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THE JOURNAL OF

THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

VOLUME XXXVII - NUMBER 3, FALL 2015

"Zur Erhaltung der deutschen Tradition"

132 In Memorium—James Mayfield Damon
133 In Memorium—Alan John Bialkowski
134 In Memorium—Eugene Voelkel
135 President's Notes
136 Leave Your German Mark—Rodney Koenig
138 Genealogy Inquiries—Liz Hicks
139 Helpful Hints
140 Helga's Corner

BULLETIN BOARD
141 Bragging on one of our board members: Jim Kearney
141 TSGS Annual Meeting Announcement, Oct. 30—Nov. 1
142 Concordia University Texas receives Tex-Treasures Grant
142 Kamphoefner's additional info re: Battle of Teutoburg Forest
143 Papers requested for Meeting of the Society for German American Studies
143 Did you ever hear of stories of persecution?
144 Free home to be moved
145 Table of Consanguinity

COMMUNITY/STATE EVENTS
146 Joyce Aldridge and Warren Freidrich will portray life in Austin as it was after the Alamo, submitted by Liz Hicks
147 Oktoberfest in Wichita Falls, submitted by Eddie Wolsch
148 140 years later, an island home's revival, submitted by Liz Hicks
150 Dedication of New Marker, submitted by Carl Luckenbach
151 Of little Comfort: Nueces River once ran red with Union blood, submitted by Rodney Koenig
153 Decaying migrant records rescued, submitted by Rodney Koenig

PEOPLE
155 William Eberling, German Texan submitted by Connie Krause
160 Dr. Ferdinand Roemer's declaration upon entering Texas, submitted by Liz Hicks
161 What Links St. Peter's to Bethlehem Lutheran, submitted by Rodney Koenig
162 Twelve LaGrange Students Headed for Stay in Germany, submitted by Rodney Koenig
162 Valley of Hills Man from Germany supports U.S. Soldiers, submitted by Margaret Hitzfield

163 John H. Kampmann, submitted by Margaret Hitzfield
164 Bode to speak—History of Eastgate Community, submitted by Dan Bode
164 Sleuthing Walter Tips, submitted by Liz Hicks
166 Memories of a descendant of a student at the German Free School, submitted by Liz Hicks
170 PL Native holds reading of book based on childhood, submitted by Charles Thompson
171 The Altenheim—a place to call home, submitted by Rodney Koenig
174 Women get equal basis in Hermann Sons, submitted by Rodney Koenig
176 Grand Presidents over the years, submitted by Rodney Koenig

OPERATIONS
178 Approved Minutes of the June 14, 2015 Board Meeting

Vielen Dank to these contributors

Rodney Koenig - Houston
Liz Hicks—Houston
Eddie Walsh—Seymour
Margaret Hitzfield—Round Rock
Dan Bode, Dayton
Carl Luckenbach—New Braunfels
Connie Krause—New Braunfels
Charles Thompson—Houston

An unusual for this edition, some collaboration on the Eberling article from Connie Krause and Liz Hicks. A great example of what is available for researchers today if you know where to look! I was watching 60 Minutes Sunday night when they spotlighted *Wikipedia*'s founder. Successful website that continues to get better and more accurate with submissions from some 100,000 unpaid volunteers. I think our *Journal* serves the same purpose in a much smaller universe. While there may be duplications from time to time, each article expands on what was known before, i.e. the Comfort story...I had never heard that perhaps a doctor from Ft. Clark suggested the captured men be put down as nothing more could be done for them!….As I have said before, keep those cards and letters flowing. You never know when you will be reading something and realize your family was related or had the same experience. It is a small, small world. Mary

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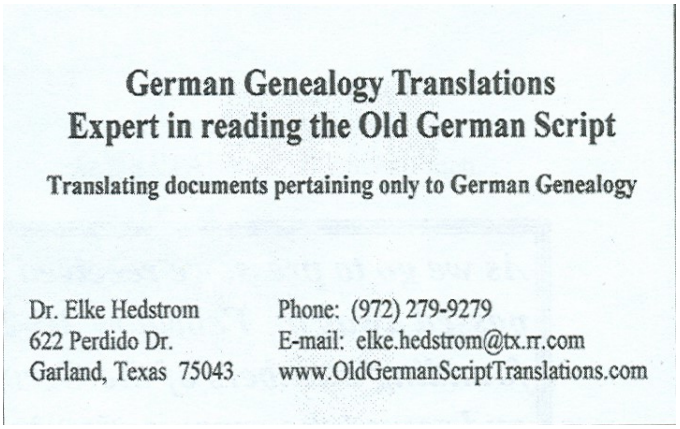

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In Memoriam

James Mayfield Damon

James Mayfield Damon passed away peacefully on April 15, 2015 at age 78. In keeping with his wishes a celebration of life for family, friends and neighbors will take place on Saturday, May 16 from 2 to 4 pm at 701 South Main Street in Georgetown, Texas. Mayfield was born in Winfield, Texas on February 24, 1937 to Sylvester Winn Damon and Helen Holmes. He grew up in Houston, Texas where he graduated from Lamar High School in 1954. He received his BA in History from Wayne State University in Detroit and his MA in German and Comparative Literature from the University of Texas in Austin. Over the years he worked in various jobs but mostly in real estate, remodeling old houses. Among his many passions and lasting a lifetime were the translations of German literature into English. Many are available online. Most recently he completed a nineteenth century work by Jean Paul which is the only English translation in existence. In recognition of his efforts, he was recently invited to join the editorial board of a distinguished literary magazine. Mayfield also was a civil libertarian who was instrumental in having the "vagrancy" law of Texas overturned by the United States Supreme Court. In Austin he founded the first chapter of BNB which then developed into The Yellow Bike Project. Mayfield is survived by his wife Johanna, his sons, Lamar of Los Angeles and Christopher and wife, Judith, of Georgetown, and his grandchildren Samuel, Benjamin and Alana. The family wishes to thank Drs. Melear and Dziuk of Texas Oncology, Dr Pham of Austin Gastroenterology as well as the nurses and staff of the seventh floor at Seton Medical Center for their excellent care and compassion. Obituary and memorial guestbook available online at www.wcfish.com -

In Memoriam

Alan John Bialkowski

Alan John Bialkowski peacefully passed away just one day before his 79th birthday at his home in Austin, surrounded by his loving family. Alan was born on June 20, 1936 to Sigmund and Irene Bialkowski in New York City. After graduating from Bronx High Science High School, Alan went on to NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering.

He joined the U. S. Army and while stationed in Germany met and married Christa Breiser, and the couple continued their journey through life together for 52 years.

Alan had a never-ending desire to continue learning. At Stanford he was proud to complete a master's degree program in just one year. Alan as senior instructor, taught at the Engineering School at Fort Belvoer. Alan's military career ended after a tour in Vietnam in 1969 having achieved the rank of major and receiving the Legion of Merit Award.

He returned to civilian life and began his second major career with IBM in Manassas, VA. IBM would later transfer Alan to Austin, TX. He chose to make Austin his last home after retiring from IBM.

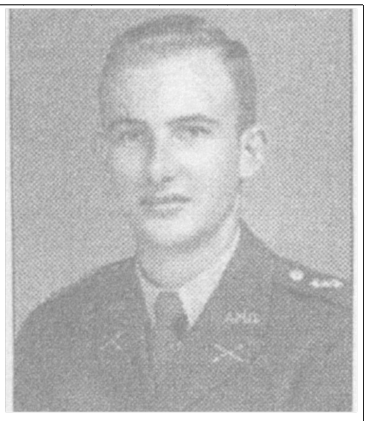
Alan had many hobbies and interests, a lifelong desire to learn and study and was inducted into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. He spent endless hours crafting and building model planes and trains with his grandson Marcus.

Alan is survived by wife; Christa, three children; Constance McGowan, Victoria Bialkowski, and Laura West, three grandchildren; Marcus Bialkowski, Alexandra McGowan and Connor McGowan.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00am on Thursday, July 9, 2015 at St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 5455 Bee Caves Road, Austin, TX. Interment will be at 2:30pm on Thursday, July 9, 2015 at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio, TX.

(Wife Christa bakes Lebkuchen that have been sold at festivals.)

In Memoriam



Eugene Voelkel, Retired Lt. Col. U.S. Army ~

Dec. 16, 1935 - Dec. 2, 2014

Eugene was born on a farm outside of Rutersville, Texas to Rudy and Leon Voelkel. He grew up active in 4H and FFA. He told wonderful stories about growing up in a rural central Texas German community. He spoke German at home as was the custom and retained fluency throughout his life. He went to high school in LaGrange then worked his way through Texas A&M on the university hog farm. It was while he was there that he met Jane Ross who was attending Texas Women's University. They were married on New Year's Eve in 1957.

Eugene graduated in 1957, and was commissioned in the Army. He served two tours in Vietnam. The family moved, always making sure to explore the local histories and cultures. They lived in Germany for two tours. They had three children, Claudette, Robert Scott and Janet. He retired from the Army after 23 years. He returned to his beloved Aggieland, and he worked another 18 years at the physical plant before retiring again.

Eugene was an avid genealogist who introduced the "Texas Voelkels" to the descendants of the Voelkels who stayed in Germany. He arranged several pilgrimages back to Erntebruck with Texas descendants. He led both the Schulze and Voelkel annual family reunions for many years. He was a long-standing member of the Bryan Breakfast Lions Club and took active roles in their annual rodeo. He was a member of the iath man, and Sojourners. Also, he was an active member of the ist Presbyterian Church in Bryan.

His parents Leon and Ruby, and his son, Scott, preceded Eugene in death. He is survived by his wife, Jane; his sister, Emogene Boehm; his daughter and son-in-law, Claudette and Dan Fette; his daughter, Janet Voelkel; his grandsons; Aaron ,Gabriel and wife Molly, and Ben Fette; and great–grandson, Scott Bennett.

A memorial service is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. Friday, December 5, 2014 at First Presbyterian Church in Bryan with Rev Ted C. Foote officiating. Urn committal will be at 11:00 a.m. at Rutersville Cemetery.

President's Notes

Your GTHS Board of Directors have been planning and working a number of issues important to the society.

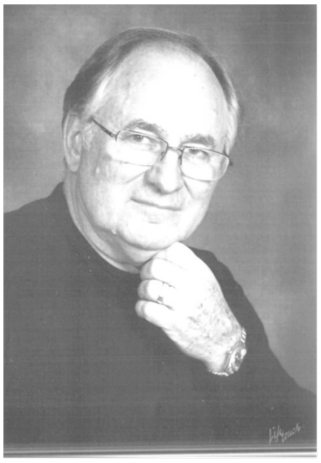
First, the finishing touches are being completed for the 2015 annual meeting which will be in Austin, Texas. Be sure to go to the GTHS website or use the traditional paper registration via snail mail to sign up, the meeting is coming up fast on September 4 and 5, 2015. The theme for this year's meeting is German Cultural Values in Education. We are planning many exciting topics including formal presentations, entertainment, and tours of several local attractions. Some of the tours and events will provide you with access to unique places so be sure to check out our formal program.

We have also finalized an agreement with the developer of the neighboring property (the former single family home to our southwest on 9th street) on which construction has begun of a 10 story hotel. We have in place an agreement which will protect our interests including the large Heritage Oak tree on our property adjacent to the alleyway from the deep excavation for the hotel. If for some reason the tree dies, which we do not expect, GTHS will be paid an agreed to appraised value for the loss of the tree. The developer has also donated some funds to GTHS to help with extra care and watering for the tree and for the construction inconvenience which may result in lost revenue from some of our special events during the construction. Our vehicle access via the alley to the garage side of our building will be somewhat challenging and intermittent during the construction period but should return to an acceptable level once construction is complete.

The negotiations with a German Restaurant owner interested in renting the lower apartment level of the German Free School and garden areas for a small German food service establishment did not come to fruition. Both the rental and remodeling costs for the business owner and the loss of use of those areas by GTHS for GTHS functions where contributing factors.

I look forward to seeing you at this year's convention. In the meantime, don't forget to tell your German friends about GTHS, invite them to join and come to the annual meeting. We all need to actively promote our German Heritage and traditions……

Michael Krause,
President, German Texan Heritage Society



LEAVE YOUR GERMAN MARK

By Rodney C. Koenig (past President of GTHS)

We often think of Teachers who have made a difference in our lives. When I started First Grade at Luck's Country School at age five, my initial language was German until my brother, Weldon and I went to school. We spoke German at home on our farm in southwest Fayette County, near the communities of O'Quinn and Black Jack Springs between La Grange and Flatonia. My first grade school teacher was MISS ELIZA LACKEY, who only spoke English. Other students at Luck's Country School spoke either German, Czech and/or Spanish at home. The end result of this combination was that we all learned to speak English. Miss Eliza, as we all called her, was a wonderful teacher who lived in a house just next to the one-room school and near Trinity Lutheran Church. The School had no electricity, telephones or indoor toilets, but we learned a lot. As a first grader, I listened to lessons not only for my first grade (the entire class being me, Wayne Anders and Claude Baumbach), but also for the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades in the one-room school house. I was able to pick up information and learning for all six grades every day. Miss Eliza had taught for a long time and had been the teacher for a number of my Koenig aunts and uncles. My father, John H. Koenig, was a Trustee on the local Luck's School Board, so I was able to start at age five without any trouble. Luck's closed after my third grade, and I then went to La Grange for grades four through twelve.

At La Grange I had a number of fine teachers, including Beth McGuire, Emil Kern, Mrs. Hoyt, Ernest Clark, Mrs. Martinek, Ed Mayer, Charles Larrimore, Alois Petrusek, Weldon Chambers, Jimmy Dixon, Coach Oswald, Jake Fritsch, Wilbur Johnson, Howard Anderson, Carolyn December, H. C. Giese, and others. However in La Grange the most memorable teacher was my High School English Teacher, MISS ROSA MEINECKE. While I was not aware of a system that was college prep, most of the students who found their way into Miss Meinecke's English classes ended up in college. In my small class, we ended up with at least two physicians, Elva Meiners and Bob Zapalac, one Naval Academy graduate, Bing Kallus, several teachers, Jewell Schulz, Carolyn Tolle, Marian Marburger and others, one Pastor, Donald Zuhn, one CPA, Judy Wilson, one lawyer, me, one NASA engineer, Hank Rotter, and other notable graduates, almost all of whom were in Miss Meinecke's English classes at least part of their high school years.

Miss Rosa Meinecke, of German ethnicity, was born October 31, 1886, a native of Kenney, near Bellville, and a daughter of Adolph and Emma Kaechele Meinecke, and likely granddaughter of August Meinecke. The eldest of four siblings, she had a sister Lulu Meinecke Vance, and two brothers, Walter and Arthur Meinecke. Rosa Meinecke initially taught at Cedar School southwest of La Grange, between O'Quinn and Peeler Road. I now wonder if she knew Miss Eliza, since Luck's School was just down the road from Cedar School. She later attended Southwest Texas State Normal School, San Marcos, Texas, where her sister Lulu Meinecke also attended in 1911. She taught in Runge with her sister, Lulu, and also taught in Cuero, Texas. About 1925 she came to teach in La Grange, Texas and continued to teach there until 1959, when she had a stroke. She died in January 1960, at age 73, after about fifty years of teaching, some thirty-four years being in La Grange. She had never married. She is buried at Oak Knoll Cemetery, Bellville, Texas, in Austin County where she had grown up.

She had lived in the Kaulbach home, diagonally across the street from St. James Episcopal Church on Colorado and Monroe Streets in La Grange, Texas, currently owned by Pinky Wilson. She obtained a Master's Degree in

English from Sam Houston State Teachers College. Miss Meinecke was loved and feared by most of her students, including me. Miss Meinecke was about five foot three inches tall, weighed about 95-100 pounds, had long dark red hair worn in an intricate bun, and was always in complete command of her classes. Her teaching was extraordinary and her students (including me) often received advanced placement credit in College English. She was one of the strictest teachers in La Grange High School, demanded the best a student could offer, and was not above giving a tongue-lashing if she believed one was lazy or not properly prepared for class. Woe be to students that she saw holding hands in the hall, for they would be chastised and questioned! A fellow English teacher, J. G. Banik, said of her: "The students of La Grange High School knew Rosa Meinecke as an excellent teacher and as a strict disciplinarian for the past thirty-four years. She lit the candle of desire for knowledge in the minds of most of her students and gave them knowledge of beauty until it glowed and sparkled in the developing personalities of her students." Another former student of hers and a teacher at La Grange High School, Marjorie L. Williams, recognized the excellence of Miss Meinecke's teaching and established the "Rosa Meinecke Academic Award" which is given to top students in each high school class. ROSA MEINECKE has indeed left her German Mark! A relative of Rosa's, Tom Meinecke, of Sugarland, Texas , wrote a book, "Arms of God From Prussia to Texas to Death in the Brazos River" (c) 2010, regarding the Meinecke family. A nephew, Roy Meinecke, created a charitable Foundation in the Kenney - Bellville area.

How will you leave your German Mark? Will you pass on your knowledge by teaching younger generations? Will you leave portions of your estate to enhance education as Marjorie Williams did when she established the Rosa Meinecke Academic Awards? Will you give some of your IRA, 401(k), 403(b), or life insurance to GTHS or other German charity? Will you write of your family as Tom Meinecke did when he published his book? Take action today to change your will by naming a German charity. If you desire help, please call me at 713-651-5333, email me at Rodney.Koenig@NortonRoseFulbright.com or call any officer or Board member of 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.

Balke/Bathke
Richard Gruetzner, 120 Fox Road, Burnet Texas 78611, e-mail: pzfahrer@aol.com Would like to hear from anyone with suggestions for researching Anna Elizabeth Dorothea Louise Balke born 1810, arrived in 1840 to Galveston with her son, Christian Carl Joachim Balke on board the s/s Weser. In arrive records their name is misspelled Bathke. Mother, Anna Balke seems to have disappeared after arrival in Galveston.

Reply: I checked "Early (1838-1908) Texas Death and Legal Records from Joseph Franklin's Diary and John Griffin's Sexton Records" published by the Galveston Co. Genealogy Society, no Balke/Bathke listing. Church records in Galveston may have mention of Anna's death or even possibly a marriage? Where did son settle? I would check county records between Galveston and where he lived. Does his obit mention anything regarding his Mother? There are some early Texas newspapers that have been indexed and published by a Kelsey (Clayton Library has).

There is a Hattie Balke died July 1, 1930 and a William M. Balke d. Dec. 9, 1933 buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham, Washington County, TX. Any relationship?

"Die Lateinische Farm, "Deutsch-Texanische Monatshefte". II:238 (1896)
Bryden Moon, e-mail: bemoonjr@aol.com, Kendall County Historical Society would like to find either an English or German version of this reference. Supposedly, this contains a reference to Boerne's (Texas) short-lived Tusculum.

Reply: Using www.worldcat.org it appears Harvard University has this periodical. Here is the link: http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/dl/immigration/004935596.

Wern/Wurm-Blumenschein-Lehner-Dipple-Cleppien-Moeffert-Mier-Jacob and Boehle
Kathy Zeller, 1021 Foxwood Lane, Wylie, TX, e-mail: kmzeller@verizon.net would like to hear from anyone researching these surnames, and especially the ones who settled in Ohio.

Nichols/Nichels – Womack adoption of German child in or around Parker County, TX circa 1888-1889.
Lucie Brady, 2711 W. Powell, Apt. H359, Gresham, OR 97030, e-mail: lucieireland@msn.com is seeking birth parents of her grandmother, Flora Ella Nichols (adopted name) who was adopted when her German parents were killed. Flora was adopted by Charles E. and Sarah R. Womack Nichols, who were married in Parker Co., TX February 11, 1876. The Parker County courthouse has burned twice. Any suggestions appreciated.

Reply: Just because a courthouse has burned, does not mean there are not records that may help you that survived. You should check the WPA index for Parker County to see what records were there when this survey was done. The original WPA records for Texas are arranged by county and are in the manuscript collection at the Briscoe Center for American History at UT-Austin. See if the Civil Court Case files of the District Court in Parker County survived; if so, look for adoption as you are before statewide keeping of birth records in Texas (1903). You should also see if any newspaper account of Germans being killed or of any accidents about the time of Flora's adoption. A long shot, look at the index to Probate and guardianship records for any mention of a Flora or German sounding parents about the time you think she was orphaned.

Try www.cyndislist.com for sites and information re adoption. There is a new book, "The Ultimate Search Book: U.S. Adoption, Genealogy & Other Search Secrets", Lori Carangelo. Published by Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc.

(2015), ISBN#978-0-8063-5729-4, $19.95 that may be of help. Try finding in a library near you by using www.worldcat.org.

Helpful Hints

Place Locater: Once you have the name of the place (community, village, town, city) your ancestor came from use this very helpful site at www.familysearch.org to find the location. https://familysearch.org/int-std-ui-research (Example: Lunzenau, Germany in search box gave me location, where the Civil registry is, and the Lutheran parish).

To learn "how" to research Germany, use the WIKI under the Search Tab on www.familysearch.org and type in Germany or any term you want to know more about (example: passenger lists, tax lists, Texas). These sites are free.

Access the International Genealogical Index using: http://www.geneaservice.nl/navigator/

Just enter surname in the search box.

German Script tutorial to be available by end of 2015 https://script.byu.edu/Pages/German/en/intro.aspx

Watch Clergymen's Names

When examining marriage licenses, make careful note of the name of the officiating clergy. This piece of information may provide a connection to the religious institution to which either the bride or the groom belonged. Once you have the name, check city directories and newspapers for references to the person's name, and then connect him or her to a specific religious institution. You may then be able to contact the institution and seek membership information for the bride and/or groom. By George G. Morgan, Internet Genealogy and Your Genealogy Today author

Request for translations:

From: Roslyn Burns [mailto:roslyn_burns@berkeley.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2015 11:58 AM
To: info@germantexans.org; t.siemens@yahoo.com Subject: Handwritten Letters in Sutterlin

My name is Roslyn Burns and I am currently a PhD candidate at the University of California Berkeley. I am in Lubbock, TX right now working on my dissertation project about dialectal variation in Mennonite Low German (Plautdietsch). I had the chance to meet with one of the first Mennonite settlers of this region, Tina Siemens, and she mentioned that she is looking to write a biography including information about the group's migrations (in particular from Chihuahua to Texas). She was able to find some documents about the groups migrations, but the correspondences are all written in Sutterlin and we both have difficulty with the script. I can read some things, but I am very slow and have some trouble distinguishing certain letters.

