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# German-Texan Heritage Society's Member Only Christmas Market Pre-Sale

Join us Friday, December 4th, 2015  
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM, Tax-Free Event



## Location:

German Free School  
507 East 10th Street  
Austin, TX  
(512) 467-4569  
855-892-6691

## Refreshments:

German style baked goods  
Glühwein (hot spiced wine)

## Shopping:

New merchandise!  
Large selection of  
nutcrackers, ornaments,  
pyramids, candle arches,  
toys & much more.



# 20th Annual German Christmas Market



Presented by the German-Texan Heritage Society

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH, 2015**  
**10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Tax-Free Event**

### Shopping:

Traditional handcrafted items from the Erzgebirge region of Germany incl. pyramids, nutcrackers, candle arches, ornaments smokers & linens.

### Refreshments:

German style baked goods for sale & complimentary Glühwein (hot spiced wine)

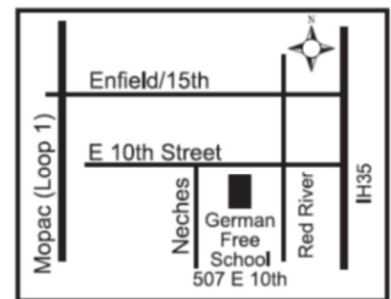
### Entertainment:

Austin Saengerrunde  
Visits from St Nick & Santa



### Location:

German Free School  
507 East 10th Street  
Austin, TX  
(512) 467-4569  
855-892-6691



### Calling Volunteers:

Interested in helping out at our market?  
Email programs  
@germantexans.org

**Post Sale Dates: Dec 9 & 10, 2015 - 12 PM - 4 PM (not tax-free)**



## Frohe Weihnachten ya'll!

More information at [www.germantexans.org](http://www.germantexans.org)





*Calling all Texans of German heritage!*

The **Texas German Dialect Project**  
at the **University of Texas at Austin**

# **NEEDS *YOUR* HELP**

100 years ago, **Texas German**—a dialect of German completely unique to Central Texas—was spoken by over 100,000 Texas Germans. Now, with less than ~6,000 speakers, it is on the verge of dying out.

In an effort to preserve the language, history and culture of the Texas Germans for future generations, the **TGDP** at **UT Austin** is interviewing and recording Texas German speakers, and creating an online archive of their language and stories.

**Help us preserve this precious and unique  
aspect of German culture in  
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*(512) 910-5047*

*texasgermandialect@gmail.com*

*<http://www.tgdp.org/support>*



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**THE JOURNAL OF**  
**THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY**  
**VOLUME XXXVII - NUMBER 4, WINTER 2015**

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**Vielen Dank to these contributors**

<b>Rodney Koenig - Houston</b> <b>Karen O’Quin, Houston</b> <b>Charles Thompson, Houston</b> <b>Eddie Walsh, Seymour</b>	<b>Liz Hicks—Houston</b> <b>Carolyn Heinsohn, La Grange</b> <b>Mary Whigham, Old Washington</b> <b>James Johnson, Double Oak</b>
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**Tip for submissions to the Journal via technology:**  
 Scan newspaper articles/pictures on the highest resolution possible on the scanner. If submitting newspaper articles via email, do not embed into a Word or other format document, attach as a jpeg or pdf.

**Tip for submission to the Journal via snail mail:**  
 If submitting newspaper articles via snail mail, try not to bend through a picture. (I have to “iron” it!).  
 As always, keep those cards and letters comin’ .....love hearing from you! Mary

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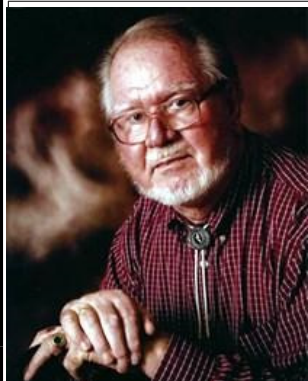
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## In Memoriam

### Hans Ludwig von Schweinitz



Hans Ludwig von Schweinitz passed away on the 26th of August, 2015, in Pflugerville, Texas. He was 80 years old, suffering from pancreatic cancer.

Hans was born on October 26, 1934, in Liegnitz, Germany, in the province of Silesia (Schlesien). His father was Hans Wilhelm von Schweinitz, his mother was nee Sigrid Freiin von Zedlitz-und-Leipe. He had a happy childhood living on the ancestral estate Schloss Alt-Raudten, but his mother died when he was eight

years old.

When, in early 1945, Russian troops rolled into Silesia, the von Schweinitz family, together with millions of other Germans, had to flee. They happened to be on the streets of Dresden when Allied planes dropped phosphor bombs on the crowd, and over 33 000 people burnt to death. The smell haunted Hans all his life. Hans, his sister Ingrid, his father and his stepmother (nee Ursula von Brauchitsch) eventually settled in a small cottage without water and plumbing in the woods near Wiesbaden. His stepmother gave birth to three children within four years.

At the age of 14, Hans, all by himself, moved to Wiesbaden and completed a three-year apprenticeship as photographer and photo lab specialist. He worked in that field in Germany until he was 23 years old. His pay as an apprentice was so low, that he often had to go hungry.

In 1957, Hans immigrated to the United States and was soon drafted, although he was still a German citizen and could barely speak English. He joined the US Air Force and served honorably for 20 years, retiring as SMSgt. He became a US citizen in 1961. He earned a B.S. Degree with Honor in Mathematics from Auburn University.

He met and married Helga Poertner in Milwaukee, WI, in 1958. They have two children: Bettina and Christopher, and three grandchildren: Matthew, Elena and Michael. Hans was very active and had many hobbies. He snow-skied on an Air Force team, he was a scuba diving instructor, he was a skilled spelunker and was one of the discoverers of the Cave of the Madonna in the Guadalupe Mountains.

His civilian jobs included setting up and running a reconnaissance photo lab in Saudi Arabia for three years, working for the Veterans Administration as a computer analyst and being a free-lance photographer. In 1980, he began buying run down houses, fixed them up and sold or kept them. That led to yet another career in buying and creating real estate liens.

Hans is survived by Helga, his wife of 57 years, their children Bettina and Christopher with wife Jill, his grandchildren Matthew with wife Sara, Elena and Michael, his sister Ingrid Wolf and numerous other relatives in Germany. His half-brothers are Kurt Balthasar in Namibia, Michael in Germany and Alexander in Italy. A half-sister is Therese Klar, Germany. He loved to give his wife flowers and usually bought a bouquet when shopping in a supermarket. Hans liked to travel and to experience different cultures. As a teenager he crossed the Alps on a bicycle. During his career he lived in Thailand, England, Germany, Saudi Arabia and many different States of the US, thus not having a place he could call home except his family. He joined Friendship Force International and stayed with families in Chile, Brazil, the Argentines, Japan and European countries. He really enjoyed hosting visitors from several continents.

He appreciated Austin's cultural scene, especially the Opera and activities sponsored by the German-Texan Heritage Society. One of his greatest pleasures was salmon fishing in Canada and sea trout fishing with friends in the Gulf of Mexico.

Since his stroke in 2004, he could no longer read books, nor drive a car or take his dogs Whiskey and Schnapsi for walks. Yet, he never complained. Hans was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith and was a member of a Presbyterian church for several years.

A graveside services will be conducted at one o'clock in the afternoon on Monday, the 31st of August 2015, at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, 1520 Harry Wurzbach Road, San Antonio, TX 78209 under the direction of Cook-Walden Funeral Home. To share condolence with the family, please visit [www.cookwaldenfuneralhome.com](http://www.cookwaldenfuneralhome.com). Memorial Services will be conducted at two o'clock in the afternoon on Monday, the 14th of September 2015, in the Colonial Chapel of Cook-Walden Funeral Home, 6100 North Lamar Boulevard, Austin.

## President's Notes



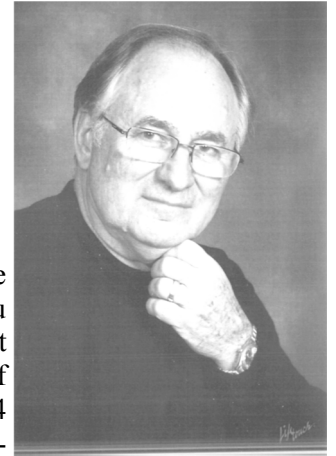


## LEAVE YOUR GERMAN MARK

By Rodney C. Koenig (past President of GTHS)

**Elisabet Ney, January 26, 1833–June 29, 1907**

Many of us have been to the Capitol of Texas in Austin. In fact our German Free School located on 10<sup>th</sup> Street near Red River in Austin is near the Capitol Building. If you have been in the Rotunda in the Capitol Building, you have likely seen the magnificent sculptures of Sam Houston and of Stephen F. Austin which are located there. Both of these sculptures were done by Elisabet Ney, whose Museum is located in Austin at 304 East 44<sup>th</sup> Street at her studio named Formosa. A picture of Formosa is attached, as is a picture of the sculpture of Sam Houston and Ludwig II done by Ms. Ney.



Pictures show Formosa, Sam Houston Sculpture, Ludwig II Sculpture, and Portrait of Ludwig II



Elisabet Ney was a German sculptor with a Texas-sized talent. Few Texans realized that in Europe she had sculpted the images of famous men: Schopenhauer, Garibaldi, Bismarck, and King Ludwig II of Bavaria. In Heidelberg she met Edmund Montgomery, a Scottish medical student whom she secretly married. Born in Münster, Westphalia, in then Prussia, Ney immigrated first to Georgia in 1870 and then to Texas with her family in 1873, when she settled at Liendo Plantation near Hempstead. Later she built her limestone studio, named Formosa, in Austin's Hyde Park neighborhood in 1892. The studio and the grounds are now part of the Elisabet Ney Museum, discussed by Oliver Franklin, curator, at our last annual meeting in Austin. The statue of Sam Houston was commissioned in 1892 for the Texas State Building at the World Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. Ney sculpted this vigorous portrait of Houston at about age 40—the age

he was when he first came to Texas and took on the leadership of the Texas revolutionary army and soon after, the Republic of Texas. The original of this marble statue stands next to Ney's marble portrait of Stephen F. Austin in the Texas state capitol building. A replica Houston statue lives just down the street with the Capitol Goddess at the Bullcock Texas State History Museum.

The first time I met Dr. Kelly Haygood Stephens, I had been to the State Cemetery in Austin and had visited the Elisabet Ney sculpture of Confederate general Albert Sidney Johnson. Thereafter my mother, Elva Oeding Koenig and I went to the German Free School, the home of Dr. Kelly Haygood Stephens. When I told him I had just seen the Ney Sculpture of Albert Sidney Johnson, he became excited and pointed to the doors to his home and said: "These doors are from the Austin home of General Albert Sidney Johnson." That was a conversation opener and before I left his home an hour or so later, he had agreed to give the German Free School to GTHS at his death, and had signed a handwritten codicil to his will doing so. Within a few months or so, on August 2, 1991, he actually deeded his home, the German Free School (reserving a life estate to himself) to German-Texan Heritage Society and redid a more formal will. Hence we can connect Elisabet Ney to our acquiring the German Free School. Another personal experience is my visit to Herrenchiemsee Palace between Munich and Salzburg on an island on Chiemsee many years ago. King Ludwig II of Bavaria had built several castles, including Neuschwanstein, Linderhof and Herrenchiemsee.

The palace of Herrenchiemsee was built upon an island floating in Germany's largest inland lake - a perfect little spot to assure the eccentric King's privacy. At Herrenchiemsee is a sculpture of Ludwig II done by Elisabet Ney just before she left Germany. Some rumors even connect Ludwig II romantically with Ney and her reason for leaving Germany abruptly. When one looks at her sculpting of Ludwig II, one can see the similarities between it and her later sculptures of Houston and Austin located in the Texas Capitol. Elisabet Ney truly left her German Mark on our state through her magnificent Sculptures. Learn more of her by visiting Liendo Plantation near Hempstead and Formosa Museum in Austin.

How will you leave your German Mark? Will you sculpt, paint, or write of German Texans? Will you change your will, IRA, life insurance or 403(b) plan to add financial gifts to German Texan groups or to GTHS? Will you create a scholarship fund to help students study German or travel to German speaking countries? Will you help fund our GTHS Journal or lectures to advance our German Texan heritage and culture? Contact our GTHS office, any officer or Director of GTHS or me at 713-651-5333 or email me at [rodney.koenig@nortonrosefulbright.com](mailto:rodney.koenig@nortonrosefulbright.com) for help in leaving your German Mark.

