (blank) Nietenhoefer lot #4. This person turns out to be Adolph Nietenhoefer, the five year old son of Johanne, Sr. and Katerina Nietenhoefer, who was born after they came to Texas. I am now fully convinced that Andreas Martin (Nietenhoefer) was the son of Johanne, Sr. and the brother of Johanne, Jr, Adolph and Katerina Britsch. After his father's death, as the oldest son, he assumes the responsibility for his family and makes it possible for his mother, baby brother, sister and her husband to move south of Old Vandenburg and live side by side at a place on the Verde where the springs are flowing. By this time Johanne, Jr. had married and moved to Quihi a small German town also established by Hy. Castro.

As the saying goes, where there is smoke, there is fire. Great Uncle Henry's memory was correct that Andreas had two brothers; the family lore was true that Andreas' father helped him get his land by signing as a witness. After collecting genealogical records about the Nietenhoefer family, I knew that my grandmother's sister, Aunt Minnie Martin, had married her second cousin, Arnold Nietenhoefer. I phoned her, asked her to sit down and then I told her that we were really Nietenhoefer and that I believed Uncle Arnold was her second cousin. A moment of silence went by and then she said, without a hint of irony, "I always knew those Nietenhoefer⁷ were good people!"

⁴Sometime written as John Nietenhoefer for both father and son

⁵According to TX Land Title Abstracts the senior John Nietenhoefer received surveys 108 and 109, each for 320 acres as was due a married man with a family by contract with Henry Castro.

⁶1850 Census of Medina Co., town of Vandenburg, page 825, listed as families #4 and #5

⁷Boerne resident, Ken Nietenhoefer's ancestor was Adolph, the son born in Texas; Fred Martin, Minister at the United Methodist Church in Boerne is my first cousin once removed and a descendent of Andreas Martin.

Submitted via Rodney Koenig, Houston

News from Houston, Texas

Houston PBS at the University of Houston has produced a two-part series on the momentous historic

events surrounding the fall of the Berlin Wall. This project has derived from much archival material from the period, and from interviews with some of the significant public figures involved. The second installment of the series was aired nationally on PBS in January 2011, and

the first part, The Berlin Wall: a World Divided, aired in the previous season.

Houston Sangerbund was proud to provide partial funding for production of part two: After the Berlin Wall: a World United, and film credits reflect this

support. A preview screening was held at the Federal Reserve Building in Houston and Houston Sangerbund

board members were present, as were various dignitaries and representatives of Houston's German community organizations. Former Secretary of State James Baker fielded audience questions, representing President George H. W. Bush and Mrs. Bush, who were



unable to attend.

Houston PBS - Channel 8 aired both segments on successive nights in January, with repeats on its HD-2 channel. Houston Sängerbund sponsorship spots aired adjacent to these showings.

The films can be viewed online at PBS.org, and DVD's are also available. - "This presentation provides new insights into a world event of near-seismic significance to those who remember it, and a clear understanding to those who will study it as history." *Dayton Smith, Houston Sängerbund board member.*

www.houstonsaengerbund.org

Deutsch-Texanischer Sängerbund 65th Sängerfest

Since the Dallas Frohsinn has no permanent "home" we have always been obliged to seek venues for our Feste. That sometimes becomes a huge problem. Locating places for meals, dances and concert halls can be difficult, having to coordinate facilities in nearby areas as well as hotels to accommodate guests. This year we have come up with a whole new concept, that we think will be something that other clubs in our situation could adopt.

The Sängerfest will be held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel DFW Airport in Irving, Texas. This location was chosen for several reasons. The hotel has just undergone a very extensive remodeling program and is midway between Dallas and Fort Worth. In our dealings with the hotel they made available single and double rooms at a cost of \$79.00 (+ tax) and members of clubs and their guests are invited to check in on Saturday, attend delegate meetings, have their evening meal and social dance, retire to nicely furnished rooms, and start fresh in the morning with rehearsal, a noon buffet and then the concert in the afternoon, all under one roof. There will be no scrambling for maps or GPS assistance and unless you wish, you never have to leave the premises.

If you would like more information about our Fest, please feel free to e-mail me or call me at 972-551-0467.

The Dallas Frohsinn is the second oldest club in the Texas district and with the exception of 3 members who were ill, attended the wonderful National Fest in San Antonio en masse. What a great time we all had, and we came home inspired to sing more!

Our club was active last year, hosting an Oktoberfest of our own, singing at two retirement facilities for their Oktoberfeste (one for the 33rd year), and assisting St. Paul Evangelical and Reformed Church here in Dallas (where we rehearse) in their 120th anniversary. We also participate in their all German Advent service at St. Paul that brings out a full complement of people of German heritage each year, and sang a German Christmas Service at Christ Lutheran Church as well.
Ida Schulz

Austin Sängerrunde Damenchor

The Austin Sängerrunde Damenchor was established with 22 charter members in February 1959 and celebrated its 50th anniversary with a dinner and dance in February 2009. Blondine Klimach, President of the NordAmerikanischer Sängerbund, was an honored guest and presented the Damenchor with a certificate commemorating the occasion.

The Damenchor is a member of the Deutsch Texanischer Sängerbund and hosted the Bund's annual Sängerfest in 2009 as part of its celebration of its 50th anniversary year. The Damenchor is also a member of the Nord-Amerikanischer Sängerbund and its members were very involved in the planning and

operation of the National Sängerfest held in San Antonio in 2010.

The Damenchor hosts an annual Christmas concert in December. The group sings at the Sängerrunde's Oktoberfest, Maifest and other annual events, and is also invited to sing at the German Texan Heritage Society's events, at an annual German Christmas church service and other church events during the year.

Since Austin is the capital of Texas, the Damenchor is also invited to sing at state government events and will sing in the Capitol Rotunda on March 2, Texas Independence Day. The Damenchor has about 40 members, some originally from Germany, some born in the United States with German heritage, and some who just enjoy the group for the singing and the Gemutlichkeit!

Current officers are Sylvia Cook, president, Luetta Maixner, vice-president, Margaret Pettit, secretary, Niki Sanders, treasurer, Teresa Michalk, archivar, and Hannelore Lee, music librarian. Chris Oelkers is the Director.

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston



Gisela's Life Story

Hello, Mary and Liz, I am Gisela Laudi and want to introduce myself : I'm hobby genealogist from Schönkirchen near KIEL in Germany, and I love genealogical and historical research together with my husband Juergen.

2010: enquiry in the GTHS mailing list to look for MAROWSKI / JUNGE descendants to research the whereabouts and stories of Justina Tubbe's nephew. Found Donna and others with the wonderful help of Liz Hicks, found a lot of persons and facts.

Editor's Note: We found a new friend and in ensuing conversations, Liz asked her to write a little about what she experienced as a child (Gisela is writing it as we speak so we get a preview and please note not corrected for spelling, etc.)

What I experienced when I was a child.

My father found a good job in the town of Halle/near Leipzig, and the family - Mom and my two sisters Hilde (born 1934) and Inge (born 1936) - moved there and rented a small doublehouse half. Dad was kind of an advertisement manager in a world famous company producing printing colors. He enjoyed his job, but the political circumstances were strange. He disliked the government of Hitler, although the economy of Germany had become much better in that time. After WW I Germany was forced to pay such a lot of reparations, that economy did not work any more. Hitler had simply ignored this contract. But now it was a time of dictatorship and the one who said anything against the Nazis or did not even hang flags out of his windows was suspicious. My parents knew some Jews and social democrats, who were brought into KZ already. They knew what was going on. In Sept. 1939 WW II started and in 1941 my Dad, being 38 years old, was drafted. He had to be a soldier if he liked it or not. He was good educated and possibly they had given him an officer's rank, but he told them he only could use a typewriter (because he wanted to stay as a private 1st class). He was sent to Russia and Poland in a propaganda division and only seldom he had some days vacation to see the family. He was a nonsmoker and he often could change cigarettes against cheese or eggs (!) or other food, which he sent home in a parcel. Mom stayed home with my sisters. Food was rationed but you could just come along. By and by the bombing of the towns became stronger. The cellar rooms were fortified, because there was no shelter nearby. It became dangerous to go to school, the classes had to go in deep cellars, or school was cancelled at all.

My sisters got whooping cough. Mom had to bring her girls into our cellar when alarm for bombers was given - sometimes in the first time, later nearly every night. The industry area nearby was bombed again and again and they saw the sky burning. In town lots of houses were bombed down and some comrades of my sisters were dead. And Dad at the front.. their nerves were shot. Mom probably was not happy when she felt pregnant again. In 1944 Mom decided to no longer sleep in the beds but to move in the dark and damp tiny cellar, to not have to get up every night. HALLE was within the flight corridor for the bombers in the direction of the big cities Berlin, Leipzig and Dresden.

When time came, my Oma (grandma) was with Mom, and in the moment labor started they heard bombing alarm, and Oma could not go for the midwife. (Private persons had no phone or car yet, births used to be at home). But I started into this world anyway on 14, April, 1944. During alarm and when they heard the bombs crashing in the neighborhood and the walls were trembling, my 10 year old sister had to hold me in her arms to pamper me, although she was frightened and trembling herself. For my first birthday Mom wanted to bake a cake for me, and stood in a line in front of a store to try to get some food, when suddenly an American airplane came to drop papers: "Surrender the town or HALLE will be a desert in few days." Everybody was frightened to death, because they knew the officials were forbidden to surrender. They would be sentenced to death.

But we were lucky. There lived a man in town, he was a famous veteran of WW I, Graf Luckner, and he had held lectures in America in the 1920's and he was made freeman of the United States, and - I don't know how it worked - but it was he who went to the occupying army to surrender. Mom always told us he saved our lives.

When war was over we had to wait for Dad. He was in an American prisoner-of-war camp and returned in summer, totally emaciated and not knowing what to do now. His factory was totally bombed down as most others. He started learning the tax system and looked for customers to draw up balances and book keeping. Meanwhile the Americans had changed (exchanged) our area to the Russian, so we lived in the Russian zone.

It was a hard time after the war, many many people went hungry and starved, did not know where to live and how to get material for heating. Millions had been expelled from (by?) the Russian from the East (Silesia, East Prussia...), had come by foot to the Western parts of Germany and were displaced people now. But most cities were destroyed for about 90%.

A friend of mine was born during that march to the West, many others had died. Dad always was proud. Although everything was very short and rationed, he managed that our family never went really hungry. We were lucky to have a small garden and some apples in it. We even received one or several little parcels with food from an old American friend of Dad, including 1 kg sugar, oak flakes, cacao and milk powder. How delicious it was! Dad also worked for a little cigarette factory. For cigarettes again he could get some things you wouldn't get for money. Most women had to pick up bricks from the ruins to make their life.

Berlin being divided in a British, French, American and Russian part, was situated in the middle of the Russian zone and in 1948, in the beginning of the COLD WAR, the Russians kept all ways to that 2 million city. 10 long month the whole population of the 3 western parts were hold alive by the American and British Airbridge. But in the Russian zone the German Democratic Republic (GRD, or German DDR) started it's socialistic system and private ownership of factories was not tolerated. To make look it legal they made a suit for white-collar crime for the cigarette factory, and my Dad too was taken into jail for 2 weeks because he was the bookkeeper. That made the his decision: "This is not my system, let's go to the West." In Hannover lived a friend who would help with the start.

I was 5 years old when we started to pack our items very secretly. Nobody must know about our plan, otherwise the police would have taken us and.....who knows, bring us into work camps or jail. We packed several hundreds of parcels, and sent them to Hannover, with wrong sender addresses, from lots of different post offices, brought there by bicycle or train. Then in January 1950 Dad went to Eastern Berlin by train. People, without big luggage, still could pass the border within Berlin by subway. (The Berlin WALL was built in 1961 only) Because Berlin was surrounded he had to be flown over to Hannover. I have no idea what he had to pay and where he got the Western money from. The change rate was 1 : 12 East money to D Mark.

Mom and we girls visited friends in the DDR to be absent, and then we went to the Harz Mountains by train close to the border. There was no wall at that time and no electric fences or mines as later, but it was dangerous to be caught by Russian soldiers. They would bring you into work camps and hard prison and the kids would be educated by socialistic reformatory schools.

The people living directly at the border had learned to handle it and knew some tricks, they helped escapers for some money and sometimes bribed the Russian officers with a bottle of Schnaps. We left train with a small suitcase one station earlier than directly in front of the border (where the trail ended.) Then we had to walk to the last village. Afterwards we were glad we did, because especially this day they had made a razzia. I suppose Dad had sent us an address and we went to that family and waited for hours. The woman told her daughter to take a ball and to already pass the border with Hilde & Inge during daytime, pretending to be ball playing kids. She knew about the Russian officers - when a certain officer was at a certain spot at a certain time, and they knew who would watch carefully and who'd be dangerous. So they marched the meadows and the forest to the little river with the icy water to cross it at the best place, when the girl realized there was a unknown officer watching, and she shouted: "Quick cross over!" and ran away. My totally frightened sisters crossed the stony bubbling water barefoot. Inge threw her shoes from the middle of the river to the other bank and (!) her socks too - of course they landed in the water. On the other bank, the Western bank, it was cold and the legs were wet and they had to wait for hours, they had no money and no address and nothing to eat. Still today Hilde gets tears in her eyes from fear and is absolutely furious when I ask her about that day. Mom waited with me until darkness and I remember our walk to the river and crossing the river. The woman guided us to Hilde & Inge. We took a bus to the next town and the train to Hannover where our Dad was very happy to meet us.

It was a tremendous impression for me to see the fruit display of shops: bananas and oranges and pineapples ! never seen before! But now of course we could not afford. Dad had to find a job. We lived in a cellar room with meager windows in the friends house, the family HEUER, but after some weeks he managed to find a room for us. It was one room of about 20 sq yards in the 4th floor, in a flat with 5 rooms, living five families in it, with one kitchen oven only and one WC only for all of them (abt. 14 persons). Of course there was trouble between the households and often Inge & Hilde had to leave the flat in the morning without the possibility to wash or to pee. I now started school.

Dad had a half time job at our friends little newspaper. He was busy to learn the Western tax laws and during learning he must have written his first book for learners like him: it was printed in October 1950 already. He passed an exam to earn our living again by tax declarations and book keeping.

Some years later he offered courses for men who wanted to pass this exam too. We were happy, when we looked out of the window: we overlooked a large area of only flat ruins. Only when winter came, we realized the metal chimneys showing that lots of people were living in the cellars. In our room was no space for 5 beds, so I had to sleep between Mom and Dad for the next 1 ½ years, until we found a flat with two rooms and a kitchen, and a WC with another family. 2 years later we moved into a large flat with 5 rooms. Dad had to pay a special fee to the housing officials because we were allowed only to live in a 4 room flat, because of housing shortage and still lots of ruins. School buildings were bombed down too, and because of this lack my school was in a house together with another school. It began on Monday, Thursday, Wednesday abt. 2'pm until abt.7 pm, but Thu., Fri., Sat. at 8 am. We were abt. 50 girls in one class. Discipline was necessary, we had to put our hands on top of the desk. But we learned a lot. When I ended school after 10 years in 1960 I started a 2 years Chemistry School. Then I worked as a chemical assistant at a Geological Research Institute, then in a chocolate factory.