I talked to Dr. Hans Boas of the Texas German Dialect Project, and he suggested that I contact the German-Texan Heritage center because there are still people at the center who can read the script. Would there be anyone at the center who would be able to assist in reading the letters Tina were to send scans of them?

-Roslyn Burns
University of California, Berkeley
Linguistics; PhD Candidate

Helga's Corner

Damals

Damals, in those days…..everything was better. Well, not really; it was different, *es war anders.* Let's go back to the years after WWII.

Damals, *Kaffee und Butter* could be contraband, *amerikanische Zigaretten* could buy you a warm winter coat or land you in jail. Black market access to a doctor in the British Occupational Forces could supply you with *Penizillin,* which saved my little brother's life after his *Blinddarm,* his appendix, had burst.

Damals, *im Jahre 1492, als Kolumbus um die Welt segeln wollte,* he didn't know about *Amerika.* He thought, *er sei in Indien gelandet*. *Die damaligen Eingeborenen* (natives of those days) *von Amerika nennt man deshalb Indianer.* But *heutzutage* (nowadays) they are also *Amerikaner, wenn sie in den USA leben. Die Eingeborenen von Indien sind Inder.*

Damals, after WW I, there was not enough food available in *Deutschland.* However, there was a good supply of *Steckrüben*, a kind of a big turnip which grows well in the heavy clay soil of *Norddeutschland*. My mother told me, that she had to eat *Steckrüben* for two meals a day. Those were the *Steckrübenjahre.* Can one buy *Steckrüben in einem amerikanischen Supermarkt*?

Damals, als ich ein Kind war, we had few toys, *keinen Fernseher, keinen Rechner* (computer)*, kein Handy* (cell phone). *Wir hatten aber viel Zeit und viel Fantasie,* and therefore we played a lot of tricks *(Streiche)* on people. *Z. B:* Sitting on a bench in front of our house, my brother and I would point at a passing lady's skirt and giggle: "Tante, dein Unterrock guckt hinten raus." (Auntie, your slip is showing in the back.) The lady would then walk with a wabble. We *Kinder* thought we were so wicked and naughty! Our mother, however, watching us from the upstairs kitchen window, enjoyed the spectacle.

Damals, when there were not enough clergymen in Texas to fulfill the need for marrying, baptizing and burials, the "Whiskey Priests" arrived on the scene and sprinkled a touch of Christianity on going-ons.

Bulletin Board

Bragging on one of our board members: Jim Kearney

Ich Bin ein Texan

(from *Texas Monthly* Website re book/article)

A guidebook for nineteenth-century German immigrants reminds us that the past is a different country.
by Michael Ennis, June 2015

As you can see, Jim has been very busy—even though he was not credited by Michael Ennis at ***Texas Monthly***, but this very interesting book came to print by his efforts since Anders Saustrop passed away before finishing it. Jim wrote an introduction and with assistance from Geir Bentzen they explain its importance, chose illustrations and Jim did all the footnotes and contributed an essay and bibliography of all books written in German about Texas immigration in the 19th century. If you want a copy you can place an order with UT Press, but the first printing is already sold out. The good news is that the second printing is already underway.

Submitted by Jim's beautiful frau, Paulina Van Bevel Kearney, Weimer via Liz Hicks, Houston

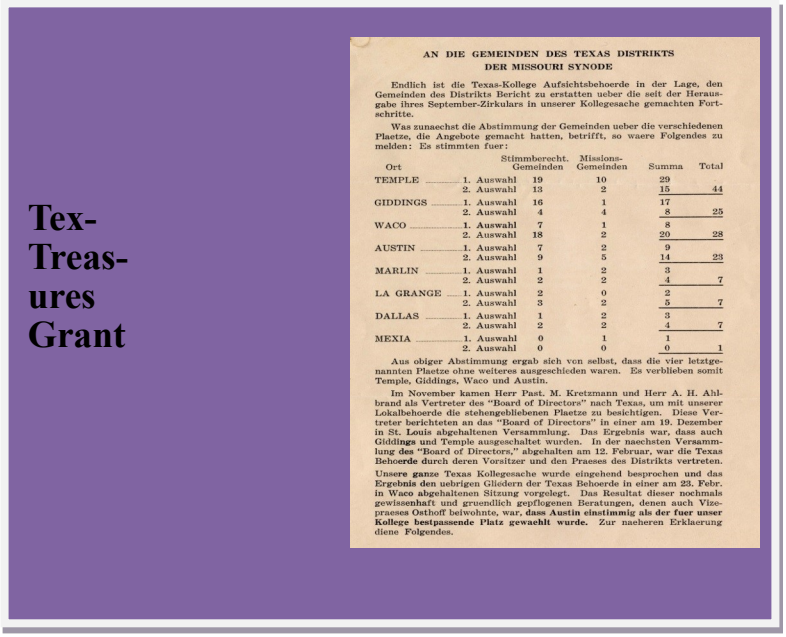
TSGS 2015 Family History Conference

TSGS is excited to announce its 2015 Family History Conference will be Oct 30—Nov 1, 2015 in Austin, Texas, and everyone is invited! This three day event will include wonderful research opportunities, insightful family history sessions for all skill levels, and a full exhibit hall.

Austin's rich historical and genealogical resources promise all TSGS 2015 Conference attendees will have a memorable learning experience allowing them to explore their family history.

Visit the **TSGS website** and keep an eye out in your email inbox in the coming weeks and months for more information about the speakers' call for presentation proposals, sponsorship opportunities, hotel information, keynote speaker announcement, exhibitor opportunities, volunteer opportunities, and registration.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
31 May 2015
CONTACT: Mikail McIntosh-Doty
Director of Library Services
Concordia University Texas
mikail.doty@concordia.edu
512-313-5050



Austin, TX — The Texas State Library & Archives Commission (TSLAC) awarded funding to Concordia University Texas Library under its TexTreasures grant program for its 2015 fiscal year. With the support of TSLAC grant funding, CTX library has made available a trove of institutional treasures, including a number of records describing the experience of German Americans in Texas. The Portal to Texas History website, http://texashistory.unt.edu/search/?q=concordia+university+texas&fq=untl_institution%3ACUA&fq=dc_language%3Ager&t=fulltext, now features 413 digitized letters written in German that describe the founding of what was then a German Lutheran boys' high school. In addition are numerous photographs capturing the student life of this community of German American students in Central Texas.

Concordia German professor Stephanie Ortega observes that the University's correspondence illustrates what was then a strong bilingual community. The language of the letters is "the standard German of educated people in this country of the period," similar to the language used in Europe at this time, Ortega says. A 1927 letter from Rev. J.W. Behnken of Houston to Rev. Reinhard Osthoff, the chair of Concordia's Board of Control, illustrates the ease with which correspondents switch between languages: "I want to say that I do not like to answer your German letter in English but this is a matter of dictating," Behnken writes, "consequently I shall use the English language which you will understand anyhow."

An introduction to Concordia's German archival materials can be found at http://libraryguides.concordia.edu/archivesonline/collectionsubjectsandholdings.

A selected number of letters and documents on the Portal will include English translations. German speakers are encouraged to contribute to Texas' German culture by translating the letters on the Portal to Texas History website to English. Please contact Mikail McIntosh-Doty, Director of Library Services, for information on how to participate in German translations: mikail.doty@concordia.edu.

This project is just one of 70 made possible this year by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act. "TSLAC is proud to see funds from our federal grants put to use to demonstrate the power of local libraries to bring innovative services to communities across the state of Texas," says TSLAC Director and Librarian Mark Smith.

TSLAC awards competitive grants annually, as funding allows. For the 2014 fiscal year, which runs from September 1, 2014, to August 31, 2015, TSLAC has awarded approximately $1.6 million in competitive grants. The TexTreasures grant provides assistance and encouragement to libraries to provide access to their special or unique collections and to make information about those collections available to library users across the state. Funded projects can include digitization, indexing, or cataloging of a collection to make it accessible on the web or other collaborative network.

The Battle of Teutoberg Forest

Submitted by Liz Hicks, Houston

The site of the Battle of Teutoberg Forest was only rediscovered about 25 years ago by a British army officer and amateur archeologist with a metal detector, a man named Tony Clunn. He just died last year, and his obituary gives an extensive account of his findings: http://www.sixth-sense-newspaper.de/news/1885-major-leaves-his-mark

It also give the citation of the book he wrote about the battle and his discovery of the site, of which I have a signed copy that I have read and enjoyed. While this has no particular connection to Texas Germans, the battle site which now also features an archeological museum, is only about 20 miles as the crow flies from Wehdem, where so many Washington County Germans trace their roots. So you might bring that to the attention of people going on "heritage tourism" trips. **Walter Kamphoefner, College Station**

Calling for Papers

Walter Kamphoefner in his new role as President of the Society for German American Studies, announces their annual meeting in San Antonio on April 28-30, 2016. He is looking for papers to be presented at the meeting. Contact information: **Kamphoefner, Walter D <waltkamp@tamu.edu>**

Did any of you ever hear stories from your parents about persecution during WWI?

This question in a mail in _german-texan@rootsweb.com_ (mailto:german-texan@rootsweb.com) came already last year. (I wrote a historical novel which whole story I researched very intensively.-> see website, end of this mail.

Listen at this story: In 1855 mother JUSTINA TUBBE immigrated from Oderberg, Prussia with two of her sons to Nacogdoches, Texas. She was already 60 (!) , her oldest son LUDWIG was 40 and the youngest, AUGUST was then only 14 years old. AUGUST never applied for American citizenship, because in the first years he was too young, then he fought in the Civil War, married a German girl, had lots of positions, owned a watermill, farmed plenty of land --- and was 77 years old when WW I ended. The family saga tells : AUGUST TUBBE and his wife visited with friends and they asked them to just sing an old fashioned German Lullaby to them --- and someone else around hear it and reported him. AUGUST came into jail There he wrote a letter of defending to the authorities explaining his life and - I am sure he overdid a bit - he declared he did not speak any German word any more after arrival. With the help of friends he was released after two weeks. **Gisela Laudi, Germany**

Did any of you ever hear stories from your parents about persecution during WWI?

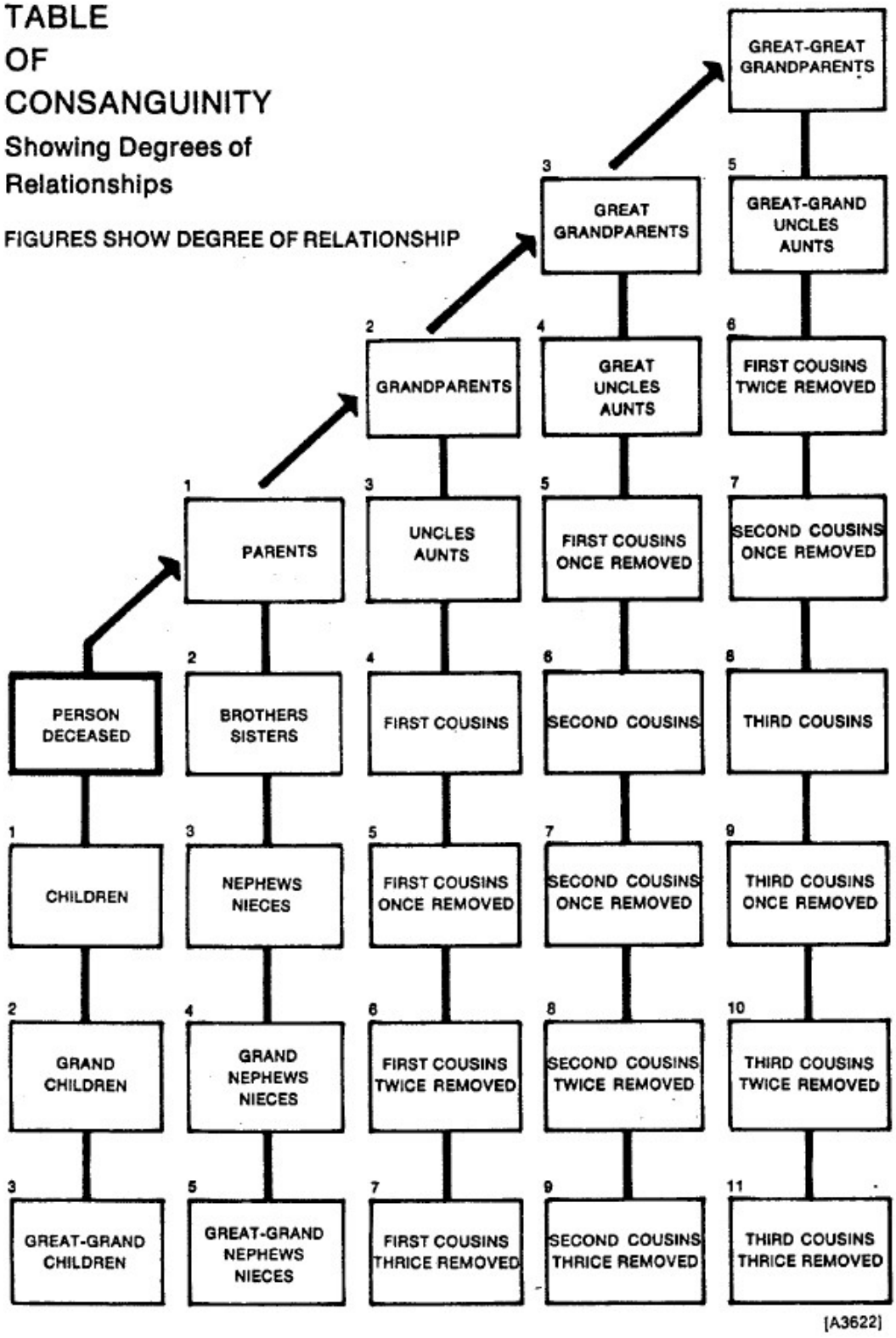
Mamma was born in 1911 in Marion, a German community south of New Braunfels and west of Seguin on FM 78. She always told me that when she was little, Mussie told her she would lock her in the closet if she spoke German when the inspectors came (Mamma was a stubborn kid). She also said she was in love with handsome Kaiser Bill and he had to be her secret love when WWI began. I do know that when the Reveleys moved to Marion in 1918 and my grandfather was the town doctor, the schools taught in German and they soon moved to San Antonio so the kids got an education. The war ended in June 1919. Mamma sometimes 'embellished' her stories. However I just wandered into this website and it discusses these same issues. I never found anything about inspectors, but maybe her mother said that for more emphasis. Who knows?

http://www.authentichistory.com/1914-1920/2-homefront/4-hysteria/ The 1918 Sedition Act made it illegal to speak, print, write, or publish any "disloyal, profane, scurrilous, or abusive language" about the government, the constitution, the military, or the flag. It was illegal to use any such language which could be interpreted as intending to do the aforementioned. It was illegal to urge or incite any behavior which could hinder any function necessary or essential to the war effort, or to willfully advocate, teach, defend, or suggest the doing of any of these acts.

http://sgas.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/YGAS-45-2010.pdf page 134+ In a letter from the Texas Council of Defense in San Antonio to the County Councils of Defense on 11 August 1917, each County Council was asked a series of questions about their status. .....Each council was asked to deal with disloyalty issues within their county and report back to the state council if the issue could not be resolved. Often the most a county council could do was ask disloyal citizens to be more patriotic, unless they broke the law as prescribed in the Sedition Act of 1918. In some cases no actual crime had been committed but the actions of the "disloyal" citizen drew the attention of the council, such as speaking German in public or not portraying sufficient patriotic spirit.

FREE HOME TO BE MOVED:
There's a historical home that belonged to Walter Tips a German immigrant that is owned by Wells Fargo in Austin TX that they are giving away free if the taker can move the home off their property at South Congress and Oltorf. Please spread the word to any interested parties who will rescue the home. I feel Tips hasn't had an easy time due to his being German and a Confederate. He contributed to Austin so its worthy. The house is now uninhabitable due to not being up to code.
Thanks, A Yankee Traveler from Boston (of some German descent-Zahn from New Orleans, LA!)

See p. 164 for historical data on Walter Tips **Submitted by Liz Hicks, Houston**



Courtesy of Rodney Koenig, Houston

Community Events

Austin Genealogical Society (AGS)
Next Meeting: June 23, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
Highland Park Baptist Church
5206 Balcones, Austin, TX 78731
Finally…A Good Life In Texas

Joyce Aldridge and Warren Friedrich will portray life in Austin as it was after the Alamo

Life for Alamo survivor Susanna was very difficult after the Alamo and it wasn't until she met and married Joseph Hannig that her life got appreciably better. She had enough money to live comfortably, she was able to spend quality time with her grandchildren, and she was welcomed by the Austin community as a celebrity. The same was true for Joseph as well. He and his brother left Germany in the early 1850's. At that time, life in Germany was tenuous at best. Opportunities for a successful life were extremely limited, so many Germans left home and family and moved half way around the world to seek freedom and opportunities in Texas. One can conclude both Sue and Joe's lives took a turn for the best and that life was "good."

Susanna Dickinson Hannig and Joseph Wilhelm Hannig played by Joyce Spivey Aldridge and Warren Friedrich.

Warren Friedrich

After 33 years of Government and Military service, being a second generation German and a native Texan, Warren retired with a goal to track his family's history and to continue his research of German immigration into Texas starting in the 1830's. He is currently a member of the German-Texan Heritage Society, Save Austin's Cemeteries, the Susanna Dickinson and Joseph Hannig Museum, and the Bullock Texas State History Museum where he is an active volunteer, bringing Texas history and the history of "Germans in Texas" alive in an exciting way to Texans, visitors to Texas, and future generations of Texans by both storytelling and costumed presentations.

Joyce Spivey Aldridge

"I wasn't born here, but I got here as soon as I could." This popular phrase describes Joyce's attitude towards Texas, her adopted home. A third generation teacher, Joyce's heart lies in educating others through the transformative power of theatre. Having earned her Ph.D. in Theatre from the University of Colorado at Boulder, Joyce's educational philosophy was developed in classrooms, rehearsal spaces, and theaters across the nation where she earned multiple teaching awards and received critical acclaim as an actress and director. Currently Joyce is employed by the Texas State Preservation Board as the Volunteer Services Coordinator for the Bullock Texas State History Museum where visitors enjoy Susanna's story as part of the Living History program.

Submitted by Liz Hicks, Houston

Oktoberfest in Wichita Falls

Due to a large contingent of German pilots annually training at Sheppard Air Force base, who also hold an annual Oktoberfest at the base complete with folk dancers and a German band, Wichita Falls has for some time been a sister city to Fuerstenfeldbruck. A German pilot who trained and retired at Wichita Falls now a commercial pilot, started the Wichita Falls German American club to promote German culture and ties to the German pilots and Fuerstenfeldbruck. With regular meetings and German-related activities, the erection of a Maibaum at Opa's German Restaurant in Wichita Falls last year was a highlight for the club. Space on the Maibaum was sold for signs for advertisements for local businesses and this year the mayor of Wichita Falls, Glen Barham, attended the festivities and officially opened the celebration. The backgrounds of club members vary. The ex-mayor of Wichita Falls who started the sister-city program is a member as is a Midwestern State University professor who studied in Germany. German wives of American ex-pilots and military servicemen who were stationed in Germany belong as does a horse trainer for Waggoner Ranch who studied in Austria.

The celebration of German culture has also been promoted in Wichita Falls through the recent revival by Midwestern State University of its German language program. A German student club was also created which has grown steadily which screens German films twice monthly and holds other cultural events, as well. With collaboration between both clubs on activities, the sister-city relationship, and the annual Oktoberfest, those interested in German language and culture have venues in North Texas to indulge their desire for German culture.

Submitted by Eddie Wolsch, Seymour

140 years later, an island home's revival

By Alyson Ward , Houston Chronicle, July 5, 2015

GALVESTON - For 25 years Chuck Morris built new custom homes, in Sugar Land's First Colony and other communities where nothing was historic or even very old.

He and his wife, Debbie Morris, were weekend Galvestonians for 15 years. "We thought we would buy a house and retire here someday," Chuck says.

That's when they found the Julius and Elizabeth Ruhl House, one of the most notable properties in Galveston's East End Historic District.

The Ruhls - Julius worked for a mercantile firm - moved into their brand-new, two-story home just after they married on July 5,1875, exactly 140 years ago. A block north of the island's famous Bishop's Palace, the home designed by Chicago architect Thomas J. Overmire stayed in the Ruhl family for nearly eight decades. After that it changed hands, was converted to three apartments, then sat empty for a couple of years.

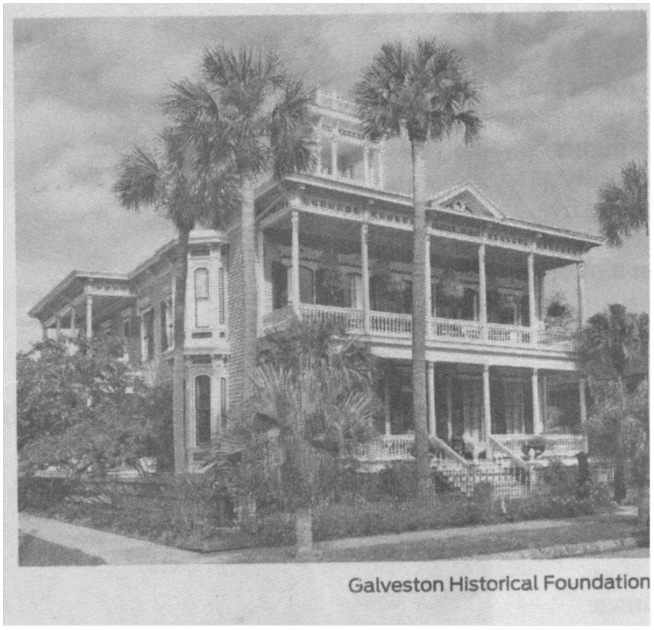
When the Morrises bought the house in 2007, they decided to restore it to a single residence, and spent about five years on a renovation. Because the home's in a historic district, they were bound by regulations to keep its exterior looking just as it did. Inside, they had more freedom - but, Chuck says, "we didn't try to change the feel of the house to a modern house." Instead, they created a 19th-century home with 21st-century amenities.