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

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

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



### **Schmidt – Kirschke**

Doris Brown e-mail: [dkirschke80@gmail.com](mailto:dkirschke80@gmail.com) is researching Charles/Karl Schmidt, Conrad Schmidt (came with the Adelsverein) and Franz/Frank Kirschke in Houston, Harris County. I want to locate place of origin in Germany. I believe Charles/Karl Schmidt died before 1880.

**Reply:** Conrad Schmidt received 640 acres as a Fischer Miller colonist. You can view and print His land grant from the Texas General Land Office site. Here is the link for his land grant: <http://www.glo.texas.gov/cf/land-grant-search/LandGrantsWorklist.cfm> (click on pdf, image will take a few seconds to load). According to *A New Land Beckoned, German Immigration to Texas 1844-1847* by Geue a Conrad Schmidt arrived in Galveston, TX on the s/s Apollo in 1846. A Conrad Schmidt filed his Declaration of Intent in Harris County June 2, 1851 in the 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court Minutes, Volume 4, page 361; Grant of Citizenship June 21, 1854, same court, Volume G, p. 249. You can write for these records, or see if the LDS/Mormans have microfilmed them. The Declaration of Intent and/or Grant of Citizenship (Naturalization) may give his place of birth in Germany.

Your Alwin/Alvin Kirschke, age 60 in 1860 census, seems to be the immigrant. His death certificate has his father as Franz Kirschke. He filed his “final” papers Sept. 26, 1906 in the 61<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Court of Harris County.

Karl (Charles) Schmidt filed Declaration of Intent Nov. 10, 1873 in the 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court Minutes Vol. P, page 286. No Grant of Citizenship is listed. Maybe he was naturalized in another county. Harris County has death certificates 1874-1900. There were three Schmidts listed who could be your guy. (1) C.F. Schmidt, died Nov. 27, 1882 age 57, born Germany, Saddler, died from Pneumonia, Dr. J. Larendon, attending physician; (2) Chas. Schmidt died Nov. 13, 1891 age 70, senility, no Doctor reported, no place of birth listed; (3) Chas. Schmidt died May 18, 1880, age 42, born Germany, merchant, inflammation of bowels, Dr. W.A. Archer, MD.

### **Sassmannshausen – Kaiserlich Deutsches Konsulate, Galveston, TX**

Andreas Sassmannshausen, Heinsberger Str. 7, 57271 Hilchenbach, Am Waldschlösschen 23, 42119 Wuppertal, Germany. “Marriage record of my grandfather from Nov. 1888 (local Archives in Hilchenbach, Germany) refers to death record by “Kaiserl, Konsulate” in Galveston, Texas. Death record gives information that my great grandfather, Carl Sassmannshausen, died On April 11, 1884, Salado, Texas.”

**Reply:** The Rosenberg Library in Galveston, TX may be of assistance, or perhaps write to The German Consulate in Houston, TX. If the “Kaiserl, Konsulate” was dissolved, what happened to the records? 1884 is before the statewide keeping of Texas vital records (1903+). Possibly, the Portal to Texas History’s digitized Texas newspapers online (website: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/search>) may have an obit or article on Carl Sassmannshausen if he died unexpectedly or in an accident.

### **Texas-Westphalia Artifacts**

Kerstin Wölki e-mail: [Kerstin.woelki@dingedurchdenken.de](mailto:Kerstin.woelki@dingedurchdenken.de), project for Culture and Knowledge: Greta-Bünichmann-Strasse 22, 48155 Münster, Germany, seeks family artifacts of ancestors who came from Westphalia.

**Reply:** Sculptor, Elisabeth Ney had a Westphalia connection. Please contact the Elisabeth Ney Museum in Austin, TX ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elisabet\\_Ney\\_Museum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elisabet_Ney_Museum)). GTHS member, Van Massirer suggests the Church of the Visitation, 144 County Road 3000, Lott, TX (South of Waco, TX), phone: (254) 584-4983.



## DID YOU KNOW?

The Portal to Texas History (University of North Texas), a FREE online website, <http://texashistory.unt.edu/search> has searchable digitized newspapers, city directories, yearbooks, photographs, maps, books, and recently added Travis County Probate Records 1840/1870 Index, and Travis County Probate Records Minute books A-Z, 1840-1916.

ArchivesGrid – [www.archivesgrid.org](http://www.archivesgrid.org)

Includes over four million records describing archival materials, bringing together information about historical documents, personal papers, family histories, and more. There are over 1,000 different archival institutions represented. Archives Grid helps researchers locate primary source materials held in archives, libraries, museums and historical societies. You can search for holding institutions in a particular state.

### World War II - POW Database

This site features records of 143,374 U.S. servicemen/women and civilians who were held captive by Japan and Germany during World War Two. Our information has been derived from public sources such as the DOD and United States National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

<http://www.ww2pow.info/>

February 6-7, 2016: [The Center for Volga German Studies](#) will host a two-day genealogy workshop in Austin, TX, at the Neill-Cochran House Museum. The workshop will focus on resources and tools to research the genealogies of the Volga Germans, their ancestors, and their descendants. The public is invited to attend. You may find additional information about the workshop at their website through Concordia University Portland: <http://cvgs.cu-portland.edu/events/2016Feb6.cfm>. As an FYI, their Origins page with surname list is very interesting: <http://cvgs.cu-portland.edu/origins.cfm>. Please direct any questions about the event to Dr. Brent Mai at [bmai@cu-portland.edu](mailto:bmai@cu-portland.edu) or (503) 493-6460

Baytown Genealogy Society post: Passenger Lists on Family Search (a sampling below)

[Texas and Arizona Arrivals, 1903-1910](#)

[Texas, Brownsville Passenger and Crew List of Airplanes, 1943-1964](#)

[Texas, Eagle Pass Arrival Manifests and Indexes, 1905-1954](#)

[Texas, El Paso Manifests of Arrivals at the Port of El Paso, 1905-1927](#)

[Texas, Houston Arrival Manifests of Airplanes, 1946-1954](#)

[Texas, Indexes and Manifests of Arrivals at the Port of Del Rio, 1906-1953](#)

[Texas, Laredo Arrival Manifests, 1903-1955](#)

[Texas, Manifests of Aliens Granted Temporary Admission at El Paso, ca. July 1924-1954](#)

[Texas, San Antonio, Alien Arrivals, May 1944-March 1952](#)

## *Helga's Corner*

### **Gehört**

*Das gehört sich nicht.* That is not proper behavior.

*Das gehört mir nicht.* That does not belong to me.

*Das habe ich nicht gehört.* I have not heard that.

*Das gehört in den Keller.* That belongs in the basement.

As is obvious, the word *gehört* has many meanings.

People ask me ``What does *geho*, *geho* with two dots rt mean in English?`` When I answer ``You mean *gehört*? I need to hear it in context.`` Many callers conclude then that I am too nitpicky for their needs

There are many participles as well as infinitives starting with *ge*, and I love to let my mind play with finding them... ...*braten, briet, gebraten; raten, riet, geraten* - o lala! *geraten? Er hat mir geraten, den Braten langsam zu braten. So ist der Braten gut geraten. geraten = advised; geraten = to turn out good. Weißt du, wie alt ich bin? Dreimal darfst du raten. Wenn du es richtig geraten hast, rate ich dir, es nicht zu verraten.*

*Wenn jemand intensiv hört, sagt man in English ``he listens``. Im Deutschen kann man sagen er horcht. If the little boy does not listen to what he is told, sagt man er gehorcht nicht.*

*The word horchen brings to mind a popular folksong with a compelling marching rhythm:*

*Horch was kommt von draußen rein.*

*Hollahi, hollaho*

*Muss wohl mein fein's Liebchen sein.*

*Hollahihaho*



# Bulletin Board

## Houston German Day Association / Houston Deutsche Tag Gesellschaft

Among the historic records of the Houston Saengerbund, now in the archives of the University of Houston, is a record book of the Houston Deutsche Tag Gesellschaft, the German Day Association dating back to the years of 1905 to 1910.

At about the same time the Houston Saengerbund was founded, a group of Germans in Houston formed the German Day Association. They held meetings throughout the year, but the most important yearly event was the celebration of the German Day, which usually took place in October or November. On October 7, 1906 the records state that celebrations for the German Day started already in the morning with social time spent together and preparing for the big concert in the afternoon. Some of the choirs performing were the Deutsche Sommerschule, the Houston Frohsinn AND the Houston Saengerbund. Following the concert was the election of the board and after some serious business talks, it was dancing all night making it a really long day.

Reading through the record book, I found that many celebrations took place at Turner Hall, the club house of the Houston Saengerbund. Admission was 50 cents and ladies were admitted for free. I like that.

The most interesting remarks yielded the German Day celebration of 1909. The day was set for November 11 and preparations had been ongoing for months. The plan was to have a parade with twelve historic floats. Invited to the parade was an impressive number of choirs, the Houston Frohsinn, Galveston Concordia, Spring Branch Liedertafel, Brenham Vorwaerts, Die Froesche from La Grange, Bellville Maennerchor, Beethoven Gesangverein, San Antonio Liederkrantz, San Antonio Maennerchor, Dallas Frohsinn, Schulenberg Frohsinn, Austin Saengerbund AND the Houston Saengerbund. Many of the Saengerbunders will smile when they hear that despite the large numbers of choirs attending, the organizing committee decided to hire six Meistersinger.

The Festival Grounds were decorated and chairs to seat 2500 guests were ready. Houston Ice and Brewing company's head brewmaster Fritz Kalb donated free beer for all. An artist was hired to paint the floats called Wagen in German. To list a few, they had a San Jacinto Wagen, a Zeppelin Luftschiff Wagen (I'll come back to that one later), a Battle of Texarkana Wagen, a Braunfelser Wagen and a Battle of Teutoburg Wagen.

In addition to the Wagen, 20 horse drawn carriages were planned for City dignitaries such as Mayor Baldwin Rice, Judge E. Ashe, four City Commissioners, Sheriff A.R. Anderson and the Chief of Police George Ellis as well as other special guests. The very last Wagen of the parade was the carpenter Wagen with work men and carpenters on stand by for any needed repairs. Those Germans really thought about everything.

Groups of school children were invited to walk in the parade and a request had been made to close the schools on November 11. Initially, Mr. P.W. Horn, Super Intendant of City Schools in Houston, approved that all school children attending the parade were allowed to miss school that day but Mayor Rice and Rufus Cage, the president of the Board of School Trustees approved school closure for all schools for the day of the parade. Even the streetcar manager was asked to assure that the conductors of the streetcars would not interrupt the parade.

Can you imagine what a huge event this celebration of the German Day was in Houston? A town of just 78,000. It must have been THE event of the year.

I told you I would come back to the Zeppelin Luftschiff Wagen. Graf Zeppelin had been informed about the Zeppelin Luftschiff Wagen in Houston's parade and a few weeks after the parade a letter written by none other than Graf Zeppelin himself arrived to let the German Day Association know how much he appreciated having been honored in such a special way.



# Scenes from our 2015 Annual Meeting in Austin this September!



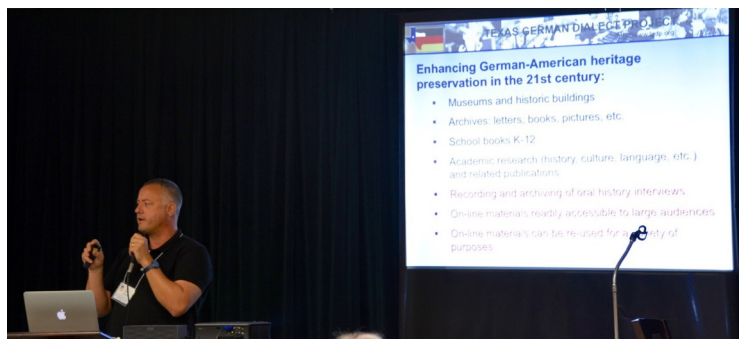
Consul Jochen Olbricht from the German Consulate in Houston and his wife Baerbel visited the Annual Meeting, flanked by President Michael Krause and VP Charles Locklin



Wolfram von Maszewski signing his book "A Sojourn in TX"



Warren Friedrich and Joyce Aldridge portray Joseph Hannig and Suzanna Dickinson for the group



TEXAS GERMAN DIALECTS

**Enhancing German-American heritage preservation in the 21st century:**

- Museums and historic buildings
- Archives: letters, books, pictures, etc.
- School books K-12
- Academic research: history, culture, language, etc.) and related publications
- Recording and archiving of oral history interviews
- On-line materials readily accessible to large audiences
- On-line materials can be re-used for a variety of purposes







AND MORE



AND MORE

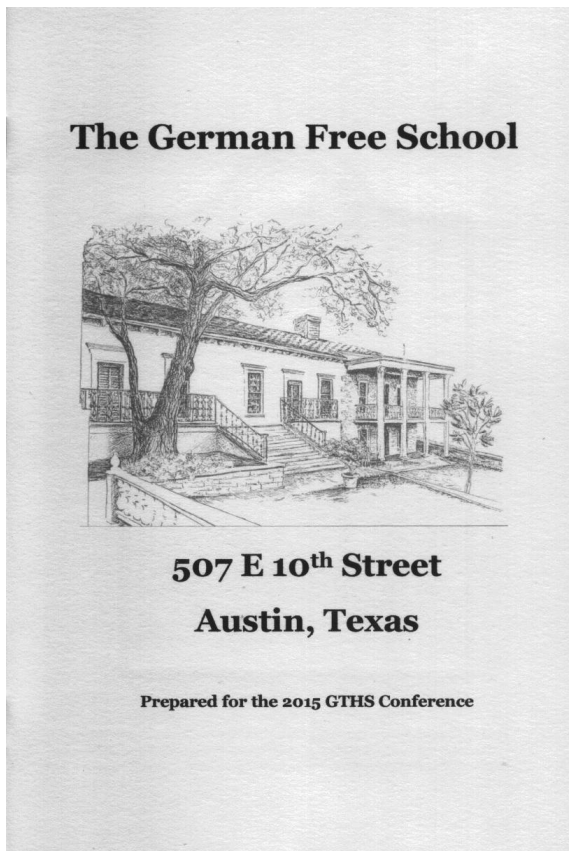






AND MORE





**Built in 1857, the German Free School is one of the “Hidden Gems of Downtown Austin.”**

This booklet details the History of the School and Building as well as information on the Teachers, Trustees and students.