In 1965 my dear Dad passed away. But I had a kind friend then already: a university student of Physics. I married Juergen in 1967 and we moved to KIEL, resp. we first found a small flat in Schoenkirchen, a suburb. We worked at the University Kiel, Juergen as scientific assistant. He was sent by his Prof to do special research in Melbourne/Australia, and I quit my job to followed him by own costs. We spend there 9 month, returned home and then after some years we able to buy our house. Now we are married for 42 years already and we have two wonderful sons. One lives nearby, the other followed his love to Victoria/Canada. We hope to continue our happiness for some more years! Regards to all our American friends we found by family research ! Gisela

Gisela is already a published authoress (Ericson Books) - L1000 - THIS IS WHAT I WANT TO GIVE YE REPORT OF - I AM JUSTINA TUBBE, by Gisela Laudi, translated from the German tongue by Juergen Laudi. a historical novel based on historical and genealogical research on the following families who emigrated from Prussia to Nacogdoches County in the middle of the 19th century: HELPENSTELL, JUNGE, KOLB, REIDER, SEELBACH, TUBBE, 297 pages, thermal binding, with maps and illustrations. Excellent reading even if you are not a descendant!

Since 2005 Justina Tubbe is one of 15 typical emigrants whose life is displayed in the German Emigration Museum in Bremerhaven (German parallel to Ellis Island) www.dah-bremerhaven.de. You can follow her life by headphone and learn and experience all of emigration

“Rare” reward for Attorney

Bernard "Ben" Buecker said he was simply trying to thank the German government for the educational assistance it provided him when he offered the German Consulate General his services 27 years ago. Monday, Germany demonstrated how meaningful Buecker's assistance has been when it gave the San Antonio attorney its Commander's Cross for "exceptional services rendered to the Federal Republic of Germany." Buecker, 65, has been Germany's honorary consul in San Antonio, Austin and the South Texas region since 2000 and the Consulate General's designated attorney since 1983.

Roland Herrmann, Germany's consul general in Houston, said Buecker has provided more support than is generally expected from the honorary consul's post, which is a nonpaying position.

As a result, Buecker received the first Commander's



San Antonio Express News, Dec. 28, 2010

San Antonio lawyer Bernard Ben Buecker (left) receives the Commander's Cross from Germany's Consol General Roland Hermann.

Cross honors Herrmann had bestowed in his more than 30 years of government service.

"It's a rare thing," Herrmann said.

A Fulbright Scholarship that Germany helped finance sent Buecker, a self-described farm boy raised by German parents near Amarillo, to the University of Heidelberg from 1979 to 1981. That, he said, helped shape his life as a U.S. attorney with an active practice in Germany as well.

"It's an opportunity I would have never expected for a kid off the farm," said Buecker.

Texas has two honorary German consuls, one in Dallas and the other in San Antonio. They are called on to help the consul general assist Germans visiting or living in this country and to promote cultural and economic exchanges between the two countries.

Buecker established the itinerary for German Ambassador Klaus Scharioth during his two-day swing through Central Texas early this month and has helped

train more than 300 German law students in the United States on internships.

Buecker said he gets calls regularly from German citizens living in the U.S. for legal advice and has helped authorities get children returned to Germany after they were taken out of that country illegally during child-custody disputes.



The Commander's Cross given to attorney Bernard Ben Buecker was the first bestowed by Germany's Consul General Roland Herrmann in his 30-year career.

Submitted by Angelina Kretzschmar, San Antonio

German Proverbs and Sayings

Compiled and written by Celie Karger Reeh

Here are a few of the old German sayings that my mother used rather frequently to teach me as I was growing up.

Most kids when they were told to do something usually procrastinated and pushed it off. My mother would say, "Morgan, morgan, nur nicht heute, sagen alle faule Leuto." Translated this meant: "Tomorrow, tomorrow not today, say all the lazy people."

Quite often she'd try to teach me right from wrong and of course, I thought I knew better. She would simply say: "Ja, Ja, das ei ist immer klüger wie die alte Henne!" Translated this meant: "Yes, yes the egg is always smarter than the old hen."

When she was really disgusted with me she would say "Wer nicht hoert mus es erst fühlen und dann kann er verlicht lehren!" Translation: "If you can't listen then you need to feel the consequences and maybe then you'll learn."

When I really stood my ground and was square-headed, she'd simply say, "Ach da sind noch ein paar Ecken und die müssen noch ab gerendt everden." Translation: "Oh, there are still a couple of corners and they need to be knocked off."

When I entered high school I was told how important keeping up with current events were and I should read the newspaper and listen to the radio – this was before television. Well, I thought my mother should also keep up with the world's goings on. She looked at me and simply replied: "Ja, was ich nicht sueiz macht mich auch nicht heiz!" Translation: "Oh, what I don't know won't get me all stirred up and bothered!"

When I was a child I thought these old sayings were dumb and corny; but as the years have gone by and I have aged, I'm now thinking maybe a little corny but very, very clever. They still apply today.

Compiled and written by Lucille "Celie" Karger Reeh, daughter of Edgar and Hedwig Reffelt Karger of Cypress Creek. **Submitted by Jean Warneke, Austin**

Fayette County Record, April 12, 2011

Students from Germany Visit Here Three-Week Tour Crosses Texas in a Whirlwind

By H. H. Howze

*Willkommen deutsche schuler-
innen und schuler!*

Sixteen German exchange students (14 girls and 2 boys) from Cologne are visiting Texas for three weeks under the auspices of an exchange program organized by their school and LaGrange High School German teacher LeeAnn Hartman.

Wednesday a *Record* reporter caught up with them as they relaxed around a scenic swimming pool on the grounds of Dr. James and Nita Tiemann's Blue Willow Farm under the Bluff in La Grange. A hamburger lunch was in the offing.

One of the group's two chaperones is Michael Kage, a former teacher of English at their school and the University of Cologne. Kage and his colleague chose the students for this year's group as they have since 1999.

In the case of "If it's Wednesday, this must be La Grange..." the group is on a whirlwind tour of local and regional attractions.

After arrival and settling in with host families on Monday, the students spent Tuesday at La Grange

High School and Wednesday at the Tiemann's.

On the schedule for Thursday was a walking tour of Monument Hill, followed by another of the La Grange square and courthouse led by County Judge Ed Janecka.

Friday, it was Brenham Blue Bell Ice Cream, Washington on the Brazos, and the Bush Presidential Library in College Station.

Whew!

Vielen Dank there's a break from touring Saturday and Sunday. Weekends are spent with host families, Kage said. But it picks right up again on Monday with a visit to NASA in Houston.

Then comes the real break, thinking of which made the chaperone smile broadly.

"Three days in Port Aransas and - if they are good - a side trip to San Marcos on the way back to La Grange," Kage said.

That only leaves the State Capitol. Bullock Museum, Round



Top and Festival Hill for week three, but the chaperone was understandably a little vague on which came when in the ambitious schedule's final week.

Student diplomacy flows both ways.

"In June, 12 La Grange students from Frau Hartman's German class will tour Germany for three weeks," Kage said.

The Americans are in for an equivalent exchange student experience, according to the German group's mentor.

In addition to their base in Cologne, "I know they are going to Dresden, Munich and Salzburg," Kage said.

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

ENGELKING FAMILY REUNION

A reunion of descendants of Ferdinand and Caroline von Roeder Engelking convened at the Millheim Harmonie Hall on Saturday, April 16, 2011. The site of the gathering was the settlement founded in approximately 1845 by German immigrants among whom were the aforementioned Ferdinand Engelking.

The settlement, originally known as Pecan Grove, received its name, Millheim, in the 1850's at a meeting in the Engelking and Noltke General Store. A school was begun there on the Engelking property, and in 1856, a German singing society was begun known as the Millheim Harmonie Verein. A hall was built for the singers in which to rehearse and for events to be held.

Ferdinand Engelking was born in Schlüsselburg near Minden, Westphalia, Prussia, in 1810 and immigrated to America in 1839 without a concrete destination in mind. Upon landing in New Orleans, he met Ernst and Joseph Kleberg, brothers of Robert and Louis Kleberg who had immigrated to Cat Spring, Texas, in 1834. The two younger brothers were planning on joining the rest of the Cat Spring pioneers and encouraged Engelking to join them. Engelking, an attorney, had worked with Robert Kleberg in Europe, so the meeting with the Kleberg brothers was quite beneficial to him and he agreed to come to Cat Spring with them.

Upon setting down roots, Engelking courted and then married the youngest von Roeder daughter, Caroline (known as Lina) in 1842. He purchased 800 acres and established a farm where the couple lived until their deaths. They were the parents of 16 children, 11 of whom grew to maturity—Sigismund (Anna Zimmerman), Friedrich or Fritz (Anna Trenckmann), Carl or Charles (Louise Langhammer), Ludwig (Antonie or Tonie Peters), Albrecht (Elise Goedecke), Louise (L.E.G. Langhammer), Marie (Gustav Bosse), Valeska (Ferdinand Regenbrecht), Caroline (William Regenbrecht), William (Antonie Regenbrecht), and Ferdinand, Jr. (Mary Ellie Billman).

Having lost several very young children, Lina and Ferdinand Engelking buried them in an area on their land not far from their house. Upon their deaths, they, too, were buried in the plot as were several of their other children, spouses, and grandchildren. The area was lovingly fenced and maintained for years by various Engelking descendants, and succeeding generations have attempted to continue this tradition. An application to place a Texas State Historical Marker at the site of the Engelking Cemetery has been approved by the Texas State Historical Commission. All that is left to be accomplished is to receive the marker, place it in position, and dedicate it.

A large display of family photos, documents, books, and other memorabilia was on display at the meeting which family members were eager to see and to assimilate family data contained therein. A family business meeting convened to elected officers and to discuss future plans. Officers elected were Thomas Bickham of Corpus Christi, President; John J. Engelking of Spring, Vice President; and Marion Engelking Douglas of Austin, Secretary-Treasurer. Joseph Delarosa of Brenham offered his services to scan all documents available for a family archives.

Those present representing the ten branches of the family for which there are descendants (Ferdinand, Jr. had no children) were:

Sigismund:

Mary Motte Engelking Hall - Roscoe, New York
 Peter Engelking - Mt. Kisco, New York
 Julius (Tom) Engelking and wife, Mary - Beaumont

Fritz:

Terry Copeland and wife, Sylvia - Houston
 Beverly Copeland - Humble
 Peggy Dittert Vickery - La Ward
 Christopher Johnson - Port Lavaca
 Sherry Johnson McGrew and son, Matthew - Port Lavaca
 Cindy Latimer Kainer and Codie, Colton, and Kadie Kainer - Richmond

Charles:

Mary Engelking Schomburg and husband, Ray - Hockley
 Mary Helen Wilson Kelley - Robinson
 Angela Kelley, Robinson, daughter-in-law of Mary -
 Kamber Kelley, Robinson, granddaughter of Mary Helen -
 Donald Engelking and wife, Marilyn -San Antonio
 Marion Engelking Douglas and husband, Paul - Austin
 Joseph Delarosa, Marion's son - Brenham
 Rachel Douglas, Marion's daughter - Austin

Ludwig:

John Joseph Engelking and wife, JoAnn - Spring
 Julie Ann Engelking Yeargain - Henderson
 Alberta M. Engelking Jones - Jacksonville
 Mary Greer Gibson and husband, Andy - Houston

Albrecht:

Helen Egger Elkins and husband, David - Georgetown
 Stephen Engelking and wife, Sandy - Tuningen, Germany
 Joel Engelking - Tuningen, Germany
 William (Bill) Mayer and wife, Ann - Houston
 Ronald Bollman and wife, Ginny - Pearland
 Shirley Dozier Cassias - Houston
 Christopher Cassias - Houston
 Catherine Cassias Irek and husband, Steven - Houston

Louise Langhammer:

Candi Hill Lacy - Cypress
Charles Ernest Hill and wife, Charlotte - New Braunfels

Marie Bosse - unrepresented
Valeska Regenbrecht - unrepresented

Caroline Regenbrecht:

Charles Regenbrecht and wife, Joy - Beaumont

William:

Thomas Bickham - Corpus Christi
Marie Engelking Dunn and husband, Larry - Kingsland
Melissa Dunn-Powell - Kingsland

Other Guests Present:

Carla von Roeder Clark and husband, Lindy - Richardson
Ty Cross - Robinson
Jamie Elick and son, Jim - Bellville
Herbert Kollatschny and wife, Elrose - Bellville *Times*, correspondent
Joy Neely and husband, Bob - Austin County Historical Commission
Denise Clark Stufflebeam - Allen
Flora von Roeder - Houston
Max von Roeder and wife, Anne - Snyder
Warren Wundt and friend, Mickie Teagarden - Seguin

Submitted by Flora von Roeder, Houston

The Niemeyer Entertainers



Left to right: E. H. (need last name?); Otto Niemeyer, born 1905, parents were Fritz and Emma Niemeyer; Richard (Dick) Niemeyer, on drums, born 1902, married Lydia Umlang, parents were Friedrich and Anna Linbrugger Niemeyer; Ed (need last name?); Sophie (need last name?) on piano; Louis Carl Niemeyer, born 1906 in Knippa, Texas, died 1996 in New Braunfels, married Linda Becker, parents were Friedrich and Anna Linbrugger Niemeyer.

Dick Niemeyer - my goal.
met him at family reunion
in 1938 and have been writing
to him ever since.

Picture and information is
provided by Marv A. Boehm
Mason and Angelina Genzer
Kretzschmar, April 2011

A German-Texan Family's Story: The Fred & Marie Blankenstein Family

By Daniel Bode

Gottfried Friedrich August "Fred" Blankenstein was born in Barby, Germany, on 18 June 1855. Fred was the son of Gottfried **Conrad Blankenstein** (born 14 April 1822, in Barby, Germany; died 6 Oct. 1900, in Waco, Texas) and **Dorothea Sophia Friedericke Herbst** (born 15 Jan. 1826, in Badeleben, Germany; died Jan. 1881, in Marlin, Texas). Fred's parents were married 1 June 1851, in Barby, Germany.

Fred's siblings were:

1. **Johannes August Heinrich Blankenstein** born 14 March 1852, in Barby, Germany, and he died 14 Jan. 1858, in Barby.
2. **Louise Marie Emilie Ida Blankenstein** born 2 Sept. 1853, in Barby, Germany, and she died 9 March 1881, in Marlin, Texas. Louise married **Carl Friedrich Fink** on 6 Nov. 1872, in Defiance, Ohio. Carl Fink was born 29 July 1851, in Burgstall, Germany, and he died 15 April 1914, in Waco, Texas.
3. **Marie Hermine Auguste Blankenstein** born 27 Jan. 1857, in Barby, Germany, and she died 23 Jan. 1858, in Barby.
4. **Caroline Johanna Elisabeth "Lina" Blankenstein** born 2 May 1859, in Barby, Germany, and she died 23 Jan. 1941, in Waco, Texas. Lina married **Carl Richard Schmaltz** on 9 Dec. 1879, in Waco. Richard Schmaltz was born 29 Dec. 1846, in Shemnitz, Germany, and he died 31 May 1896, in Cleburne, Texas. After his death, Lina married **John Henry Schroeder** on 18 July 1900, in Waco. Henry Schroeder was born 25 April 1850, in Amsterdam, Holland, and he died in Waco, Texas, on 21 Sept. 1925.
5. **Paul Johannes Blankenstein** born 13 April 1861, in Barby, Germany, and he died 8 July 1862, in Barby.
6. **Rosalie Blankenstein** born 29 April 1863, in Barby, Germany, and she died in Barby on 27 July 1866.
7. **Marie "Mary" Blankenstein** born 9 April 1865, in Barby, Germany, and she died in Waco, Texas, on 25 Jan. 1949. Mary married **John Baade** on 14 Feb. 1884, in Cleburne, Texas. John Baade was born 17 Aug. 1851, in Lenzen, Germany, and he died 24 March 1915, in Waco.
8. **Ernst August Blankenstein** born 2 May 1867, in Barby, Germany, and he died in Temple, Texas, on 23 March 1937. Ernst married **Myra Evelyn "Nannie" Weeks** on 17 July 1884, in Marlin, Texas. Nannie was born 7 March 1865, in Marlin, Texas, and she died 10 Dec. 1944, in Temple, Texas.
9. **Johann Blankenstein** born 2 April 1870, in Barby, Germany, and he died as a young child while his family was living in Defiance, Ohio.