The house looks grand from the street, with double porches on two sides and a two-story widows walk on the roof. Inside, the first floor has 12-foot ceilings and original hardware on doors.

The four-bedroom house now has about 6,000 square feet, Chuck says, but it originally was about 4,000. The Ruhls added onto the house in 1879, just four years after it was built. More changes came in the early 20th century, after daughter Sophia married and converted the second floor into what amounted to a separate home, with its own kitchen and two parlors.

The Morrises put in new wiring and plumbing, restored the original cast-iron fence and fixed up the plaster walls, crown molding and intricate ceiling medallions.

They put their dining table in one of the his-and-hers parlors, two sitting rooms connected by a set of pocket doors. That leaves the 28-foot-long original dining room open for hosting the sort of tours and fundraising events that come part and parcel with owning a restored 1875 home in Galveston. The original warming kitchen - a narrow space tucked behind the dining room - is now designed for catering, with



Debbie and Chuck Morris spent five years restoring the Julius and Elizabeth Ruhl House, which was built in 1875 in Galveston's East End Historic District.

mahogany cabinets, a wine chiller and underlit onyx countertops.

The home is chock-full of antique fixtures, most of them from the 19th century. The couple collected lighting for years before they moved in. An 1880s gasolier hangs in the breakfast nook; two Baccarat chandeliers shine in the expanded kitchen.

As we travel, we just see things that we're attracted to and figure out where they can go," Debbie says. They make regular trips to salvage stores and auction houses in New Orleans, and they purchase furnishings and materials online from all over the-world.

The kitchen is filled with 21st century tools and technology, - but the overall look is far from sleek and contemporary. The island is topped with antique pine, and and the countertops are marble; appliances are mostly covered by cabinet fronts that have been painted, glazed and antiqued.

Upstairs, the Morrises converted two bedrooms and

a smaller room into a master suite. A freestanding tub

In Chuck and Debbie Morris' 1875 Galveston home, the master bath was once a full-size bedroom. To outfit the space, the couple found heavy wooden antique furniture, topped the pieces with marble, and converted them into two vanities and a dressing table

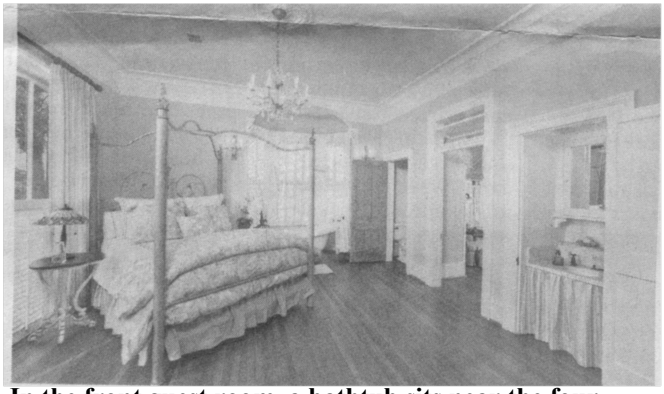
sits in the middle of the master bath, surrounded by heavy antique furniture the couple topped with marble and made into two vanities and a dressing table. (A modern shower is tucked out of sight in the adjoining room.)

When an old photo album surfaced at Bishop's Palace, a photo from the 1890s featured the Ruhl House widow's walk in the background. That photo gave the Morrises the knowledge - and a green light from the historical foundation - to build it back the way it was originally designed.

At first the house was just a weekend project. But after Hurricane Ike, homeowners in Galveston started asking Chuck to repair their homes. Soon, Galveston homes became a full- time job.

"For about three years, we lived out of duffel bags going back and forth," Debbie says. "He had houses he was working on in Houston and houses here. We finally decided one was going to have to go."

The Morrises moved into the Ruhl House three years ago, but they're still tweaking a few rooms and



In the front guest room, a bathtub sits near the four-poster bed. The toilet is tucked away in a closed, while the marble topped vanity is built into an inset along the same wall.

acquiring antiques.

Chuck continues to build new homes, too, but he loves the character of the old ones. "They're a little different from new homes," he says. "They already have personality."

He also likes the sturdiness of the materials found in older homes like his, which has survived 140 years of hurricanes and still has most of its original glass and shutters. "Some of our neighbors told us their grandparents survived the 1900 storm in this house," Debbie says.

Of course, the Morrises know firsthand that this house isn't immune to storm damage. Off the kitchen, Chuck points beyond the side porch to the edge of the lot, where a line of oak trees was taken out by the four feet of standing water that hung around for days after Hurricane Ike. The couple has planted new trees in their place, but "they've got a ways to go," Chuck says.

Debbie looks out the window at the young, skinny trees where the old oaks once stood. 'Well," she says, "the next generation will enjoy them."

The Morrises filled the living room with antique art and furniture, including a 19th century chandelier. The lights along the wall are battery-operated candles to mimic the kerosene lanterns that likely helped light the home before electricity.

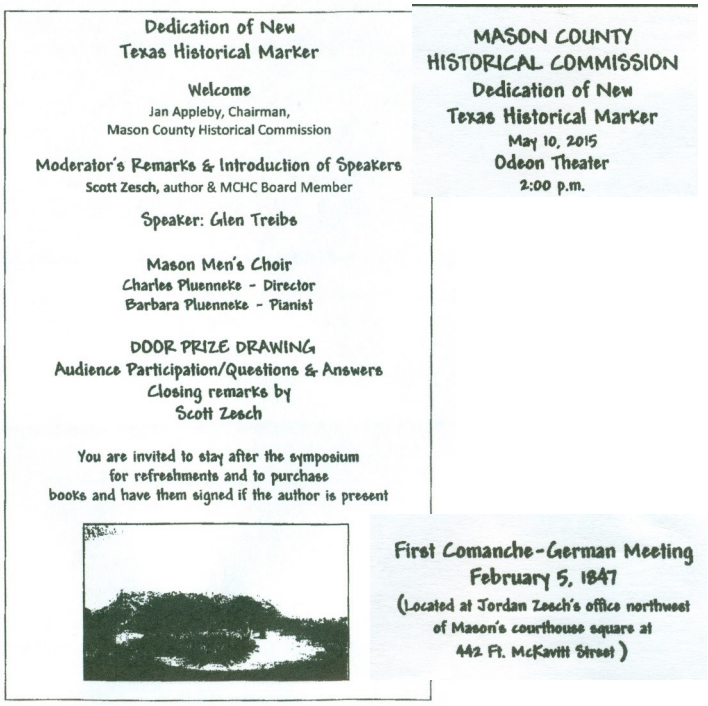
Submitted by Liz Hicks, Houston

RÜHL & STARLEY
(Julius H. Ruhl, William F. Starley), physicians, surgeons, office 2119 Postoffice. Ph. 348.

1908 Galveston City Directory Advertisement

Julius Ruhl, b. 11/25/1878 in Galveston, d. 11/10/1918, son of Julius H. Ruhl from Madgeborg, Germany

Dedication of New Historical Marker—First Comanche-German Meeting



MODERATOR

Scott Zesch is the author of *The Captured: A True Story of Abduction by Indians on the Texas Frontier*, which won the TCU Texas Book Award. It was named in a Dallas Morning News article as one of the top ten Texas books of all time, and *True West Magazine* listed it as one of the books "you absolutely must have in your western history library." Scott and Dan Gelo also annotated Bianca Babb's captivity narrative for *Southwestern Historical Quarterly.*

SPEAKER

Glen Treibs descended from eight German immigrant families that came to Gillespie County beginning in 1846. Glen taught Texas history in Fredericksburg for 30 years and continues to teach the history of Fredericksburg from his home. He currently chairs the Gillespie County Historical Commission, on which he has served for more than two decades. In addition, Glen chaired the Gillespie County Historical Society three times, was a charter member and board member of the German-Texan Society, was a charter member of the Heritage Federation, and sponsors the oldest Texas chapter of Junior Historians. As part of the US Army, he served in Vietnam. He later joined the USAFR and has been part of the military for 27 years, including serving as a Senior Master Sergeant. In addition to his involvement with history groups and the military and other civic groups. Glen is very active as a member of the Endowment Committee at Texas Lutheran University.

HISTORY

In 1846. the year Fredericksburg was founded, present-day Mason County was part of the southern hunting grounds of the Penateka Comanches, or Honey -Eaters. A group of idealistic German noblemen, unaware that the Comanches occupied this territory, purchased rights to settle German immigrants in the land between the Llano and Colorado Rivers. Their general agent, John O. Meusebach, came to realize that settlement was not possible unless be reached some sort of agreement with the Comanches. The Penatekas, in turn, saw the newcomers as a potential threat to the wild game that was essential to their survival.

On January 22,1847, an expedition of about forty German men left Fredericksburg to explore the wilderness north of the Llano River and try to meet with some Comanche leaders. On the morning of February 5, seven or eight Comanches, carrying a white flag, approached the Germans' camp. The group was headed by the Penateb chieftain Ketumusua (a.k.a. Ketumsee, Katemcy; meaning uncertain, possibly "We Don't Grow Anything"). The Penatekas thought that the German's intended to wage war and had sent their women and children to the back territory for safety, but Meusebach assured them that the explorers had come in peace as neighbors and had brought presents. Ketumusua satisfied with this response, invited the Germans to visit his camp on the San Saba River and promised to convene a council there.

In their initial meeting, Ketumusua and Meusebach set a friendly and respectful peace council that would take place the following month. That council marked one of the few instances in American history when immigrant settlers and native people concluded a voluntary agreement for sharing territory. The compact was reaffirmed by both sides on its 150th anniversary in 1997.

Kewnwa later became the principal chief of the southern Comanches and Meusebach was elected to the Texas Senate. Around 1869, Irish immigrant David Doole opened a general merchandise store in the location in the town of Mason where these two judicious and pragmatic leaders had first met two decades earlier. The new marker will be placed at that site.

Two other sites associated with the expedition and peace council of 1847 received state historical markers. one in 1936 (the council site in the Sloan community of San Saba County) and the other in 1961 (the Katemcy community of Mason County. where the Comanches and Germans camped).

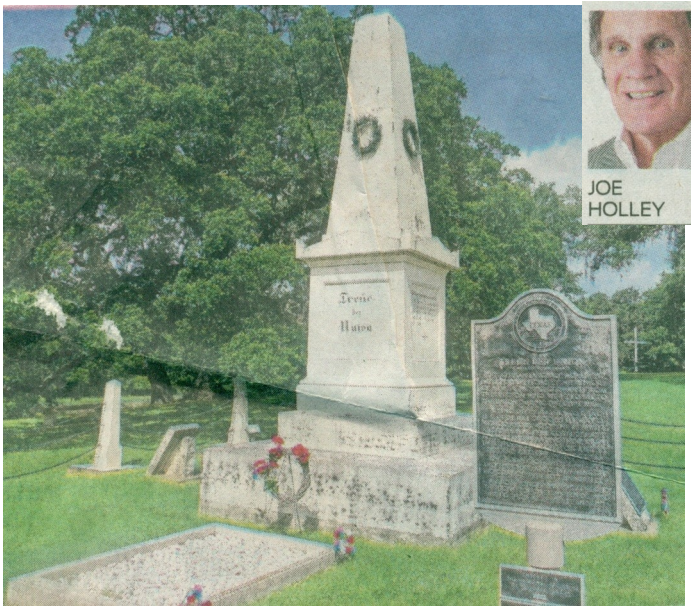
MASON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEMBERS

Jan Appleby, Chairman
Marsaret Brown, Vice Chairman
Mary Carlman, Secretary
Denwood Butler, Treasurer
Jennifer Brinlee
Leighton Brown
Jerry Cartman
John Davis
Charles Eckert
Brent Hinckley
Fran Hoerster
Crockett Keller
Gene Larrimore
Sarah Loeffler
Laura Austin Tallent
Rebekah Geistweidt Whitworth
Scott Zesch

Submitted by Carl Luckenbach, Fredericksburg

Of little Comfort: Nueces River once ran red with Union blood

Joe Holley, Houston Chronicle, July 11, 2015



COMFORT - The Nueces River near a tiny community called Laguna, north of Uvalde, was a happy place last weekend. Kids splashed and waded in the cool, green waters, while their parents relaxed in lawn chairs along live oak-shaded banks.

Although I didn't ask, I'm guessing none of the folks enjoying the July Fourth weekend had any idea that the clear spring waters of the river not far from where they were celebrating ran red with blood on an August morning more than 150 years ago. They're not likely to have known that for three years the bodies of 19 victims of a Civil War encounter lay strewn along the river bank, prey to the vultures and coyotes. The story of the Nueces Massacre - or Battle, depending on your perspective - begins a hundred miles to the northeast, in Comfort, the tidy little German town on the Guadalupe. On a quiet residential street across from a school, a 20-foot-tall limestone obelisk commemorates the men from Comfort and environs who lost their lives on the banks of the Nueces in 1862. The monument, the oldest Civil War memorial in the state, is one of only two in Texas dedicated to the Union. Unlike statues of Jefferson Davis or courthouse memorials to the Confederacy that are up for debate these days, this monument won't be going anywhere, despite the controversy it's engendered off and on through the years in our Confederate sympathizing state.

In 1860, some 30,000 German immigrants were living in Texas, making up 5 percent of the population. Many were small farmers who had fled endless wars and conscription in the Old Country, while others were highly educated Freethinkers who had immigrated to Texas after a failed democratic revolution in Germany in 1848. The Freethinkers helped found Comfort and Sisterdale, Hill Country communities free of organized religion, dedicated to civil liberties and committed to science and education.

"They were ready to set up their form of social democracy, and they weren't well-received," said Anne Stewart, whose ancestors arrived shortly after Comfort was founded.

Resisted conscription

Bookish and idealistic, these German intellectuals dedicated themselves to founding a communitarian utopia. Comfort had no church until 1892 and still has no formal government. Stewart noted that when the town has its Fourth of July and Christmas parades, spectators and participants are expected to clean up after themselves, since there's no municipal trash service. Unlike more traditional Texas towns, like nearby Center Point where Confederate battle flags flutter in the town cemetery on holidays, Comfort has always seen itself as set apart.

Needless to say, Comfort's Freethinkers, like most Texas Germans, abhorred slavery, so when Texas seceded in 1861, much of the Hill Country was in direct conflict with the new government. Hill Country Germans not only felt an abiding loyalty to the federal government but also relied on federal troops to protect them from the Comanches.

In May 1862, the commander of the Confederate military in the state placed all of Texas under martial law and appointed provost marshals to enforce the Confederacy's newly enacted Conscription Act. Gov. Francis R. Lubbock appointed Capt. James Duff to round up reluctant volunteers, particularly Hill Country Germans.

Duff is an interesting character, although most Texans have never heard of him. According to the Handbook of Texas, he was a San Antonio merchant whose wagons were used in 1856 to transport a large meteorite (now known as the Wichita County Iron) to Austin. He had been a sergeant in the U.S. Army before the war but had been court martialed and discharged.

'The hanging band'

In the spring and summer of 1862, Duff and his Partisan Rangers conducted nothing less than a reign of terror in and around Fredericksburg. Duff's method of rounding up German settlers trying to evade conscription included hanging men on the mere suspicion that they harbored Union sentiments and then burning their crops and homes. German residents of Fredericksburg and other Hill Country communities would hide in nearby woods at night in fear of Duff and Die Haengerbaende, "the hanging band." Hundreds fled to Union states, to Mexico or back to Germany.

On the night of Aug. 1, 1862, a group of about 70 men gathered at Turtle Creek west of Kerrville and set in motion plans to leave for Mexico. They would make their way to Monterrey and then over to Veracruz, where they would board a ship bound for Union-occupied New Orleans and join up with the Union Army. They chose Fritz Tegener, a county treasurer who

Founded by Freethinkers in the 1850's, Comfort had no church until1892 and still has no formal government. In 1860, Texas had 30,000 German immigrants -roughly 5 percent of the population - particularly in places like Hill County.

lived in Comfort, as their leader. When word reached Duff that a band of Unionists was headed to Mexico, he immediately organized a 94-man detachment led by Lt. C.D. McRae, along with an assortment of regular Confederate cavalry. McRae's party caught up with the Unionists on the night of August 9, as they camped among the oaks and cedars on the banks of the Nueces. They were 50 miles from the Rio Grande.

As Tegener and his men slept, the Confederates attacked. The Unionists, armed with hunting rifles and six-shooters, managed to repel the first charge, killing two Confederates, but a second charge broke through. The Confederates killed 19 of Tegener's men. Nine were wounded and taken prisoner. The rest fled toward the Rio Grande or tried to make it back home.

Ordered executions?

As the sun rose, McRae's men were caring for the Union wounded, until one of McRae's lieutenants ordered them moved into a nearby cedar thicket, Confederates shot all nine through the back of the head.

It's unknown to this day whether McRae ordered the executions or perhaps lost control of his unit. Stewart, a retired librarian and amateur historian, maintains that a doctor from nearby Fort Clark advised McRae that he could do nothing more for them and they ought to be shot. Two months later McRae tracked down remnants of Tegener's party on the Rio Grande and killed eight more.

On the Nueces, the Confederates buried their dead in a long trench but left the bodies of the Unionists on the river bank. On the third anniversary of the battle, a few families made their way to the river and brought home the bones of their loved ones. They buried them, along with those who had been hanged, under the obelisk in Comfort beneath a 36-star flag, the only flag in Texas that to this day flies permanently at half-staff. Along with their names is the inscription in German, "Treue der Union," "Loyal to the Union."

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

Decaying migrant records rescued

Galveston County digitizes papers 100 years old,

By Harvey Rice

GALVESTON - Annie Novit, her 9-month-old baby in her arms, walked down a gangway in 1909 and set foot on U.S. soil for the first time at Galveston's Pelican Island.

She had left her home in Russia where Jews like herself had been hunted in hundreds of villages and towns, their bodies stacked in the streets.

Annie entered a strange new country where the Ku Klux Klan was surging in popularity by warning of the danger to America from an influx of Jews, swarthy southern Europeans and blacks. She was one of hundreds of thousands of immigrants who entered the United States through Galveston or made their way to Texas from other ports.

The thickly bound books of yellowed, lined paper that document their entry and quest for citizenship lay rotting for more than a century on shelves at the Galveston County District Clerk's Office. Only recently have those records been rescued from decay by being digitized and made available online at the district clerk's website. Combined with the ship manifests put online by the Galveston Historical Foundation, they offer a window into the past that in some ways mirrors the Houston region's continuing immigration story.

Galveston County District Clerk John Kinard turned his attention to the decaying records soon after his election in 2012.

"When I came in I noticed we just had them in a room and every day they sat there they were deteriorating more and more," Kinard said.

'The American dream'

With $30,000 appropriated by commissioners court and the use of special equipment in the County Clerk's Office, district clerk employees began digitizing records referencing about 200,000 names from 61 countries. The process of preserving immigration records from the 1860s to late 1950s, before the federal government took over all immigration proceedings, was finally completed and put online in February.

Search records

Search Galveston County' Immigration records at gcdcimmigrationrecords.galvestoncountytx.gov

The online records show that Adolfo and Marianna Giusti, the grandparents of Galveston County Commissioner Joe Giusti, arrived in Boston from Lucca, Italy in 1921.

"My grandmother always said it was a rough journey because of the seas," Giusti said. "Like everybody else, they wanted the American dream." They made their way to Galveston, where they opened a grocery and became part of one of the most diverse communities in Texas at the time.

"Galveston always has been a melting pot, being a port city," Giusti said.

The district clerk's records complemented a database put online in 2009 by the Galveston Historical Foundation of manifests from immigrant ships arriving in Galveston. "It's a really awesome resource coupled with what the county has," says W. Dwayne Jones, Historic Foundation executive director.

The manifests, which were turned over to U. S. officials on arrival, contain 130,000 names of immigrants arriving from 1846-1948. The Great 1900 Storm that killed at least 6,000 people and erased some parts of Galveston destroyed many immigrant records, but Kinard said there is no way to know how many were lost.

Some of those lost documents may have had information about the grandmother of Maurer Patton, executive director of Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House. Patton has been unable to find documents for her grandmother, Artemesia Marchesi, and suspects they were taken by the storm.

Galveston County Commissioner Joe Giusti poses with portraits of his parents and grandparents, the latter of whom - Adolfo and Marianna Giusti - made their way to Galveston after arriving in Boston from Lucca, Italy, in 1921.

A bit of her mother's story remains in a history of Galveston's First Presbyterian Church, which records how the Presbyterians allowed Artemesia Marchesi to conduct service in Italian for Italian Protestants. In Italy, Artemesia saw soldiers barge into her home and arrest her mother for placing Bible pages in loaves of bread for clandestine distribution, a crime in Catholic Italy in the 19th century, according to the Presbyterian history, "Lively Stones."

Migrant's life story

The online manifest records show that Annie Novit was 23 years old when as she presented herself to a ship's clerk, who wrote her name down phonetically as Chana Astanowizki, although the correct spelling was Astonovitisky. (They shortened it to Novit.)

She and her daughter Fannie, were among 8 Jewish immigrants debarking from the Cassel, which had left the German port of Breman 20 days earlier Galveston Historical Foundation records show.

Greeting her was her husband, Wolf, who had left two

years previously to avoid being forced into the Russian Army, usually a death warrant for Jews. Sixty years later, Annie Novit sat down win her children and recorder the details of her life. Her granddaughter, Jan Hart of Temple, made a transcription available to the Houston Chronicle.