Originally printed to commemorate the dedication of the Texas Historical Marker in 2002, this reprint with additions was made for the 2015 GTHS Conference in Austin.

We currently have a few still available and one can be obtained by sending \$10.00 (Checks only) (shipping & handling included).

Let us know if you are a descendant of a Trustee, Teacher or Student, and we will include a free ribbon identifying you as a descendant of the historic GFS.

Please make Checks payable to GTHS and mail to:

**GTHS**  
c/o Liz Hicks  
746 Edgebrook Dr.  
Houston, Tx 77034-2030



## **HELP !!**

### **Archeologists Seeking Information on Bottle Alignments found in German Households in Texas**

During a recent excavation near downtown Houston, archeologists from Prewitt and Associates, Inc. uncovered an unusual archeological feature containing lines of ceramic and glass bottles, buried upside-down, in the yard area of a late nineteenth century German house. We have only excavated a portion of this feature, but we believe these bottles may have been ornamental and were buried along the edge of an oyster-shell walkway behind or beside a house. These include ceramic ale (ginger beer) bottles, tall ceramic seltzer (mineral water) bottles, a glass liquor bottle, a glass wine bottle, and a glass beer bottle (C. Conrad and Company's "The Original Budweiser").



This photograph shows a series of features, including two perpendicular bottle alignments, found in the yard area behind or beside a house in the former Frost Town community near downtown Houston. The square feature at lower left is a brick foundation pier.

Ceramic and glass bottles from the yard feature. They were all probably manufactured in the 1870s – 1880s.



Another example was found in Houston during the 1990s archeological investigations at Minute Maid ballpark (Astros baseball park) in Houston. This one also contained 1870s and 1880s bottles and was associated with a German house.

We believe these upside-down bottle alignments may be common features associated with old German households in Texas — but we need more information.

**Do you know of any archeological examples  
of this type of bottle alignment?**

**Have you seen historical accounts or oral history referring  
to this type of bottle alignment?**

If so, please contact:

Aaron Norment  
anorment@paiarch.com  
512-459-3349, ext. 202

OR  
Doug Boyd  
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512-459-3349, ext. 204

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

## Der Anzeiger

Der Anzeiger, a digital publication started in January 2015 by the Missouri Germans Consortium is a very good source of information for those interested in the German settlement of Missouri, which is very similar to that of Texas. While written in a popular style for a general audience, the quarterly issues of 20 or so pages of each journal to date have focused on the Giessen Emigration Society which followed Gottfried Duden to Missouri in 1834. Similar to the letters of Friedrich Ernst which caused a mass immigration to TX from the Oldenburg region after he settled in TX in 1831, Duden's letters home and in particular a book he published about the U.S. in 1829, [A Report on a Journey to the Western States of North America](#), also resulted in a mass immigration to eastern Missouri, where he had settled in 1824. Contemporaries, Ernst and Duden both served in the military against Napoleon in the Napoleonic Wars and both immigrated to the U.S. within a few years of each other. Ernst originally headed to Missouri after his arrival in New York City in 1829, the same year Duden published his Report, until he and Karl Fordtran, a fellow passenger on the ship to New Orleans decided instead to settle in Austin's Colony in TX. While Ernst left under cloudy circumstances Duden, well-educated and trained in the law, immigrated not only to escape the economic conditions of the German states at that time but also due to the political repression of that era, as well. With his home near the universities of Giessen and Darmstadt, center of revolutionary activity following the Napoleonic Wars, his book influenced the development of the Giessen Gesellschaft – Giessen Emigration Society - an immigration company similar to the Adelsverein. Both were created to alleviate the poverty and overcrowding of the German states while establishing a Germanic society in that land of democratic ideals, the United States. And, while the result of both societies was German settlement in the U.S., pursuit of the high ideals of the French Revolution and German Romanticism quickly gave way to the pursuit of survival as conditions on the raw frontier were nearly overwhelming.

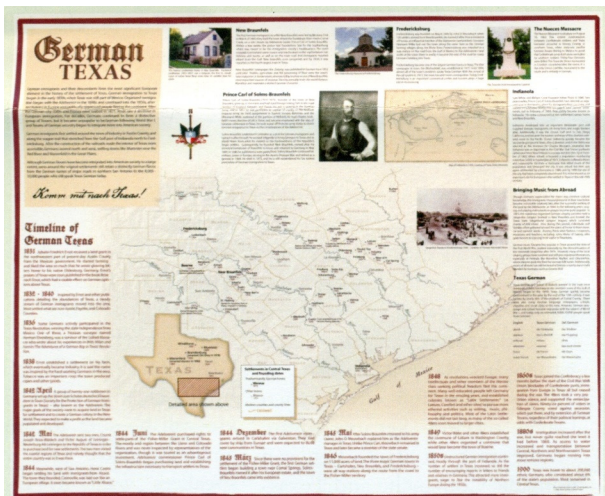
Also similar to Meusebach, et al, many, though not all, of the "Giesseners" were intellectuals – students, professors, journalists and other well-educated professionals who immigrated to escape political repression. Known as "die Dreissigers" because they immigrated in the 1830s, they were the forerunners of the 48ers who later also immigrated to escape political repression. While many of these Lateiners settled in TX due to the influence of the Adelsverein more settled in and around St. Louis due to the influence of the Giessen Gesellschaft. And, just as Austin to Houston became known as the German belt of TX due to the Adelsverein, eastern Missouri along the Missouri River is known as the Missouri Rhineland due to the Giessen Emigration Company.

Curiously enough, while many of the Giesseners were Freidenkers including the two founders of the society Paul Follenius and Friedrich Muench, who were for the most part atheists or at best religious skeptics, their neighbors were the conservative Old Order Lutheran immigrants of Saxony. Led by Pastor Martin Stephan, who had been in contact with Duden, they immigrated in 1838 and under C.F. W. Walther, later established the forerunner of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and founded Concordia University in St. Louis, which became the center of the LCMS.

To celebrate the establishment of the Giessen Emigration Society, the Missouri Germans Consortium not only created the Anzeiger - <http://mo-germans.com/quarterly-journal-2/> - but a traveling exhibit- Utopia: A German State in America - <http://mo-germans.com/exhibit/> - now housed in the Missouri History Museum in St. Louis.

Submitted by Eddie Wolsch, Seymour

\* \* \* \*



This 34"x28" comprehensive map of the Germans in Texas beginning 1831 is a must for any Texas German to have in their possession. Surrounding the map of Central Texas are several paragraphs about important Texas German people, places and events. Available for \$40 from:

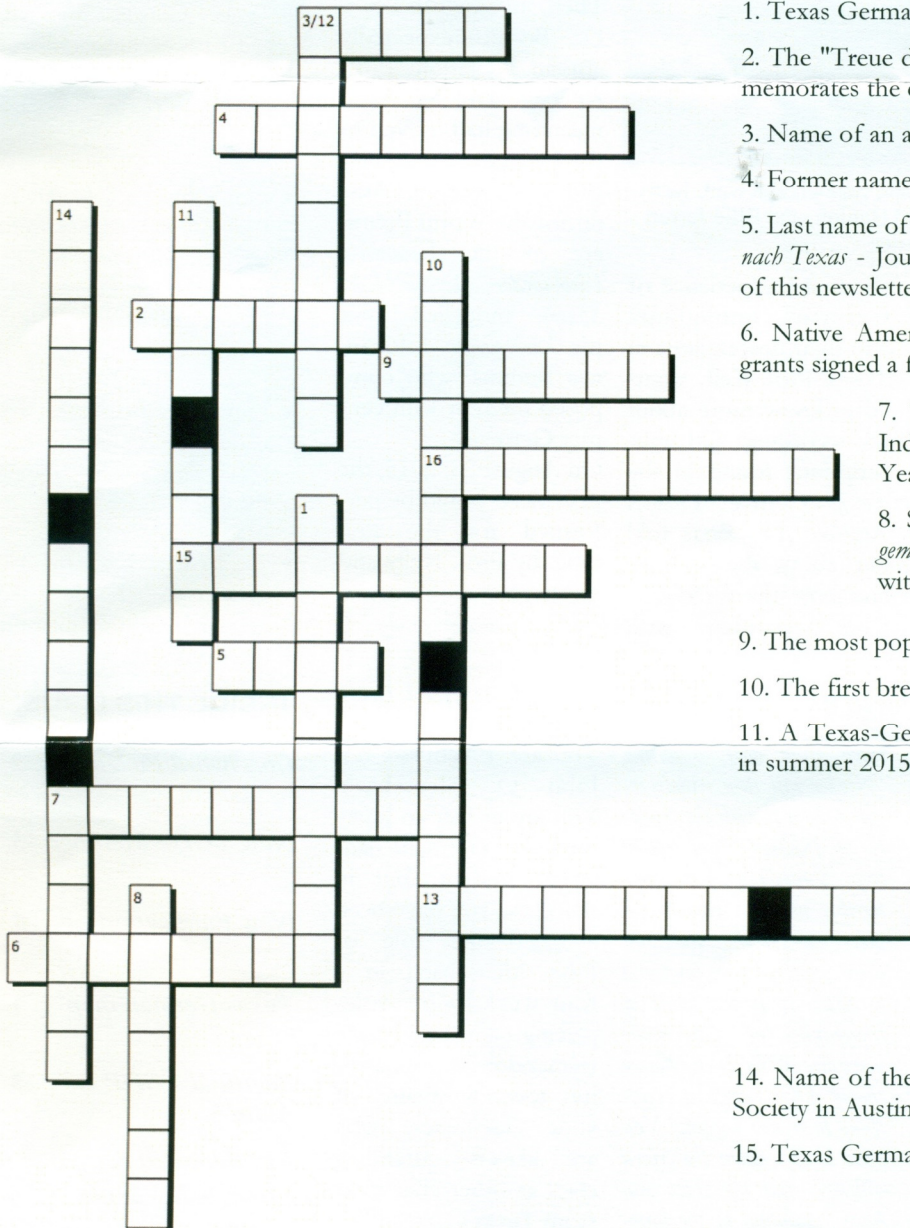
Department of Germanic Studies  
1 University Station C3300, Burdine 336  
The University of Texas at Austin  
Austin, TX 78712

Proceeds benefit the Texas German Endowment/Texas German Dialect Project. For more info contact TGDP at 512 279 2462



## Das Große Kreuzworträtsel: The Big Texas German Crossword Puzzle!

Learn about Texas German history, culture and language by solving the sentences and filling in the boxes in the puzzle below. To find the right answers, you can use information from our "German Texas Map" or you can go to the Texas Handbook Online (tshaonline.org). For questions 1 and 15, you can go to our dialect archive (www.tgdp.org). For "skunk" go to the **Gilbert interviews, sentence 128**. For "airplane" go to the open ended interviews, choose **Freyburg**, then **"World War Two in the Pacific"** and look for the speaker's description of **Japanese kamikaze airplanes!** A full solution to the puzzle is given on page 4. But don't be a *Schummler*: don't peek without trying!