Fred's paternal grandparents were **Johann Carl August Blankenstein** (born 1792 in Gerbitzi Anhalt, Germany, and he died in Germany) and **Catherine Marie Wustoff** (born 20 July 1797, in Barby, Germany, and she died 26 Jan. 1871, in Barby). They were married in Barby on 1 July 1821. Fred's maternal grandparents were **Gottlieb Heinrich Christoph Herbst** (born 21 July 1798, in Germany; died 7 Nov. 1857, in Badeleben, Germany) and **Anna Dorothea Bekur** (born 21 April 1803, in Germany; died 7 Sept. 1857, in Badeleben, Germany). They were married 27 July 1824, in Badeleben. Fred Blankenstein was baptized 1 July 1855, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Barby, Germany. Fred's father, Gottfried Conrad Blankenstein, was a saddlemaker, and he owned a leather and saddle shop on Castle Street in Barby. The family lived in rooms above the shop. Fred would later tell his children stories of his visits to his father's shop. In 1870, the Blankenstein Family left Germany from the port of Hamburg on the sailboat, *Eugenie*. After a voyage of nine weeks, the family arrived in New York City on 15 Aug. 1870. The Blankensteins lived in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, for a short time before moving to Defiance, Ohio. Fred was 15 years old when he came to America with his family. Fred became a naturalized citizen of the United States in Defiance, Ohio, on 8 Sept. 1877. In 1878, the Blankenstein Family moved from Ohio to Texas in a covered wagon train. Fred's older sister, Louise, had married Carl Fink in 1872, and the Finks also moved with the Blankensteins. The Blankenstein Family settled at Cleburne, in Johnson County, Texas, while the Fink Family moved to Marlin, in Falls County, which was at that time known as the New York settlement. The 1880 federal census shows Fred and his younger brother, Ernest, living at their parents' home in Cleburne. Fred's mother, Dorothea, died of pneumonia at the age of 55 in Jan. 1881 after riding a stagecoach from Cleburne to Marlin to visit her ill daughter, Louise Fink. Louise died in March 1881, at the age of 27. Louise's widower moved with their three small children to Bryan, Texas, where he married Anna Florence Patterson in 1883, and they eventually settled in Waco. As Fred grew to manhood, so did his talent with the violin. Fred eventually joined a band and he also gave music lessons. Meanwhile, Fred began writing to friends and

relatives back in Germany to find him a bride. Fred's maternal aunt, Friedericke Behrens nee Herbst, lived in Ummendorf, Germany, and she and her husband, Jacob, connected Fred with a young lady named Marie Friedrichs. **Marie Dorothea Elisabeth Friedrichs** was born in Ummendorf on 10 May 1861; she was the daughter of **Johannes Christoph Friedrichs** (born 9 Dec. 1840, in Hakenstedt, Germany; died 25 June 1886, in Ummendorf) and **Marie Dorothea Elisabeth Luddemann** (born 22 Jan. 1838, in Ovelgunne, Germany; died 25 Oct. 1903, in Ummendorf). They were married 1 April 1861, in Siegersleben, Germany.

Marie's siblings were:

1. Ida Alwine Friedrichs born 27 Feb. 1863, in Ummendorf, Germany, and she died in Helmstedt, Germany, on 24 Oct. 1925. Alwine married **Karl Domke** on 5 June 1887, in Ummendorf. Karl Domke was born 30 May 1853, in Seedorf, Germany, and he died in Helmstedt during the World War I years.

2. Heinrich Hermann Friedrichs born 5 Oct. 1865, in Ummendorf, Germany, and he died in Magdeburg, Germany, on 16 May 1925. Hermann married **Auguste Friedericke Starker** on 17 Jan. 1897, in Hilburghausen, Thuringia, Germany. Auguste was born 1 Sept. 1874, in Hildburghausen, and she died 12 Feb. 1946, in Magdeburg, in the Soviet occupied zone of Germany.

3. Anna Emilie Friedrichs born 16 March 1870, in Ummendorf, Germany, and she died in Braunschweig, West Germany, on 4 Sept. 1950. Emilie married **Gustav Voigt** on 20 Oct. 1895, in Ummendorf. Gustav Voigt was born 5 March 1867, in Germany, and he died 2 June 1943, in Braunschweig.

4. Infant Friedrichs born & died 5 Sept. 1871, in Ummendorf, Germany.

5. Christoph Wilhelm Friedrichs born 6 Sept. 1872, in Ummendorf, Germany, and he died 3 June 1874, in Ummendorf.

6. Carl Franz Friedrichs born 6 Sept. 1872, in Ummendorf, Germany, and he died 7 June 1874, in Ummendorf.

7. Alma Elsbeth Friedrichs born 12 Jan. 1879, in Ummendorf, Germany, and she died 18 Dec. 1953, in Helmstedt, West Germany. Elsbeth married Otto Emmer in Ummendorf on 16 April 1906. Otto Emmer was born 24 April 1874, at Bornim by Potsdam, Germany, and he died 31 July 1951, in Helmstedt.

Marie's paternal grandparents were **Johannes Heinrich Friedrichs** (born 11 April 1811, in Ummendorf, Germany; died 18 Jan. 1894, in Ummendorf) and **Marie Catherine Ulrich** (born 5 July 1813, in Hakenstedt, Germany; died 2 April 1888, in Ummendorf). They were married 20 April 1835, in Hakenstedt. Marie's maternal grandparents were **Johann Friedrich Christoph Luddemann** (born 3 Aug. 1805, in Ovelgunne, Germany; died 23 Nov. 1877, in Ovelgunne) and **Marie Elisabeth Assel** (born 16 Nov. 1808, in Siegersleben, Germany; died 30 Jan. 1858, in Ovelgunne). They were married 8 April 1833, in Siegersleben. Marie was baptized

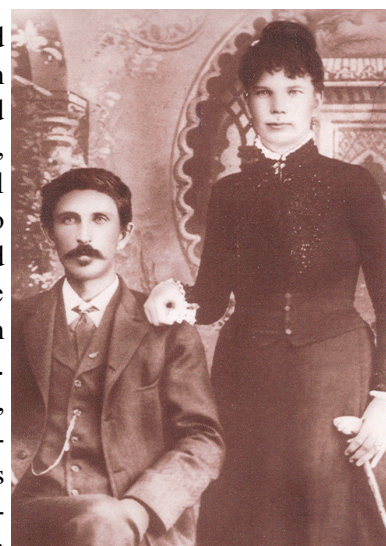
in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ummendorf, Germany, in 1861; however, the record book for that year is missing. Marie was confirmed in the same church on Palm Sunday, 21 March 1875. Marie's father was a farmer and shepherd, and Marie grew up on her parents' farm at Ummendorf. Marie had heard stories of rich Americans and so she must have eagerly anticipated each letter from Fred Blankenstein in America. After more than a year of correspondence, Fred sent Marie a letter of marriage proposal, and she accepted. Marie's parents tried to persuade her not to go, but Marie believed everyone in America was "living the good life" and she felt that she could come back to Germany to visit whenever she wanted. Marie's ship, the *Donnau*, left from the port of Bremen, Germany, and Marie began her voyage to America. The ship docked in New York City on 27 Nov. 1882. Marie took a second ship to Galveston, Texas. From Galveston, Marie rode a train to Temple, Texas, where she met Fred for the first time. Marie found Fred to be a poor musician and quickly realized life in America would not be "the easy street" she expected, and she also realized she would not be making a visit back to Germany anytime soon. Fred took Marie back to Falls County where they were married in Marlin on 14 Dec. 1882, by Rev. Herman Franz. Fred and Marie lived the first years of their marriage in the community of Center, east of Marlin. (In 1902, the name of this community was changed from Center to McClanahan). Fred tried to support his wife and growing family by giving music lessons and playing in bands.

However, this proved not to be too sustainable. In 1889, Fred and Marie moved into Waco. Fred worked as a laborer in his



Marie as a young girl in Germany with her mother, Dorothea Friedrichs.

brother-in-law John Baade's construction business. In the mid-1890's, Fred moved his family to Temple where his brother, Ernest, had started his own construction business. Fred worked for his brother Ernest for a time until he and Marie moved back to Waco to again work for John Baade. Shortly after the turn of the century, Fred did truck farming for John Baade hauling vegetables to market in Waco until John sold the farm. Since Marie had grown up as a farmer's daughter, she began to convince Fred that he should take up farming to support his family. Fred's family had always been townspeople, and Fred did not know how to farm; however, he gave into Marie, and they rented a farm in the Ross Community near West, in northern



Fred and Marie Blankenstein in the early years of their marriage. They were married 38 years.



Fred Blankenstein and his children in the cotton field on their farm in Gerald, 1906. From left: Elsie, Elfriede, Paul, Fred holding Siegfried, Alma and Mamie. Richard is not on photo; he was working for his uncle, Ernest Blankenstein, in Temple at this time.

McLennan County. On Dec. 1, 1905, Fred and Marie purchased 88.36 acres of land in the Gerald Community, in northeastern McLennan County. They settled here to make

a living farming cotton and corn. Times were quite tough and sometimes lean. Fred would go to Temple to work in his brother Ernest's construction business to help make ends meet while Marie held the family and farm together. Marie never saw her family

back in Germany again, but she kept in contact with them. She never encouraged any of her family to come to America because Marie was disappointed with the life she was living on the prairies of central Texas. Marie always longed for Germany, and she had this homesickness until the day she died.

After settling in Gerald, Fred and Marie became members of the St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed Church. Most of their children were confirmed in this church. Even though he no longer gave music lessons or played in bands, Fred would play his violin occasionally. His granddaughter, Hedwig Lehmann Leuschner, remembered that her grandfather would play his violin at family gatherings on Sunday afternoons. Fred's niece, Marguerite Blankenstein Posey, remembered when her Uncle Fred would come to Temple to work in her father's construction business, in the evenings after work, Fred would bring out his violin and her two older brothers would bring out their guitars and there would be a fun evening of music. Every Christmas, Fred and Marie would send his



Marie and Fred Blankenstein at their farm in Gerald, Texas, 1917. Fred was 62 and Marie was 56 years old in this photo.



Fred and Marie Blankenstein with members of their family at their home in Gerald, 1917. From left: Marie, Elsie Forkel, Alma Banik, Elfriede Bode, Fred, Siegfried, Paul and his wife, Anna, and their children, Herman and Lucille.

brother Ernest and wife Nannie a box of sausage, and Ernest and Nannie would send money as a Christmas present to Fred and Marie.

Because of the economic depression that hit many farmers after World War I, Fred and Marie sold 55.2 acres of their farm on 29 Dec. 1919 to Otto Warmke. The Blankensteins kept 26.1 acres for themselves. In the year 1920, Fred made seven bales of cotton from his small farm, and he took the cotton to the nearby town of Leroy to be ginned. In the early morning of Wednesday, 16 March 1921, Fred took the horses and wagon into Waco to buy a load of lumber. The weather was warm and spring-like when he left home. As was

his custom when he went into Waco, Fred stopped and visited with his sisters, Lina Schroeder and Mary Baade. On the trip home, a Texas norther came up and it began to rain. The temperature dropped fast. Fred was not dressed for such weather. He was chilled to the bone, and as a result, Fred developed pneumonia. Marie saw Fred coming with the team down the road and she had blankets warming and hot water boiling on the stove to soak his feet. Six days later, on Tuesday morning, 22 March 1921, Fred died at his home in Gerald at the age of 65 years. Fred's funeral was held the next day on 23 March 1921, at their home. Fred's body was then taken the short distance down the road to the Gerald Cemetery where he was laid to rest.

After Fred's death, Marie and her youngest son, Siegfried, worked the farm. Siegfried was only 16 years old at the time of his father's death. Marie's youngest daughter, Elfriede, was not yet married when Fred died. Elfriede worked as a housekeeper in Waco. Elfriede married Henry Bode on 2 Aug. 1922, in the Blankenstein home in Gerald and Marie moved in with Elfriede and Henry. Siegfried lived on the farm for a while by himself, and then he went to Galveston and took a job working on the docks. The 26.1 acre farm was rented out. Marie lived mainly between Elfriede in Gerald, and another daughter, Elsie Forkel, in Waco. Marie suffered a stroke not long after Elfriede's marriage which left her paralyzed, and she remained paralyzed the rest of her life. Marie died at Elsie's home in Waco on Monday evening, 20 Oct. 1924, at the age of 63 years. Her body was brought to Elfriede's home in Gerald where her funeral was held on Wednesday, 22 Oct. 1924. Marie's body was taken to the Gerald Cemetery and laid to rest beside her husband, Fred.

Fred and Marie were the parents of 10 children: Herman, Mamie, Richard, Rose, Paul, Elsie, Alma, Elfriede, Freddie and Siegfried; seven of their children lived to maturity.

I. Herman Otto Blankenstein born 3 Oct. 1883, in Center (now McClanahan), Fall County, Texas. Herman was baptized 22 Sept. 1887, at his parents' home by the pastor of the Perry German Methodist Church of Perry, Falls Co., Texas. Herman died at the age of five years in Marlin, Texas, on 10 Jan. 1889.

II. Marie Caroline "Mamie" Blankenstein born 26 Feb. 1885, in Center (now McClanahan), Falls County, Texas. Mamie was baptized 22 Sept. 1887, at her parents' home by the pastor of the Perry German Methodist Church of Perry, Falls Co., Texas. Mamie was confirmed 12 April 1903, at St. Peter's Evangelical Church near West, Texas. Mamie married **Paul Albert Lehmann** on 4 Dec. 1906, at St. Paul's Evangelical Church in Gerald, Texas. Paul Lehmann was born 23 May 1881, in Neukirch, Saxony, Germany. Paul was baptized in Germany. He came to Texas when he was nine years old with his mother and older sister, Paulina, to join his father who had come to Texas when Paul was still an infant. Paul was confirmed 18 April 1897, at St. Peter's Evangelical Church near West. Paul was the son of **Ernst Wilhelm Ehrgott "Ed" Lehmann** (born 1853; died 1931) and **Christiane Caroliana Hultch** (born 1854; died 1921).

Except for a very brief time in Sweetwater, Texas, in Nolan County, Mamie and Paul Lehmann lived their married life in McLennan County, in the Gerald Community, and later, in the Ross Community near West. Paul's parents had a 75-acre farm in Ross, and Paul and Mamie first

lived at the corner, across the road from his parents' farm when they moved to Ross. In April 1921, they received 25 acres from Paul's father and they moved here where they raised vegetables because the soil was too sandy for cotton. Later, Mamie and Paul bought the 25 acres that belonged to Paul's sister, Paulina Brustrom. Mamie and Paul were members of the St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed Church of Gerald, which in 1957, became St. Paul's United Church of Christ. Mamie and Paul were the parents of six daughters and



Herman Otto Blankenstein, the firstborn child of Fred and Marie Blankenstein. Herman died at the age of 5 years.