The Astonovitiskys had come as part of the Galveston Movement, an effort by the Jewish Immigrants' Information Bureau to divert Jews fleeing European pogroms, as lynching riots were called, away from cities on the Atlantic Coast and into the American heartland.

The Bureau feared that an increasing concentration of Jewish immigrants in seaboard cities would worsen rising anti-Semitism and nativist sentiments and lead to restrictions on Jewish immigration.

Bureau officials chose Galveston as the port of entry for the movement because - it was thought to be too small to attract immigrants, who were hustled off to a city in the interior as quickly as possible. More than 10,000 Jews immigrated through the port from 1907 to 1914.

The Novits first shared a house with a family in Fort Worth, where Wolf started selling bananas, apples and vegetables from a cart.

"The first time he saw a banana he didn't know he was supposed to peel it," Annie remembered. "He thought it tasted awful!" But he sold enough bananas to buy a wagon and a team that he loaded with more bananas and peddled in smaller towns.

Reluctant discussion

They moved from town to town, eventually opening a store in Dublin selling groceries and produce. The store prospered, enabling them to build a home with hot and cold running water and an indoor bathroom. Hart said her grandmother never talked about the rampant discrimination. "My grandmother just never mentioned it," she said. Immigrants typically are reluctant to discuss discrimination, said Suzanne Seriff, a lecturer at the University of Texas at Austin who has done a number of oral histories of immigrants. The difficulties emerge only with detailed questioning, she said.

"When 1 asked all of them, 'Did your family face discrimination?' they would say things like, 'Oh no, this was the land of opportunity. We made it big.'")

Children's book

But the discrimination is well documented. Several Texas cities, including Cleburne, stopped allowing immigrants from the Galveston Movement to settle, according to the Texas State Historical Association.

About the time Wolf Novit was opening his store in Dublin, the 1923 Texas State Fair declared Ku Klux Klan Day, allowing anyone wearing a Klan hood admitted free of charge. Imperial Wizard Hiram Evans spoke at the fair, denouncing immigration as "America's biggest 'problem."

Although the Novits were the first Jewish family in Dublin, they were warmly welcomed, Annie said. "Our American neighbors didn't look down on us as foreigners," she said. "They were wonderful!"

Annie Novit recorded her memories in 1968, much of it focusing on the five children she raised. Five years after her grandmother's death in 1981, Hart heard the tapes for the first time.

"I felt as if she had returned to speak with me," she wrote. The tapes inspired her to author the children's book "Annie the Immigrant."

For families whose immigrant ancestors did not record their experiences, the online records maintained by the district clerk and the Historical Foundation provide an opportunity to look into the past.

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twitter.com/harveyricechron

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

People

William Eberling - German Texan

I found something interesting while researching someone buried here at the State Cemetery and it led me down a rabbit hole in history that I knew little to nothing about, a not uncommon thing. Again it is one of our near-anonymous Confederate veterans. His name is William Martin David Eberling and is buried in Section F, or Confederate Field One, right in the middle of the Cemetery. He was a German national who moved to Texas with his parents Carl and Katherine Eberling. They were no different than thousands of other German immigrants. According to the Handbook of Texas, in 1990 about three-million Texans considered themselves at least part German.

What is interesting about the Eberlings is they were part of a society called the Adelsverein, a group of Germans dedicated to colonizing Texas. The full name of the group was Verein zum Schutze deutscher Einwanderer in Texas or the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas. The group was organized by German nobility for a variety of reasons, overcrowding in the German heartland for one, projection of German power and interests abroad is another. Calling them "German" is difficult though. Germany as a nation, as one country, didn't emerge until 1871, but that didn't keep a sense of nationalism from "German" politics. The area we know as Germany today was a lot of separate countries, duchies, electorships and fiefdoms all sharing a somewhat common heritage. Prussia was the largest of these entities and formed the mass of what is known as Germany today.

Back to our group of Germans; the Eberlings. William and his parents moved to Texas from the Duchy of Nassau, the heart of the Adelsverein movement. The Adelsverein was established in the Duke of Nassau's castle in 1842. The Eberlings left Germany from the port of Bremen and landed at Galveston, and like hundreds of other Germans at the time, they moved to New Braunfels. New Braunfels was named for Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels (pictured below), the head of the Adelsverein in Texas. The Eberlings made their own way from there, finding Cibolo more to their liking, a town halfway between San Antonio and New Braunfels. The Adelsverein went bankrupt by 1853 and was succeeded by another group, but the efforts to found a 'New Germany' in Texas was not to be.

The German immigrants of the 1800s first got swept up in local politics, forgetting their Dukes and Electors and societies from across the water, and becoming Texans and then getting swept up in the American dream and the American nightmare of the Civil War. William Eberling's parents died in 1846 and he had to fend for himself. Family lore says that he sold a tract of land given to him by the Adelsverein in 1855 and moved to Matamoros, Mexico. Eberling moved back to Texas by 1862 and joined the Confederacy as part of Company F, 36th Texas Cavalry. The unit served in various places, including in the Red River Campaign. Eberling served along with another German immigrant buried at the Cemetery named August Buchel, a hero of the Mexican War.

William Eberling was a lot of things before he was buried at the Texas State Cemetery; father of eleven, husband, farmer, butcher and inmate at the Confederate Men's Home in Austin. He applied for admission to the home in 1901 and died in 1911 as a Texan. The Duchy of Nassau, where the Eberlings had moved from, ceased to exist in 1866 when it was absorbed by Prussia.

You do not have to look far or scratch very far below the surface to find the German influence in Texas. New Braunfels and Fredericksburg are proud of their German heritage and there are still plenty of Texans who wear their German heritage on their sleeve proudly. However much they are proud of their German heritage, they always call themselves Texans first. -Will Erwin

Submitted by Connie Krause, New Braunfels

Further sleuthing from Liz Hicks

Copy of card in index to Texas Colonists in Records relating to Colonization on film at Clayton/TX archives

ancestry Texas, Index Card Collections, 1800-1900

COLONIST: Eberling, Martin
FISHER-MILLER COLONY
SHIP: Brig Dethardt
MASTER: Ludering
DATE: January 12, 1846
DEPARTED FROM GERMANY
OCCUPATION: Farmer
AGE: 17
REMARKS: Single

PAGE: 9A-2-1

Calendar of Colonization Records
Box, Folder, Title List

List of Persons Immigrating to Texas as Colonists Under W. S. Peters Contract: 1844–45

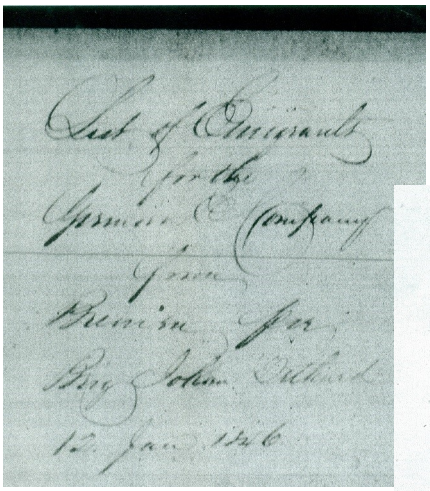
Box 2-9/26			
Folder 1	INV 9262	List–Peters Colony immigrants	08–11–1845
Folder 2	INV 9263	List–Peters Colony immigrants	12–03–1844
Folder 3	INV 9264	Affidavits *re* Peters colony	04–25–1846
Folder 4	INV 9265	443 settlers–Peters colony	08–11–1845

List of Persons Immigrating to Texas as Colonists Under Henri Castro Contract: 1842–46

Box 2-9/26			
Folder 5	INV 9266	*Probus* ship list–Castro	12–06–1844
Folder 6	INV 9267	*Novégien* ship list–Castro	12–19–1844
Folder 7	INV 9268	List of colonists–Castro	09–17–1845
Oversize Box 23			
Folder 6	INV 9297	Castro colonists–75 families	[ ]
Folder 6	INV 9298	Castro colonists–2nd copy	[ ]

List of Persons Immigrating to Texas as Colonists Under Fisher/Miller Contracts: 1844–46.

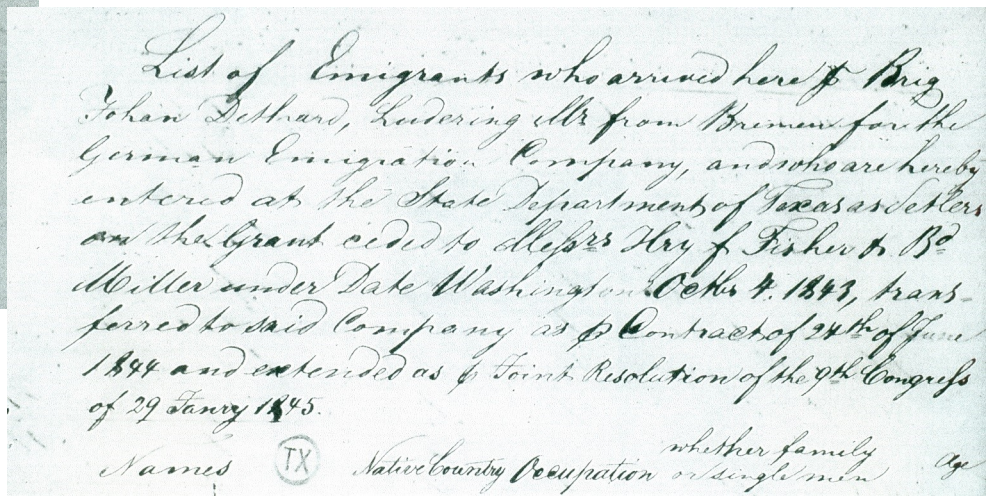
Box 2-9/26			
Folder 8	INV 9269	List–German immigrants [*Ferdinand*]	06–24–1845
Folder 9	INV 9270	List–German immigrants [*Dethard*]	06–24–1845
Folder 10	INV 9271	List–German immigrants [*Armenius*]	10–22–1845
Folder 11	INV 9272	List–German immigrants [*Herschel*]	10–22–1845
Folder 12	INV 9273	List–German immigrants [*Hercules*]	11–15–1845
Folder 13	INV 9274	List–German immigrants [*Strabo*]	11–20–1845
Folder 14	INV 9275	List–German immigrants [St Rep 7 NY]	11–20–1845
Folder 15	INV 9276	List–German immigrants [*Margarethe*]	12–01–1845
Folder 16	INV 9277	List–German immigrants [*Neptune*]	12–03–1845
Folder 17	INV 9278	List–German immigrants [*Washington*]	12–05–1845
Folder 18	INV 9279	List–German immigrants [*Garonne*]	12–06–1845
Folder 19	INV 9280	List–German immigrants [*Everhard*]	12–18–1845
Folder 20	INV 9281	List–German immigrants [*Sarah Ann*]	12–30–1845
Folder 21	INV 9282	List–German immigrants [*Bohlens*]	12–30–1845
Folder 22	INV 9283	List–German immigrants [*Geo Delius*]	12–30–1845
Folder 23	INV 9284	List–German immigrants [*Auguste/Heline*]	12–31–1845
Folder 24	INV 9285	List–German immigrants [*Riga*]	01–08–1846
Folder 25	INV 9286	List–German immigrants [*Gesina*]	01–10–1846
Folder 26	INV 9287	List–German immigrants [*J. Dethard*]	01–12–1846



List of Emigrants for the German Emigration Company from Bremen

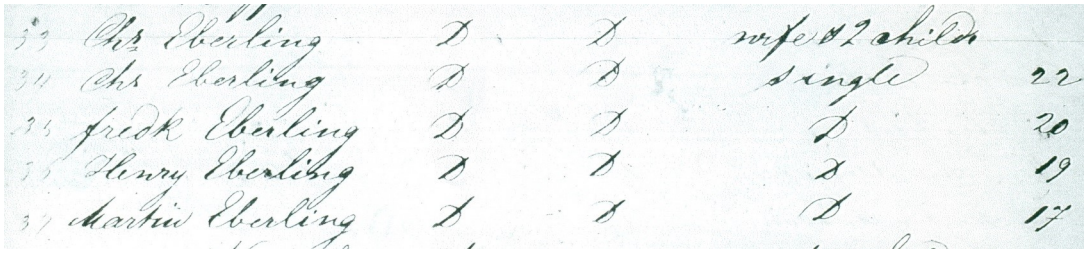
Brig Johan Dethard

12 Jan 1846



List of Emigrants who arrived here p Brig Johan Dethard, Ludering Mr from Bremen for the German Emigration Company, and who are hereby entered at the State Department of Texas as Settlers on the Grant ceded to Messrs Hey & Fisher & Mc Miller under Date Washington Octbr 4. 1843, transferred to said Company as p Contract of 24th of June 1844 and extended as p Joint Resolution of the 9th Congress of 29 Janry 1845.

Names (TX) Native Country Occupation whether family or single men Age



33	Chs Eberling	D	D	wife & 2 childn	
34	Mrs Eberling	D	D	single	22
35	Fredk Eberling	D	D	D	20
36	Henry Eberling	D	D	D	19
37	Martin Eberling	D	D	D	17

Colonization Contract for land in the Fisher Miller Land Grant

160 Acres—1854

CERTIFICATE No. 25

The State of Texas,
COUNTY of Comal

BE IT KNOWN by these presents that I,
JOHN O. MEUSEBACH, Commissioner,
duly appointed and qualified under the Provisions of an Act of the Legislature, entitled "An act supplemental to an act to secure to the GERMAN EMIGRATION COMPANY, and their COLONISTS, the land to which they are entitled, and to adjust the liabilities of said Company," approved 3d of February, A. D. 1854, by virtue of the authority in me vested, *Do hereby Certify* that Wilhelm Eberling appeared before me, and upon oath declared that before the first day of Sept. 1847 he was introduced into TEXAS by virtue of the COLONIZATION CONTRACT of H. F. FISHER & B. MILLER with the PRESIDENT of the late REPUBLIC OF TEXAS, and that he was a single man over the age of seventeen years when so introduced, and proved the same facts by two disinterested witnesses, to-wit: Fr. Bettes & Fr. Eberling.

Be it therefore known that he the said Wilhelm Eberling is entitled to One hundred and Twenty acres of land, for which this is his CERTIFICATE, to be located on any of the unappropriated territory WITHIN THE LIMITS OF FISHER AND MILLER'S COLONY, according to the act above recited, and the act to which it is a supplement.

In Witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, at New Braunfels this the eleventh day of March A. D. 185 4

John O. Meusebach, Commissioner,
for issuing Certificates in Fisher and Miller's Colony.

riation, 9° 45' E.

THE STATE OF TEXAS, District of Bexar. } SURVEY No. 594.

Field Notes of a survey of 160 acres of land made for Wilhelm Eberling, it being part of the land to which he is entitled by virtue of Certificate No. 25 issued to him by John O. Meusebach Commissioner of Fisher & Miller Colony March 11th 1854 in Bexar County, situated on the waters of Llanoriver

Said survey is No. 594, in Fisher & Miller's Colony, about 39½ miles N. 77° W. of Fort Mason

Beginning at a stake and mound set on the North boundary line of No 212, 82 varas West of its Northeast corner, for the Southwest corner of this survey;
Thence East 672 varas to a stake and mound set for the S West corner of No 595 for the S East corner of this Survey, from which:
a live oak 6 in. dia bears South 71½° E 20 varas 660 varas
Thence North with West boundary line of No 595 to a stake in Spring Branch 1344 varas to a stake set for the N. East corner of this Survey from which:
a cedar 10 in dia bears S 21° W } 41 varas
a cedar 11 in dia bears S 16½° W } 41 varas
Thence West 672 varas to a stake set for the N West corner from which:
S. 75½ W 65 varas
N 37½ W. 58 7/10 varas
Branch and 1344

160 acres—1854

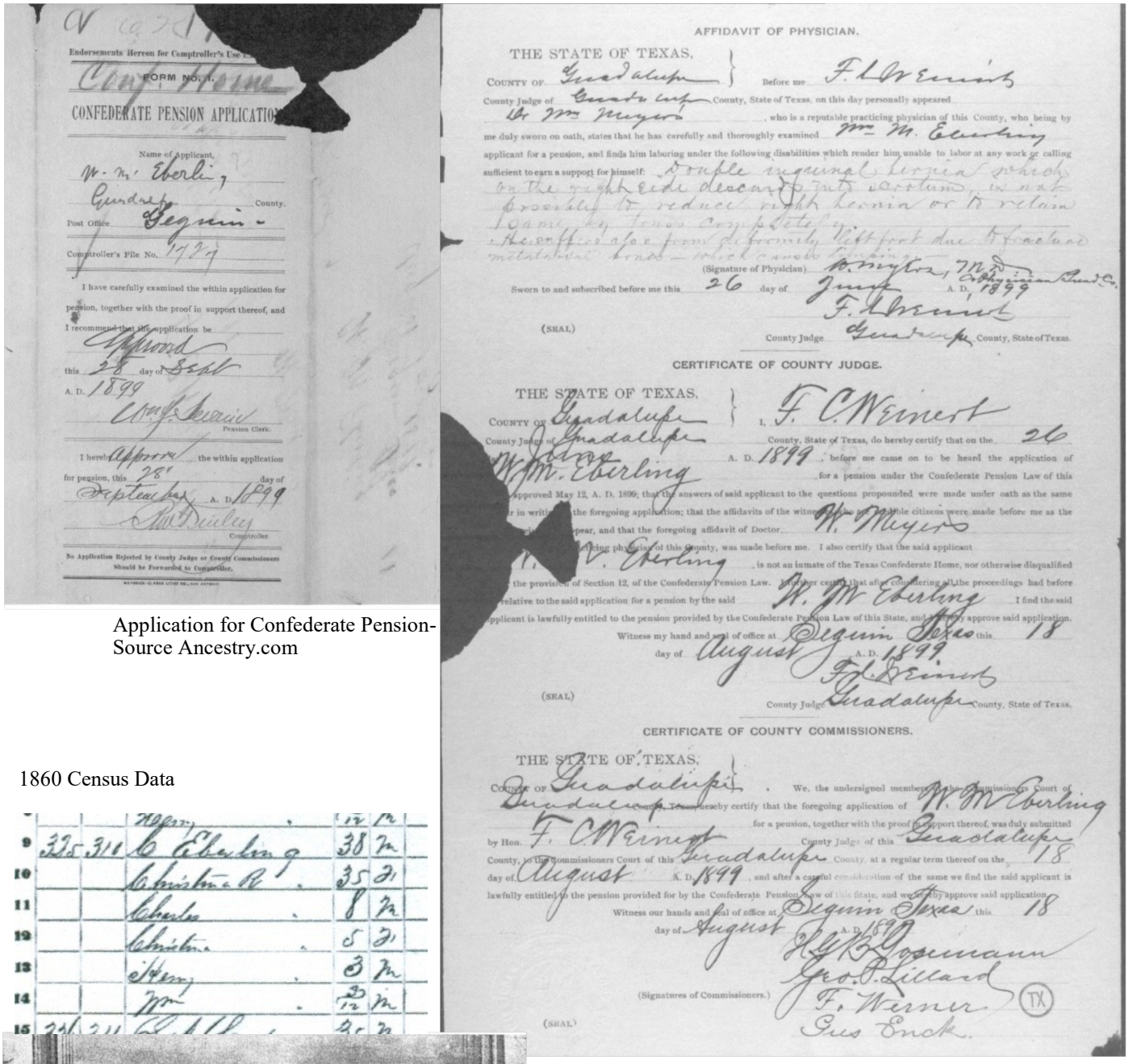
THE STATE OF TEXAS, District of Bexar. } SURVEY No. 593.

Field Notes of a survey of 160 acres of land made for Wilhelm Eberling, it being part of the land to which he is entitled by virtue of Certificate No. 25 issued to him by John O. Meusebach Commissioner of Fisher & Miller Colony March 11th 1854 in Bexar County, situated on the waters of Llanoriver

CALE—4000 varas to the inch.—Variation, 9° 45' E.

Said survey is No. 593, in Fisher & Miller's Colony, about 40½ Miles N. 78° W. of Fort Mason.

Beginning at a Stake set for the N. West corner of No 213, for the Southwest corner of this survey, from which:
a Elm 6 in dia bears S 88½ E 49 varas } marked H
a Elm 10 in dia bears S 68½ E 54 3/10 varas }
Thence East 395 varas to the Forks of two spring Branches and 1040 varas to a Stake set on the North boundary line of No 212, from which the Southeast corner of this survey, from which:
a Elm 8 in dia bears N 10° W 14½ vrs
a cedar 14 dia bears S 4° E 17 vrs.
Thence North 868 varas to a stake and mound set for the N Corner
Thence West crs. a Spring Branch 1040 varas to a stake and mound
Thence West for the N West corner of this survey.
Thence South 868



Endorsements Hereon for Comptroller's Use

Conf. Home

FORM NO. 1.

CONFEDERATE PENSION APPLICATION

Name of Applicant, W. M. Eberling

Guadalupe County.

Post Office Seguin

Comptroller's File No. 1729

I have carefully examined the within application for pension, together with the proof in support thereof, and I recommend that the application be Approved this 28 day of Sept A. D. 1899

Wm. J. Swain Pension Clerk.

I hereby Approve the within application for pension, this 28 day of September A. D. 1899

Rob Bentley Comptroller

No Application Rejected by County Judge or County Commissioners Should be Forwarded to Comptroller.

AFFIDAVIT OF PHYSICIAN.

THE STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF Guadalupe } Before me F. C. Weinert County Judge of Guadalupe County, State of Texas, on this day personally appeared Dr. Wm. Meyer, who is a reputable practicing physician of this County, who being by me duly sworn on oath, states that he has carefully and thoroughly examined Wm. M. Eberling applicant for a pension, and finds him laboring under the following disabilities which render him unable to labor at any work or calling sufficient to earn a support for himself: Double inguinal hernia which on the right side descends into scrotum, is not possibly to reduce right hernia or to retain same by truss completely. Has suffered also from deformity left foot due to fracture metatarsal bones — which causes him pain.

(Signature of Physician) W. Meyer, M.D. Allopathic Physician and Surgeon

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 26 day of June A. D. 1899

F. C. Weinert

(SEAL) County Judge Guadalupe County, State of Texas.