1. Texas German name for "skunk."
2. The "Treue der Union" monument in Comfort commemorates the event known as the ... Massacre
3. Name of an annual sausage festival in New Braunfels.
4. Former name of Indianola, Texas (on our map!)
5. Last name of the German author who published *Reise nach Texas* - Journey to Texas in 1833 (check the front of this newsletter!)
6. Native American tribe with whom German immigrants signed a famous peace treaty in *Friedrichsburg*.
7. The last German child abducted by Indians. He wrote a memoir called "Nine Years with the Indians"
8. Small town north of Austin with two *gemütliche Biergärten* (name of town starts with "W", on our map!)
9. The most popular fruit from the *Friedrichsburg* area.
10. The first brewery in Texas, located in La Grange.
11. A Texas-German ice cream brand missed by many in summer 2015.
12. A group of German-Slavic Lutherans that settled in Serbin, TX.
13. Female sculptor from Germany who created the Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston marble statues exhibited in the State Capitol (two words, no "th").
14. Name of the seat of the German Texan Heritage Society in Austin (three words).
15. Texas German word for "airplane."

Courtesy of the Texas German Dialect Project Newsletter

See Page 198 for answers



# Community Events

United Evangelical Lutheran Church at Swiss Alp, established as the German speaking Philadelphia Lutheran Church in 1867, was excited to hold our first German worship service in 58 years on Saturday, September 12th! Regular German services were still held at Swiss Alp every third Sunday until 1957.

Slovakian Summer Intern Radim Pačmár, from the Evangelical Lutheran Seminary in Bratislava, Slovakia, presided and preached at the service: Ordnung des Predigtgottesdienstes. We welcomed many visitors and regular members for this festive occasion celebrating our German heritage.



Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

## History of Hermes Drug Store - La Grange, Texas - "Footprints of Fayette", *Fayette County Record*, April 7, 2014 by Elva Keilers

Christian Wilhelm August (William) Hermes was born in Altona, Duchy of Holstein, Germany in 1828. In April 1846, he emigrated to the U.S. via Galveston, Texas, and traveled overland to Fredericksburg, encountering various devastating illnesses during his journey and early months there. He left in 1847, traveling back to Galveston and then on to Houston, encountering more illness and hardship along the way. He found employ as a clerk for Cornelius Ennis, a leading businessman in Houston. Wishing to study medicine, Hermes returned to Germany in 1851, where he entered a three-year medical course in Berlin.

After completion of his medical curriculum, Dr. Hermes was determined to return to opportunities in The New World; he sailed to Houston on the Neptune in 1854. In 1855, he made his way to La Grange in Fayette County. At that time, Mr. Robert Janssen owned a drug store there, which had burned. Janssen asked Hermes to take over the drug store business, which he opened in 1856. Also in 1856, Dr. Hermes legally denounced his German citizenship, as he had previously sworn his allegiance to the United States at the county court in the Fayette County Court House in 1850.

Busy with both his medical practice and drug store operation, Dr. Hermes purchased Lot 148 in Block 20 in La Grange, then owned by Charles and Sidonia Praetorius, at the corner of Main and Colorado Streets on the northwest corner. This, then, was the first location of Hermes Drug Store.

Personal interest intervened for Dr. Hermes. He married Mary Schaefer of Fayette County on April 9, 1859. John Cabaniss, JP of Fayette County, performed the ceremony in the courthouse. Mary was 20 years of age at the time of her marriage; Dr. Hermes was 32. Mary was said to be the daughter of Charles F. Schaefer, an immigrant with family from Holstein; Mary had been born in Hanover, Germany in 1838.

Another chapter in the drug store history began in 1861 with the advent of the Civil War. The German population of Fayette County was divided in its feelings regarding Union versus Confederacy. The biggest issue was not that of

slavery, but of the wisdom of seceding from the United States, as the majority of the population were loyal Unionists, strongly anti-secessionist. On the slavery question, most were moderates, believing that the states should be allowed to work out that question, not the Federal government. Many tried to remain neutral, to no avail. Texas was admitted to the Confederacy March 1, 1861.

Dr. Hermes sided with the Unionists and felt that he would be banished if he remained in Texas. He sold the drug store to John Wirts for \$1,000, and he and his wife decided to join a German colony operating out of New Orleans. Passage by ship was sold out and not available to them. They traveled overland to Matamoros, Mexico on horseback and then sailed to Cuba and on to Panama, where upon arrival, they were met with the news that the colony had dissolved. William and Mary Hermes wound up in Bluefields on the eastern coast of Nicaragua. After a stay of less than a year, they ventured on to Colon, Panama, where a fire again claimed the business Dr. Hermes attempted to establish. Disheartened, the couple decided to return to Germany in 1863, where Dr. Hermes secured a position as a teacher in a family school for girls, owned by two of his sisters who had remained in Germany after William's initial departure for the U.S.

After learning of the surrender of the Confederacy in 1865, the Hermes couple wasted no time in returning to La Grange sailing to New York to Galveston and then traveling by wagon through Houston to La Grange. Dr. Hermes re-entered the drug store business in partnership with Dr. A.H. Eck, a native of Denmark, who had received his medical education in Germany and had worked in Houston before migrating to La Grange. Their business was then named Eck and Hermes Drug Store.

In December of 1866, William and Mary Schaefer Hermes welcomed a son, George, their only child. However, tragedy arrived in 1867, as yellow fever swept the area. It is reported that 20% of the population died, including Mary Hermes and son George. Guilt for not being able to cure his family affected Dr. Hermes, and he once more quit La Grange from 1867 – 1868.

Dr. Eck operated the drug store himself along with continuing his medical practice. He personally contracted the disease and survived, but was left with minimal vision. Dr. Hermes returned to the solo drug store and medical practice while Dr. Eck traveled extensively, trying to find a cure for his blindness, to no avail.

In early 1868, Dr. Hermes purchased what was to be known as the Old Hermes Homestead on the corner of N. Main and Guadalupe Streets. Later that year, William married Lisette Holste of Fayette County; they were ages 40 and 26, respectively. Their first child, William Hermes, Jr., was born in 1869, followed by two daughters who did not survive early childhood. A second son, August, was born in 1881.

All in all, Hermes Drug Store has existed in some form from 1856 until after the end of the Civil War. The store was moved again to the corner of Washington and Colorado Streets.



*Hermes Drug Store is the two-story building in the middle of the block*

Dr. Eck retired in 1870, and Dr. Hermes bought his interest in the store, becoming the sole owner. In 1871, Hermes purchased “a two-story wooden frame building” from Peter Shaw. In that building, the drug store was joined with the post office, as Dr. Hermes had been appointed postmaster for the years 1866-1873, in addition to his medical practice and drug store business. The second floor was rented to a photographer, Conrad Petersen. In the 1850s, a clause in the Texas Constitution made banking illegal, so the sending of gold and silver fell to the postal department, thus the responsibility of Dr. Hermes. He sold schoolbooks and supplies, herbal remedies and patent

medicines, in addition to the usual standard prescription medications, most of which were compounded on the premises. The building became a general store of sorts for the community. Early in the twentieth century, Dr. Hermes decided to construct a “modern, brick two-story structure” in the middle of the block on Washington Street on the east side of the La Grange square. Until construction was completed, the business was moved to the first floor of the Lester Hotel on Colorado Street. In the new brick and red stone construction, Hermes Drug Store existed until 2009.

Both the Hermes sons became pharmacists; William, Jr. receiving his degree from Vanderbilt in 1888 and August from the University of Texas College of Pharmacy in Galveston in 1889. William, Jr. returned to La Grange and took over Hermes Drug Store as sole owner. He married Augusta Willenberg; their children were Gilbert William and Myrta.



In 1927, William, Jr. sold one-quarter interest in the store to his brother, August. He retained one-quarter for himself and gave half-interest to his son, Gilbert, who had also obtained his pharmacy degree from UT in Galveston. In 1930, William, Sr. sold his own quarter interest to his brother, August, thus forming an equal partnership between his brother and his son. They operated the store jointly until August's death in 1940. August, never married, left his half ownership to his nephew Gilbert, making him sole owner of the pharmacy

Ownership of the store changed in 1946, when Gilbert retired and sold the business to A.F. and Edgar F. Anders. Edgar (nicknamed "Smiles") had attended the Dansforth School of Pharmacy in Fort Worth and became a registered pharmacist in 1934. He operated the store until 1979, when he sold the store to pharmacist Justin Bartos. After Justin's retirement in 1994, ownership passed again to pharmacist Yolanda Cuellar. At that time, Hermes Drug Store was recognized as the oldest continuously-operating pharmacy in Texas, usurping the claim of a Greenville firm that opened during the 1890s.

As usually happens, times change; modern society needs finally took its toll on the long-lived drug store. The age of large company ownership had arrived, and in 2009, Hermes Drug Store became a part of a Texas pharmacy chain, Life Check Pharmacies. Finally in 2010, Life Check Pharmacy of La Grange moved from its location on the square to its present location just a couple of blocks away on Travis Street (Highway 71). They remain and continue to serve the residents of Fayette County.

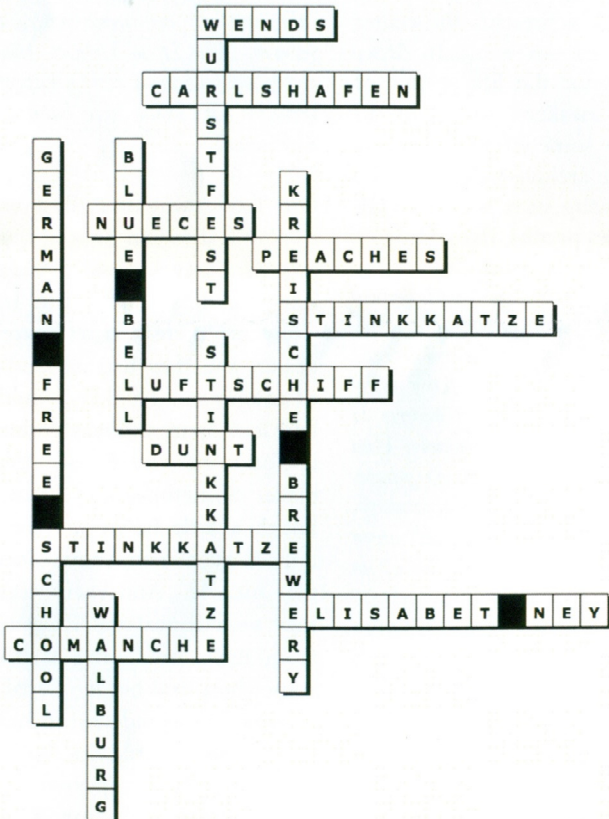
The red stone building earlier occupied by Hermes Drug Store is now the home of retail businesses, frequented by both local citizens and an ever-increasing stream of visitors from other



*Interior of Hermes Drug Store; August behind counter, Gilbert and William Hermes, Jr.*

*Solution to the Cross-Word Puzzle*

*Done with the puzzle? Here are the solutions:*



areas. A recent renovation has restored much of the former lower exterior of the building. One can still read the name Hermes at the top of the façade, a testament to the history and legacy of over 150 years of service to the community.

*Note: This article is based on the work of Marjorie L. Williams in her graduate school report for her Master of Arts Degree from the University of Texas at Austin. The article was made available through the kindness of Nick Dokas, whose wife was a descendant of the Hermes family. The bibliography for Ms. Williams' article is available upon request.*

*Photos courtesy of Fayette Heritage Library and Archives*

**Submitted by Carolyn Heinsohn, LaGrange**



# People

## What it means to be German-American by Guest Blogger, October 16, 2015:

I've always self-identified as 'German-American.' Growing up in Milwaukee I took for granted that everyone enjoyed liverwurst sandwiches on rye bread, hung a pickle ornament on their Christmas tree, and had at least one family member who played the accordion. And didn't everyone's grandma lovingly call them *Schatze*? Apparently not.

When I moved away from Wisconsin, I realized how cliché my German-American experience had been, and I wondered why the caricature Oktoberfest-type experience was all that had been passed on to Americans with German heritage. Surely there was more to being German in America than knowing 15 different types of sausage or liking oompah music. What did it *really* mean to be German-American?

That question prompted the research for my university honors thesis. As I studied the history of Germans in America, my appreciation for what my family (and other Germans like them) experienced here in America increased exponentially. I read numerous first-hand accounts from Germans immigrating to the United States, and I imagined what that journey might have been like for my immigrant ancestors who traveled during the same period in likely the same steerable conditions. I learned about the Germans who contributed to the growth and freedom of



America and how their genius and ideas shaped this country—even amidst intense times of persecution for being from Germany. And when I visited Milwaukee I walked the streets with new eyes, seeing the greatness of what German immigrants built there and sorrowing because so much of the distinct German-ness had been lost.