Mamie Blankenstein with brothers, Richard (far left) and Paul (center)



The wedding of Paul and Mamie Blankenstein Lehmann, Dec. 4, 1906. They were married 55 years and were the parents of seven children.



The Lehmann Family in 1941. Paul and Mamie Blankenstein Lehmann standing with son, Paul, Jr. The six daughters are from left: Minnie, Clara, Bertha, Gertrude, Hedwig and Marie.



Paul and Mamie Lehmann's 50th wedding anniversary photo, 1956.

one son. Paul Lehmann died at his home in the Ross Community near West, Texas, at the age of 81 years on 31 May 1962. Mamie died in the Windsor Estates Nursing Home in Waco, Texas, on 12 Aug. 1968, at the age of 83. Mamie and Paul Lehmann are buried in the Gerald Cemetery in Gerald Community, McLennan County, Texas.

The children of Paul and Mamie (Blankenstein) Lehmann:

1. **Marie Christine Lehmann** born 2 Jan. 1908, in Gerald, McLennan Co., Texas. Marie was baptized 23 Feb. 1908, and she was confirmed in 1923, at St. Paul's Evangelical Church of Gerald. Before their marriages, Marie and her sister Hattie played in a band. Marie played an accordion and Hattie played a violin. Marie married **Herman August Drews** on 11 Oct. 1927, at Gerald. Herman Drews was born 5 Feb. 1904, in Gerald; he was the son of **Gustav Drews and Elisabeth Leuschner**. Marie and Herman Drews farmed one mile from West. They were members of St. Paul's Church of Gerald. Herman Drews died in West on 21 Oct. 1975, at the age of 71. After his death, Marie sold their farm and moved into Waco. Marie married **Fred Brady** on 5 Jan. 1979, in Waco. Fred Brady was born 20 Feb 1908, and he died in Waco on 20 Sept. 1991. Marie died in Waco on 24 Jan. 1997, at the age of 89 years. Marie was buried beside her first husband, Herman Drews, in the Gerald Cemetery in Gerald, Texas. Marie and Herman Drews were the parents of three daughters: **Louise Schuetz** (born 1928; died 1970); **Wilma Monthie** (born 1931) and **Betty Grudziecki** (born 1933).
2. **Hedwig Helen "Hattie" Lehmann** born 17 Nov. 1909, in Sweetwater, Nolan Co., Texas. Hattie was baptized 28 March 1910, and confirmed in 1923, at St. Paul's Evangelical Church of Gerald. Hattie learned to play the violin and the piano by a mail correspondence course. She played the piano in St. Paul's Church of Gerald for over 50 years. Hattie married **Albert Henry Leuschner** on 4 Dec. 1928, in Gerald. Albert was born in Gerald on 30 Sept. 1905; he was the son of Ernst Leuschner and **Karoline Krenz**. Hattie and Albert farmed in the Gerald Community, and they were members of St. Paul's Church of Gerald. Albert Leuschner died in Waco, Texas, on 3 Nov. 1979, at the age of 74. Hattie died in Waco on 7 Aug. 2005, at the age of 95. Hattie and Albert Leuschner are buried in the Gerald Cemetery in Gerald, Texas. Hattie and Albert were the parents of four sons: **Jerry** (born 1931; died 1997); **Albert, Jr.** (born 1935); **David** (born 1938; died 1999) and **Gordon** (born 1941).
3. **Gertrude Pauline "Gertie" Lehmann** born 7 Oct. 1911, in Elk, McLennan Co., Texas. Gertie was baptized 10 Nov. 1912, and she was confirmed in 1927, at St. Paul's Evangelical Church of Gerald, Tex. Gertie married **Gustav Christian Drews** on 7 Nov. 1929, in Gerald. Gus Drews was born in Gerald on 6 Oct. 1906; he was the son of **Gustav Drews and Elisabeth Leuschner**. Gertie and Gus farmed in the Gerald Community. Gus Drews died of cancer in Waco, Texas, on 11 March 1965. After his death, Gertie married **Monroe William Janke** (1916-1984) on 25 Feb. 1967. They divorced. Gertie married **Alexander Julius "Alex" Drews** on 4 March 1970. Alex was born in Gerald on 23 Oct. 1909; he was a brother of Gus Drews. Gertie and Alex farmed in Gerald. Gertie died in West, Texas, on 6 May 1997, at the age of 85. Alex Drews died in West on 25 April 1999. Gertie is buried between Gus and Alex in the Gerald Cemetery in Gerald, Texas. Gertie and Gus Drews were the parents of four children: **Marvin** (born 1930); **Leon** (born 1932; died 1956); **Mary Smith** (born 1935) and **Wayne** (born 1947).
4. **Bertha Alma Lehmann** born 26 Nov. 1913, in Gerald, McLennan Co., Texas. Bertha was baptized 19 April 1914,

and she was confirmed in 1927, at St. Paul's Evangelical Church of Gerald. Bertha married **Herbert Henry Friedrich Otto Vahrenkamp** on 16 Dec. 1936, in Waco, Tx. Herbert Vahrenkamp was born in McGregor, McLennan Co., Tx. on 2 May 1911; he was the son of **Heinrich Vahrenkamp** and **Mathilde Rodenbeck**. Bertha and Herbert Vahrenkamp lived their married life in Waco where Herbert worked for the McLennan County Sheriff's Department, and Bertha did secretarial work for various businesses, as well as for McLennan County. Herbert Vahrenkamp died in Waco, Tx. on 25 April 1977, at the age of 65. After his death, Bertha married **Billy Thomas Dawson** on 4 Aug. 1984, in McGregor, Tx. A native of Temple, Tx., Billy Dawson was born 18 Sept. 1916. Bertha and Billy lived in her home on 2130 Live Oak in Waco. Bertha died in Waco on 3 Aug. 2002, at the age of 88. Bertha was buried beside her first husband, Herbert Vahrenkamp, in the Rosemound Cemetery in Waco. Bertha's second husband, Billy Dawson, died in Temple, Tx. on 31 March 2006. He was buried in the Gatesville City Cemetery in Gatesville, Tx. Bertha and Herbert Vahrenkamp were the parents of three sons: **Kenneth** (born 1938); **Billy Ray** (born & died 1 Sept. 1943) and **Darryl** (born 1945).

5. Clara Elfriede Wilhelmine Lehmann born 1 Jan. 1916, in Gerald, McLennan Co., Texas. Clara was baptized 30 April 1916, and she was confirmed 29 March 1931, at St. Paul's Evangelical Church of Gerald. Clara married **Henry Otto Ernest Wedeking** on 5 Sept. 1934, in Gerald. Henry Wedeking was born 25 March 1912, in Crawford,

Texas; he was the son of **Friedrich Wedeking** and **Louise Wiese**. Clara and Henry Wedeking lived the first years of their marriage in McLennan County where they farmed. In the early 1940's, they moved to Houston where Henry worked as a boilermaker. Clara and Henry made Houston their home for most of their married life. In the early 1980's, as Henry's health failed, they moved from Houston to Big Sandy, in East Texas, near one of their daughters. Henry Wedeking died in Gilmer, Texas, on 20 Oct. 1986. Clara died in Mineola, Texas, on 17 Nov. 2001, at the age of 85. Clara and Henry Wedeking are buried in the Little Mound Baptist Church Cemetery at Big Sandy, Upshur Co., Tex. Clara and Henry Wedeking were the parents of six children: **Rose Marie Dunn** (born 1935); **Ben Henry** (born 1937); **Daniel Carl** (born 1938); **John Robert** (born 1940); **Lynda Clare Crump** (born 1942) and **Paul Edward** (born 1944).

6. Minnie Anna Lehmann born 5 Aug. 1918, at Ross, McLennan Co., Texas. Minnie was baptized 18 May 1919, and she was confirmed 29 March 1931, at St. Paul's Evangelical Church of Gerald. Minnie married **James David "Jim" Spurgeon** on 3 Oct. 1942, in Waco, Texas. Jim Spurgeon was born 28 Jan. 1919, in Hardy, Arkansas. Jim was a World War II Army Veteran. Minnie and Jim lived their married life in Waco where Jim was a member of the Waco Fire Department. Minnie and Jim also owned and operated Spurgeon's Jewelry Store in Waco for over 20 years. After their retirement, they moved to their farm in Coolidge, in Limestone County. Jim Spurgeon died at his home in Coolidge on 6 Nov. 1999. Minnie died in Temple, Tex. on 10 Feb. 2006, at the age of 87. Minnie and Jim Spurgeon are buried in the Rosemound Cemetery in Waco. Minnie and Jim were the parents of four children: An **Infant Son** (born & died 15 May 1946); **James David, Jr.** (born 1947); **Barbara Lynne** (born 24 May 1949; died 5 June 1949) and **Mary Kathryn Lancaster** (born 1953).

7. Paul Albert Siegfried Lehmann born 3 Jan. 1921, at Ross, McLennan Co., Texas. Paul was baptized 3 July 1921, at St. Paul's Evangelical Church of Gerald, and he was confirmed 16 July 1934, at St. Peter's Evangelical Church near West. Paul served in the U.S. Army Air Corp. during World War II. Paul married **Ruth Marie Damm** on 7 Sept. 1947, in Gerald, Tx. Ruth was born 30 Dec. 1926, near Elm Mott, Texas; she was the daughter of **Julius Damm** and **Frances Klumb**. Paul worked for Connally Air Force Base in Waco until it closed in 1965, and he was then transferred to Mather Air Force Base near Sacramento, California. Paul retired as a Lt. Colonel in 1976. He and Ruth then returned to Texas to the Ross Community near West where they lived on his parents' old farm. They were also active members of the St. Paul's Church of Gerald. Paul Lehmann died at his home in Ross on 17 Dec. 2009, at the age of 88. Paul is buried in the Gerald Cemetery in Gerald, Tx. Ruth continues to live in their home on the Lehmann farm in Ross. Paul and Ruth had five children: **Paul Bradley** (born 1951); **Frances Elaine Cudrnak** (born 1952); **Robert Donald** (born 1954); **Steve Ernest** (born 1957) and **Clyde Edward** (born 1965).

III. Richard John Blankenstein born 19 April 1887, at Center (now McClanahan), Falls County, Texas. Richard was baptized 22 Sept. 1887, at his parents' home by the pastor of Perry German Methodist Church of , Perry, Falls Co., Texas. Richard lived many of his teenage years with his Uncle Ernest Blankenstein and family in Temple where he learned the construction and plastering trade. While working on a job in Elgin, Texas, Richard was living in a boarding house and he met a young widow, **Ella Gabriella (Bayer) Mueller**. Richard took Ella back to Waco where they were married on 16 Dec. 1911. Ella was born in Elgin, Bastrop Co., Texas, on 25 March 1889; she was the

daughter of **Carl Bayer** (born 1848; died 1935) and **Marie Gruener** (born 1852; died 1892). Ella's first husband, Willie F. Mueller, or Miller, had died 4 March 1908, at the age of 27 years, leaving Ella with a two month-old son, **William F. "Bill" Miller** (born 1908; died 1996). Richard and Ella began their married life living in Temple before moving to Waco. In 1918, they moved to Fort Worth where they lived until they purchased the 26.1 acre farm of Richard's deceased parents on 24



Richard and Ella Blankenstein's 50th wedding portrait in 1961.

Feb. 1926. Richard and Ella lived in the Gerald Community until they sold the farm on 26 Nov. 1932. They then moved to Fort Worth where they lived for much of the rest of their lives.

They did purchase property near Lonoke, Arkansas, where they lived for

some time, but then moved back to Texas, as Ella did not like living in Arkansas. Ella was christened and confirmed in the Catholic Faith, but she and Richard became members of the Meadowbrook Methodist Church in Fort Worth. Ella died in Fort Worth, Texas, on 18 Jan. 1974, at the age of 84 years. Richard J. Blankenstein died in Fort Worth on 9 July 1977, at the age of 90 years. Richard and Ella are buried in the Rose Hill Memorial Park in Arlington, Tarrant Co., Texas.

Richard and Ella Blankenstein were the parents of two children, Ione and Robert.

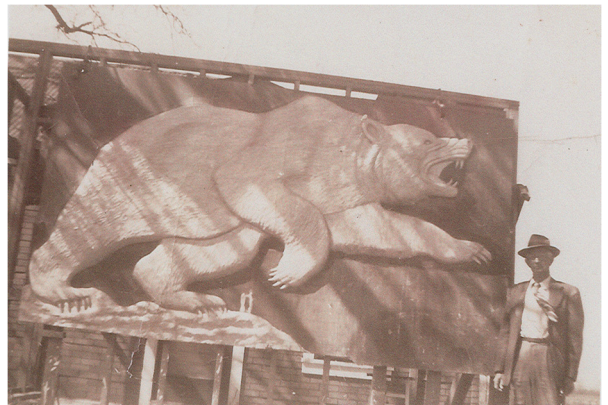
1. Ione Blankenstein born 16 Dec. 1912, in Temple, Bell Co., Texas. Ione spent much of her teenaged years living on her parents' small farm in the Gerald Community. Ione attended Baylor University's nursing school program and eventually she became both a RN and a LVN. Ione married Fred Alexander Taylor on 12 March 1937, in Fort Worth. Fred Taylor was born in Cranfills Gap, Bosque Co., Texas, on 26 Dec. 1908. Ione and Fred lived their married life in Fort Worth where Ione was in the nursing profession and Fred owned and operated Taylor's Photography Studio. Fred Taylor died of a heart attack in Fort Worth on 30 June 1956, at the age of 47. Ione's second marriage was to **Homer Othello Brown** on 8 Aug. 1957, in Fort Worth. Homer Brown was born in Brandon, Hill Co., Tex-



Richard & Ella Blankenstein with daughter, Ione, and son, Robert. Picture taken in Waco at home of Richard's aunt, Mary Baade.



The wedding of Richard and Ella Bayer Blankenstein, Dec. 16, 1911, Waco, Tx. They were married 62 years, and were the parents of two children. Richard also raised Ella's son, Bill, from a previous marriage.



Richard Blankenstein with the plaque of the "Baylor Bear" he made in the early 1950's. This plaque was taken to Baylor Stadium in Waco and mounted. Baylor Stadium was renamed Floyd Casey Stadium in 1988. It is still the home of the Baylor Bears Football Team, and Richard's Baylor Bear is still on the wall of the stadium today.

as, on 4 June 1898, and he died in Fort Worth on 11 Oct. 1964. Homer is buried in the Greenwood Cemetery in Fort Worth. In the later years of her nursing career, Ione became a private nurse and one of her patients was Mrs. Tandy, a member of one of Fort Worth's most prominent families. Ione also became interested in the real estate business, and in her late 60's, she studied and received her real estate license. After being widowed for nearly 23 years and almost at the age of 75, Ione married a third time to **Charles "Charlie" Head**. They were married at the home of Charlie's daughter in Nashville, Tennessee, on 5 Oct. 1987. Charlie was born in Fort Worth on 16 Sept. 1913. Ione and Charlie made their home in Granbury, Texas. Ione died at the age of 90 years on 30 Sept. 2003. She was buried beside her first husband, Fred

Taylor, in the Rose Hill Memorial Park in Arlington, Texas. Ione's third husband, Charlie Head, died in Granbury, Texas, on 12 Dec. 2003, and he is buried in the Holly Hills Memorial Park in Granbury. Ione and her first husband, Fred Taylor, were the parents of two children: **Carol Sue Nichols** (born 1939) and **Fred Robert** (born 1945).