CERTIFICATE OF COUNTY JUDGE.

THE STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF Guadalupe } I, F. C. Weinert County Judge of Guadalupe County, State of Texas, do hereby certify that on the 26 day of June A. D. 1899, before me came on to be heard the application of W. M. Eberling for a pension under the Confederate Pension Law of this State approved May 12, A. D. 1899; that the answers of said applicant to the questions propounded were made under oath as the same appear in writing to the foregoing application; that the affidavits of the witnesses of credible citizens were made before me as the law directs to appear, and that the foregoing affidavit of Doctor W. Meyer practicing physician of this County, was made before me. I also certify that the said applicant W. M. Eberling, is not an inmate of the Texas Confederate Home, nor otherwise disqualified by the provision of Section 12, of the Confederate Pension Law. I further certify that after considering all the proceedings had before me relative to the said application for a pension by the said W. M. Eberling I find the said applicant is lawfully entitled to the pension provided by the Confederate Pension Law of this State, and hereby approve said application.

Witness my hand and seal of office at Seguin Texas this 18 day of August A. D. 1899

F. C. Weinert

(SEAL) County Judge Guadalupe County, State of Texas.

CERTIFICATE OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

THE STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF Guadalupe. We, the undersigned members of the Commissioners Court of Guadalupe County, Texas, hereby certify that the foregoing application of W. M. Eberling for a pension, together with the proof in support thereof, was duly submitted by Hon. F. C. Weinert County Judge of this Guadalupe County, to the Commissioners Court of this Guadalupe County, at a regular term thereof on the 2 day of August A. D. 1899, and after a careful consideration of the same we find the said applicant is lawfully entitled to the pension provided for by the Confederate Pension Law of this State, and we hereby approve said application.

Witness our hands and seal of office at Seguin Texas this 18 day of August A. D. 1899

H. G. Bosemann

Geo. P. Lillard

F. Werner

Gus Enck.

(Signatures of Commissioners.)

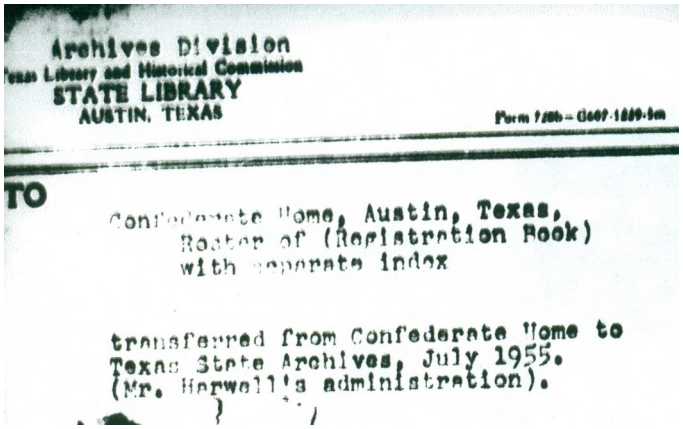
(SEAL) TX

Application for Confederate Pension- Source Ancestry.com

1860 Census Data

9	335	316	C. Eberling	38	M
10			Christine R.	35	F
11			Charles	8	M
12			Christine	5	F
13			Henry	3	M
14			Wm	3/12	M
15	336	317	[illegible]	[illegible]	M

Confederate Men's Home in Austin



Archives Division
Texas Library and Historical Commission
STATE LIBRARY
AUSTIN, TEXAS

Form 7-55b—6607-1859-5m

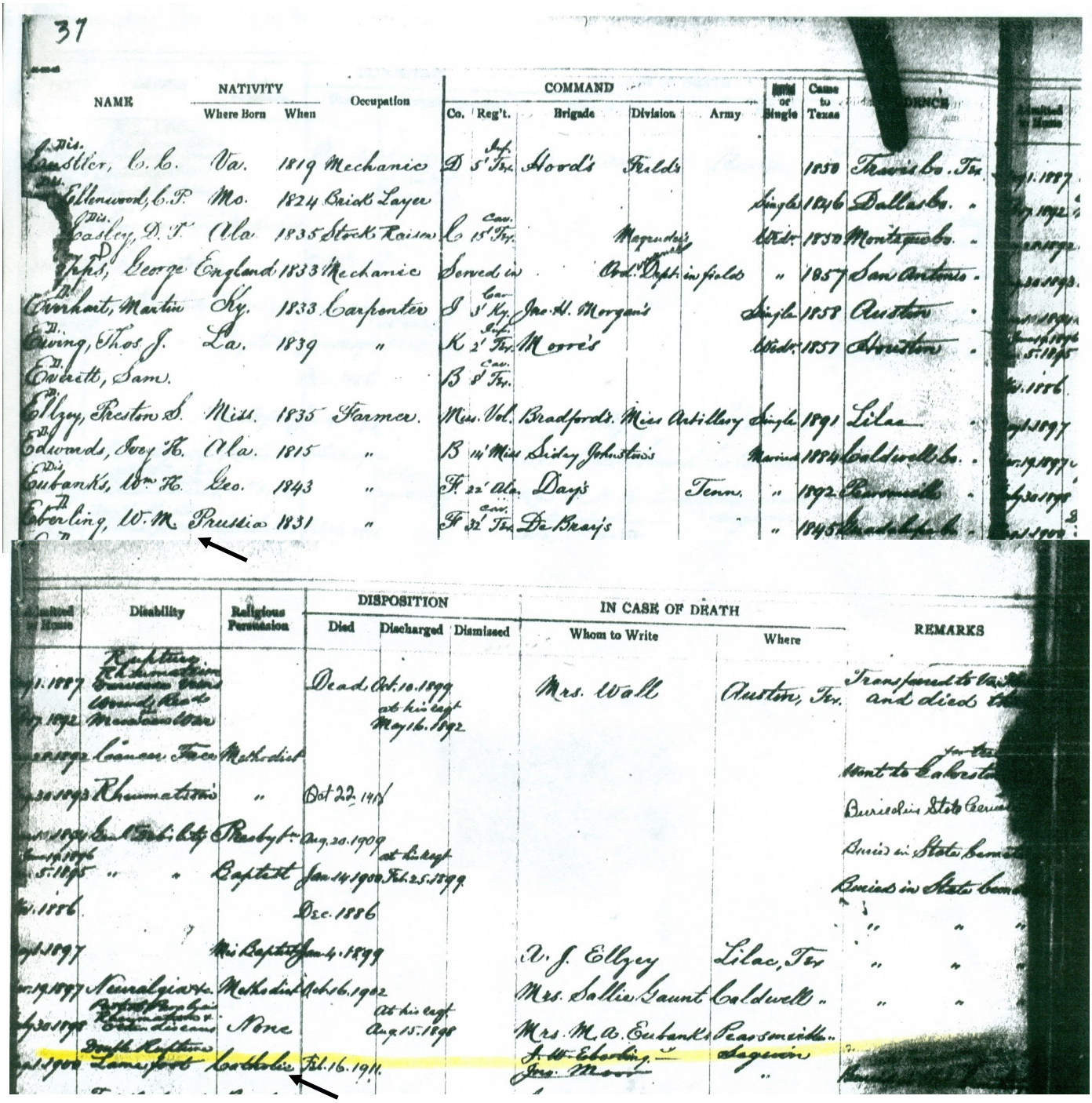
TO

Confederate Home, Austin, Texas,
Roster of (Registration Book)
with separate index

transferred from Confederate Home to
Texas State Archives, July 1955.
(Mr. Harwell's administration).

Ended his life at the Confederate Home in Austin, Texas, Feb. 16, 1911.

GREAT SLEUTHING by LIZ!!! - Records relating to Colonization, 1826-73 2004 Microfilm Edition available at Clayton Library Friends.

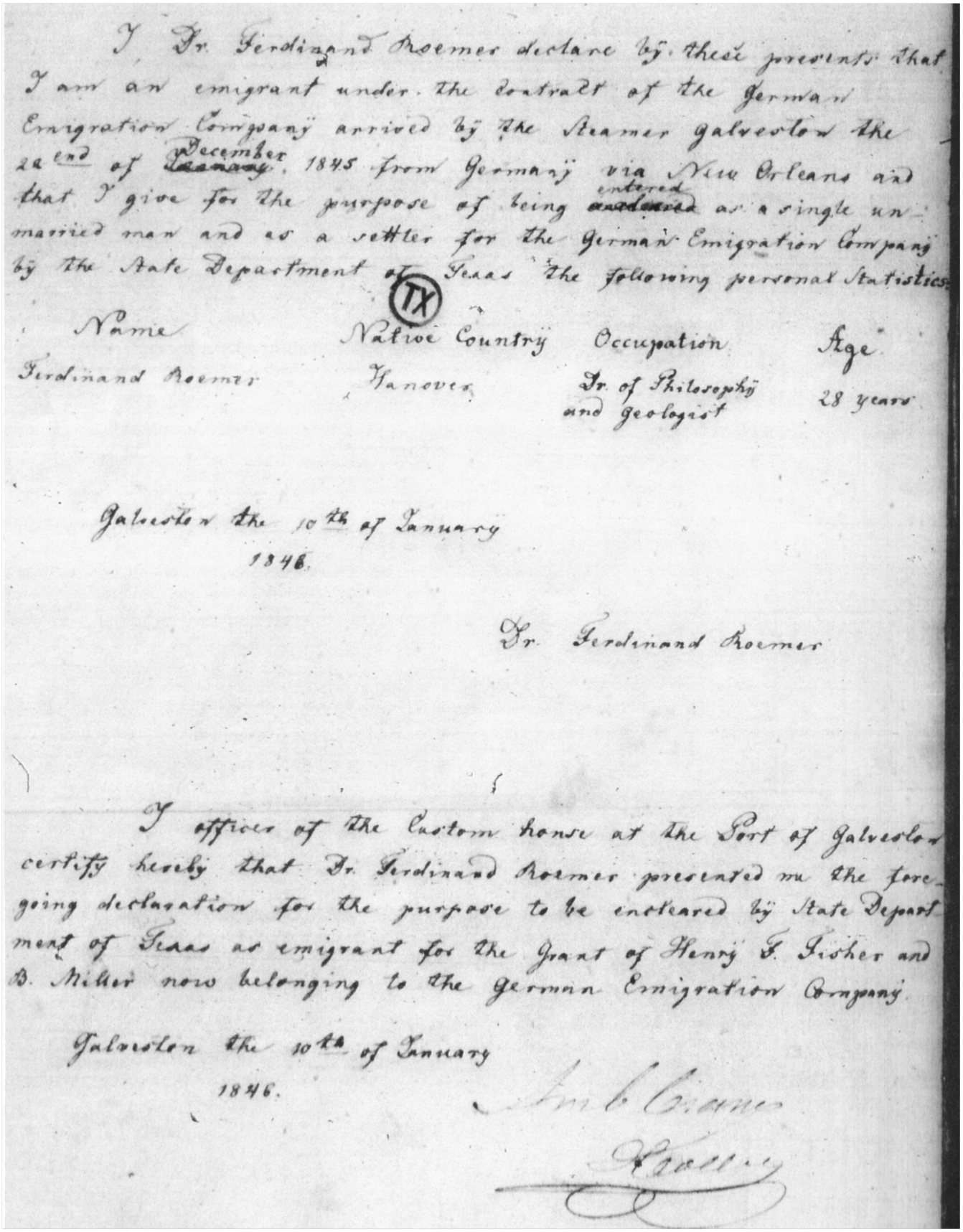


37

NAME	NATIVITY Where Born	When	Occupation	COMMAND Co.	Reg't.	Brigade	Division	Army	Rank or Single	Came to Texas	RESIDENCE
Dis. Chandler, C. C.	Va.	1819	Mechanics	D	5th Inf. Tex.	Hood's	Fields			1850	Travis Co. Tex.
Dis. Ellenwood, C. P.	Mo.	1824	Brick Layer						Single	1846	Dallas Co. "
Dis. Easley, D. T.	Ala.	1835	Stock Raiser	C	15th Cav. Tex.		Magruder's		Wid.	1850	Montague Co. "
Dis. Epps, George	England	1833	Mechanic	Served in			Ord. Dept. in field		"	1857	San Antonio "
Dis. Everhart, Martin	Ky.	1833	Carpenter	I	5th Cav. Ky.	Jno. H. Morgan's			Single	1858	Austin "
Dis. Ewing, Thos. J.	La.	1839	"	K	2d Inf. Tex.	Moore's			Wid.	1857	Austin "
Dis. Exebetts, Sam.				B	8th Cav. Tex.						
Dis. Ellzey, Preston S.	Miss.	1835	Farmer	Miss. Vol.		Bradford's	Miss.	Artillery	Single	1891	Lilac "
Dis. Edwards, Ivey H.	Ala.	1815	"	B	14th Miss.	Sidey Johnston's			Married	1884	Caldwell Co. "
Dis. Eubanks, Mrs. M.	Geo.	1843	"	F	32d Ala.	Day's		Tenn.	"	1892	Pearsmeile "
Dis. Eberling, W. M.	Prussia	1831	"	F	32d Cav. Tex.	De Bray's			"	1845	Bandera Co. "

Admitted from Home	Disability	Religious Persuasion	DISPOSITION Died	Discharged	Dismissed	IN CASE OF DEATH Whom to Write	Where	REMARKS
1887	Rupture Rheumatism Gunshot Wound, Head		Dead	Oct. 10. 1899 at his req. May 16. 1892		Mrs. Walk	Austin, Tex.	Transferred to La. and died th
1892	Mexican War							
1892	Common Face	Methodist						
1893	Rheumatism	"	Oct 22. 1911					Went to Lakeside
1894	Gen. Deb. City	Baptist	Aug. 20. 1909	at his req.				Buried in State Cemet
1895	" "	Baptist	Jan. 14. 1900	Feb. 25. 1899				Buried in State Cemet
1896			Dec. 1886					Buried in State Cemet
1897		Mis. Baptist	Jan. 4. 1899			D. J. Ellzey	Lilac, Tex	" " "
1897	Neuralgia	Methodist	Feb. 16. 1902			Mrs. Sallie Gaunt	Caldwell "	" " "
1898	Rheumatism Catarrh	None		At his req. Aug. 15. 1898		Mrs. M. A. Eubanks	Pearsmeile "	
1900	Tumor Smith Rupture Lameness		Feb. 16. 1911.			F. W. Eberling Jno. Moore	Lagarin "	

Dr. Ferdinand Roemer's declaration upon entering Texas from Colonization Records Records at Clayton Library—Liz Hicks



I Dr. Ferdinand Roemer declare by these presents that I am an emigrant under the contract of the German Emigration Company arrived by the Steamer Galveston the 22nd of ~~January~~ December 1845 from Germany via New Orleans and that I give for the purpose of being ~~enrolled~~ entered as a single unmarried man and as a settler for the German Emigration Company by the State Department of Texas the following personal Statistics.

TX

Name	Native Country	Occupation	Age
Ferdinand Roemer	Hanover	Dr. of Philosophy and geologist	28 years

Galveston the 10th of January 1846.

Dr. Ferdinand Roemer

I officer of the Custom house at the Port of Galveston certify hereby that Dr. Ferdinand Roemer presented me the foregoing declaration for the purpose to be entered by State Department of Texas as emigrant for the Grant of Henry F. Fisher and B. Miller now belonging to the German Emigration Company.

Galveston the 10th of January 1846.

What Links St. Peter's to Bethlehem Lutheran

Fayette County Record, May 5, 2015

By GESINE (TSCHIEDEL) KOETHER

Growing up in Spring Branch, a suburb of Houston, I went to Spring Branch Elementary School and played right next door to St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church every school day. It was an old church with narrow windows, a tall steeple and was painted white. We were active members at Holy Cross Lutheran only a few miles away, so only visited St. Peter's when they held their open house at Christmas. So as a kid, I did not think about St. Peter's other than to think it was a pretty church, and they had a beautiful Christmas program.

Footprints Of Fayette

Fayette County is one of the most historic counties in Texas. In this weekly feature from the County Historical Commission, a rotating group of writers looks back at local history.

As a member and tour guide for Round Top's Bethlehem Lutheran, the connection between the St. Peter's and Bethlehem churches were brought to my attention by Judy Matejowsky. She lent me her copy of the Bauer family book, "A Goodly Heritage". It tells the story of Carl Siegismund Bauer and his descendants. It surprised me to learn that Bethlehem Lutheran was not the first church that Bauer had built. Ten plus years earlier, Bauer had participated in the building of St. Peter's in Spring Branch. My elementary school memories now beckoned me to find out more.

Carl Bauer, his wife, Christiana Malzar Bauer, and four of their children, who lived in Saxony, Prussia (Germany), boarded the sailing ship Neptune in 1848 in search of a less turbulent place to live. Carl and Christina were in their mid-fifties when they set off on this journey. August, their second oldest, and his wife Emilie (Ficke) had emigrated in 1847 and sent back encouraging word of all that was available in Texas. The hurricane encountered on their journey, the scurvy-like disease that caused deaths on board the Neptune and the trip inland after arriving in Galveston all proved to be exhausting and dangerous. By 1849 they had made it across the mud flats and swamp-like land to a place approximately ten miles northwest of Houston that other families had named Spring Branch Creek. The Bauers, along with the other German families, including the Rumrnels, Kolbes, Ahrenbecks, Schroeders and Hillendahls, held a Thanksgiving service for their safe arrival in the wilds of Texas. St. Peter's Evangelical congregation had begun their plans. The oaks and giant pines were perfect for both their home and a church.

William Rummel, who married Caroline Bauer, donated the land and cemetery for the building of St. Peter's.

After the Christmas holidays of 1849, the men of those founding families went into the woods, cut logs and left them to season. These first logs were gone when they returned later to retrieve them. The next cut logs were kept under the watchful eye of the Rummels. The first church building was erected five years after the first service was held. In 1851, Carl Bauer left his Spring Branch property to his son, August, and moved with the rest of his family to Round Top, becoming one of the first settlers of the village. Carl and his family were deeply religious and faithful in their endeavors to build a place to worship their Maker. The Bauers lost one child as an infant; their son, August, had preceded his family to Texas; one son, Karl, remained in Germany with all his descendants; four children were with them on their journey; and two daughters arrived a few years later. Like so many other families in the area, they had their joys and losses in the family due to illness and circumstances. Carl was driven to help establish and build the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Round Top. By the mid-1860s, Carl, now almost seventy, led his sons, Carl Ehrgott and Carl Traugott, as well as his son-in-law, Conrad Schueddemagen, to complete Bethlehem Lutheran. His daughter, Wilhelmine Schueddemagen, was a strong asset as treasurer.

These two Lutheran churches are miles apart, but are connected by a family searching for a better place. Strong religious ties to their German Lutheran faith gave them the conviction to complete this task. Take a tour of these churches and cemeteries and you will find many of the same names in both St. Peter's and Bethlehem's histories and cemeteries. We are fortunate to have so many families in Fayette County, such as the Bauers and their descendants, who came to help build churches as evidence of their strong faith in God and family.

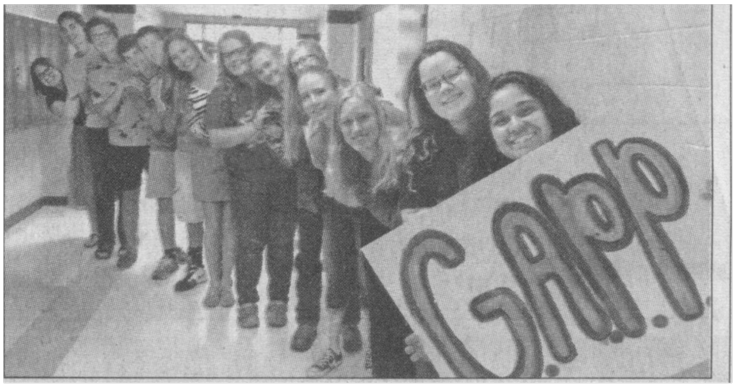
Bibliography:

*Marler, Isla Bauer. "*A *Goodly Heritage"; Printit Office Suppliers, Uvalde, Texas, 1959*

Obst, Rev. Martin H and Banik, John G. *"Our God is Marching On*"; V*on Boeckmann-Jones, Austin, Texas, 1966*

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

Twelve LaGrange Students Headed for Stay in Germany, Fredericksburg Paper, 5/29/2015



The La Grange German-American Partnership Program is preparing for their trip to Kaiserslautern, Germany. Twelve German students from La Grange High School will be taking off on June 1 to live with twelve German families in the mid-sized German city for about two and a half weeks. During their stay in Germany, the students, who will be accompanied by their teacher, Sara Gutierrez, and co-chaperon Miguel Gutierrez; will get the chance to see a castle on the Rhine, an original Gutenberg Bible, the towering Cologne Cathedral, Anne Frank's Diary, and the famed buildings of architect Frank Gehry among other sights. LaGrange High School partnered with Hohenstaufen Gymnasium in Kaiserslautern last school year to coordinate the exchange which began in October with a visit from 18 German students to our area for two and a half weeks. The LHS students will now be staying in the families of the students whom they hosted back in October. The German-American Partnership Program or GAPP is an international program that promotes cross-cultural understanding in the U.S. and Germany and is supported by both the German Foreign Office and the U.S. Department of State.

Submitted by Carl Luckenbach, Fredericksburg

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Village of the Hills man from Germany repays U.S. soldiers for kindness in war. By Rachel Rice,

rrice@acnnewspapers.com

Ekkehard Gruettner created fund to assist the wounded.

In 1945 in Nazi Germany, 16-year-old Ekkehard Gruettner and his family were hiding in a barn in Hanover, having traveled by train without food or water for three days to escape Russian soldiers. After several days, Gruettner recalls hearing the sound of artillery and knowing the American soldiers were near. "Early in the morning, it was quiet," Gruettner said. "I was curious what was going on, so I stepped outside and stepped right in front of a huge American tank...I had some English in school, so I said, 'Good morning, gentlemen. How do you do?' and they all laughed and gave me chewing gum. They were very friendly."