For me, the German part of the 'German-American' identity became most clear when I visited the villages where some of my German ancestors came from. Strolling the cobblestone streets that their feet had walked, standing in the field where they had farmed, and seeing the structures my ancestors had built moved me in a way that I hadn't expected. I felt connected to these wonderful Germans

in a new way, and I realized how much of who I am was because of who *they* had been. Because of my German ancestors, I am:

**Strong, resilient, and adaptable:** How many wars and boundary changes have the Germans been through—and survived?! More than we as Americans can even appreciate or fathom. Change was frequent, and sometimes swift.

**Loyal to Family and Community:** For my German ancestors, their family and community was the center of their lives. Records were kept at a local (often parish) level. When it came time to migrate, they often did so as extended families and/or communities. And when they settled in America they preferred to live in the German-speaking enclaves and selected American places with topography reminding them most of where they'd lived in Germany.

**Proud of Local Heritage:** Germany as a country did not exist until 1871; before then it was simply a loosely unified confederation of diverse localities. When my ancestors came to America they did not declare themselves 'German,' rather they would have proudly declared "I am from Vynen" or named the local geographic entity. Their identity was tied not to Germany but to their village—to *their* people.

**Grounded:** My German ancestors were farmers. Stepping onto the land that they farmed felt natural, and I felt connected to the land and to my family. When I was there, I felt at home.

**Unapologetically Authentic:** My version of being a German-American may not be the same as someone else's version. But that is okay. I live my German-ness my own way, taking the parts that work for me and adapting them to my own life, like the Germans who settled in America did.

I still enjoy the cliché traditions of polka music at Oktoberfests, liverwurst sandwiches, and the like, but I now identify with more than the caricature when I proudly declare "I am German-American."

*This article was written and submitted by Adele Maurine Marcum.*

**Submitted by Karen O'Quin, Austin and Liz Hicks, Houston**

## The Last Gasps of Texas German

In 2001, Hans Boas was eating lunch in a diner deep in Central Texas. A couple of tables over, he heard a group of elderly men speaking a very distinct version of German. Boas has a doctorate in linguistics and was working at the University of Texas; he's dedicated his life to the German language and the people who speak it. Naturally, it came as a bit of a shock when he couldn't place this dialect. "I walked over and asked where they were from, and they said 'What do you mean? We've been here for generations,'" recalls Boas. "They told me about their language and how their ancestors came over long ago, which is something I didn't know about. I was floored by the whole thing. Here I was in the middle of the Texas hill country, learning about a new German dialect."

Boas had stumbled upon Texas German, one of the most incidental developments in American history. In the mid-19th century, thousands of German immigrants settled in the freshly annexed Lone Star State, congregating in small towns like New Braunfels, Boerne, and Fredericksburg. In those days German was Texas's dominant secondary language, with German newspapers, German radio broadcasts, German printing presses, and German church services popping up all over the state. When you separate a language from its source for over a century, it tends to take on a shape of its own. According to Boas, Texas German sounds like a strange combination of 19th century German with a dash of anglicization. For instance, the Texas German settlers of antiquity didn't have a word for the skunks they encountered in the South, so they had to come up with their own: "stinkkatze," literally "stink cat."

But in the beginning of the 20th century, Texas passed national mandates that enforced the teaching of English in public schools. As the world grew more globalized and the national reputation of Germany suffered in the wake of World War II, few parents passed down the traditional dialect to their children. There are no new native Texas German speakers being born, and the few that still exist are all in their 70s and 80s. Within a couple of decades, the dialect will be completely extinct.

There's nothing anyone can do to stop this. You can't keep a language alive if nobody intends to speak it. But Hans Boas and his team at the Texas German Dialect Project are doing the next best thing. For the past 14 years, they've been preserving this odd little corner of Americana as best they can before it disappears forever. If we're optimistic we will get 30 more years. If pessimistic, maybe 15 or 20 years.

### **Boas stumbled upon Texas German, one of the most incidental developments in American history.**

Boas's practice is pretty simple. He locates Texas German speakers, who exist all over the state, and together they schedule a meeting. Sometimes this means an hour-long trip to New Braunfels, sometimes it's a much longer multiple-day journey to Corpus Christi or far east Texas. Once he arrives, the speaker fills out a consent form and they do several different interviews. The first one is a questionnaire, which has the speaker doing simple things like translating English sentences and words into their Texas German. This allows Boas's team to compare their answers with the other Texas German speakers they've interviewed, as well as the research on the dialect that was done in the 60s and 70s. One of the most interesting things Boas noticed was the vast inconsistencies across the dialect. He uses the example of Boston. If someone lives in the north side of Boston and you know their age, their ethnicity, and their gender, you can almost certainly know how they'll say certain things. But in Texas German, that's not possible

### **They're talking about what it was like back in school, and they fall into this nostalgia that they can't do in English. We get a unique perspective on the history of the community through the language. —David Huenlich**

"We've not been able to find any real regularities in Texas German. We can take 25 speakers who are the same age, the same gender, and from the same place, and they all say things slightly differently," Boas told VICE. "On one hand, it's extremely fascinating because I've never seen or heard of this degree of variation, but on the other hand it's completely frustrating because we can't come up with any models. All we can do is describe the patterns of individual speakers. We've interviewed families of ten kids, they're born over a period of 15 or 20 years, and they all sound almost entirely differently."

From there, Boas is forced to rely on unprovable explanations. Some of them may have never fully acquired the dialect, some of them may have purely forgotten some of their German, in the same way you and I might pause for a few seconds when we try to remember a word. Needless to say, these are difficult things to rely on in academia..

"I guess the key word would be 'highly multisectoral,' if you want to get really geeky," Boas said with a laugh. However, the art of preserving Texas German extends beyond the mechanical nuts and bolts. Hans and his team's primary goal is to make sure the dialect isn't forgotten, but they're also protecting the culture. Boas says that they've spoken to 500 speakers, with goals of reaching 500 more in the next few years. Eventually there will be a library of over 1000 examples of the dialect, a trove for any linguistics expert, but also a comprehensive document on the humans that spoke it. What their lives were like, who their parents and grandparents were, what it meant to be a Texas German.

Boas says the most important part of his process is the "oral history," where subjects are encouraged to speak about their personal past in their native tongue.

We ask about their families, about their town, their job, recipes, prayers, anything they want to talk about. We pose questions that we hope will get them going," Boas explained. "It's challenging but it works out very well." "Sometimes you have to be careful not to overwhelm certain speakers. This is a chapter of their life that's almost closed. The majority of speakers rarely have an opportunity to speak German, and suddenly we come in and they're speaking German for one and a half hours or even longer,"

David Huenlich, one of the people working with Boas on the Texas German Dialect Project, told VICE. "Sometimes I think it's easier for them to talk about their childhood in the dialect than it is in English. It's more authentic in a way. They're talking about what it was like back in school, and they fall into this nostalgia that they can't do in English. We get a unique perspective on the history of the community through the language."

You'd never guess Rodney Koenig spoke fluent German. The 75-year old has a dry Texan rasp, the same voice you hear in the barbeques and general stores that rest on the outskirts of Austin and San Antonio. He told me that this was by design.

"My little one-room country schoolhouse shut down in the 3rd grade, and after that they sent out busses to pick us up and take us to the 'town school,'" Koenig said in an interview with VICE. "Our teacher would always have us stand up in front of the class and talk about what we did over the weekend. I grew up on a farm, so the first couple times, I said 'I *vent* to *shurch*, I *ved* the *shickens*.' I couldn't differentiate the *ch* from the *s* sound. People would chuckle about my German pronunciation, so I quickly changed to 'I went to Sunday school, and I fed the poultry.' I realized there was something a little different about my accent and I was determined to get rid of it."

Years later, Koenig would come to rediscover and cherish his German heritage. He goes to Germany about once a year and is involved in many things surrounding his tribe. These memories are important to him, and you can feel his sadness that this community's days are numbered.

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"I'm on the tail end of this. My parents spoke German primarily, and my grandparents spoke it exclusively," said Koenig. "I've been involved with many ethnic groups, I've been president of the German Texan Heritage Society, I just finished being president of the Houston Saengerbund, and I've talked my aunts and many of my neighbors into being interviewed by Hans [Boas]."

A tone of melancholy pervades Boas's project. Hans Boas has dedicated the last 15 years of his life to Texas German, and over the last 14 years, he's grown close to a number of the speakers. He calls them two or three times a year, maybe he sends a Christmas card, but he knows that someday he won't be able to do this anymore. Eventually there will be no more interviews to give, no more stories to hear. He'll have to move on and find something else. "It's a strange thing because on the one hand it's a natural process, it's the way the universe works. It's something you have to live with, otherwise you go crazy," says Boas. "But on the other hand, it's the realization that things always change. Culture changes, language changes, German used to be the dominant second language in Texas and now it's Spanish. Who knows what will happen in 100 years? Maybe there will be five million Syrian refugees at Texas borders and Arabic will be the dominant language. It is kind of disappointing to see this go because it's been around for so long."

Huenlich grew up in bi-dialectal. His family is from Bavaria, and his family background is from East Germany. The East German dialect that he grew up hearing is very similar to what he heard in Giddings, Texas, a microscopic town just east of Austin.

"Here I am thousands of miles away from home and I'm hearing a dialect I grew up with, I'm hearing things I grew up with, stuff you couldn't even hear in certain parts of Germany," he told VICE.

"You could get depressed if you think about it as part of a timeline, but this whole project is an exercise in living in the moment," Huenlich continued. "You don't want to look at the dark side too often, because you want to enjoy the time you have with these people now. You enjoy every moment of it. We are in the unique position as a researcher to be able to do this work. To meet these people, to hear their stories. Other Americans around here can't understand what they're saying."

There is no money in Texas German. There is no fame and prestige. It is an accident of linguistics, a moment of geographic curiosity. There are a few thousand speakers left, and when they move on, the world will hardly notice. Rodney Koenig told me a story about an old card game he used to play with his parents and family, how every suit had its own dialectal spin then. "We have *eckstein* in Texas for diamonds, and in Germany that'd be *pik*. I think *herz* is the same for both, but we use *schippen* for spades, while they use *karo* in Germany." He knows that the language won't last, and that those old words will be lost someday in the not-too-distant future.

Texas German is just a blip in the grand scheme of things. But for now, it's still here, and Hans Boas and the Texas German Dialect Project are working hard to ensure that this language receives the preservation it deserves.

By Luke Winkie The Last Gasps of Texas German, September 27,  
2015 Vice.com

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

## Opinion Page, New York Times

Berlin — WHAT is America's largest national ethnic group? If you said English, Italian or Mexican, you're wrong. Today some 46 million Americans can claim German ancestry. The difference is, very few of them do. Indeed, aside from Oktoberfest, German culture has largely disappeared from the American landscape. What happened?

At the turn of the last century, Germans were the predominant ethnic group in the United States — some eight million people, out of a population of 76 million. New York City had one of the world's largest German-speaking populations, trailing only Berlin and Vienna, with about a quarter of its 3.4 million people conversing *auf Deutsch*. Entire communities, spreading from northern Wisconsin to rural Texas, consisted almost exclusively of German immigrants and their children.

As they spread through the country, they founded church denominations, singing societies, even whole industries — pre-Prohibition brewing was dominated by Germans, whose names live on in brands like Pabst, Busch and Miller. Their numbers shaped the media — there were 488 German-language daily and weekly newspapers around 1900 keeping the language and culture alive — and politics: Midwestern German-Americans were a backbone of the early Republican Party.

The enormous number of German-Americans was also a factor in keeping the United States out of World War I for so long — activists lobbied against intervening on the Allies' side, while politicians worried about losing a sizable voting bloc.

Partly for that reason, when the United States did enter the war, German-Americans came under intense, and often violent, scrutiny, especially after the revelation of an ill-conceived German plan for Mexico to invade the United States.

There had long been doubts about the loyalty of German-Americans, especially in the myriad pockets of the Midwest where they were particularly dominant. Many had hoped to stave off assimilation by clinging to their language and dual loyalties — but that commitment to their culture suddenly became a vulnerability.

In what is a largely forgotten chapter of American history, during the roughly 18 months of American involvement in the war, people with German roots were falsely accused of being spies or saboteurs; hundreds were interned or convicted of sedition on trumped-up charges, or for offenses as trivial as making critical comments about the war. More than 30 were killed by vigilantes and anti-German mobs; hundreds of others were beaten or tarred and feathered.