2. Robert John "Bob" Blankenstein born 11 Sept. 1915, in Waco, McLennan Co., Texas. Bob married **Dorothy Pollard** on 29 May 1939, in Fort Worth. Dorothy was born in Burkburnett, Texas, on 2 June 1920. Bob served in the Seabees during World War II. He and Dorothy made their home in Fort Worth until they moved to La Mesa, California, in 1946. Bob worked as a plasterer and he was a Shriner. Bob and Dorothy were the parents of one son, **Robert Ray** (born Aug. 17, 1946). After a visit to their families in Fort Worth, Bob, Dorothy, and five-year-old Ray were all killed in a head-on collision, 20 miles west of Deming, New Mexico, on 4 Nov. 1951. There were seven people in all killed in this collision, and it was termed as the worst auto accident in New Mexico history up to that time. The bodies of the Blankenstein family were returned to Fort Worth and Robert, Dorothy, and Ray were buried 8 Nov. 1951, in the Rose Hill Memorial Park in Arlington, Texas.

IV. Rose Blankenstein born 12 Dec. 1888, in Marlin, Falls County, Texas, and she died at the age of five months on 8 May 1889 in Waco. It is believed Rose is buried in an unmarked grave in the South First Street Cemetery in Waco.

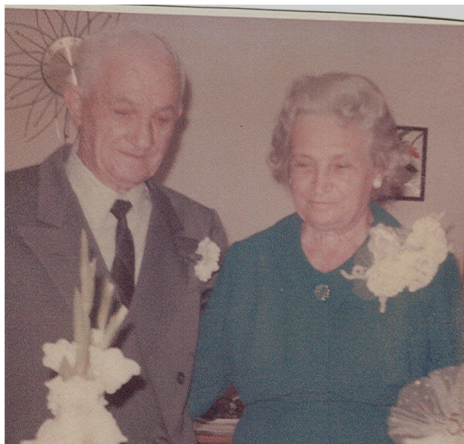
V. Paul John Blankenstein born 18 March 1890, in Waco, McLennan County, Texas. Paul was baptized 22 Feb. 1891, at Zion Evangelical Church in Waco, and he was confirmed 24 March 1907, at St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed Church in Gerald, Texas. Paul married **Anna Karolina Kreder** on 15 Sept. 1915, at the Kreder Home in Gerald. Anna was born 19 May 1896, in Ross, McLennan Co., Texas; she was the daughter of **Ernst Hermann Kreder** (born 1873; died 1920) and **Martha Minnie Hessel** (born 1877; died 1965). Anna was baptized 28 June 1896, at St. Peter's Evangelical Church near West, and she was confirmed 20 March 1910, at St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed Church in Gerald. Paul and



The Robert Blankenstein Family. Robert, his wife, Dorothy, and their son, Robert Ray. This family picture was taken at Taylor Photography Studio in Fort Worth just a few days before the family was killed in an automobile accident in New Mexico on their way home to California.



The wedding of Paul & Anna Kreder Blankenstein, Sept. 15, 1915. They were married 60 years and were the parents of six children.



Paul & Anna Blankenstein's 50th wedding anniversary celebration, 1965.

Anna Blankenstein farmed in the Gerald Community until the late 1930's when they moved into Waco where Paul worked as a plasterer in the construction business.

They became members of the Aldersgate Methodist Church in Waco. Paul J. Blankenstein died in Waco on 1 April 1976, at the age of 86 years. After Paul's death,

Anna's church membership was transferred back to the St. Paul's Church in Gerald, Texas. Anna died in Waco on 24 Aug. 1981, at the age of 85. Paul and Anna Blankenstein are buried in the Gerald Cemetery in Gerald, Texas.

Paul and Anna Blankenstein were the parents of three sons and three daughters:

1. **Herman Henry Blankenstein** born 9 May 1916, in Gerald, McLennan Co., Texas. Herman was baptized 7 Sept. 1916, and he was confirmed 29 March 1931, at St. Paul's Evangelical Church in Gerald.

As a young man, Herman farmed in Gerald until he was asked by his Uncle Richard and Aunt Ella Blankenstein to go to Arkansas and they would pay him to look after their property there. While living in Arkansas, Herman studied to be an auto mechanic, and he met **Aileen Dozier**, whom he married on 15 Sept. 1939, in Lonoke, Arkansas. Aileen was born in Lonoke on 25 Aug. 1919. Herman served in the U.S. Army as a mechanic for the



Paul & Anna Blankenstein Family in 1920, Gerald, Texas. In front is Lucille; back from left: Anna is holding Rose Marie; Herman; and Paul is holding Margaret. Rose Marie died at 1 1/2 years of age.

First Armored Division during World War II. Herman and Aileen lived in Arkansas the first few years of their marriage before moving to Waco, Texas. Herman worked as a mechanic for Bird-Kultgen Ford in Waco until his retirement in 1978. Aileen Blankenstein nee Dozier died in Waco on 16 Feb. 1972, at the age of 52. After her death, Herman married a widow, **Laura Koester Locke**, on 30 March

1973, in Arlington, Tx. Laura was born at Riesel, Texas, on 24 Nov. 1911, and she died in Waco on 19 Dec. 1993. After her death, Herman married his childhood sweetheart, **Irene Otto Drews**, on 25 Oct. 1997, in Waco. Irene was born in Gerald on 31 July 1918. Herman said Irene brought him back home to St. Paul's Church in Gerald. Her-



Anna Kreder Blankenstein holding daughter, Rose Marie. Mamie Blankenstein Lehmann holding son, Paul, Jr., spring of 1921, Gerald, Texas. Rose Marie died Feb. 16, 1922.

died in Waco, Texas, on 3 Aug. 2005, at the age of 89 years. Herman, his first wife, Aileen, their daughter, Ethel Ann, and Herman's second wife, Laura, are all buried in the Waco Memorial Park in Waco. Herman's widow, Irene, continues to live in Waco. Herman and his first wife, Aileen, were the parents of four children: **Ethel Ann** (born 1943; died 1983); **Herman Henry, Jr.** (born 1945); **Letha Marie Hannon** (born 1949) and **Robert Louis** (born 1954).

2. Lucille Alma Elsie Blankenstein born 24 May 1917, in Gerald, McLennan Co., Texas. Lucille was baptized 4 Nov. 1917, and she was confirmed 29 March 1931, at St. Paul's Evangelical Church of Gerald. Lucille married **Ory**

Wayne Petty on 8 March 1941, in Waco. Wayne Petty was born in McLennan County on 23 Oct. 1921. Lucille and Wayne Petty lived their married life in Waco. Lucille died in Temple, Texas, on 27 April 2002, at the age of 84. Lucille is buried in the Bold Springs Cemetery at West. Wayne Petty continues to reside in Waco. Lucille and Wayne were the parents of two daughters: **Rose Marie** (born 16 Oct. 1945; died 17 Oct. 1945) and **Connie Gwynn Montgomery** (born 1947; died 2007).

3. Margaret Annie Pauline Blankenstein born 8 Oct. 1918, in Gerald, McLennan Co., Texas. Margaret was baptized 3 Aug. 1919, and she was confirmed in 1932, at St. Paul's Evangelical Church of Gerald. Margaret married

Harold Hammer on 11 Dec. 1936, in Elm Mott, Texas. They were the parents of one daughter, **Joyce Ann Curry** (born 1937). Harold and Margaret divorced. Margaret married **Myron Allen Nix** on 9 Nov. 1939, in Waco. Myron Nix was born 17 April 1911, and he died in Waco on 17 July 1954. Margaret and Myron Nix were the parents of one daughter, **Barbara Neumann Ashley** (born 1940). Margaret died in Waco on 2 May 1997, at the age of 78. Margaret and Myron Nix are buried in the Waco Memorial Park in Waco.

4. Rose Marie Blankenstein born 15 July 1920, in Gerald, McLennan Co., Texas. Rose Marie was baptized 7 Nov. 1920, at St. Paul's Evangelical Church of Gerald. Rose Marie died at the age of 1 1/2 years on 16 Feb. 1922, in Gerald. Rose Marie Blankenstein was buried in the Gerald Cemetery on 17 Feb. 1922.

5. Paul Orvel Blankenstein born 26 Oct. 1925, in Gerald, McLennan Co., Texas. Paul was baptized 1 April 1928, at St. Paul's Evangelical Church of Gerald. Paul married **Frances Cardelia Sydow** on 30 Aug. 1947, in Waco. Frances was born 8 July 1925, at Riesel, Texas. Paul and Frances lived their married life in Waco. They were the parents of one daughter, **Paula Cumpston Lynn** (born 1949). Frances Blankenstein nee Sydow died in



Paul and Anna Blankenstein Family in 1965. Paul and Anna are on front row with their daughters, Lucille Petty (left) and Margaret Nix (right). The three sons in back from left: Harvey, Herman, and Paul O. Blankenstein.

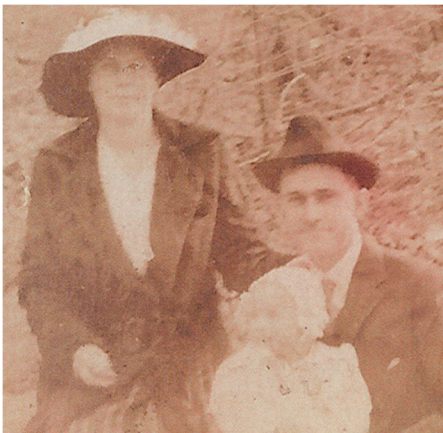
Waco on 16 July 1976, at the age of 51. She is buried in the Riesel Cemetery in Riesel, Tex. After her death, Paul married Melba Laird on 1 April 1977. Paul and Melba reside in Waco, Texas. Paul is retired from General Tire Company.

6. Harvey Frederick Blankenstein born 31 July 1931, in Gerald, McLennan Co., Texas. Harvey began a music career at the age of 16 years. He became the owner of Waco Music Store, and he taught music lessons since his teenage years. Harvey married **Edna Alice Fowler** on 10 May 1950, in Waco. They were the parents of one daughter, **Sharon Alice** (born 1952). Harvey and Edna separated, and Harvey married **Bobbie Gottlieb Smith** on 28 April 1972, in Waco. They separated, and Harvey's third marriage was to **Bobbi Gene Smith Cook** on 21 March 1975. Bobbi was born Oct. 13, 1929. Harvey went into the insurance business in Waco in 1970. In 1975, he was transferred from Waco to Longview, Texas, where he and Bobbi made their permanent home. After his retirement from Mutual of Omaha Insurance, Harvey opened Blankenstein Music Store in Longview which he operated until three years prior to his death. Harvey Blankenstein died in Longview, Gregg Co., Texas, on 3 May 2009, at the age of 77. Harvey is buried in the Rosemound Cemetery in Waco. Bobbi continues to reside in Longview (**Note: Harvey had his grandfather Fred Blankenstein's violin. In June of 2010, Bobbi gave me the violin, and it is a priceless treasure to have my great-grandfather's violin. DB).

VI. Elsbeth Emilie "Elsie" Blankenstein born 16 August 1893, in Waco, McLennan County, Texas. Elsie was baptized 18 March 1894, at Zion Evangelical Church in Waco, and she was confirmed 5 April 1908, at St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed Church in Gerald, Texas. As a young lady, Elsie went to work as a housekeeper in Waco. Elsie married **Carl Emil Forkel** on 10 Nov. 1915, at Zion Evangelical Church in Waco. Carl Forkel was born in Des Moines, Iowa, on 5



Elsie Blankenstein Forkel, 1917



Elsie and Carl Forkel as a young couple with their son, Carl Forkel, Jr.

Jan. 1885; he was the son of **Emil Robert Forkel** (born 1846; died 1928) and **Johanne Ernestine Caroline Rebekah Nietzold** (born 1845; died 1910). Elsie and Carl Forkel lived the first years of their marriage in Plains, in Yoakum Co., Texas, where Carl operated a drug store and movie house. From Plains, they returned to Waco where they lived the rest of their lives.

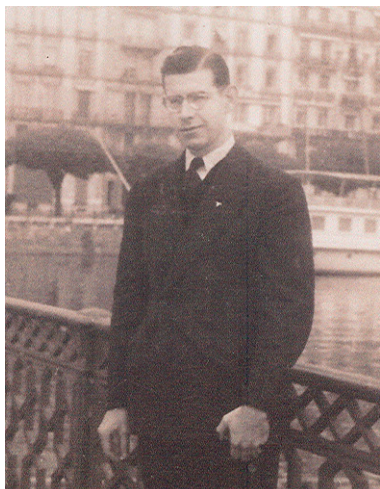
They became members of the First Lutheran Church of Waco. Carl Forkel worked as a bookkeeper for the Cooper Co., in Waco. Carl died of a heart

attack while at work at the Cooper Company on 20 Nov. 1950, at the age of 65 years. Elsie lived alone for over 23 years until she was admitted into a Waco nursing home because of Alzheimer's disease. Elsie died in Waco on 29 April 1977, at the age of 83. Elsie and Carl Forkel are buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Waco. Elsie and Carl Forkel were the parents of two children, **Carl, Jr.**, and **Genevieve**.



Elsie and Carl Forkel, Sr.

1. Carl Emil Forkel, Jr., born 21 Oct. 1916, in Plains, Yoakum Co., Texas. Carl, Jr., was baptized 21 July 1918, at St. Paul's Evangelical Church of Gerald, Texas, and he was confirmed in 1931, at First Lutheran Church in Waco. Carl made his career with the U.S. State Department. Carl worked in the U.S. Embassy in Vichy, France when the Nazis occupied this area of France in 1943. Carl was interred at a hotel and spa in BadenBaden, Germany until liberated in 1944. Carl Forkel, Jr. married **Simonne Jacqueline Schlatter** on 2 June 1945, in Paris, France. Simonne was born 25 April 1917, in Bordeaux, France. Carl worked in several U.S. embassies, and he retired as a Vice Consul and Chief Disbursing Officer of the Far East. After his retirement, they made Simonne's native France their permanent residence where they bought a home in Pau. Carl Forkel, Jr. died in a hospital in



Carl Forkel, Jr., in Geneva, Switzerland, 1941

Bordeaux, France, on 29 July 1984, at the age of 67. Simmone died in Pau, France, on 10 July 1990. Carl and Simmone were the parents of two sons and they adopted a daughter from Manila, The Phillippines. Their children: **Clarke Antoine** (born 1947; died 2005); **Oliver Carl** (born 1951) and **Angela Jacqueline** (born 1962).