Now a Village of the Hills resident, Gruettner, 85, said the kindness of American soldiers motivated him to want to see America, and eventually to live here. He founded Lake Travis Christmas Hope in 2009, fundraising so that families of wounded soldiers can have a little extra money during Christmas and year-round. "I wanted to do something for those soldiers who saved us from the Nazis," he said.

Gruettner grew up in eastern Germany during the rise of Adolf Hitler and was a part of the Hitler Youth, along with all of his schoolmates. Gruettner said that even as a boy, he resented the endless slogans and propaganda and avoided using the required greeting of "Heil, Hitler" when addressed. Hitler came to power in 1933," Gruettner said. "It started in '38, when Kristallnacht happened and the Jews were murdered, and in 1939 when he started his march into other Countries. After five years, more and more people found out about him, that he was crazy."

When his hometown of Silesia was incorporated into Poland, Gruettner's family was forced to leave and live in Hanover, where food and money were always scarce for refugees. It was a difficult year for his family, Gruettner said, but again he was struck by Americans' acts in the aftermath of the war. "Americans immediately helped to rebuild German industry and also helped the population," Gruettner said. "Under the Marshall Plan, the U.S. population sent care packages to Germans. That was so impressive for me that there was a victorious country helping the victim rebuild and even helping the population with food and clothing. It was fantastic; it showed the spirit of the American people."

Gruettner emigrated to the United States at age 58 and said he feels more at home here than he ever did in Germany. He started Lake Travis Christmas Hope at age 80, visiting several soldiers at the San Antonio Military Medical Center. "We gave, I think, 10 families $500 each," Gruettner said of his charity's first year. "When we talked to them, it was amazing to see them. They had fantastic care, and they were in great spirits although those wounds were just horrible from explosions and grenades. They all wanted to go back to their comrades; it was amazing."

Last year, Gruettner said, Lake Travis Christmas Hope raised $120,000 for Christmas gifts and other monetary needs such as mortgage payments for the families of wounded soldiers.

"I'm very happy that I had this idea to give back at least something to these warriors," Gruettner said. "Whenever I see a soldier in uniform, I tell them, 'Thanks for your service.'"

Submitted by Margaret Hitzfield, Round Rock

John H. Kampmann—German Developer Helped change the look of the city

San Antonio Express News, April 9, 2015

He built houses, churches, more

By Benjamin Olivo, STAFF WRITER

John H. Kampmann, arrived in San Antonio shortly after Texas joined the United States. The 29-year-old German immigrant quickly began making a name for himself as a developer. In 1871, a local newspaper credited Kampmann with having built one-third of the city.

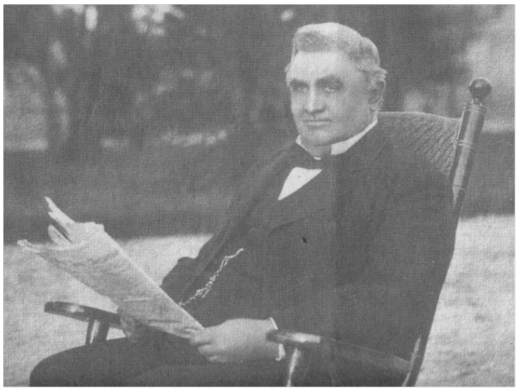
"In the process, he helped change the architectural face of the adobe Spanish village into a city of stone and mortar with a regional Texas German accent," University of Texas at San Antonio Professor Maggie Valentine wrote in her new book, "John H. Kampmann: Master Builder."

Photo courtesy UTSA Special Collections

The four-story Kampmann Building at Soledad and Commerce streets—as shown on Nov. 14, 1939—was considered the city's first skyscraper.

Perhaps the reason Kampmann is not a household name is because many of his buildings haven't survived. Or, only shells of them remain. Take the Kampmann Building at the northeast corner of Commerce and Soledad streets. When it opened in December 1884, the four-story structure, which housed the Lockwood & Kampmann Bank, was considered San Antonio's first skyscraper, Valentine wrote. The San Antonio Light wrote of the limestone building: "the finest, most costly and complete in the State of Texas, and worthy of a place beside the grand structures of the great Northern and Eastern cities." The building boasted an Otis elevator, said to be San Antonio's first passenger elevator.

"Its presence attracted new restaurants, drugstores, cigar shops, and billiard parlors to the vicinity," Valentine wrote.

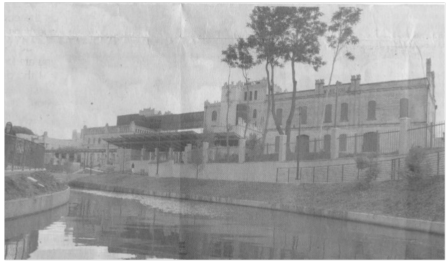


In the early 1890s, City Council and the Fourth Court of Civic Appeals met at the building temporarily while their own buildings were being constructed. Sadly, in 1940, the building's top two floors were removed by the H&I Improvement Co., which transformed the building into a department store.

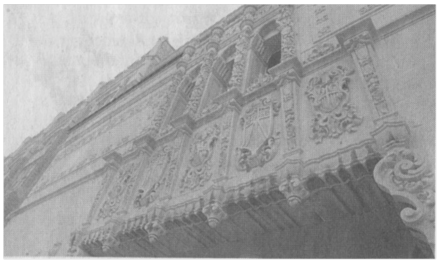
"Over the years the building lost more and more of its integrity and beauty," Valentine wrote. "Signage forced the removal of more details, and the facade was plastered over completely. "It is almost unrecognizable today." Payless Shoe Store and Lucky's Food Mart are its current tenants.

Kampmann's mark, however, can still be felt in the buildings that remain intact: the Dashiell where the Fig Tree restaurant operates; the Steves and Eager houses at HemisFair Park; the Sweet house on the campus of the University of the Incarnate Word; the former German-English school next to the Fairmount Hotel on South Alamo Street; St. Joseph's Catholic Church, aka "St. Joske's", St. Mark's Episcopal Church, near the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts; and the Lone Star Brewery, which was converted into the San Antonio Museum of Art in 1981.

Lone Star Brewery building, which became the San Antonio Museum of Art in 1981, also was built by John H. Kampmann.



St. Mark's Episcopal Church, another Kampmann building, has a cast-stone facade that was saved during renovations.



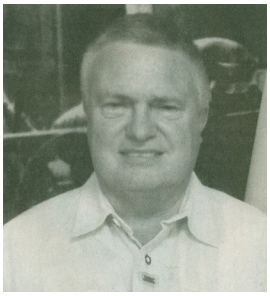
Submitted by Margaret Hitzfield, Round Rock

Bode to speak to Dayton Historical Society

DAYTON - The Dayton Historical Society will meet Mon., June 29, at 6 p.m. at Parker Hall. The program will be presented by Danny Bode, a lifelong resident of Dayton, who recently had an article published in The *Journal*, a publication of the German-Texan Heritage Society (see Summer 2015 *Journal,* p. 116), relevant to a branch of his family - Charlie and Emma (Schroeder) Witt. His program will focus on his grandfather's family, also of German heritage, the Henry Bode family, who lived in the Eastgate Community. His talk. will include several other Eastgate families and a brief history of the Eastgate Community. The public is invited to attend. *The Liberty Gazette,* July 7, 2015

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE EASTGATE COMMUNITY

The Liberty County community of Eastgate was known as the easternmost Czech Settlement in Texas where the Slavic and French cultures are in confluence. There were Czech families in Liberty County as early as the 1890's in the areas of Stilson, Epperson Dome, and the Sheek Community, south of present day Highway 90, but they were not organized in a community.



The establishment of the Czech community in Eastgate is attributed to land broker Ignac Gallia when he began to advertise farmland in Liberty County in various Czech language newspapers in Texas. The Czech settlers began coming to Eastgate as early as 1911 when Adolph and Anna Janacek purchased a tract of land in Eastgate. Adolph and Anna Janacek never formally resided in Eastgate, but several of their children did and were active in the community. By 1912 other Czech families such as the Bartos Vyoral Family, the John Kovalcik Family, the Joe Fisher Family, the Joe & Rudolph Hajovsky Families, the Vine Buchta Family, the Charlie Jarma Family, and the Joe Kolarik Family had moved to Eastgate.

By 1915, these Czech Families had also settled in Eastgate: the Anton Smykal Family, the Morris Beran Family, the Joe Vyoral Family, and the Joe Krajca Family.

Most of the Czech Families that settled in Eastgate came from Austin, Wharton, and Fayette Counties. Early religious services were held in homes. Mrs. Anna Janacek donated two acres for a church and construction began in 1918 on the church building, with Mr. Joe Krajca as the head carpenter.

St. Anne's Catholic Church was formally dedicated on July 26, 1921, by The Most Rev. C. E. Byrne, Bishop of Galveston. In 1930, St. Anne's became a mission of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Liberty until 1937, when St. Anne's became a mission of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Crosby. In 1967, St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church was formed in Dayton, and since that time, St. Anne's has been a mission of St. Joseph's. The original St. Anne's Church was replaced in 1949 when the present church was built under the supervision of M.F. Janacek and Henry Janacek. M.F. and Vlasta Janacek donated 2 1/4 acres of land where the present St. Anne's Catholic Church is located today. The present St. Anne's Catholic Church was dedicated on Oct. 16, 1949. The original St. Anne's Church was renovated and used as a parish hall until it was torn down in the early 1970's after a new parish hall was built.

The last couple to be married in the old St. Anne's Catholic Church was Henry Zarsky and Norma Stanfield on Oct. 23, 1948. The first couple to be married in the new St. Anne's Catholic Church was Joe F. Smesny and Marveline Bode on Oct. 18, 1949. If St. Anne's Catholic Church ever closes its doors, then all the land where the church and parish hall stands will go back to the Janacek Family.

The Eastgate Community at one time had a sawmill, operated by the Smykal brothers, three cotton gins, Anton Bederka's machine shop, and The Eastgate Cash Store. The Eastgate Cash Store was operated by Marcell Janacek. It opened in the mid-1920's. After Mr. Janacek's death in 1962, his widow, Vlasta, continued the business until she closed the store in 1968. The Eastgate Cash Store was the social hub of the Eastgate Community. Eastgate had a post office which operated for nearly 15 years. After the Post office closed, Eastgate residents received their mail from rural carriers from Crosby and later, from Dayton.

Submitted by Mary Whigham, Old Washington

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Sleuthing Walter Tips

Walter Tips

REGISTER OF THE TIPS FAMILY

In the registers of the city of Cologne on the Rhine, the Tips family cannot be traced further back than the beginning of the 17th century, on account of irregular book-keeping and illegible hand writings. The church register of Muelheim on the Rhine was destroyed by the large ice drifts of the river in 1784, therefore this must begin with Casper Johannes Tips of Muelheim on the Rhine at the beginning of the 17th century. He came from the free town of Cologne, where today there is a Tips Gasse (street), of the Heumarht (Hay mart) near the Cathedral. Apparently the name was originally written Tybst, and the Protestant family was driven from Cologne to Muelheim by the Religious- diet of 1618.

At the beginning of this century, there was a wind mill called the "Tips-Muehle" in Brienthale above Cologne, which stood until about 1885. Some of the family were ship builders in Ruhrort and Duisburg in the 1790ies. The name was found in Solingen, Unterbarmen, Berlin, and a Cennonious Tips in Holland.

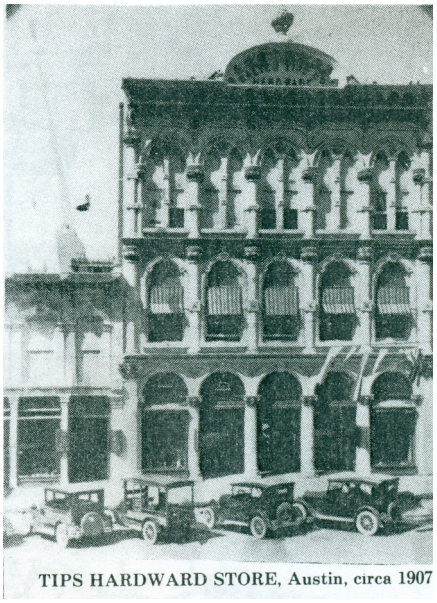
From various records the Tipses were all abiding, sturdy citizens. *(Copied and translated from a research letter written by Dr. Eduard Tips in Darmstadr, Germany, in March 1885. M.T.V.K.)* - ***Documents from Liz Hicks***

Walter Tips was the son of Johann Conrad Tips, b. 1797, d. 1850 and Anna Caroline Braun, b. 1800, d. 1885. For over thirty years, from January 1, 1818 to August 27, 1849, Conrad Tips served the city of Elberfeld, Germany. As the right hand man to the Chief Burgomasters Brüning and von Carnap, he, the first *Stadtsekretär* (city secretary), had experienced all the many events, innovations, buildings, and revolutions which put their special stamp on that epoch, and which in those calm times appeared much more remarkable and occupied the individual man much more than today. Near the end of his activity, Tips lived through the years of want, 1847-48, and the Barricade Battle in May,1849.

The latter event was too much for the honorable Conrad Tips, who had been reared and had lived according to the old strict laws. Sickness and weak eyes had already attacked him, and therefore he decided, with a heavy heart, to hand in his resignation.

On March 13, 1849, he requested his release and simultaneous receipt of a certain cash sum instead of a yearly pension, which allowed him along with a small inheritance to consider a move to Texas! So on Tuesday, August 28, 1849, at 8 o'clock in the morning, Conrad Tips, his wife Anna and his family of 8 children began their journey, arriving in Galveston on Nov. 5, 1849, The Tips family reached New Braunfels in December 1 and by January of the following year were situated on their farm in Guadalupe County. Johann Conrad Tips and his daughter Klara succumbed to yellow fever the summer following the family's arrival in Texas and were laid to rest on the family's farm in Guadalupe County. Son Walter was sent to New Braunfels to live with his elder sister Hermine and family. There, in Johann Staehely's store, Walter was introduced to the world of merchandising while helping out in the store.

After the Civil War's end, Walter entered into a partnership agreement on October 1, 1865 at New Braunfels with Wilhelm Clemens, Jr. to operate a firm under the name of Tips & Clemens which would engage in the buying, selling, and vending of all sorts of goods, wares and merchandise. In 1857, Walter's brother Eduard had established in Austin a store on



Picture from *Die Bremerverwandeschafe in Deutschland und in Texas,* Vol, II, Robert R. Robinson, Jr.

on Congress Avenue, with tin, ironware, pig iron, leather goods, general merchandising and commission business. Upon Eduard's death in 1872, the three partners purchased his operation, which was then run under the name Walter Tips & Company and in 1881 Walter sold his interests in New Braunfels and devoted himself to the hardware business in Austin. The hardware store eventually branched out into other areas such as heavy machinery and leather and wood trappings for horse drawn vehicles. The Tips Foundry & Machine Company was created to service machinery. In the 1900s a division started building engines. Walter Tips served as chief administrator until his death in 1911. Today the Walter Tips Company still exists in Austin.

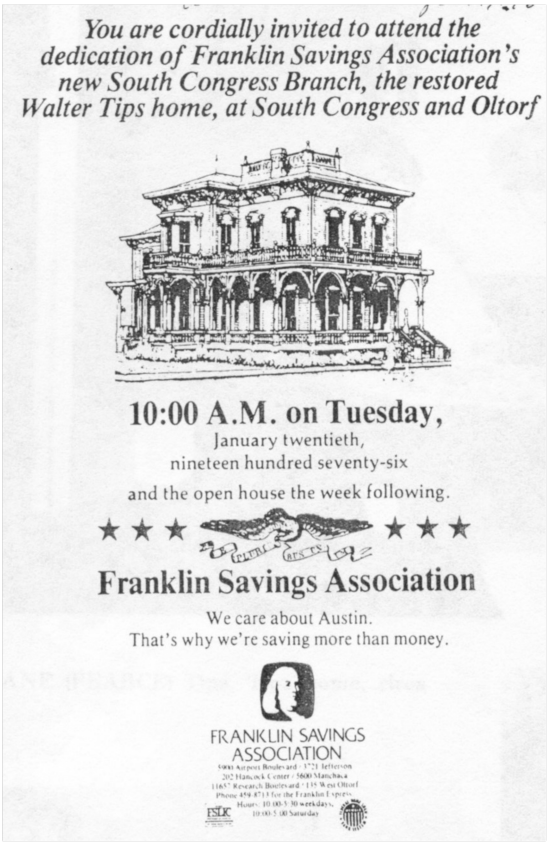
Courtesy Ancestry.com

Evidently business flourished under the new owners, because in 1876, Tips began construction on two very imposing and sophisticated buildings. The first was his ornate Italianate Victorian frame home in the 300 block of Bois D'Arc (now West Seventh) Street that was purchased and restored by Franklin Savings Association in 1976 for use as its South Congress Branch Office. The second building was an immense (for its time) three- story stone hardware store indicative of Tips' position as one of Austin's leading entrepreneurs .

A June, 1876 article in the *Daily Democratic Statesman* pointed our that ". . . the spirit of rivalry in mechanical skill and building has become so proverbial in Austin that each builder now aspires to excel all others."

Mary Jane Pearce (Mrs. Walter) Tips at home, circa 1912— courtesy of Robinson, Vol. II previously cited.

The two-story Victorian house was built in 1876 for the family of Walter Tips (1841-1911), a prosperous hardware merchant. A native of Germany and Confederate veteran, Tips served in the state senate, 1893-96. The home was remodeled in 1909 to its present appearance. Another prominent businessman, Theo P. Meyer (1878-1966), occupied the residence from 1925 to 1966. The structure was originally located adjacent to the historic Bremond Block west of downtown Austin. Scheduled for demolition in 1975, it was rescued by Franklin Savings Association and moved to this site for restoration.
From Historical Marker placed 1976



Thanks to Liz Hicks for all the data taken from various sources. A study in discovering all there is to know about those folks who settled this land. Your Editor

REMEMBER—-THIS HOUSE IS/WAS FOR SALE!!!

Walter Tips served in the Civil War and when war ended he was a Lieutenant of Artillery. He served as State Senator for four years in the late 90's but his chief public service was as a member of the Penitentiary Board, having been a member for twelve years, having originally been appointed by Gov. Ireland. He was an authority on penealogy and was conversant on all matters pertaining to the management of the penitentiary system of the State. At the time of his death he was a member of the State Historical Commission, having been appointed by Gov. Colquitt….He is survived by four children...The flag on the Capitol was at half mast out of respect to the decedent.
(***From Genealogy Bank, Dallas Morning News, April 21, 1911)***

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Memories of a descendant of a student at GFS

Rosa Weber Lohman

The progenitors of Rosa Weber Lohman were living in England and were of Puritan stock. This was during the time people were persecuted for their religious convictions about five generations before Rosina was in the State of Penn. This fore bearer of hers married a Dutch Petty Officer, and with him sailed on the Mayflower, as part of the English Colony established at Plymouth Rock.

It will be noted that when many of the original members of the Colony decided to take their chances with other Colonies, that the Petty Officer and the English wife were with the group, leaving the Colony at Plymouth Rock.

In between the years of 1620 to 1882, some of the offspring joined the William Penn Colony. About the

year 1820 a brother of Rosina, of Penn. State came to Texas, which then was Mexico, joining the Moses Austin Colony. He fought in the war with Mexico to win its independence from Spain in 1821.

About the year 1840, Rosina and husband Carl or Karl, joined the brother when the Colony was located, now Washington Co., just before a major portion of the Colony decided to settle at Bastrop, Texas. The new location seemed to hold better agricultural and cattle-raising possibilities than the open prairie country. Her husband did not live long after they moved to Bastrop County. She and her son Charles or Charley, went to Austin, when it was just a small village. She hoped to find employment. While at a lodging and eating house, she met John Henry Lohman, a widower with four children. After a short courtship they decided to be married. Charley was adopted by Lohman and was called after that Charley Lohman.

John Henry Lohman

Mother (Dora Lohman Nelle) said her father (John Henry Lohman) was born in Holland. That he fought in Napoleon's Army on his "March to Moscow," and that he fought against Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo. He was wounded while on the March to Moscow, some where in Poland. When the Army retreated, he was picked up and taken to Prussia (then under French rule) where he recuperated, and was placed in Blucher's Army. History tells us Prussia revolted and joined the coalition Countries and fought against Napoleon. That is the reason John Henry Lohman first fought with Napoleon and later while under Blucher fought against Napoleon and in the last Battle Napoleon was badly defeated. This was in 1814. Lohman lived in Germany twenty-eight years after the 1814-1815 war and sailed from there in 1842 to Galveston, Texas.

From the Dallas Morning News, Jan. 23, 1914, daughter of John Lohman, Christine Thackara is quoted as follows: "The Lohman family consisted of father, mother, and 4 children, two boys and two girls, with the Merken and Heinemann families sailed from Breman on the Neptune in 1842, bound for Texas. We were six weeks making the voyage across the Ocean, and while I was quite small, I remember the weather was delightful and all enjoyed the trip.

"We landed at Galveston, and found it a bleak but hospitable city of shanties and sand dunes. From there we proceeded to Houston, going up the Bayou on a steamer, reaching there in the night. The mud in the Bayou City was fierce, making it a most desireable place to leave as soon as possible. We left there the next morning for (what s now) Travis County. Traveling in two wagons, each pulled by four yoke of oxen. This was in February, and the weather was cold and rainy, and the mud through which we had to wend our way made the going most disagreeable and fatiguing.

"Austin was a small village when father settled in the County. There were not exceeding 30 or 35 houses in Austin and they were all primitive structures. It was a mere village nestling in cedar-covered hills. The Capitol, a crude old shack with gallery around, stood upon a hill, and looked like some primitive East Texas boarding house than the capitol building of a Republic.