Even the German music of Beethoven and Brahms, which had been assumed to be immune to the hysteria, came under attack. "It is the music of conquest, the music of the storm, of disorder and devastation," wrote The Los

Angeles Times in June 1918. “It is a combination of the howl of the cave man and the roaring of the north winds.” Sheet music, along with books by German authors, was burned in public spectacles.

Not surprisingly, those who could hid their Germanic roots; some switched their names; many others canceled their subscriptions to German newspapers, which virtually disappeared. Whatever vestige of German America remained after the 1910s was wiped out by similar pressures during World War II, not to mention the shame that came with German identity after it.

My grandfather Joseph Kirschbaum lived through this disruption. Born in New York to German immigrant parents in 1891, he didn’t start learning English until he went to school, and continued to speak German at home, with friends and in the shops and restaurants he would frequent with his parents. And yet, later in life, he claimed he couldn’t remember any of it.

In some parts of the United States, there might be appeals by politicians to win over the Hispanic-American vote, the Italian-American vote, the Jewish-American vote, the African-American vote or the Irish-American vote. But you will be hard-pressed to hear anyone — not even the speaker of the House, John A. Boehner, who has never tried to make any hay out of his German roots — canvassing for the support of the German-American vote.

Still, while German-American culture might be extinct, German-Americans have continued to make a mark on the country, from Neil Armstrong, the astronaut, to Robert B. Zoellick, a former president of the World Bank. Steinway pianos were first made by a German immigrant named Heinrich Steinweg (who became Henry Steinway). Chrysler was established by Walter P. Chrysler, whose family was of German descent, and Boeing was founded by William E. Boeing, the son of a German immigrant.

Yet as the centennial of World War I passes and the 25th anniversary of German unification nears, there are some tender shoots of a renascent German-American identity. A German-American congressional caucus was created in 2010 and now has 93 members. The popularity of craft beer has led to a resurgence in German-style Biergartens, while sports figures like the soccer coach Jürgen Klinsmann and the N.B.A. all-star Dirk Nowitzki celebrate their German identity.

It may be that an identity lost can never be regained. But why not try? It would be good for everyone, reminding millions of Americans that they too are the products of an immigrant culture, which not long ago was forced into silence by fear and intolerance.

Erik Kirschbaum is the author of “Burning Beethoven: The Eradication of German Culture in the United States During World War I.” By ERIK KIRSCHBAUM, SEPT. 23, 2015

Submitted by Karen O’Quin, Austin

## Otto Fuchs Deserves an A+ in Vocational Agriculture

Otto L. Fuchs Jr. of Carmine retired from teaching almost 31 years ago, yet his former students never forget him. Every year, the 89-year-old receives a fistful of invitations to different reunions and he rarely misses attending any of them.

To Otto, his former students are like a second family and teaching vocational agriculture at Round Top-Carmine High School for 29 years was more than a job. The subject matter reflected his heritage, his personal beliefs and his desire to help modernize life on the farm.

### Deep Roots in the La Bahia Prairie.

Otto, the second eldest of four children, was born in October 1925 on a farm facing the Old La Bahia Road between Carmine and the Carmine Y. It had been established in 1853 by his great-grandparents, Lorenz and Fredericke (Kiel) Fuchs, who were German immigrants from Bavaria.

Otto grew up hearing stories about life on the La Bahia Prairie before the land was fenced from his grandfather, Otto F. Fuchs, who would sit on the front porch every evening, smoking his pipe.

“He described how at the end of a long workday, my great-grandfather would turn out the oxen steers still



*With his great-grandparents' 1855-era farmhouse in the background, Otto Fuchs of Carmine stands next to his well house on the La Bahia Prairie farm where he has spent most of his life. A popular local educator for 29 years, he is best known for teaching vocational agriculture to several generations of Round Top-Carmine High School students. Photo by Elaine Thomas*

yoked together to graze overnight. The following morning, my grandfather would ride his horse to the highest point to scan the open prairie for the team that





*When Otto was a youngster, his entire family often gathered on Sundays at his grandparents' large two-story wooden house built in 1913, now the site of his modern brick home. Those attending this 1937-38 era get-together included: front row, left to right, Elwood Eichler, Howard Fuchs, Ru II, Lucille Eichler and Otto uctis Jr. Second row, left to right, Martin Eichler, Leonie Eichler holding Jane, Elizabeth and Otto F. Fuchs. Third row, left to right, Dorothy Dallmeyer, Dellora Fuchs, Elvera Dallmeyer and Elenora Schiller holding Joyce. Back row, left to right, Otto L. Fuchs Sr., Elsie Fuchs holding Shirley; Kermit Fox, Alida Priebe, Charlie Priebe, Charles Dallmeyer, Lydia Dallmeyer and Nelson Schiller.*

would be largely concealed in the tall, wavy, native prairie grass."

Today, it gives Otto immense pleasure to look out his back door on 17 acres of the same pristine prairie grass that has never been turned by a plow. From the same vantage point, Otto can pick out the aluminum marker in the distance that he and his uncle, Kermit Fox, set up beside the old well site at the one-room La Bahia School. That's where Otto started school in 1932.

At the time, the Fuchs family boarded Arnold Keilers, a young teacher with a receding hairline. "In the 1930's, Mama sometimes occasionally had trouble controlling the heat on her wood burning cook stove. The crust on her bread was a little dark one day and Howard refused to eat it. Mr. Keilers told him, 'If you want to keep that nice black hair, you better eat that crust.' Howard looked at him and the little rascal shot back, 'Well, eating it didn't do you much good.' Mom and Dad got a laugh out of that and Mr. Keilers admitted he had left himself wide open for that one," Otto says.

Otto, his brother, Howard, and two sisters, Dellora and Shirley, knew if they got into trouble at school, they'd get into more trouble at home.

### **His family Valued Education**

Otto's dad, Otto L. Fuchs Sr., was-forward thinking and "education minded." After receiving a payout in 1936 from the U.S. Government for his World War I service, he invested the lump sum bonus. First, he signed up for electricity when Texas Power & Light ran a line from the town of Carmine to a new service station at the Y. Next, Mr. Fuchs added a windmill and cistern and installed running water in the farmhouse and barnyard. Then, he purchased a new Chevrolet for \$575 from the Max Zuehlke dealership in Burton and had just enough over to take the family on their first road trip, a visit to the Texas Centennial Exposition in Dallas.

"Daddy wanted to see the latest in agriculture and he

was also into history. When we drove up to Dallas on my birthday, October 25, we got caught in one of those terrible Blue Norther rains. A six or seven hour trip, we didn't think we'd ever get there, but it was worth it. We saw so many different exhibits: farm machinery, livestock, fine arts, automotive, food, historical displays and a stage show at night that used water as curtains. It was the farthest I'd ever been from home."

Otto picks up a tiny solid grey sailboat made of lead off his bookshelf and adds, "Mama told us we could each choose one souvenir and I picked this little sailboat. I have no idea why. She said to me, 'Otto, are you sure you want that?' I was certain, so she bought it and I still have it."

Otto's father also demonstrated his belief in education by serving on the schoolboards of both La Bahia and nearby Carmine, when the two consolidated. In the 1930s, Mr. Fuchs made numerous trips to Austin to help negotiate an agreement with the Works Progress Administration (WPA), President Franklin Roosevelt's most ambitious New Deal agency. Under this program, millions of Americans were employed to carry out public works projects such as constructing Carmine's school with native stone mined north of town. The students moved into the new building during the 1938-39 school year.

### **Changing Times On the Farm**

In 1941, Otto's father bought his first tractor, a John Deere B. A rubber-tired tractor was advantageous because property straddled the highway.

"Edwin Jaeger from Carmine said he had received what was likely to be the last rubber tired tractor until after the war ended; so if my daddy wanted it, he needed to go and get it," Otto recalls.

"Even then, the highway department got on Grandpa and Daddy a little bit because our John Deere manure spreader had metal angle cleats on the drive wheels, which made little imprints in the road, especially if we hauled 15 or 20 loads across it in succession. I remember Grandpa kind of lost his cool and told them, 'My field was here before you put your road in. If you don't like it, put me in a concrete crossing.'"

Before tractors were introduced, Otto's grandfather farmed his 240 acres with the help of two families, who lived on the place, called half renters. It was customary for the landlord to furnish the half renters with a house and teams of mules or horses so they could work the land. The half renters were paid one-half of what the land produced. For example, if the cotton crop yielded 10 bales, the half renter would get five and the landowner would get five. The half renters raised their own hogs and chickens. "They also were called sharecroppers and it was a tough life, but if you had good half renters, it was in your best interests to keep them," Otto recalls. "I don't ever remember my grandfather treating his half renters poorly like some people did. If his half renters had a large family and ran out of money and food, he would tide them over with bacon and all the corn they wanted. They would take it to the mill and get it ground into cornmeal."

"Grandpa taught economics to some of his half-renters, acting as their banker. He would deposit their money in his account and keep a ledger on what they had saved. Then when they needed money, they'd come and ask him for it," Otto explains. "When the era of the half-renters faded away, partly due to the advent of tractors and partly due to the number of factory jobs available in the cities during the war, we did all the farm work ourselves."

In addition to the fall rituals such as butchering a hog, the half-renters would help the Fuchs family cut post oak cord-wood by hand for winter heating and cooking. In a single load, they would haul home about a oak cord of wood four feet wide and eight feet long stacked across the wagon bed. All the Fuchs families, who lived on the La Bahia Prairie, owned some woodland.

### **Applying What He Had Learned**

A 1943 graduate of La Grange High School, Otto was greatly influenced by his ag teacher, Mr. J. R. Jackson. He inspired Otto to seek a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Education at Texas A&M after he returned from serving on the frontlines of the U.S. Army in World War II.

Otto's greatest satisfaction came from helping his high school students learn manual skills such as woodworking, welding, electrical and concrete work, and farm and small engine repair. He also taught agronomy, animal husbandry and soil conservation. During their studies, his students identified approximately 40 different species of native grasses growing in Fayette County. Otto also taught bookkeeping, along with production projects that ranged from raising animals to home gardens and field crops. He still recalls his pleasure in meeting with students' parents when he would go to their farms to check the progress of various ag projects.

Otto also is proud to have been selected as a sponsor for so many different senior classes. He finds it amusing that some of the perpetrators of practical jokes during his years in the classroom are finally coming forth to confess at class reunions.

"We had to kind of 'poor-boy-it' because we didn't have extensive budgets to buy items for the shop, so the students built their woodworking projects using donated yardsticks at one time. A rascal cut one inch off a yardstick, so when another young man used that stick to build his project, it didn't measure up to his sketch. Neither of us could figure out why, until I finally suggested he bring me the stick he had used. Sure enough, it was one inch shorter than it should have been. Years later, we discovered who was responsible and we still have a good laugh about it," Otto adds.

There were opportunities such as annual field trips to the Texas State Fair and leadership contests under Otto's guidance. He often chauffeured his students around in a homemade camper on the back of his pick-up trucks.

Neatly lining up the stack of yearbooks in front of him, Otto says, "I don't quite know how to acknowledge and thank my students. It means so much to me when they tell me how they used the basic shop and manual



Otto's vocational ag students learned skills that came in handy long after they graduated from high school. He is pictured in the 1967 Cub Yearbook at far right beside Everett Tiedt and two other students

skills I taught them to develop occupations and hobbies or in everyday life. It's especially gratifying when a former student tells me my guidance was instrumental in his or her choice of an occupation."

Otto stops speaking and stares out the window at his beloved La Bahia Prairie, lost in thought. Perhaps Otto is revisiting the little boy wearing homemade overalls striding across the field to the one room school in 1932 or maybe he is recalling a successful field trip with his former ag students a few decades later. At any rate, his smile confirms they are all pleasant memories



*Otto and his wife, Carolyn, and their two daughters, Carobeth and Rebecca Lynn, posed for a family photo in the 1970s.*

*Share your comments about Stories I've Been Told by calling Elaine Thomas at 979-263-5031 or emailing her at [callacomm@hotmail.com](mailto:callacomm@hotmail.com)*

**Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston**



## THE MAUER BROTHERS – ACCLAIMED ARCHITECTS

Fayette County Record, April 7, 2015

By Carolyn Heinsohn

Two brothers born in Fayette County in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century pursued architectural careers that took them from humble origins to being recognized as successful, highly-acclaimed designers of outstanding homes and buildings.