2. Genevieve Elfriede Forkel born 21 May 1920, in Waco, McLennan Co., Texas. Genevieve was baptized 24 July 1921, at Zion Evangelical Church in Waco, and she was confirmed 15 July 1934, at First Lutheran Church in Waco. Genevieve married **Richard Charles "Dick" Schmidt** on 13 Feb. 1943, in Waco. Dick Schmidt was born in Astoria, New York, on 16 Aug. 1918. Dick joined the National Guard and from there World War II was declared. In Dec. 1942, Dick tried and made the Officers Training School, which lasted 13 weeks. He graduated and made 2nd Lieutenant. In the fall of

1943, Dick was given an Honorary Medical Discharge. Genevieve and Dick Schmidt then moved to Long Island, New York, where they lived much of their married life. Dick worked for John Hancock Ins. Co. (later The Prudential Ins. Co). For a brief time in the early 1950's, they lived in Houston until moving back to New York. Genevieve worked as a stenographer for Universal Cement Co. in Waco for 3 years, and later, for the same company in New York. Genevieve later worked for AIL for 11 years. After their retirement, they moved to Florida, then to Pennsylvania, and finally to Columbus, Ohio. Dick Schmidt died in Columbus, Ohio, on 5 May 2003. He was cremated and his ashes were placed in the Oakwood Cemetery in Waco, Texas. Genevieve continues to reside in Columbus, Ohio. Genevieve and Dick Schmidt are the parents of three sons: **Richard Charles, Jr.** (born 1945); **Edward Eugene** (born 1947) and **Steven Carl** (born 1952).



Genevieve Forkel Schmidt at parent's home in Waco, Texas.

VII. Alma Dorothea Blankenstein born 10 November 1895, in Waco, McLennan County, Texas. Alma was baptized 5 July 1896, at First Lutheran Church in Temple, Texas, and she was confirmed 20 March 1910, at St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed Church at Gerald, Texas. Alma married **Albert Gustav Banik** on 3 Oct. 1918, in Gerald, Texas. Albert Banik was born in Round Top, Fayette Co., Texas, on 27 Oct. 1886; he was the son of **August Banik** (born 1858; died 1951) and **Augusta Drews** (born 1864;

died 1934). Albert was baptized in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Round Top, and he was confirmed 12 April 1903, at the St. Peter's Evangelical Church near West. Albert Banik farmed and did carpentry work. Alma and Albert lived the first years of their marriage in the Gerald, Ross and Hoen communities of McLennan County. In

1929, they moved to Dayton, in Liberty County, Texas, where they ran a blacksmith shop. Albert had a sister and brother-in-law, Otilie and Joe Rolke, who had been farming near Dayton since 1924. Alma and Albert lived in Dayton for two years before moving back to McLennan County where they lived in the Tours Community, east of West. In 1939, the Baniks moved back to Liberty County to the Eastgate Community, west of Dayton, where they farmed. In 1948, they moved to the Crosby area in eastern Harris County where they lived much of the rest of their lives. They became members of Our Shepherd



Alma and Albert Banik in 1920, Gerald, Texas. They were the parents of four children, two of whom died in infancy



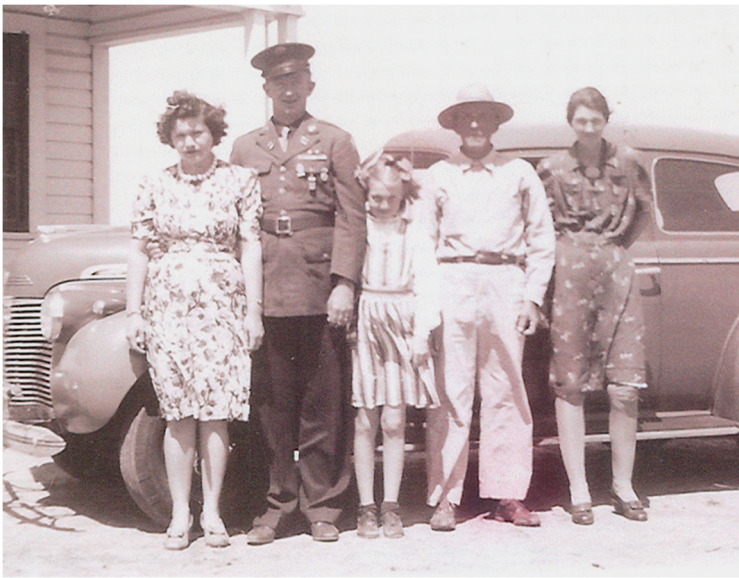
Alma Blankenstein Banik on her parents' farm in Gerald, 1917

Lutheran Church of Crosby.

Albert Banik died in the San Jacinto Methodist Hospital in Baytown, Texas, on 5 Sept. 1968, at the age of 81 years. Albert died one month before he and Alma would have been married 50 years. Alma lived between her son and daughter until she became a resident at Heritage Manor Nursing Home in Dayton in 1976. Alma died in the San Jacinto Methodist Hospital in Baytown on 15 Oct. 1978, at the age of 82. Alma and Albert Banik are buried in the Magnolia Park Cemetery in Dayton, Texas.

Alma and Albert Banik were the parents of two sons and two daughters:

1. **Theodore Fritz "Ted" Banik** born 11 Sept. 1919, in Ross, McLennan Co., Texas. Ted was baptized 21 March 1920, and he was confirmed in June 1934, at St. Paul's Evangelical Church of Gerald, Tex. At a dance in Houston, Ted Banik met **Angeline Anita Fajkus**, and they were married 4 Nov. 1941, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Flatonia,



The Banik Family in 1944. From left: Angeline nee Fajkus and Ted Banik, Dora Banik and Albert and Alma Banik. Photo taken at home of Alma's sister, Elfriede Bode, in Eastgate Community near Dayton, Texas.

Theodore Alfons "Ted, Jr" (born 1945); **Melvin Calvin** (born 1947); **Marvin Alvin** (born 1947) and **Vance Vernon** (born 1952). ***Note: Melvin and Marvin Banik were the first set of twins born in Dayton Memorial Hospital in Dayton, Texas. As a result, Dr. E. R. Richter only charged for delivering one of the babies.*

2. **Dora Elfriede Banik** born 17 Feb. 1931, in Dayton, Liberty Co., Texas. Dora was baptized 5 July 1931, by the pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical Church of Gerald in the home of her aunt and uncle, Elfriede and Henry Bode. Dora married **Louis Anton Matocha** on 8 May 1960, in Crosby, Texas. Louis was born 17 Jan. 1936 in Fayetteville, Texas; he was the son of **Louis Matocha** and **Emilie Zbranek**. Dora and Louis Matocha lived their married life in Highlands, Texas. They were members of St. Jude Catholic Church in Highlands. Louis Matocha died in Highlands, Texas, on 11 Feb. 2004. Dora died in Highlands on 3 Aug. 2007, at the age of 76. Dora and Louis Matocha are buried in the Sterling-White Chapel Cemetery in Highlands, Harris Co., Texas. Dora and Louis Matocha were the parents of four children: **Frank Louis** (born 1962); **Doris Marie Deemer** (born 1964); **Linda Ann Matocha** (born 1965) and **Barbara Fox** (born 1967).

3. **Henry Banik** born 3 Sept. 1934, in Tours, McLennan Co., Texas, and he died at the age of three weeks on 21 Sept. 1934. Henry Banik is buried in the Gerald Cemetery in Gerald, Texas.



Albert and Alma Banik at their home near Crosby, Texas 1966

Texas. Angeline was born 29 June 1918, in Flatonia; she was the daughter of **Louis Fajkus** and **Julia Nikel**. Ted Banik served in the U.S. Army during World War II. In 1945, Ted and Angeline moved to Crosby, Texas, where they farmed. Ted also worked as a process operator at the Exxon Refinery in Baytown, and Angeline was a cafeteria worker at Crosby I.S.D. for 35 years. Ted and Angeline were members of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Crosby. Ted Banik died at his home in Crosby, Texas, on 14 Sept. 1987, at the age of 68. Angeline Banik died in Baytown, Texas, on 9 June 2006. Ted and Angeline Banik are buried in the Magnolia Park Cemetery in Dayton, Texas.

Ted and Angeline were the parents of four sons:



Banik Family, Crosby, Texas. Albert and Alma Banik with son, Ted, and daughter, Dora Matocha.

4. **Leona Wilma Banik** born 20 Aug. 1936, in Tours, McLennan Co., Texas, and she died at the age of two months on 31 Oct. 1936. Leona Banik is buried in the Gerald Cemetery in Gerald, Texas.

VIII. Elfriede Louise Blankenstein born 30 March 1898, in Temple, Bell County, Texas. Elfriede was baptized 20 July 1902, at the home of her Uncle Ernest Blankenstein in Temple by the pastor of the St. Peter's Evangelical Church in Coupland, Texas. Elfriede was confirmed 2 April 1911, at St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed Church at Gerald, Texas. As a young lady, Elfriede worked as a housekeeper in Waco. Elfriede married **Henry Friedrich Daniel Bode** on 2 Aug. 1922, in the Blankenstein Home in Gerald. Henry Bode was born 16 June 1897, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas; he was the son of **Friedrich Carl Daniel "Fritz" Bode** (born 1874; died 1950) and **Anna Margaretha Louise Haferkamp** (born 1876; died 1964). Henry Bode was baptized at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville on 18 July 1897, and he was confirmed 5 April 1912, at St. Peter's Evangelical Church near West, Texas. Henry and Elfriede Bode farmed all their married life. They lived the first years of their marriage in Gerald Community before moving to McGregor, in western McLennan County, and then to Penelope, in Hill County, Texas. In 1940, the Bodes moved to Liberty County, to the Eastgate Community west of Dayton, where Elfriede's sister, Alma Banik, had



Elfriede Blankenstein Bode



The wedding of Henry Bode and Elfriede Blankenstein, August 2, 1922, Gerald, Texas. They were married nearly 30 years and were the parents of six children; the first three all died in infancy.

moved. The Bodes lived with the Baniks for a brief period before renting a farm of their own. On 6 Feb. 1942, Henry and Elfriede purchased a 130-acre farm in Eastgate from E. J. Stoesser. Henry Bode also worked about five years as a road builder for oil companies in southeast Texas and in Louisiana. The Eastgate Community was then a predominantly Czech and Polish Catholic Community, with a few German Catholic families. Henry and Elfriede became members of the First United Methodist Church in Dayton. Henry F. Bode died in the Dayton Memorial Hospital in Dayton, Texas, on 13 June 1961, at the age of 63. Elfriede lived in Eastgate until 1975, when, due to Alzheimer's disease, she became a resident of the Heritage Manor Nursing Home in Dayton. Elfriede died in Kersting Memorial Hospital in Liberty, Texas, on 19 Jan. 1979, at the age of 80 years. Elfriede and Henry Bode are buried in the Magnolia Park Cemetery in Dayton, Texas.



Henry and Elfriede Bode at their farm in Eastgate Community near Dayton, Texas, 1960.

Henry and Elfriede Bode were the parents of six children; the first three died as infants:

1. **Henry F. Bode, Jr.** born 12 Sept. 1923, in Gerald, McLennan Co., Texas, and he died at the age of four days on 16 Sept. 1923. Henry, Jr. was buried 17 Sept. 1923, in the Gerald Cemetery in Gerald, Texas.

2. **Infant Son** this baby was stillborn at birth-date unknown-he was buried in the Gerald Cemetery in Gerald, Texas.

3. **Infant Son** this baby was stillborn at birth-date unknown-he was buried on the farm in Gerald, Texas.

4. **Marveline Gabriella Bode** born 29 July 1932, in Gerald, McLennan Co., Texas. Marveline was baptized 1 Aug. 1932, at her parents' home by the pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical Church of Gerald. Marveline married **Joseph Frank Paul "Joe F." Smesny** on 18 Oct. 1949, at St. Anne's Catholic Church in Eastgate Community, Liberty Co., Texas. Joe F. Smesny was born 26 July 1923, in Frydek, Austin Co., Texas; he was the son of Czech-Moravian parents, **Joe V. Smesny** and **Mary Rachunek**. Marveline Bode Smesny was confirmed at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Crosby, Texas, on 25 Nov. 1951. Joe F. and Marveline Smesny farmed in the Eastgate Community. They raised cotton, and later, milo and soybeans. They also raised okra, and for several years, Marveline would get up at 2 or 3 a.m. and go to the Farmer's Market in Beaumont to sell okra. She would go that early to make sure she got the booth she wanted. After 57 years of marriage, Joe F. Smesny died in the

Methodist Hospital in Houston on 15 Nov. 2006, at the age of 83. He is buried in the St. Anne's Catholic Cemetery in Eastgate, Liberty Co., Texas. Marveline Bode Smesny continues to live on their farm in Eastgate, Texas. Marveline and Joe F. Smesny had six children: **Cynthia Ann Norwood** (born 1950); **Dolores "Dolly" Stokes** (born 1953); **Joseph Henry** (born 1954); **Frank Marty** (born 1956); **Sherri Kaye Rice** (born 1958) and **James Allen** (born 1959).



Orvel and Linda Oates Bode.

5. Orvel Carl Bode born 16 Feb. 1937, in Gerald, McLennan Co., Texas. Orvel was baptized 11 April 1937, at St. Paul's Evangelical Church of Gerald. Orvel married **Linda Sue Oates** on 12 April 1963, at First United Methodist Church in Dayton, Tex. Linda was born 5 April 1944, in Goose Creek Hospital in Goose Creek (now Baytown), Harris Co., Texas; she was the daughter of **Raymond H. "Bill" Robinson** and **Johnnie Mae Oates**. Orvel and Linda Bode lived on the Bode Farm in the Eastgate Community in Liberty County. Orvel retired from the Lubrizol Corp. in Deer Park, Tex. in 1997, after 32 years. Linda Oates Bode died 10 March 2003, at the age of 58, in St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Houston. Linda is buried in the Magnolia Park Cemetery in Dayton, Tx. Orvel continues to live on the Bode farm in Eastgate Community, where he enjoys the

grandkids, working with his cows, and restoring old tractors.

Orvel and Linda were the parents of four children: **Daniel Ray** (born 1964); **Don Allen** (born 1965); **Rodney Glen** (born 1967) and **Wendy Kay Copeland** (born 1969).

6. Lois Henriette Bode born 8 Sept. 1938, in McGregor, McLennan Co., Tex. Lois was baptized 13 Nov. 1938, in Zion Lutheran Church in McGregor. After her graduation from Dayton High School in 1957, Lois went to work in Houston where she met **Donald Earl King**. Lois and Don were married 5 Dec. 1958, at First United Methodist Church in Dayton. A veteran of the U.S. Army in World War II, Don King was born 14 Oct. 1921, in Parkersburgh, West Virginia; he was the son of **Roy King** and **Fannie Robertson**. In 1964, Lois and Don built a home on the Bode Farm in Eastgate Community. Don King retired from the DuPont Corp., and he died at his home in Eastgate on 24 Nov. 1993, at the age of 72. Lois continues to reside in Eastgate, and she is active in the Dayton Garden Club and the Society of St. Stephen's at Dayton's First United Methodist Church.

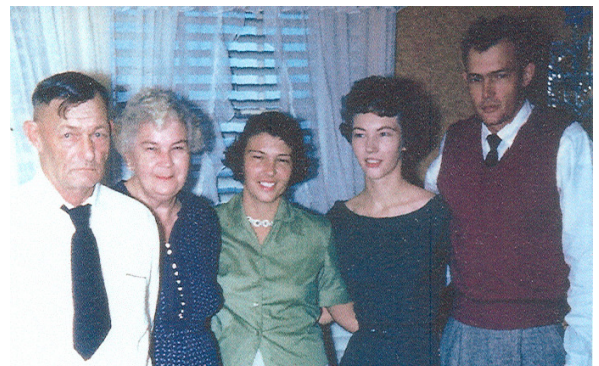
IX. **Freddie Blankenstein** born & died 12 Oct. 1900, in Waco, McLennan Co., Texas. It is believed Freddie is buried in an unmarked grave in the South First Street Cemetery in Waco

X. **Siegfried Richard Paul Blankenstein** born 12 Oct. 1904, in Ross, McLennan Co., Texas. Siegfried was baptized 21 Oct. 1906, and he was confirmed 6 April 1919, at St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed Church in Gerald, Texas. Siegfried married **Noda Mae Inglis** on 14 Dec. 1926, in Fort Worth, Texas. Noda Mae was born in Fort Worth on 3 March 1909; she was the daughter of **Charles Richmond Inglis** (born 1867; died 1941) and **Lou Ella Johnson** (born 1869; died 1948).