"At this time Hornsby Bend was a favorite stopping place with many members of the Congress of the Republic." "Reaching this place about night; they were afraid to go on to Austin, because the Indians were liable to get their scalps, before they reached their goal. There were only a few families living in Hornsby Bend, and guards were nearly always kept on duty at night, it being nothing unusual to hear Indians whistling in the nearby brush, or barking like a dog or wolf, for the purpose of drawing some unwary newcomer into their ambush. The horses were penned at night with a tall rail fence. In those years every precaution had to be observed, in order to protect our person and property against attack from the Indians. Life at that time was uncertain, we never knew at what moment Indians, or raiding bands of Mexicans might sweep down upon us. Living as we had to in this state of uncertainty, we lived to adapt ourselves to our environment, taking no thought of what the morrow might bring forth, further than to act prudently, leaving nothing undone that should be done for making it reasonably secure against the attack of our redskin enemy."

"Leaving Hornsby Bend, we went to a farm a mile from Austin, renting from a man by the name of McCollough. This was after the annexation. The men in the County hearing the guns and anvils at Austin, * (* *Shooting of the anvils is accomplished by placing powder on the block and the hollow of the anvil over the powder with fuse attached. Just a small amount of powder creates a very loud explosion. An explanation of the statement made on the occasion of the annexation celebration.)* thinking the City had been attacked by Mexicans or Indians, brought their families to Hornsby Bend for safety; and went to the defense of the City. They soon returned, however, and were jubilant over the great event that was being celebrated. It was not long after their return before all men, women and children of Hornsby Bend, were out and having their own celebration of the annexation."

"While living on the McCulloch farm near Austin, the Indians came near getting my little sister. Father, brother and I had gone to the creek near the house to gather pecans; we heard her screaming. My brother who was in the tree, looked and saw an Indian putting her on a horse. We dashed for the house and the Indian seeing father with gun in hand approaching fast, became frightened, dropped her and ran away. Men in those days carried guns when leaving the premises."

"There were hardships and privations to endure other than those of fearing and guarding against

surprises and attack by Indians. There was always plenty of work to be done, and the necessary utensils, impliments and appliances to accomplish it were often crude. Home-made make-shifts were used."

"There were but a few wells and cisterns; water, whether for bathing or drinking purposes, was always brought from the creek, and stood in a barrel at some convenient place about the yard.

"My brother and I had to milk the cows. We went bare-footed over the frozen ground to the pen. Frequently we would have to go through the grass, white with frost, to drive the calves before we would milk. We would make the cows get up, that were lying down, and we would stand in from where they had risen and warm our feet.

"While a girl I hoed corn, pulled fodder, gathered com, planted peas and potatoes, and did other work and chores about the place, such, for instance, as grinding meal, running the old steel mill, chopping cooking wood, cooking meals, washing clothes. I spun lariets and made bridles and stake ropes out of hair from horses' tails and carded cards for the spinning wheel, real and looms, which were necessary activities. Furniture in most any household was home-made."

"During the long nights of Fall and Winter, a blazing fire was made in the fireplace; the roar of the chimney and the hum of the spinning-wheel would make music until late bed-time." Then the old-time tallow candles had to be made. Also the ash-hopper had to be kept going, in order to get lye to make soap. The old-fashioned Dutch oven, which was essential, had to be looked after and used frequently. "

"We used buffalo Robes for mattresses, because they were plentiful and much warmer. All our shoes, stockings and clothes were made at home. I never saw a lady's hat, until after I was grown. The old ladies wore headcaps and I am sorry to say, most of them used snuff and smoked home-raised tobacco in cob pipes."

"Father's first wife died at Austin and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery. Father's second marriage was to Rosine Weber. To that union were ten children, seven boys and three girls: (1 boy adopted)

"Part of late forty, all of fifty, part sixty up to 1861, father ran first dairy in Travis County; eleven cows supplied the whole town at that time. About that time, father bought the place which was known (afterwards) as Lohman's (bridge) or Crossing.

Then hardships began during the war between the States. There was a gang by the name of Willys that caused unknown trouble to father and others, by robbing and pilfering. In 1860 they caused my father to be accused of feeding them as bushwackers, which caused his arrest. On the road to Austin, The Home Guard, as they were called, ran into the main gang and killed two of them and took the other three of them to prison. The following day or so, “The Heel Flies” as they were called, took them out of jail and hung them to a big Live Oak Tree, that still stands to this day, leaving my father Henry Lohman until the last. Just as they were prepared to draw him up, Lt. John Canady, Dr. Taylor and Parson Zibley came up on the bank and cut him down. Dr. Taylor and Parson Zibley got the rope from around his neck, while Lt. Canady stood off the mob with his gun. All of this took place just about a week after my half-brother Carl (Weber) Lohman was killed by the Indians, at Shingle Hills, in the Western part of Travis County. This, the following was about the night after the Willys hanging: Mr. John Combs was waylaid and killed, right where the Driscol Hotel stands. He was shot from the alley."

Memory from Albert Lohman, son of John Henry Lohman: "I will attempt to give the names of the first settlers of Austin. B. Basford built the first: where Austin is,- it a log house, stood right where Hotel Sutton now stands. Mr. Basford was also the first County Clerk of the County, who in later years settled up the River in bend and taught school I went to school to him: when nine years old."

"In early days the roaming bands of Indians in cedar brakes west of Austin, passed through the hills by way of Liberty Hill. Jan. 22,1841, they killed James W. Smith, just west of Shoal Creek and took the 9 year old boy captive, who was afterwards rescued. Mr. Smith was the first County Judge of Travis County. He would boldly ride around the little village of Austin. The following was told to me by my father; that within a few blocks of the main street, on west 7th. Street of Austin, the Indians captured two children, a boy and girl He resisted capture and fought them; then the hands, toes and scalp of her brother were hung around her neck. When she no longer could go, they cut off her hands and hung her up on a snag to die. In 1842 they killed a Mr. Joyce right in his yard and took a 14 year old boy captive, who was never heard from since. Next outrage was A.M. Moore, who stayed all night in our house one Sunday, and was killed somewhere between Shingle Hills, and Bird Town. These were settlers: Henry Shuman, Mylams Pearson, Silvester Cox, The Enochs, Wader Stewart, St. Carter Baldwin.”

Henry Nelle, father of Dora Lohman Nelle, was of French ancestry, but a German national, when he came to Texas, about the year 1850. He was born about the year 1835, supposedly in the Alsace- Lorraine sector along the Rhine River. For this reason it was not definitely known by me, whether he was born in France or Germany. (If one will use a good encyclopedia, it will be noted that this was disputed territory between France and Germany and ownership changed often) . When my father's nephew, George Henry Nelle, came to Texas from Germany about the year 1892, he lived in our home many years. During his stay, he told brother Joe and me much about the various Nelle families of the past, who lived along the Rhine River.

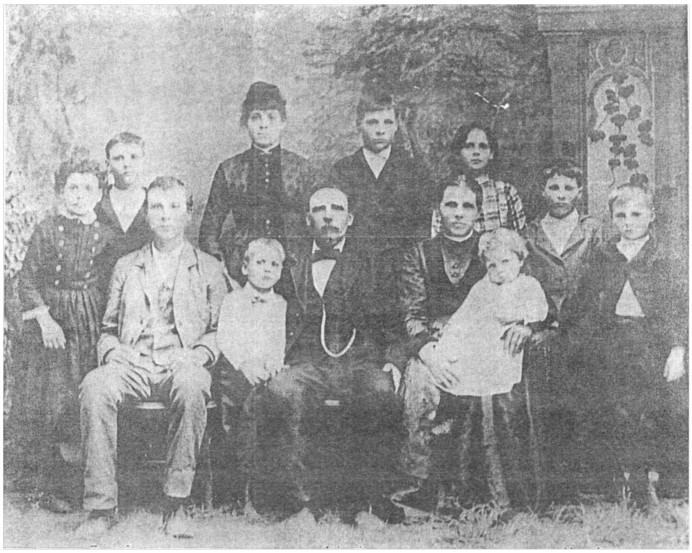
When father landed at his port of entry in Texas, about the year 1850, he immediately joined the Austin

Colony, which then was spread out considerably, including Bastrop, Hornsby Bend, Webberville, Manor outpost and Fort Austin. In order to exist the colonist took up many tracts of land for farming and stock raising. My father purchased a small tract about two miles north of Manor outpost, the present town of Manor. At that time it was in Bastrop County. Later when the City of Austin was laid out and was made capital, Travis County was carved out of Bastrop County. Father bought other tracts as he was able and added them to his original holdings. Finally he leased a long strip of grazing land northward from his tract, along the road between Manor and Taylor Texas.

During his early life in the Austin Colony he managed to buy some horses and a few cattle. He constructed a small log cabin on his land: a place to lodge while he was working with the stock. He roomed and boarded with the Bud Rainey family living in the Manor outpost community. He was about fifteen years of age when he came to Texas. He was successful in his horse raising under-taking and when the Civil War broke in 1861-65, he possessed twenty-six fine horses and some cattle.

He owned a yoke of oxen and a covered wagon. He volunteered with the Confederacy and joined Hoods Army early in the war. When he left for war, he had a Mr. Frankenstein, an elderly man to stay in his cottage and look after his stock. Unfortunately both sides, north and South needed horses and between them, caught all the horses but one, an iron-gray mare that was too swift to catch. When he came back from the war four years later, he started his horse business all over with this one mare.

Shortly after the war, he and mother (Dora Lohman) were married and they settled on the land he owned. A log house with a lean-to was constructed. Some of the land near by was fenced by using rails. He grew crops that were most needed. They raised some stock, and he began anew in the freight-hauling business. It seems that he had loaned his oxen and wagon to a distant neighbor during his absence. He was thus able to start hauling immediately. He hauled from Houston and Galveston, until the Houston to Austin railroad was built.



Front row l-r, John, William, Henry, Dora, Minnie, Joe
Back row l-r, Rosa, Jim, Lena, Charley, Ida, Herbert

Before going farther, I will touch on a few important engagements of the Civil War in which he took part. As the years went on, his company was reduced very much. In fact he was one of the few men left in his company. Reorganization was a result that followed. He was attached to Hood's Army. He was in the battle of Chickamauga, SW Ga. and south of Chattanooga, Tenn. during the Chattanooga Campaign, and was captured by the Federals and thrown into prison, which consisted of quickly constructed board fence about seven feet high in a circle. It was known by some as; "The Bull Pen." Guards or sentinels were placed on the outside; who marched in opposite directions and were about three hundred feet apart at the widest part. The captured rebels were held as prisoners of war. They were fed by the North, by taking in, or throwing over the fence, the innards, skins, and unwanted parts of horses and mules killed in the previous day in battles.

In speaking to Uncle Fred Willie, who also was a prisoner, father said he preferred to take his chances of escaping to staying and eating the food supplied. I remember Uncle Fred saying, "Now Henry you know some of those skins, with the hair off, cut in strips and broiled good and crisp wasn't too bad." Father said he watched the guards through the cracks in the board wall. When they were the farthest apart, their backs to each other, he went over the high-board fence. The sentries fired at him, but missed in the dark. The battle was still raging. He heard the cannon and he thought he knew by the sound which cannon belonged to his outfit. He guessed it right and he soon joined his Company. Father fought with the heavy artillery. He was driver of the four or six horse teams used to move the cannon from place to place. One of father's unfortunate happenings during this campaign, was while making a charge down hill on the enemy position, the leading two horses were shot by the enemy. This caused the two leading horses to fall, which as a result caused the cannon truck to pitch high into the air with those manning it. Father was thrown into a stoney creek bed near by. He suffered a broken leg and was placed in an hospital for several weeks before he could again be in active service.

Submitted by Liz Hicks, various stories from the Lohman/Nelle family in the archives at the German Free School!

PL Native holds reading of book based on childhood

By Melony Overton, Port Lavaca *Wave,* July 29, 2015

Last Thursday, Houston Author Melvin Rosenbaum, 80, read from and signed copies of *Scissortails at Dawn, Bullbats at Dusk*, a book about his childhood in Six Mile in the 1930's and 1940's, at the Calhoun County Library. About 30 people were in attendance

Houston Author Melvin Rosenbaum, 80, read from his book based on his childhood spent in Six Mile to an audience of 30 at the Calhoun County Library Thursday afternoon.

Rosenbaum read excerpts from *Scissortails at Dawn, Bullbats at Dusk* to full seats. Published in 2014, the book spans rural coastal Texas in the early 1930's into the 1940's.

One of his favorite parts to write were about the games he played as a child-tin tops, marbles, skipping rope, washers, hopscotch, jacks, chase or tag, pop the whip, dodgeball, baseball and fighting.

Rosenbaum, who attended Central Elementary which was centrally located in Port Lavaca, recalled a playground fight that left the audience in stitches.

"Not a day or recess went by without one good one," he said of fights. "The beginnings of one of these was always easy to spot on a crowded school yard. When suddenly there would appear a large circle of yelling kids, and in the center would be two scruffy boys fighting it out. And it usually lasted only a few minutes," before it was disrupted by teachers.

"Usually it did not end at the principal's office with someone saying, 'It ain't over yet. I'll meet you by Spencer's Lumberyard after school,' and his opponent answering, 'Yeah, well, I ain't afraid of you or any of your kinfolk.' The kinfolk always had to be brought into it," he said.

Rosenbaum jumped around throughout his book. He spoke highly of his teachers and regretted the loss of certain traditions that included hog butchering and laundry Monday where clothes were cleaned in a wash pot, taken out with an old broom handle and hung out on the line to dry.

"Little boys watched their fathers, and grandfathers, do this procedure from beginning to end, and it went on for centuries. The little girls did the same thing with their mothers, and in one generation, this century's old thing is dead. I could not butcher a hog if my life depended on it," he said. "Sadly, this skill learned by every farmer's son is essentially gone today in our manic drive for modernity and efficiency." Rosenbaum said there was something comforting about these traditions.

"What I was trying to say with this book is it's dead, gone with the wind, the way I grew up, and it ain't ever gonna come back," he said. "I feel there was so much good in it. I said I will not wait any longer. I have to put some of this stuff down. Someone had to say it hasn't always been the way it is now."

Rosenbaum feels he and his peers were the last generation to be raised on the farm.

"We about starved to death during the Depression. I used to envy the city kids, but 1 think that if we had not produced everything we ate, we would have never made it. We probably ate better and were better off than the town kids," he said.

Rosenbaum recalled the excursion train Old Salty, his favorite dog- a one-eye rat terrier or his "snake dog"- 1aying in the hay loft of his family barn, superstitions and old sayings believed and used by his elders and the terror of participating in the church Christmas pageant and the rewards-a brown paper bag filed with hard candy, nuts, and an apple and an orange.

Colorful community characters also made an appearance in the book, including the barefoot country bumpkin Miller Brothers from Magnolia Beach, Old Bud Garden, who spent every Saturday on Main Street waving to passersby who would perform a little soft shoe for a nickel, and Old Lady Moore who jingled as she walked because of all the costume jewelry she wore.

"Everybody knew them. They were fixtures," he said.

Rosenbaum became emotional when he closed on a somber note by reading an original poem, *I'll Not Go Down That Road Again*, he wrote about the old homestead on Rosenbaum Road, which he saw for the last time in 1992.

"This really means a lot to me. It sums everything up about the little four room house where I was born," he said.

"Only in dreams will I dare return to those endless summers of childhood and carefree security. All too soon came the later awakening years of lost innocence. This hallowed sanctuary aged along with its two inhabitants accompanying them in their slow painful descent into that darkening twilight and death.

"Finally that last night I spent along in the room where I was born, the final emptying, the last look back through the U-Haul mirror. No I won't go down that road again."

Rosenbaum signed and sold books for $15 each.

Rosella Bonorden Dermit of Port Lavaca, has read most of Rosenbaum's book. Dermit grew up in Calhoun County. Her brother was a classmate of Rosenbaum. She was raised on a farm like Rosenbaum.

"He has such a talent for writing. It's part of history that will be lost if nobody is recording history. He writes that we will never see these days again, and it's true," Dermit said.

Submitted by Charles Thompson and Rodney Koenig

Hermann Sons News, Vol. 118, April, 2015, No. 8

Editor's Note: On March 7, 1890, the eight Hermann Sons lodges that existed in Texas at the time came together to form a "'home office" and thus the Grand Lodge was founded. That was 125 years ago. The Grand Lodge will celebrate its quasquicentennial on Oct. 10 in Floresville. The Hermann Sons News will mark the occasion with a series of articles on the history of Hermann Sons. This fourth article focuses on the development of a *retirement home. It was compiled by Grand President/CEO Buddy Preuss.*

It was the early 1900s and the Hermann Sons Grand Lodge was still in its infancy. As is often the case with the young, new and innovative ideas were being developed.

It was during the Grand Lodge Convention in Austin on April 21-23, 1913, that Grand Secretary John Windlinger made the recommendation to build a retirement home to provide security and community for the elderly members. It is believed that this was the first time that any fraternal group bad proposed such a project. It would be called the Alten und Waisenheim (elder and orphan home).

The resolution was adopted and a committee of 10 members - five from rural areas and five from cities - was appointed to select a site. After looking at places in La Grange, San Marcos, San Antonio, Fredericksburg, Austin and Boerne, the committee chose 202 acres on a hilltop near Comfort overlooking the Guadalupe River.

There is little doubt that the committee's decision was influenced by the fact that $7,000 of the $9,000 cost was donated by the Hermann Sons lodges and citizens of Comfort. Arthur J. Herman was the architect who designed the castle-like masonry building and the contract was awarded Jan. 22, 1915, to H.R. Jones Construction Co. for a sum of $54,675.

A local executive committee was formed to plan a celebration to mark the formal dedication of the Home planned for Thursday, May 11,1916. Local Hermann Sons members and Comfort citizens planned every detail including special train fares to San Antonio from all points in Texas with connections to Comfort.

On the morning of the dedication, many of the estimated 6,500 visitors were met for a reception at the railroad station in Comfort. Guests were transported by service cars and local citizens to a grove on the river just below the Home. A 100 foot trench was dug the day before and 30 head of cattle roasted for the feast that would include potato salad, pickles, bread and a spoon. Beer also was furnished.

Bands played at the river grove until 1:30 p.m. when everyone walked up the hill to the Home for the official dedication. The dedication ceremony was marked with speeches in English and German. Texas Grand President August Haxthausen delivered an official address as did the Governor of Texas, James E. Ferguson. Guests took tours of the Home before returning to Comfort for a night of grand balls and open air concerts.

The Alten und Waisenheim would only be offered to orphans for a few years and then would simply be known as the Altenheim.

When the English language became more widely used it was referred to as the Home for the Aged. Today it is called the Hermann Sons Retirement Home. A person age 65 or older who has been a member in good standing of Hermann Sons for a

Alten und Waisenheim dedicated in 1916

minimum of three years, has a paid up whole life insurance certificate and is in good health may apply for admission. The only cost for residents is a $200 entry fee and to make the Hermann Sons Retirement Home the beneficiary of the first $1,000 of their Hermann Sons life insurance certificate.

Over the years the average number in - residence at the Retirement Home has ranged from 40 to 75, many of whom lived there for 20 to 25 years or more. Persons not familiar with the organization find it difficult to believe that such a one-time payment exists. Resident members are not required to give up property, pensions or personal funds, or to pay room and board after they become residents— an incredibly generous arrangement.

The Hermann Sons Retirement Home will celebrate its centennial in 2016. Members and guests are invited to a special centennial celebration at the Retirement Home in Comfort on Saturday, April 23, 2016. More information about the celebration will be available at a later date.

For many years, Hermann Sons membership was available to men only. Check back next month to learn how Hermann Sons became an organization for the entire family.

The photo above was taken in 2000. The Home looks much the same today except that now there is a covered patio on the grounds. Pictured at right is the Home Committee in 1920, just four years after the Home opened. It was taken in the room that is still used for committee meetings today.

This photo is dated 1933. Notice how many women and children are there in the photo

The above photo is dated April 15, 1920.

Sources: The First One Hundred Years 1890-1990, Grand Lodge Centennial Book and 1916 Comfort News articles.

A reception was held in March in honor of the Grand Lodge's 125th anniversary. Pictured are Grand Lodge officers, members of the Grand Finance Committee, Mayor Ivy Taylor, Chamber of Commerce Board Chairman Henry Cisneros, Chamber of Commerce President Richard Perez and ambassadors.

San Antonio dignitaries attend reception

SAN ANTONIO - On March 27, 1890, the eight Hermann Sons lodges that existed in Texas at the time came together to form a "home office" and thus the Grand Lodge was founded. To celebrate that milestone 125 years ago, the Grand Lodge hosted a reception March 27 and is planning a greater celebration in October.

Hermann Sons was honored to have San Antonio Mayor Ivy Taylor, Chamber of Commerce Board Chairman Henry Cisneros and Chamber of Commerce President Richard Perez attend the reception held in the Hall of Grand Presidents. They each congratulated Hermann Sons and commended the organization for its long history of dedicated service.

Cisneros said Hermann Sons is "a great tradition in our country." Adding, "few have had the staying power of this organization. I'm very admirable and respectful of Hermann Sons and the influence it has had in this community .... what a magnificent tradition."

Cisneros went on to say that Texas and San Antonio would not be the same without Hermann Sons. "It's wonderful to see that lineage of family values and lineage of faith continue today," he said.

Mayor Taylor said she felt privileged to be a part of the celebration. "It's refreshing to see your organization is still such a vibrant, active part of this city," she said. "I commend you on your history and bright future."

Grand Vice President-Fraternal Kim Krueger read a proclamation from Gov. Greg Abbott's office and Mayor Taylor read a proclamation from the City of San Antonio and presented it to Grand President Buddy Preuss. Perez also presented a proclamation on behalf of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce.

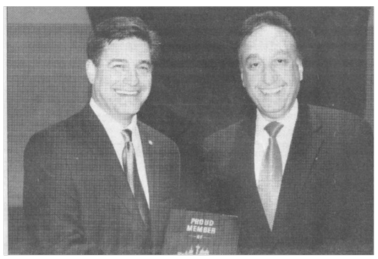
Also in attendance were several Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors, Grand Lodge officers and employees, members of the Grand Finance Committee and several Hermann Sons members. Light refreshments were served as well as a specially decorated anniversary cake.

This was a kick-off celebration - a grand celebration is planned for Oct. 10, 2015, in Floresville. More details on that celebration will be coming soon.