Their story begins with the emigration of their grandparents, George H. Mauer, Sr. and wife, Emilie; daughter, Emilie, who died within the first ten years after arrival; and son, George, Jr. Originally from Liegnitz, Silesia, they moved to Oldenburg, Prussia and then immigrated to Texas in 1850 and settled in Fayette County. By 1852, Mauer purchased three tracts of land totaling 169 ½ acres in the Joseph Biegel League from Christian Wertzner, the first permanent German settler in Fayette County, who arrived in 1831. Wertzner, who supposedly influenced Joseph Biegel to select his league in Fayette County, then purchased 1,872 acres from Biegel in 1839 and sold it in parcels to new settlers. A large portion of the Biegel League is now part of the LCRA power plant property or under its cooling lake.

By 1862, George, Jr., age 19, was a private in Co. A, Lockett's 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, Texas Infantry, CSA. In 1866, he married Sophie Steves, the 20-year old daughter of Siegbert Steves, a cabinetmaker in Fayetteville, and wife, Hendrina Zeuven. The Steves were some of the earliest German settlers in Fayetteville, having emigrated because of the Revolution of 1848 and economic pressures in Germany. Their home is still standing behind the two-story Masonic Lodge building located on the northeast corner of the square in Fayetteville.

In 1877, George Mauer, Sr. purchased an additional 120 acres near Rutersville. He apparently had died by mid-1879, when his wife, Emilie, sold their acreage in the Biegel settlement. After that transaction, Emilie and her son, George, Jr., and his family moved from Biegel to the Rutersville property. At some point, George, Jr. went into the construction business, but continued farming as well. He was also a county commissioner for four years from 1886 to 1890. George, Jr. and Sophie had nine children, two of whom are the subjects of this story.

Louis Mauer, their eldest son born in 1868, became an architect, most likely being influenced to do so by several family acquaintances through marriages, all of whom were well-established businessmen. Louis' younger sister, Lydia Mauer, had married Leon John Speckels, whose uncle was Henry Speckels, a well-known businessman in La Grange, who also designed and built homes and remodeled building fronts and interiors, including the Hermes Drug Store. Henry's brothers-in-law were Axel and Paul Meerscheidt. Axel was not only educated as an architect in Heidelberg, Germany, but also studied law and became an attorney, and then a real estate developer. It is quite possible that Axel mentored or assisted Louis with his aspirations to become an architect. Axel's brother, Paul, was also sent to Germany to be educated. He later received his law degree and joined Axel in the real estate business in San Antonio, where they developed the Meerscheidt Riverside Addition, as well as other early subdivisions.

Louis first worked on his own in La Grange and designed the magnificent H.P. Lockett House, a Queen Anne-style 14-room house with double wraparound galleries and ornately carved interior woodwork. It was built for a local physician in Bastrop, TX in 1893 at the site of the old Bastrop Military Institute. It remains one of Bastrop's most photogenic historic landmarks. Mauer then partnered with a Mr. Wesling after 1894; their office was located on the second floor in a building on West Colorado Street that was built by Axel Meerscheidt and John Schumacher, a local bank owner. The post office occupied the east half of the first floor of the building from 1894 to 1906. After a jewelry store vacated the other side in 1892, the First National Bank took its place. Eventually, the bank purchased the entire building.

The architectural firm of Mauer and Wesling designed an impressive, innovative two-story brick building that was built in 1895 for Fey and Braunig, photographers, in Hallettsville on the south side of the square. The second floor was used for their photography studio, and a stationery store was housed below. With its unique glass skylights and curved front windows, it was the first building of its kind west of the Mississippi to be used exclusively as a photography studio. Mauer was also a supplier of building materials in La Grange in the 1890s, but that business went bankrupt. He eventually moved to San Francisco, where he worked as an architect and associate editor for an architectural publication, contributing articles on waterproofing methods.

He later moved to New York City, where he had a successful career until he retired. In his earlier years there, he designed a four-story 21-family apartment building in the Bronx and a nine and a half-story store and office building in 1905. Then in 1908, he designed the Hotel on the Hudson in Nyack, NY, followed by a six-story warehouse in New York City in 1909 and a five-story tenement building in 1911. He never married and died in Philadelphia, PA at the age of 81 in 1948.



Louis' younger brother, Henry Conrad, born in 1873, helped his father in the construction business for about four years after getting his secondary education. Apparently, his brother and other family acquaintances influenced his decision to pursue a career in architecture as well. He may also have had their financial assistance to be able to attend the prestigious Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY, where he received his education in architectural design.

After returning to Texas, Henry Mauer moved to Beaumont, TX, where there was a building boom due to the successful lumber and shipping industries, as well as the wealth generated by the discovery of oil at Spindletop in 1901. He married Kate Adams in Jasper, TX in 1903. They had one son, Henry Conrad, Jr., born in 1907.

Henry's architectural office was isolated in his home on Spruce Street away from the main avenues of trade and commerce, but he was somehow connected to the movers and shakers of the city to be awarded the commissions for some of the grandest homes in Beaumont. He incorporated local materials with the most advanced electrical, heating and plumbing systems of the time.

His most outstanding design was for the striking and distinctive McFadden-Ward House, a 12,800 square foot, three-story Beaux Arts Colonial Style home built in 1905-1906. Di Vernon Averill commissioned Mauer to build the home; however, she then traded homes with her brother, William H.P. McFaddin, in 1907. He added a large carriage house with a stable, hayloft, garage, gym and servants' quarters. The Averills had considerable wealth from the cattle business, rice farming and commercial real estate, and McFaddin also owned part interest in the land where oil was discovered at Spindletop.

The home was occupied by the same family for 75 years and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1971. It is one of the few house museums in the United States in which the original furnishings are still intact and on display.

Henry Conrad Mauer died at the age of 66 years in Beaumont in 1939. He and his brother, Louis, each left an impressive legacy of architectural accomplishments in three different states, but their story began on a farm in Fayette County. Their determination to succeed could be called "True Grit"!

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*Bastrop, H. P. Lockett Home*



*McFaddin Ward Home, by Doug Mathews*

Submitted by Carolyn Heinsohn, La Grange

## German sculptor's art rooted in plantation's history

By Joe Holley *Houston Chronicle*

WALLER COUNTY—Many Texans know the sculptor Elisabet Ney's work, even if they don't know her name. Visiting the State Capitol, we've strolled past her life-sized marble statues of Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin flanking the entryway to the rotunda. Fewer Texans I suspect, know that the flamboyant German sculptor spent two decades on a Waller County plantation or that the iconic statues in the Capitol and her other works around Austin are the outgrowth of her frustrations as a mother.

I didn't know the details of her country life until a couple of Saturdays ago, when I joined a morning tour of the beautiful, old place near Hempstead where she lived with her husband until she gave up trying to grow cotton and raise cattle and decamped to Austin.

Known as Liendo, the plantation was built in 1853 by Leonard Groce, son of the richest man among Stephen F. Austin's Old 300, Jared Groce. A widower, Groce arrived in Texas from Alabama in 1821 with 50 wagons and 90 slaves and eventually amassed some 64,000 acres over four counties. Credited with bringing cotton seed into Texas, he soon was clearing between \$80,000 and \$100,000 annually on land worked by 300 slaves.

By the time Leonard Groce and his wife, Courtney, built Liendo—named for the holder of the original Spanish land grant, Jose Justo Liendo of Nacogdoches—the Groce family was one of the most influential in Texas. Their gracious Greek Revival home, a convenient resting place between Galveston/Houston and Austin, hosted a stream of guests year-round. Constructed by slaves, of course, the stately two-story structure of longleaf yellow-pine set among centuries old live oaks, rests on a foundation of bricks made from the red clay of the nearby Brazos.

It was in its glory for only about a decade. Shortly after the war, some 4,000 federal troops under the command of Gen. George Armstrong Custer camped at Liendo for three months. Legend has it that Libbie Custer, who had accompanied her husband to Texas, got sick, probably with malaria, and that Courtney Groce nursed the young woman back to health in an upstairs bedroom.

### 'Here I will live'

Unable to sustain his cotton and cattle operation without slave labor, Groce, like many Southern plantation owners, went bankrupt and had to sell Liendo. It went through several owners and was beginning to deteriorate when Ney (rhymes with high) and her husband, Dr. Edmond Montgomery, a Scottish scientist, bought the house and 1,100 acres in 1873. Ney is said to have



*Liendo, once home to sculptor Elisabet Ney, has been lovingly restored among ancient oaks by the Detering family of Houston.*

stepped out onto the second-floor balcony, flung open her arms and proclaimed, "Here I will live. And here I will die!" (She had a flair for the dramatic.)

Franziska Bernadina Wilhemina Elisabet Ney, 39 when she got to Texas, was a long way from her childhood home in Westphalia, Germany, a long way from an already-accomplished career as a portrait sculptor. In Europe, her subjects had included Garibaldi, Bismark and the kings of Bavaria, Hanover and Prussia. Political unrest prompted Ney and her husband—she referred to him in public not as her husband but as her "good friend"—to consider leaving Germany. A letter from a German friend who had married an American woman and moved to Thomasville, Ga., convinced them that the wealthy cotton-resort town might be the idyllic setting they long had sought, a place where she would sculpt and he would conduct medical research. The friend described Thomasville as a "haven of peace and quiet and beauty."

### Texas for their health

It didn't work out, in part because Montgomery had tuberculosis and needed a dryer climate. Ney decided to explore the possibility of moving to Texas, home to several thousand German immigrants living in Brenham, San Antonio and the Hill Country. Traveling alone, first by train to New Orleans and then by steamer to Galveston, she contacted the German consul, who arranged a visit to Liendo. On March 4, 1873, the cosmopolitan couple became the unlikely owners of a dilapidated Texas plantation.

Flamboyant and determinedly unconventional, the red-haired beauty with a temperament to match announced that her sculpting days were over and that thenceforth she would dedicate herself to the "more important art of molding flesh and blood"—her two sons, in other words.





Tragically, the elder child, Arthur, died of diphtheria shortly after the family arrived at Liendo. The story that got around is that the child's body was cremated in the drawing room fireplace, although as tour guide, Billie Woolever noted, it's probably untrue, since a fireplace can't generate enough heat to incinerate flesh and bone. The story likely

originated as Hempstead gossip about the toga-wearing German woman and her reclusive husband.

### Those velvet pants

Once Arthur died, Ney focused her time and energies on the second son, Lorne. Showing a streak of stubbornness as strong as his mother's, the youngster rebelled. Maybe he didn't appreciate having to wear velvet pants when his mother took him into Hempstead, otherwise known as Six-Shooter Junction. Whatever the reason, theirs was a life-long estrangement.

### Not cut out for farming

Life on the farm was not going well, either. Ney and her husband just weren't cut out to be cotton growers, cattle raisers and dairy farmers, although they tried all three.

It was the Texas Legislature that came to their rescue, appropriating \$32,000 for the frustrated mother and once-renowned sculptor to execute her portraits of Austin, Houston and the Confederate general, Albert Sidney Johnston.

Moving to Austin in 1892—her husband stayed at Liendo until his death in 1911—she purchased two-and-a-half acres of rolling prairie along Walnut Creek and built the small, classically styled studio that's now the Elisabet Ney Museum. She died in 1907 and is buried at Liendo beside her husband.

The house again fell into disrepair. Vacant for many years, it was purchased in 1960 by the late Phyllis and Carl Detering, Houstonians who were looking for land to run cattle on. "They had heard there was an old, run-down house on the property, but they didn't know anything about it," Woolever told us.

After Phyllis Detering researched its history and realized its significance, the couple resolved to restore Liendo to its former glory. They opened the house to the public in 1973, and today their son, Will Detering, lives at Liendo where he runs the family cattle operation.

Beautifully restored and packed with Texas history, it's well worth a visit. Plus, it may be haunted. Some visitors have said they have heard a child crying in one of the rooms. I didn't hear a child during our tour but I did hear a peacock screech. At least, I think it was a peacock.

*(Liendo is open for tours on the first Saturday of most months. See [www.leindoplantation.com](http://www.leindoplantation.com) or call 979 826 3126)*

Submitted by Charles Thompson and Liz Hicks, Houston

## Raymond and Sandra Matthijetz Honored with Wedding Anniversary Celebration in Germany



*Pictured here are Pastor Benjamin Rehr, Pastor Jan Mahling (back row), Scott Matthijetz, Sandra Matthijetz, Raymond Matthijetz, Michael Matthijetz (middle row), Anna Banowski and Amalia Banowski (front row).*

On a recent trip to Germany, Raymond and Sandra Matthijetz were honored with an early 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Weigersdorf organized by friends from Ober Prauske, Bautzen and Klitten. The church service was conducted in German, Wendish and English by Pastors Benjamin Rehr of Weigersdorf and Jan Mahling of Bautzen and music by the Weigersdorf Brass Choir. Their sons, Mike and Scott and over 60 friends and relatives attended the service and enjoyed the reception with the traditional Wendish welcome of "Bread and Salt" served by Anna and Amalia Banowski and "svacina" of homemade cakes and coffee served at the church parish hall. Later a



wonderful meal of Schnitzel, Porkhaxe and Hackenpeter Klopse were served with all the trimmings. They were surprised with the music from their first dance "You and Me" and everyone enjoyed the dancing.