Siegfried Blankenstein with sisters Alma (left) and Elfriede (right).

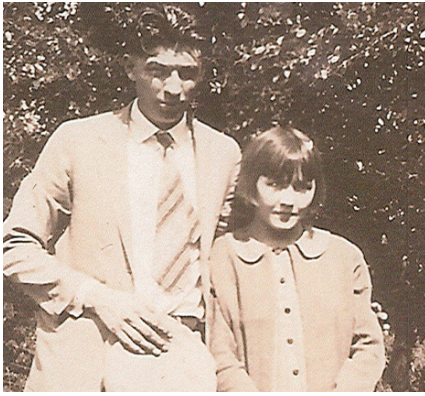


Henry and Elfriede Bode and family, 1942. Elfriede and Henry with their children: Lois (left), Marveline (middle) and Orvel (right).



The Henry Bode Family, Christmas Day, 1960. Henry and Elfriede Bode, Marveline Smesny, Lois King and Orvel Bode.





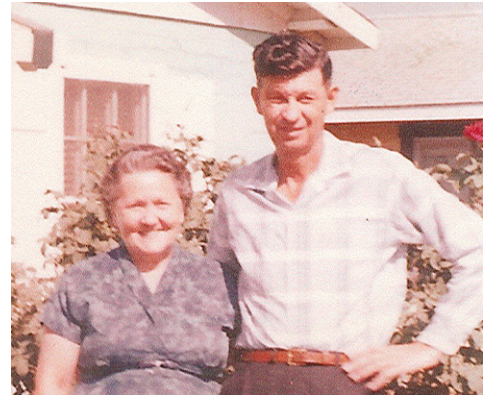
Siegfried and Noda Mae Blankenstein as a young couple. They were married 58 years, and were the parents of five children

Siegfried and Noda Mae lived most of their married life in Fort Worth. They were members of the Central Assembly of God Church. Siegfried worked as a plaster in the construction business. Siegfried Blankenstein died in Fort Worth on 7 June 1985, at the age of 80 years. Noda Mae died in Fort Worth on 4 June 1994, at the age of 85. Siegfried and Noda Mae Blankenstein are buried in the Bluebonnet Hills Memorial Park in Colleyville, Tarrant Co., Texas. Siegfried and Noda Mae Blankenstein were the parents of five children:

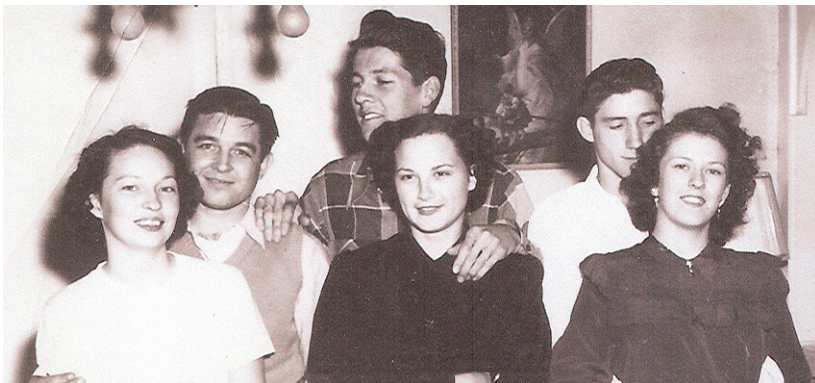
1. Bettie Marie Blankenstein born 9 Jan. 1928, in Fort Worth, Tx. Bettie Marie married **Luther Doyle Fielder** on 6 April 1946, in Fort Worth. Doyle Fielder was born in Nevada, Tx. on 29 Sept. 1924. Bettie Marie and Doyle Fielder lived most of their married life in the Fort Worth area. Bettie Marie Fielder nee Blankenstein died in her home in Euless, Tarrant Co., Tex. on 16 Jan. 2005, at the age of 77. Bettie Marie is buried in the Bluebonnet Hills Memorial Park in Colleyville, Tex. Doyle Fielder continues to reside in Haslet, Tex. They were the parents of five children: **Barbara Ercanbrack** (born 1948); **Lynette Collins** (born 1949); **Richard Lee** (born 1952); **Laurie Schuler** (born 1955) and **Krishna Jo Evers** (born 1959).

2. Billy Joe Blankenstein born 30 July 1930, in Fort Worth, Tx. Bill first married **Betty Ruth Moore** (born 1932; died 2002) on 7 Oct. 1950, in Fort Worth. They were the parents of two sons: **Cecil Dale** (born 1952; died 1998) and **Randy Joe** (born 1954; died 2007). After his separation from Betty Ruth, Billy Joe married **Velmina Mae Lathrop** in 1970 in Minnesota. Velmina was born in Minnesota on 23 April 1923. Billy Joe and Velmina lived in Minnesota until 1999 when they moved to Fort Worth. Velmina Mae Blankenstein died in Fort Worth on 24 Oct. 2002. Billy Joe Blankenstein died in Fort Worth on 25 Jan. 2003, at the age of 72 years. Billy Joe and Velmina Blankenstein are buried in the Skyvue Memorial Park in Fort Worth, Texas.

3. Doris Jean Blankenstein born 20 July 1934, in Fort Worth, Tx. Doris married **Wayne Hightower** on 25 Nov. 1950, in Fort Worth. Doris and Wayne were the parents of two daughters: **Theresa Marie Wright** (born 1956; died 2001) and **Rachel Hightower** (born 1963). Wayne Hightower was born 28 July 1929, in Frost, Navarro Co., Texas, and he died in Fort Worth on 16 March 1991. Wayne is buried in the Bluebonnet Hills Memorial Park in Colleyville, Tex. Doris Blankenstein Hightower resides in Fort Worth.



Siegfried and Noda Mae Blankenstein in 1960.



Siegfried & Noda Mae Blankenstein's three oldest children with spouses. From left: Bettie Marie & husband, Doyle Fielder, Billy Joe Blankenstein & wife, Betty Ruth, Doris & husband, Wayne Hightower.

4. Mary Arlene Blankenstein born 8 Feb. 1938, in Fort Worth, Tx. Mary first married **Albert James Hoss** on 31 July 1956, in Fort Worth, and they were the parents of one son, **Kenneth James** (born 1957). Mary married #2. **Herbert Warren "Sonny" Wilson, Jr.**, on 22 Aug. 1959, in Fort Worth, and they were the parents of four children: **Kay Lynn Willis** (born 1960); **Beverly Bond** (born 1962); **Herbert, III** (born 1966) and **Donna Pratt** (born 1968). Herbert W. "Sonny" Wilson, Jr. was born 3 Dec. 1932, and he died 30 Dec. 1995, in Fort Worth. Mary Blankenstein Wilson died in Azle, Texas, on 7 Dec. 2004, at the age of 66. Mary and "Sonny" Wilson are buried in the Aurora Community Cemetery near Azle, Tarrant Co., Texas.



Mary Arlene Blankenstein (left) and Doris Jean Blankenstein (right). Daughters of Siegfried and Noda Mae Blankenstein



5. Sheron Ann Blankenstein born 17 Oct. 1945, in Fort Worth, Tex. Sheron first married **John Shaw** on 1 Aug. 1964, in Fort Worth, and they were the parents of three children: **Robin John** (born 1965); **Stephanie Smith** (born 1968) and **Joseph Robert** (born 1972). Sheron married #2. **Bobby Archer** on 28 Dec. 1973, in Fort Worth, and she married #3. **Tom Drake** on 25 Nov. 1974, in Fort Worth. Sheron Blankenstein Drake died at her home in Burleson, Texas, on 30 Oct. 2009, at the age of 64. Sheron is buried in the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery in Dallas, Texas.

Sheron Ann Blankenstein, the youngest child of Siegfried and Noda Mae Blankenstein

Sources: Memories of stories told by my grandmother, Elfiede Blankenstein Bode; my great-aunt, Alma Blankenstein Banik; my great-aunt, Anna Kreder Blankenstein, my great-uncle, Siegfried Blankenstein, and my great-aunt, Lydia Bode Grudziecki. Hedwig Lehmann Leuschner, Gertrude Lehmann Drews, Bertha Lehmann Vahrenkamp Dawson, Clara Lehmann Wedeking, Paul and Ruth Damm Lehmann, Ione Blankenstein Taylor Head, Herman Blankenstein, Dianne Conaway Blankenstein, Genevieve Forkel Schmidt, Angeline Fajkus Banik, Dora Banik Matocha, Marveline Bode Smesny, Orvel and Linda Oates Bode, Lois Bode King, Bettie Marie Blankenstein Fielder, Doris Blankenstein Hightower, Sheron Blankenstein Drake, Betty Drews Grudziecki, Marguerite Blankenstein Posey, Hans Friedrichs and Gertrud Emmer Danker..
Records from the McLennan County Courthouse in Waco and the Falls County Courthouse in Marlin, Texas.
Records of the former St. Peter's Evangelical Church of West and St. Paul's United Church of Christ of Gerald, Tx.
Records of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Barby, Germany, and of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ummendorf, Germany.

Submitted by Daniel Bode of Dayton, Texas; a great-grandson of Fred and Marie Blankenstein.

Genealogy, kids plus Elvis keep Draehn busy

*Brenham Banner Press -
Lifestyles April 11, 2011*

By BUD CHAMBERS
Staff Correspondent

Marjorie Meyer Draehn is a person who will never be lacking for a project because she has a genuine interest in so many things - with family history and genealogy interest leading the way. But this is trailed closely by a continuing interest in "anything related to Elvis," and she claims to enjoy something most everyone hates: ironing clothes.

Just one day before this story reaches print, Marjorie - being interviewed for this "People profile" a single day following her 73rd birthday April 4th - was likely in "Seventh Heaven" Sunday at 2:30 p.m. as she spoke to Industry's historical society concerning her great-great-great grandfather Friedrich Ernst founding Industry, Texas' first German settlement which is recognized to have taken place in 1831.

On April 26, 2007, the Texas Legislature completed the process of approving a resolution initially introduced in the State House by Rep. Lois Kolkhorst of Brenham - recognizing Ernst and his family for establishing Industry as the state's initial community settled by families arriving from Germany.

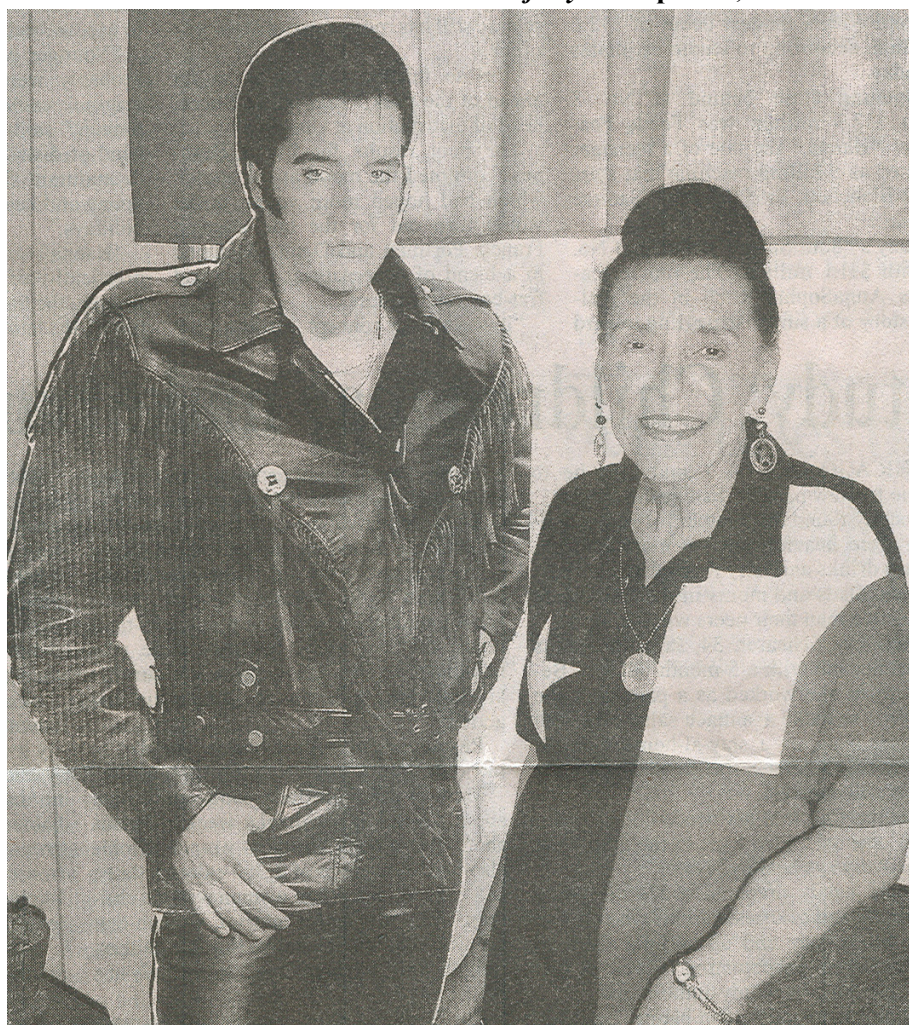
This important piece of Texas history originated some 180 years ago a bit later this month. Stripped of the WHEREAS prefaces of legislative lingo, here is "the heart" of how Industry came to be:

The (Industry) community dates to 1831 and owes its founding to Johann Friedrich Ernst and his family, who emigrated from Oldenburg to New York City in 1829. The Ernst family ran a boarding house in New York for several years before deciding to relocate to Missouri with a friend, Charles Fordtran.

In the course of the move, however, they read a prospectus about Stephen F. Austin's colony in Texas and decided to make that their destination instead.

On April 16, 1831, Mr. Ernst was granted a league of land on the west bank of the west fork of 14111 Creek in Austin's colony, 28 miles northwest of San Felipe.

Friedrich Ernst, his wife, and



their children thus became the first German family to settle in Texas.

Pleased with his new home Mr. Ernst wrote a long letter in February 1832 to a friend in Germany, extolling its virtues.

The letter was subsequently published in various Oldenburg newspapers and inspired a number of other Germans to pack their bags for Texas.

Friedrich Ernst gave a generous welcome to those who found their way to his door, thereby earning the nickname "Father of German immigrants."

In addition to providing lodging in his home, which served as a hotel and boarding house, he extended financial assistance to fellow newcomers, some of whom settled nearby.

In 1837, the young community received a post office; and the following year Mr. Ernst formally

laid out a town on his league. The settlement took the name of Industry, possibly because of the residents' reputation for hard work or because of the cigar-making enterprise that Mr. Ernst established there, using tobacco that he grew.

A 'genealogy' degree

Not at all surprisingly, "The Family Tree" of the folks who founded Industry would spread outward from there - but, in many instances, the spreading out of new generations didn't cover all that many miles.