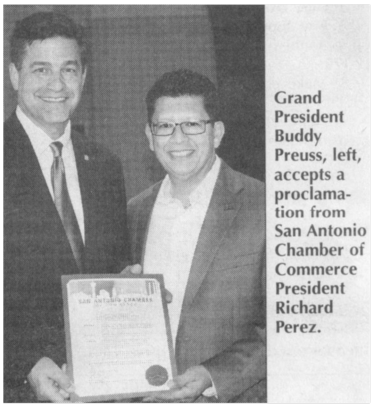
Becca Nail, left, granddaughter of Rebecca Henley, Grand Lodge IT senior programmer/analyst, visits with Mayor Ivy Taylor during the anniversary reception. Becca made special plans that day to be in attendance and meet the San Antonio mayor.

Grand Vice President-Secretary/Treasurer Mary Beam, right, welcomes Mayor Ivy Taylor. Light refreshments were served along with drinks and a special anniversary cake.

Grand President Pruess accepts a San Antonio Chamber of Commerce membership plaque from Henry Cisneros, Chamber board chairman during the anniversary reception.



Grand President Buddy Preuss, third, from left, and Grand Vice President-Investments Harry Werland, far right, are pictured with Mayor Ivy Taylor, Chamber of Commerce Board Chairman Henry Cisneros, Chamber President Richard Perez and Chamber ambassadors



Grand President Buddy Preuss, left, accepts a proclamation from San Antonio Chamber of Commerce President Richard Perez.

Women get equal voice in Hermann Sons

EDITOR'S NOTE: On March 27, *1890, the eight Hermann Sons lodges that existed in Texas at the time came together to form* a *"'home office" and thus the Grand Lodge was founded. That was 125 years ago. The Grand Lodge will celebrate its quasquicentennial on Oct.* 10 *in Floresville. The Hermann Sons News will mark the occasion with* a *series* of *articles on the history* of *Hermann Sons. This fifth article focuses on women and children. It was compiled by Grand President/CEO Buddy Preuss.*

If the most asked question about Hermann Sons is "Who is Hermann?" then the second most asked question is "Did Hermann have any daughters?" We are called the Sons of Hermann because when Hermann Sons was first formed it was an organization for German only. Men's organizations were quite common. The woman's place was in the home caring for the family. But the time would come when Hermann Sons women wanted more.

In fraternal orders an auxiliary is typically a female or "sister" club for all-male organizations. These groups have historically served to remove wives' objections that their husbands are away with a group that excludes them and it often creates a free labor pool for administrative and organizing affairs. Hermann Sons' first sister lodge was established in Sherman in August 1896. More sister lodges followed until the concept of joining men and women together in one lodge was introduced. On March 1, 1920, during the height-of women's suffrage in the U.S., the first mixed lodge, having both men and women members, Pershing Lodge No. 160, was established in San Antonio.

Women would now have an equal voice in Hermann Sons business for the first time. In the years to follow, men's and women's lodges would merge together to form mixed lodges. Today the only men's lodges remaining are Harmonia Lodge and Hondo Lodge. The only women's lodges are Louise Schuetze Lodge, Vineta Lodge and Hondo Victory Lodge.

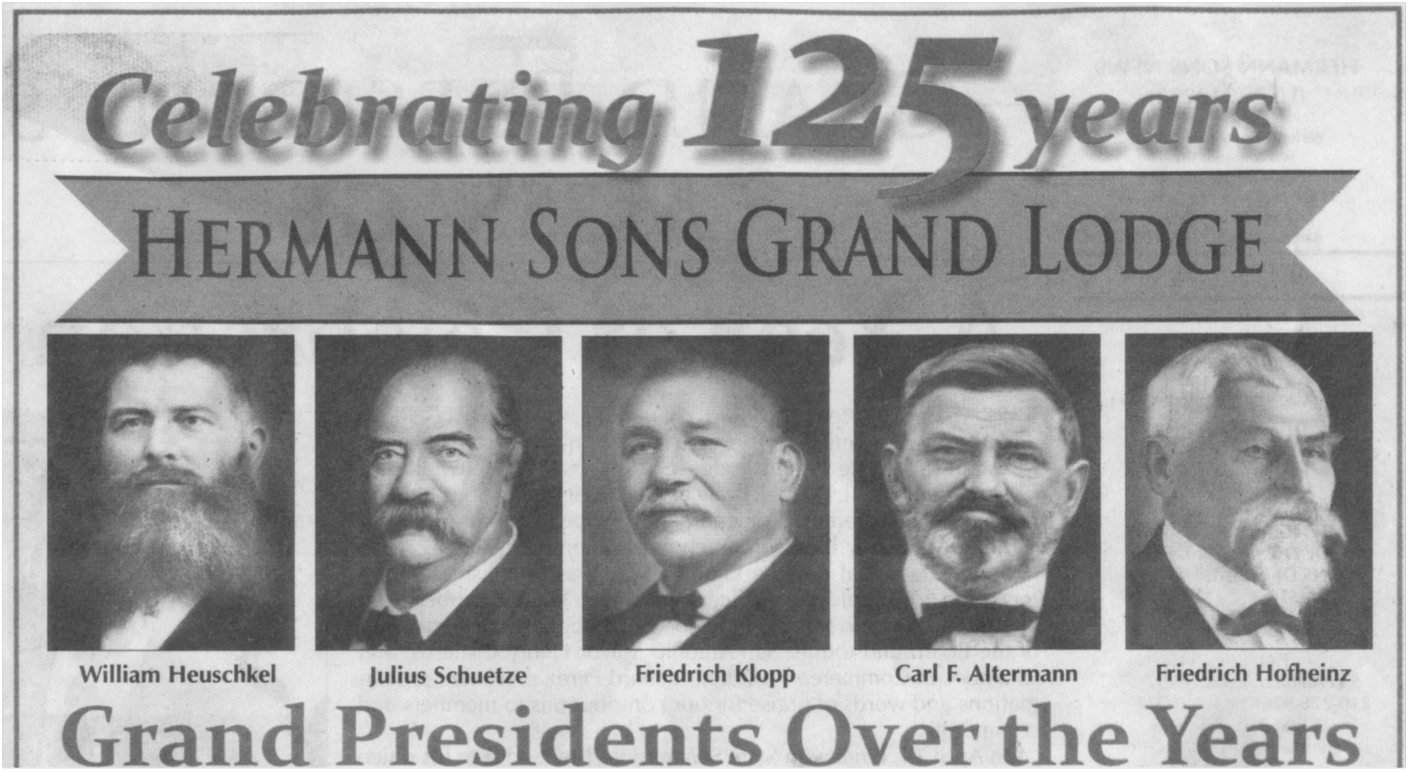
In 1939, Carl Biebers was appointed to direct membership. Up to now, Hermann Sons certificates and membership were just for adults. But Hermann Sons leadership saw value in offering junior certificates. life insurance for children could offer immediate protection, build a base for future protection and teach financial responsibility. The addition of junior life insurance would make Hermann Sons a true family organization. The first .junior certificate was written for Robert William Lange on Sept. 15, 1942. Within three years Hermann Sons would develop the 20-year pay whole life certificate. Certificate Number 1 was issued to Harry A. Nass Jr. on Sept. 1, 1945.

Carl Biebers was elected Grand President in 1946. His efforts to bring insurance products and membership to children had a great impact on Hermann Sons. But what would follow would solidify his role as "Father of the Youth Movement" and make Hermann Sons a pioneer in youth programming.

TOP - Marie Zellweger was the founder of Vineta Lodge No. 15 in 1901. The sister lodge is one of only three that still exists today. ABOVE - This photo is o Comal Sister Lodge No. 45. Not sure who the men are. RIGHT - This undated group photo is of a sister lodge. BELOW - Louise Schuetze Lodge No. 3 celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1971. Notice that the ladies donned period clothes for the celebration.

This photo shows members of the New Braunfels Lodge at the 1927 Grand Lodge Convention that was held in New Braunfels. The men and women had an equal say in the proceedings during the convention.

Hermann Sons News, July, 2015, Vol. 118, No. 11



EDITOR'S NOTE: On March 27, *1890, the eight Hermann Sons lodges that existed in Texas at the time came together to form* a *"'"home office" and thus the Grand Lodge was founded. That was* 125 *years ago. The Grand Lodge will celebrate its quasquicentennial on Oct.* 10 *in Floresville. The Hermann Sons News will mark the occasion with* a *series of articles on the history of Hermann Sons. This seventh article offers* a *brief look* at *each of the* 19 *men who have served as Grand President. It was compiled by current Grand President/ CEO Buddy Preuss.*

Any organization that exists as a relevant business for 125 years must have had exceptional leadership. Hermann Sons' is no exception to the rule. Over the past 125 years, 19 Grand Presidents and hundreds of elected and appointed leaders have helped to make our organization the fraternal society it is today. Here is a little history of our elected Grand Presidents. The tradition of leadership began with our first Grand President, **William Heuschkel** (1890-1891). He was born in Germany and immigrated to the United States in 1859. At the time he was selected as the first Grand President, he worked as a teamster for the Alamo Cement Company. A teamster at that time was one who drove a wagon and team of horses, mules or oxen. He was a member of Harmonia Lodge No.1.

The second Grand President was **Julius Schuetze** of Austin. He served from 1891-1892 and again from 1893-1897. He also was born in Germany and arrived in Indianola, Texas, with his family in 1852. His mother was Louise Schuetze for whom the San Antonio sister lodge is named. Schuetze founded the Texas Sangerbund, a German singing society. He was a music teacher and tutored the children of Governors Sam Houston and Pendleton Murrah. He was a lawyer and judge studying law under Judge Wooldridge. He published *Vorwarts (Forward),* a German language newspaper in New Braunfels and Austin. Schuetze also served as Hermann Sons National President from September 1897 until his death.

In earlier times, the office of Grand President was strictly a volunteer position. Their service was often memorialized upon their death with the Grand Lodge's purchase of their gravestone and a ceremony marking its erection. Such was the case with **Friedrich Klopp** of Denison and **Carl F. Altermann** of Dallas, our third and fourth

Service to community was a trait of many of our Past Grand Presidents including **Friedrich Hofheinz** (our fifth Grand President) who served as a longtime Justice of the Peace and County Commissioner in Kendall County and **William Oldenburg** (our sixth Grand President) who was a chief for the Galveston Volunteer Fire Department. **C. J. von Rosenberg** of La Grange and **August Haxthausen** of Houston (our seventh and eighth Grand Presidents) were elected to the Texas House of Representatives. Von Rosenberg, the first U.S. born Grand President, also would serve as a Hermann Sons National Grand Lodge President from 1913 to 1918. It was during the tenure of Haxthausen, the youngest Grand President elected, that the Hermann Sons Altenheim was built. It was his connection to Austin politics that probably made possible Governor James Ferguson's attendance at the dedication.

Tradition of leadership began with Grand Presidents

Julius Schramm of Granger was Grand President when the first mixed lodge, Pershing Lodge of San Antonio, was established. It was also during Schramm's term as the ninth Grand President that the Texas Hermann Sons ended its afiiliation with the National Order of the Sons of Hermann in 1921.

We became the Order of the Sons of Hermann in the State of Texas, a separate entity, with already more members and financially stronger than the national group.

The next time you visit the Grand Lodge you may want to have lunch at Schilo's Delicatessen a few blocks from the office. **Fritz Schilo Sr**. of San Antonio (our 10th Grand President) was the original owner. He also was the founder of the Beethoven Maennerchor and the Beethoven Hall and Garden in San Antonio.

George Haeusler, our 11th Grand President, was one of the first directors for the Fayette County Fair in La Grange. He and C. J. von Rosenberg were apparently friends.

Chris Herry of New Braunfels (our 12th Grand President) was an officer with the New Braunfels Brewing Company and president of Germischter Chor Harmonie, a German choir.

Carl Biebers of San Antonio (our 13th Grand President) served as Grand President (1946-1958) when the Youth Camp and Schools of Dance were established, and always will be remembered as the "Father of the Hermann Sons Youth Movement." It was during the tenures of **Fritz Schilo, Jr.** (son of Past Grand President Fritz Schilo Sr.) and **Henry Riemer** (our 14th and 15th Grand Presidents) that our Order witnessed amazing growth and would become the premier family organization it is today.

Louis B. Engelke (our 16th Grand President) created a Fraternal Activities Committee focusing a renewed emphasis on fraternalism and the fraternal family. Engelke was a newspaperman and in 1982, drawing on his past newspaper experience, the Grand Lodge took over publication of the Hermann Sons News, marking the first time in 83 years that an outside publisher did not produce our Order's newspaper.

Leroy P. Muehlstein (our 17th Grand President) was a businessman and salesman and emphasized the importance of agent training. He understood the importance of motivating agents having been Hermann Sons' first million dollar agent. What Louis Engelke did for the printed word Muehlstein did for the Internet, introducing our website and an online presence for Hermann Sons. Both Engelke and Muehlstein served as chair of the board of the American Fraternal Alliance.

In 2009, Muehlstein retired having served for 20 years, thus becoming the longest serving Grand President. His successor, **Stephen R. Prewitt** (our 18th Grand President) would continue the proud traditions of Hermann Sons. Brothers Prewitt and Muehlstein both currently serve on the Grand Committee with current Grand President **Allan W. Preuss**, the first time two Past Presidents have served on the Grand Committee since 1961.

In celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge, biographies are being assembled on each Past Grand President to be displayed below their pictures that hang in the Hall of Grand Presidents, next door to the museum at the Grand Lodge. These biographies should be ready sometime later this year. In the meantime, you are invited to visit the Grand Lodge Museum at 515 South St. Mary's St. in San Antonio to see for yourself the proud history of our organization that is on display.

*Sources: rootsweb.ancestry.*com *and The First One Hundred Years, 1890-1990*

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

OPERATIONS

GTHS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, 14 June 2015

The regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the German Texan Heritage Society was held on 14 June 2015 in the German Free School headquarters of the Society with the President in the chair and the Secretary being present.

Meeting Attendees: Michael Krause, Charles Locklin, Jim Gudenrath, Richard Gruetzner, Liz Hicks, Kristi Lee-Nordin, Connie Krause, Dr. Larry Deuser, Eddie Wolsch

President Krause called the meeting to order at 11:12 am and it was established that a quorum was present. The minutes of the previous meeting of 8 March 2015 were approved as submitted.

After some discussion, Connie Krause made a motion that future minutes of Board meetings would be approved by means of email review by Board members and only published in the Journal after they had been approved. Motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report - Treasurer Gudenrath presented the financial report which was accepted. It was noted that the 2015 Maifest event did make a profit this year. It was also reported that the Society's IRS tax return had been filed in a timely manner. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Reports -

Activities Committee: Maifest - As reported by the Treasurer, the event made a profit this year in spite of threatening weather. The food vendor, Frank's, was well received.

Annual Conference - Frank's will be the vendor for the lunches served at the conference. Liz Hicks has obtained a contract with Double Tree Hotel for reduced rates for conference attendees at favorable terms. She also handed out a sample advertising solicitation letter for the event. The committee will be scheduling planning meetings in the near future.

Oktoberfest - Due to the hotel construction, our parking lot may not be usable for the event.

Christmas Market - It is suggested that we increase the amount of merchandise purchased to sell at the event. It was also suggested that a "members only" sale be held on Friday with memberships available for sale at the door. This may assist with the crowding experienced at the last Christmas Market. It has been learned that city ordinances require a permit to sell home baked goods to members of the public, but not to society members. The food permit held by the food vendor for the event does not cover the sale of home baked goods to the public.

Membership Committee: Liz Hicks reported our current membership stands at 487 although there is some possible error in that number depending on how family memberships are counted. After some discussion regarding privacy concerns relating to the broad distribution of the Journal, Charles Locklin made a motion that the membership list no longer be printed in the Journal and that it only be made available to Society members upon their request. The motion was approved.

German Free School Committee: A report was made which discussed improvements for storage areas on site, the continuing problem with the transient population trashing the property, and the on-going issues involving the hotel being constructed. A motion was made by Jim Gudenrath to approve in principle the agreement between the Society and the Hyatt Hotel, as agreed to by Charles Locklin and Dr. Larry Deuser, with approval for them to have the discretion to say no to the agreement. The motion was approved.

President Krause commended Charles Locklin and Larry Deuser for their efforts in the negotiations between the Hyatt Hotel and the Society.

Development Committee: No action since last meeting.

Ad Hoc Committees:

Restaurant Proposal- The restaurant that proposed opening a food service in the German Free School has decided not to go forward with the proposal.

Administrative Actions -

Review of Journal and Annual Conference Program fees for ads: Approved as printed in the minutes of the March 8 meeting.

Review of Board Committee assignments: The President may appoint members of the Advisory Board to committees.

Review of Vacant Board positions: The President announced that Jon Todd Koenig has resigned his position on the Board. There are currently several board positions that are vacant. There are three current members that need to be elected to new terms on the Board by the next membership meeting: Locklin, Gudenrath, and Hunter.

See complete Board of Directors list at end of these minutes

Management Actions: A motion was made by Dr. Larry Deuser that the Executive Committee be approved to evaluate and install security measures as determined necessary. The motion was approved.

Establish Publications Committee as a Standing Committee in the Bylaws: There will be an electronic vote following a thirty day period to allow Board members to review the submitted proposed language for the bylaws. See the addendum below the list of Board of Directors for the results of the vote.

Establish a review process for Advisory Board selections and appointments: Following a discussion and a request for suggested new board members, a motion was made by President Krause that he be approved to contact current Advisory Board members to determine if they wish to continue serving and allowing him to appoint them to the Advisory Board for the current term. The motion was approved.

Schedule next Board meeting - The next Board meeting was scheduled for 13 September 2015.
The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

GTHS Board of Directors
January 2015
(Current as of April 2015)

Place No.	Director Name	Full Term Serving	Start Year	Term Span In Years	City of Residence	Region of Texas
#1	James Kearney	Second	2012	2015-18	Weimer	Independence
#2	Michael Krause	Second	2011	2015-18	New Braunfels	Hill Country
#3	Liz Hicks	Second	2011	2015-18	Houston	Independence
#4	Brent Hunter	First	2014	2012-15	Austin	Hill Country
#5	Jim Gudenrath	First	2013	2012-15	Austin	Hill Country
#6	vacant			2012-15		
#7	vacant			2013-16		
#8	Eddie Wolsch	First	2014	2013-16	Seymour	Lakes
#9	Richard Gruetzner	First	2014	2013-16	Burnet	Hill Country
#10	Barbara Berthold	First	2014	2014-17	Dallas	Lakes
#11	Kristi Lee-Norton	First	2014	2014-17	Austin	Hill Country
#12	Connie Krause	First	2014	2014-17	New Braunfels	Hill Country
#13	vacant			2014-17		
#14	Charles Locklin	First	2012	2012-15	Austin	Hill Country
#15	Larry Deuser	First	2013	2013-16	Lakeway	Hill Country

Addendum: Reference the email vote on the establishment of the Publications Committee -
Bylaws reference: 11.2 Amendments: "these Bylaws may be amended by a two-third vote of Directors upon thirty days written notice to all members of the Board of Directors…."
The Board was provided this proposal in writing at the last meeting and the decision was to vote after 30 days by email.

Proposed statement for the GTHS Board Bylaws

8.8G Publications Committee: The Publications Committee shall be responsible for developing policies and procedures for the selection, inventory and marketing of German Heritage Books, for the operations of the library and for the digitalization of Journals and historical documents for preservation and multimedia access. It also shall provide regular editorial review of GTHS publications including the Journal and other organizational news publications to insure relevant content of both contemporary and historical information.

An email vote on the proposed by-laws failed to achieve a two-thirds majority, so the motion failed. The proposal will be revisited at the next Board meeting.

These minutes were approved by electronic vote on 30 July 2015.

1

German-Texan Heritage Society

Promoting Awareness and Preservation of the German Cultural Heritage of Texas Since 1978
2015 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Renewal	□
New	□

If New, how did you find us? _____

Name: _____

Other Household Member(s):: _____
(If joining in the family, patron or life categories)

Address: _____ City: _____ ____ ST: _____ Zip + 4: _____-_____

Phone (H): (____)_____ Phone: (C) (____)_____ Email: _____

Yes, I want to Join/Renew!

CATEGORY	ANNUAL DUES: Jan-Dec (July-Dec, 1/2 price for new members only)
Life Member	□ $1000 *(one time payment; 1/2 price not applicable)*
Patron	□ $ 100
International	□ $ 65 *(includes international shipping)*
Family	□ $ 50 *(at same address)*
Individual	□ $ 35
Library/Society/Institution	□ $ 40
Student or Teacher	□ $ 20 *(w/ valid ID. No printed material; e-mail only)*
	$

Yes, I want to make a donation!

Thanks, your donations help to maintain and expand our several heritage educational programs.

Donation *	**$**	**$**
	Total Enclosed	**$**

* Please make my donation □ **in honor of** or □ **in memory of** _____
Address for acknowledgment _____

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

Payment Information: □ **Check #**_____ □ **MasterCard/Visa** **Signature** _____

Credit Card #: _____ **Exp. Date:** _____ **V-Code** _____ **Date** _____

Make checks payable to **GTHS**. If you pay by credit card, please sign above. Complete this form and mail along with your payment to: GTHS, P.O. Box 684171, Austin, TX 78768-4171

If your employer offers a matching gift program, please complete their paperwork and forward to GTHS with this form. *Rev. 11/2014*

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GTHS LIBRARIAN

PAM TABORSKY, Austin

GENEALOGY EDITOR

LIZ HICKS, Houston

JOURNAL EDITOR

MARY WHIGHAM, Washington

WHERE DO YOU SEND THINGS FOR THE JOURNAL?

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

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING MATERIALS TO THE JOURNAL?

NEXT ISSUE	SUBMISSION DEADLINE
Winter 2015	November 1, 2015
Spring 2016	February 1, 2016
Summer, 2016	May 1, 2016
Fall, 2016	August 1, 2016

POLICY STATEMENT

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

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www.GermanTexans.org

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