An obvious nearby choice for coming Ernst generations was a growing community less than 20 miles up the road which had been named in 1844 for Dr. Richard Fox Brenham, an American killed in the Mexican wars!

Johnnie A. Meyer and his bride, the former Marie Ernst, would be settled here when their two sons, Marvin and Glenn Meyer - the

great-great grandsons of Friedrich and Louise A. Ernst- would arrive in this world in 1911 and 1915 respectively.

The former Odelia Jozwiak and her husband Glenn Meyer would welcome daughter Marjorie Meyer as their first of their two offspring - both girls-early in the month of April 1938.

In a portion of one of the more than 50 which articles written for a Washington County Genealogical Society series in *The Banner-Press* by Marjorie Meyer Draehn, 1999-2003, she introduced her baby sister thusly:

On Nov. 2, 1944 my parents presented me with a beautiful baby sister, Glennette. It was love at first sight. Since I was 6 1/2 years old I was the big sister who helped care for her.

It would be in this setting of continuing hardship for so many families in a Great U.S. Depression - which actually would not go away until after World War II's end - that Marjorie proved so adept at "doing all the family's ironing, except for my father's pants... they were just too heavy."

Once in her adult years - and especially in periods when (in raising two sons and a daughter from her November 1954 marriage to Willie "Pee Wee" Draehn, a bricklayer by trade) - Marjorie wasn't employed outside the home until 1973. That's when she went to work for her brother-in-law "Butch" Broecker at his woodworking business and remained until that company was sold in 1979.

Then from 1979-90, she and husband Willie operated Thisit Wood Products manufacturing surveying stakes and several related products.

And during all of these busy times, caring for a growing family of two boys and, a girl, she continued performing a task "commercially" - ironing clothes for a number of families - that she says dates back to when she discovered a talent and enjoyment of ironing her family's clothes around age seven.

"I still have five families as customers - three regular on a weekly basis," she points out.

She and husband Willie have been married for more than 56 years

and he expanded on his initial bricklaying profession (and their joint surveying stakes venture) to join the city of Brenham and became parks superintendant and later took on the role as Brenham's street superintendent.

His wife's loves of history, and special interest in her multiple heritages - especially her German and Polish ties - extended on her desires to own an historic Brenham home when it came on the market in 1980. Husband Willie gave in to the wishes of his history-oriented bride and agreed to buy the 1915 Beerwinkel Home and they completed raising their family there, with their year in this now 96-year-old home now numbering 31.

They still own and rent out an earlier home and also own a unique home, near the Brenham Airport built by their oldest son, William, a skilled cabinetmaker. He died five years ago this month (at age 48) of a massive heart attack.

Speaking up shortly after their 19-year-old granddaughter Kourtney, a student at Blinn College, has departed from visiting her grandparents, Marjorie's retired husband Willie looks up from his TV program to note, "Getting this (big, old) place was her idea."

In addition to numerous genealogic-related collections, Marjorie readily admits to being one of the biggest fans ever of Elvis Presley and she has a collection of Elvis memorabilia that isn't often found in a private collection. There is a fascinating collection of Elvis art hanging above the stairway leading to their home's second level.

That's not all: a colorful portrait of "The King" hangs on the wall opposite the entry to the stairs.

In a window area near the front of a family room that is chock full of all sorts of history related collectibles, there stands a collectible that is "a must" for Marjorie's picture to accompany this "Profile" story.

What is this subject for a can't miss photo? A lifesize "cutout" of Elvis Presley, of course.

It was the No.1 treasure from at least a half dozen visits to Memphis by mother Marjorie and her

beloved late son William to Elvis Presley's Graceland Mansion.

While William's early death left a major hole in the entire family's heart, Marjorie enjoys making lunch for college student Kourtney at least twice each week. They enjoy eating together and engaging in pleasant conversation.

And that same family of second son, Patrick - a city of Brenham mechanic - and his wife, the former Melissa Kohring (a nurse at Brenham Clinic) also includes an active teenage son, Mitchell, 14, in addition to Kourtney. Then there's also a daughter, LaFayne McCall, now office manager and intake director for the district attorney's office in Dallas and married to Dallas police officer Robert McCall. They are busy raising two daughters - Hannah and Sarah Littleton, ages 16 and 11 respectively.

And there is a rather unusual circumstance surrounding the subject of this "Profile." It would be Marjorie's daughter-in-law Melissa Draehn who would make the suggestion that this extremely busy lady merited attention.

Upon review, Marjorie's active level of participation is certainly impressive. Of course, this is exemplified Sunday by talking to many history-oriented groups, such as yesterday to the Industry historical organization on that town's founding by her forefather Ernst; playing an active role with the Texas German Society; the Polish Society of Texas; a charter member of Washington County Genealogical Society; and a member since 1995 of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. (*Ed's note: She is also a member of GTHS!*)

Within this framework of a great interest in her heritage, Marjorie has also been most active documenting this county's Catholic cemetery histories, and is looking forward again this fall to taking a lead role in decorating for the 25th anniversary dinner of this county's Polish Society. But most of all, Marjorie Meyer Draehn enjoys being as GREAT a grandmother as she can possibly be to her four grandchildren.

**Submitted by Marjorie Draehn,
Brenham**

OPERATIONS

[unapproved] **MINUTES OF THE MARCH 13, 2011 MEETING
GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The March 13, 2011 meeting of the German-Texan Heritage Society Board of Directors was called to order at 10 a.m. at the German Free School in Austin, with GTHS President Mary Whigham presiding. Board members present were Michael Krause, Liz Hicks, Martha Liehse, Carl Luckenbach, Dan Bode, Mary Whigham, Charles Locklin, Wing Evans and Gerri West. Board members absent were Christina Gilliland, Christopher Markley and Bob Flocke. Also present was GTHS Executive Director Jean Warneke.

Minutes of the January 9, 2011 Board Meeting

C. Luckenbach moved acceptance of the minutes of the board meeting of January 9, 2011 as scribed by Secretary M. Liehse. **MOTION APPROVED**

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer G. West highlighted points from the financial reports that she had e-mailed to board members beforehand: her narrative Treasurer's Report; the Morgan Stanley Investment Report; the 2010 summary Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual; the 2011 detailed Approved Budget; the 2011 Side by Side Budget Overview; the 2011 summary Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual YTD; and the GTHS/Guild Membership Counts & Dues Collected, showing a summary of the years 1999 through 2011.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director J. Warneke reviewed her narrative report of recent accomplishments and ongoing projects and also requested help in finding a Texas site for a GTHS genealogy seminar. She announced our new office assistant Sheryl Zettner and also brought to the board's attention upcoming German heritage events in Round Top and in Williamson County with which we could be involved as part of our statewide outreach.

Program Director's Report

J. Warneke also presented Program Director Melanie Schmidt-Dumont's report, with its overview of the winter language classes offered at the German Free School, in Bryan, Brenham and Round Rock, as well as the new class starting in San Antonio in March. Plans for the summer classes were also outlined.

Activities Committee Report

Chair M. Krause reported that Victoria is a possible site for the 2012 annual meeting. For the 2011 annual meeting in the Dallas area, he will work together with C. Gilliland on the planning.

Budget & Finance Committee Report

Budget and finance topics were covered in the Treasurer's Report.

G. West will work with former board member John Siemssen on a review of the Investment Policy.

Development Committee Report -- also covered in the Treasurer's Report.

Membership Committee Report It was reported that GTHS has paid for membership in the Texas State Genealogical Society.

German Free School Committee Report

Chair C. Locklin reported that the front gate to the property is being moved to the bottom of the stairs to improve security and that he will follow up with the City concerning installation of the sidewalk along the street by the back property. He reviewed with the board the research that his committee has carried out concerning the preservation and disposition of the Kelly Stevens collection of letters and paintings. He made a motion for the board to authorize the German Free School Guild Board to arrange for the most profitable contractual agreement with a reputable art dealer to sell the art collection, but only after selecting and removing from the

collection four or five paintings to be retained by GTHS. After being seconded, the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**.
 W. Evans made a motion for the Guild Board to hold its own auction for any remaining artworks not acceptable for sale by the art dealer. After being seconded, the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**.
 C. Locklin made a motion for the Guild Board to transfer the papers and photos from the collection to the Harry Ransom Center at U.T. for their archives, after ascertaining that access to those documents would not be restricted at the Center. After being seconded, the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**.
 G. West made a motion that the above three approved motions should only be carried out after Rodney Koenig has been consulted concerning any copyright recommendations and after he states in writing that such disposition of the items is not in violation of the Kelly Stevens will. After being seconded, the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**.
 G. West made a motion that any profit realized from the sale of the artworks be put into the German Free School preservation fund endowment. After being seconded, the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**.

Publications Committee Report

M. Whigham reported that the royalty check has not been received from Eakin Press. M. Krause inquired about some GTHS books possibly still being stored at Eakin and asked the committee to check on that. Possibilities for selling the supply of books stored at GTHS were discussed and further ideas are needed.

Unfinished Business

Board positions #1, #4 and #8 are still open.

The criteria for the new college-level scholarship to be awarded this year are being drawn up by J. Warneke.

The board agreed that the duties of the Executive Director must be continually re-evaluated in relation to the other staff members, and President M. Whigham asked the Executive Committee to meet for this purpose at 9:15 a.m. before the next board meeting.

New Business

The board discussed the possible need for a staff hiring policy, a procedure for handling any complaints, and a policy and procedures for volunteers. M. Whigham, L. Hicks and C. Locklin will work on draft policy/procedures for the next board meeting.

President M. Whigham will communicate by e-mail with board members concerning the date of the next board meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m.

Submitted by Martha Liehsel, Secretary

Information attachment:

Committees for 2011

Activities – Michael Krause (Chair), Carl Luckenbach, Christina Gilliland

Budget & Finance – Gerri West (Chair), Charles Locklin

Development – all board members

German Free School – Charles Locklin (Chair), Christopher Markley

Membership – Liz Hicks (Chair), Wing Evans

Publications – Bob Flocke (Chair), Mary Whigham, Martha Liehsel

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2011 MEETING (approved) GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The January 9, 2011 meeting of the German-Texan Heritage Society Board of Directors was called to order at 10:05 a.m. in the German Free School in Austin, with GTHS President Mary Whigham presiding. Board members present were Michael Krause, Martha Liehsel, Christina Gilliland, Bob Flocke, Mary Whigham, Charles Locklin, Wing Evans and Gerri West. Board members absent were Liz Hicks, Carl Luckenbach, Daniel Bode and Christopher Markley. Also present were GTHS Executive Director Jean Warneke and Advisory Board member Van Massirer.

Minutes of the November 14, 2010 Board Meeting

B. Flocke moved acceptance of the minutes of the board meeting of November 14, 2010 as scribed by Secretary M. Liehse. **MOTION APPROVED**

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer G. West distributed copies of and reviewed with the board her narrative Treasurer's Report, the Morgan Stanley Investment Report through the end of 2010, the Profit & Loss, Budget vs. Actual Report for 2010, and the proposed 2011 budget showing two categories, "bare bones" and "wishful thinking." The "wishful thinking" budget was based on the potential to drastically increase revenues via facility rentals, advertisers, underwriters, grants and program revenue, and it includes the addition of a part-time office assistant to handle the more routine office duties. The 2010 *Weihnachtsmarkt* was a huge success, following the lead of the year's *Maifest* and *Oktoberfest* as highly profitable events. Challenges continue to be the printing and mailing costs of publications for members, further revenue-producing efforts, as well as lapsed memberships.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director J. Warneke distributed copies of her Executive Director's Report, which she reviewed with the board and in which she outlined her accomplishments in 2010, what she is currently working on, as well as her goals for 2011. Further promotion of the German Free School as an event venue (e.g., for weddings) will bring in much-needed funds. Development of a German-Texan Heritage Trail will be pursued with the assistance of many.

Program Director's Report

Program Director Melanie Schmidt-Dumont's report provided an overview of the GTHS German language classes in Austin, Brenham, Bryan and Round Rock. Plans are being made to begin children's classes in San Antonio, and efforts are being made to set up adult classes in the San Antonio/New Braunfels area.

Executive Committee Report

President M. Whigham reported that due to the recent resignation of board member Charles Frederick, board position # 4 needs to be filled, as well as the already vacant positions #1 and #8.

Activities Committee Report

C. Gilliland reported on preliminary plans for the 2011 Annual Meeting to be held in Dallas. The board accepted her preliminary plans and her wish to pursue the proposed speakers and find out any costs involved.

Chair M. Krause reported that the Victoria area is a possible site for the 2012 Annual Meeting. Bryan is also a possibility for a future meeting.

A German heritage trail for Texas was discussed as a GTHS project. J. Warneke shared with the board her preliminary thoughts and M. Whigham reported that TGS President Robert Herridge has expressed his organization's interest in assisting with the project. V. Massirer suggested the publication of a guidebook of German heritage sites and asked the board if they would support the pursuit of the entire project. All indicated their support. German professors Hans Boas and Meredith McClain have done some work on this idea in the past and they will be consulted.

W. Evans asked for board support of an Easter egg hunt for the *Samstagsschule* children this spring. The children could invite friends of theirs, but it would not be advertised to the public. The board expressed their support.

Budget & Finance Committee Report

After discussion of the Treasurer's two proposed budgets for 2011, G. West made a motion that we accept the "wishful thinking" budget, with the option to still move around the personnel costs in a way that best covers the duties required of the Executive Director and Program Director, as well as the daily office routine. After being seconded, the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**

Publications Committee Report

Chair B. Flocke reported that he had recently visited a retirement center in Comfort to take a look at their large collection of German books, in response to the center's request of GTHS. He plans another visit soon and will report further to the board.

M. Whigham reported that GTHS will be receiving a royalty check for \$576.91 from Eakin Press from the sale of GTHS-copyrighted books.

Development Committee Report

G. West will pursue the question as to whether a separate gift acceptance policy is needed for donations of real estate.

German Free School Committee Report

Chair C. Locklin reported that the committee has been restructured and now includes teams for financial planning support, property management, revenue-producing activities and non-revenue-producing activities. The committee will be meeting every other month. He will remain as Chair and Jim West will be Vice Chair. He reviewed with the board the process being followed to determine the value and disposition of the Kelly Stevens collection of letters and paintings. He also expressed the desire of the committee to reflect the original history of the German Free School through the furnishing of a typical 1800s schoolroom setting somewhere in the building.

Unfinished Business

J. Warneke is finishing up her proposed criteria for the college-level scholarship to be awarded by GTHS this year.

G. West reported that the last donations to the 150th Club fund are being collected.

J. Warneke is completing certificates to be presented to outgoing board members to thank them for their work.

New Business

G. West brought up for discussion the frequency of board meetings. Should the board continue with six meetings a year or should they return to four meetings? Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

The next board meeting was set for March 13, 2011.

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

Submitted by Martha Liehse, Secretary

Minutes approved March 13, 2011

Information attachment:

Committees for 2011

Activities: Michael Krause (Chair), Carl Luckenbach, Christina Gilliland

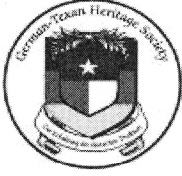
Budget & Finance: Gerri West (Chair), Charles Locklin

Development: all board members

German Free School: Charles Locklin (Chair), Christopher Markley

Membership: Liz Hicks (Chair), Wing Evans

Publications: Bob Flocke (Chair), Mary Whigham, Martha Liehse



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German-Texan Heritage Society

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