Raymond's great, great grandparents, Matthaus and Dorothea Matthijetz, were married in the chapel of the Prayer House in nearby Dauben in 1846, later the church in Weigersdorf was dedicated in December, 1846. Raymond's great, great Grandparents, the Andreas Lehmanns also attended church here and his great

grandfather, Carl Lehmann was baptized here in 1848. The next day they attended services at the church in Kotitz, the home church of Sandra's great, great Grandparents, Andreas and Anna Miertschin.

Raymond and Sandra Nee Miertschin Matthijetz were married at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Winchester on Oct. 30, 1965.

*The Fayette County Record, September 1, 2015,  
by Bobby Hajek, Winchester News Correspondent*

**Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston**

# Celebrating 125 years

## HERMANN SONS GRAND LODGE

### Grand Lodge has proud history of service



*U.S. Congressman Lloyd Doggett, center, was in San Antonio Sept. 3 and paid a visit to the Hermann Sons Grand Lodge. Back in April he presented a flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol to Grand President Buddy Preuss and wife Elizabeth in honor of the Grand Lodge's 125th anniversary. It was then President Preuss invited Doggett to visit the home office next time he was in San Antonio. Employees gathered for a photo with Doggett and the flag he gifted the Grand lodge.*

*EDITOR'S NOTE: On March 27, 7890, 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. For the past eight months, The Hermann Sons News has marked the occasion with a series of articles on the history of Hermann Sons. The series culminates this month with an article by Grand President/CEO Buddy Preuss.*

SAN ANTONIO - Hermann Sons is a fraternal benefit society, which is defined as a not-for-profit, member owned organization that has a representative form of government and offers insurance to its members, who share a common bond or purpose. It is organized in a system of lodges to carry out social, intellectual, educational, charitable, benevolent and patriotic purposes, and offers mutual aid programs for the benefit of its mem-

bers and the community at large. Unlike commercial companies whose profits benefit the stakeholder, we are member owned and our profits are returned to our members in unique ways. In its rich 125-year history, the Hermann Sons Grand Lodge proudly served tens of thousands of Texans of all ages and in many different ways. Its life insurance and annuity products have served to protect the financial well-being of its members while its living benefits have served to offer members opportunities for service and fellowship.

Today there are more than 70,000 Hermann Sons members and 135 local lodges across the state. The lodges are located in big cities and small towns and the members come from all walks of life. While many of our members today are not of German ancestry we are still united by the noble attributes of the German immigrant - financial security for families, quality



family life and community support. Each year, Hermann Sons members volunteer hundreds of hours of their time and donate tens of thousands of dollars to people and organizations in their communities. Fraternalism began by people with common interests pooling their resources for the benefit of all. Today, we look at fraternalism as people with different backgrounds, from different cultures, coming together and realizing that we all have the same basic needs. Each member, regardless of their level of activity, can be proud that through belonging they improve the quality of life for members and communities in which we all live, work and play. This year, as we celebrate our 125th anniversary of the Grand Lodge, we are reminded of the importance of heritage and family, and how they have helped shape who we are today. I am proud of the past and excited about the future of our great organization.

#### **A NOTE ABOUT GERMAN TEXANS**

Earlier this month, Elizabeth and I were invited to attend the opening reception of the German-Texan Heritage Society conference. It was held at the German Free School in Austin. I was the guest of Henrietta Jo Peebles Adams, the grand daughter of our second Grand President, Julius Schuetze, who was the first teacher at the school. We shared stories of Schuetz and his contributions to Hermann Sons. Education was a primary concern for the new German immigrants who arrived in Texas in the 1840s and 1850s. Although Texas did not have a system of free public education at that time, it did offer subsidies for students attending private tuition schools who could not pay. When the German Free School opened in 1858, it was the first chartered school in Austin, incorporated by an act of the Texas Legislature. Today the building offices the German-Texan Heritage Society along with a library on German-Texan topics. The building and grounds also

function as a cultural center for Texans of German descent and is the site of an annual Maifest, Oktoberfest and Christmas market.

Fraternally, Buddy Preuss, Grand President/CEO



*Grand President Buddy Preuss visits with Henrietta Jo Peebles Adams, the granddaughter of Julius Schuetze, the second Grand President, during a reception spon-*

**Submitted by Rodney Koenig and Liz Hicks, Houston**

### **Georg Justus Thielepape of Wabern, Hessen, Germany, Comal County, and Austin, Travis County, Texas and his related family: Koch-Thomson - Kempen - Schenken - Weinert- Strub**

Georg Justus Thielepape, born 11 January 1811, was the oldest of six sons born to Johannes Werner Phillip and Mary Elisabeth Thomson Thielepape. Georg was born to a well to do family, and was able to attend the University of Gonnaland Goetinger, graduating as an engineer. He worked in his father's coal mines as a manager. During this time, he married Bertha Koch of Klansthal. Unfortunately, Bertha died shortly after bearing a daughter and then twins. The twins died shortly after birth. Perhaps this tragedy, conditions in Germany, or some unknown reason, Georg joined the Verein group, and was among the first colonists to arrive in the Republic of Texas on the first voyage of the *s/s Johann Dethardt*. According to family tradition, Georg assisted in the laying of the cornerstone at the Sophienburg. He is listed by Rev. Ervendberg as a charter member of the German Protestant Congregation of New Braunfels,

and is listed in *New Braunfels: The First Founders* by Everett A. Fey.

Georg Thielepape received town lot #136 located on the corner of Yankee and San Antonio Streets in New Braunfels. He also received lot #95 south of New Braunfels between San Antonio Road and the Comal Creek. He worked as a surveyor in Indian Point in 1846. He returned to Germany about 1848 to bring his daughter to Texas. Soon after his arrival in Germany, Georg met and married Jeanette Wilhelmina Koch 20 April, 1850. Upon their return to Texas, Georg worked with a younger brother, William August Carl Thielepape, who had also emigrated to Texas and settled initially in Indianola.

William A.C. Thielepape (1814-1904) moved to San Antonio, was a successful architect, musician, and later became the mayor of San Antonio.





*Jeannette and George Justus Thielepape*

More information for W.A.C. Thielepape at Handbook of Texas <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fth41>.

In 1859, Georg worked as a civil engineer for the new railroad running from Powderhorn to Port Lavaca and Vic-

toria. With the start of the Civil War this ended and Georg enlisted, served as Captain of the Indianola Artillery Company, 24th Brigade Confederate army from Calhoun, County, Texas. Between 1861-1870, Georg and his family moved from Calhoun Co. to Austin, to Victoria and back to Austin. The 1872 Austin City Directory lists George Justus Thielepape, clerk, land Office; residence as Peach St. between Lavaca and Guadalupe. Georg worked as a draftsman with the Texas General land office for 22 years.

The 1870 Austin, Travis County, Texas census lists Georg and Jeanette's family as:

Mary (Thielepape) Schenken	Augusta Schenken
*Minna Thielepape	Bertha Schenken
*Gertrude Thielepape	Carl Schenken
Adolph Thielepape	Albert Schenken
**Ernest Thielepape	Agnes Schenken
Elizabeth Thielepape	William Schenken

\* 1858 Students of the German Free School  
 \*\*1876-1877 Student of the German Free School

Georg's wife, Jeanette Wilhelmina, born ca. 1828, died 1895 in Austin. Georg followed 4 Dec. 1898. Georg, Jeanette and other members of the Thielepape family are buried in historic Oakwood Cemetery, lot #88, Austin, TX ([www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) and Oakwood City Sexton records).

### **German Texas Information originally included in**

#### **Henrietta Marie Weinert Strub's Scrapbook**

While searching for "live" descendants of the Trustees, Teachers and Students of the German Free School this summer, a descendant of Gertrude Marie Thielepape (daughter of Georg) contacted me. Rea Mueller, 4 Stonewall Road, Palmyra, VA 22963; e-mail: [jrmueller@embargmail.com](mailto:jrmueller@embargmail.com). Rea has transcribed her grandmother's scrapbook and shares it here for anyone interested in Comal County, Guadalupe County, and early history of Texas Germans.



*Gertrude, Minna (Wilhelmina), Elise A. (Elisabeth?)*

Henrietta Marie Weinert Strub was born 6 June 1885 on a farm on the Mill Creek, 9 or 10 miles east of Seguin, TX. In 1887 a tornado destroyed the crops and the family moved, several times, ending up in Seguin. Henrietta said her father "was no farmer". She was the daughter of William Weinert and Gertrude Thielepape, granddaughter to George Justus Thielepape and Jeannette Koch.

**TEXAS LAND REGISTER, Weekly Gratuitous Newspaper, W. J. S. Scobell, publisher, Congress av. b. Hickory and Ash sts.**

Texas Lone Star Ranger, weekly Democratic newspaper, Lancaster & Hill, publishers, Hickory st. b. Congress av. and Brazos st.

Thiele, C., shoe maker, with A. Heileman, Congress av. b. Bois d'Arc and Hickory sts.

Thiele, Wm., butcher, with W. S. Barnes, cor. Hickory st. and East av.

Thielepape, Geo. J., clerk, Land Office; res. Peach st. b. Lavaca and Guadalupe sts.



Inquiries numbered 7, 16, and 17 are not to be asked in respect to infants. Inquiries numbered 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 19, and 20 are to be answered (if at all) merely by an affirmative mark, as /.

SCHEDULE I.—Inhabitants in the City of Austin, in the County of Texas, State of Texas, enumerated by me on the June day of June, 1870.

Post Office: Austin Texas Co. W. F. Smith, Ass't Marshal.

1	2	3	DESCRIPTION.			VALUE OF REAL ESTATE OWNED		10	PARISHANS.		14	15	16	17	18	19	20
			4	5	6	7	8		9	11							
The name of every person whose place of abode on the first day of June, 1870, was in this family.		Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male or female.			Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.	Place of Birth, naming State or Territory of U. S.; or the Country, if of foreign birth.	Father of foreign birth.	Mother of foreign birth.	If born within the year ending June 1st, 1870.	If married within the year ending June 1st, 1870.	Attended school within the year ending June 1st, 1870.	Cannot read.	Cannot write.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	DOMESTIC RELATIONS.	
1	1	Johnson James	19	ft	attending school			Texas	/	/							
2	2	Emma	11	ft	"			"	/	/							
3	3	498 vacant house															
4	4	499 500 Davis Emanuel J	44	m	servant of some			Illinois									
5	5	" Anna L	58	ft	at home			Kentucky									
6	6	" Britton	18	mt	attending school			Texas									
7	7	" Station	5	mt	"			"									
8	8	" Britton Rebecca	52	ft	at home			Kentucky									
9	9	" Whitlock Joseph	55	m	carpenter			Virginia									
10	10	" Rachel	38	ft	servant			Texas									
11	11	" Kate	4	ft	at home			"									
12	12	" Leahy	2	mt	"			"									
13	13	" Joseph	70	mt	"			"			dep.						
14	14	" Field James G	24	m	servant			Kentucky									
15	15	" Betty	32	ft	"			West Kentucky									
16	16	499 501 Fues Emil	45	mt	Business Gen'l. Off. \$500 \$200			Prussia	/	/							
17	17	" Helma	32	ft	keeping house			Prussia	/	/							
18	18	" Luise	10	ft	attending school			Texas	/	/							
19	19	" Max	4	mt	at home			Prussia	/	/							
20	20	" Alexander	4	mt	"			Texas	/	/	Dep.						
21	21	502 502 Hoffman Henry J	58	mt	Gen'l. Off. \$4000 \$200			Virginia									
22	22	" Mary	57	ft	keeping house			"									
23	23	" Edward	28	mt	bookkeeper			"									
24	24	503 503 Miller Louis C	57	m	Gen'l. Off. \$500 \$500			Prussia	/	/							
25	25	" Lucie	56	ft	keeping house			Hamburg	/	/							
26	26	" Marie	21	ft	at home			Prussia	/	/							
27	27	" Carl J	17	m	father's app't			"	/	/							
28	28	" Philip W	13	m	attending school			Texas	/	/							
29	29	504 504 Miller Thomas	52	mt	Gen'l. Off. \$2000 \$500			Prussia	/	/							
30	30	505 505 Thomas George P	64	m	" " \$2000 \$500			Prussia	/	/							
31	31	506 506 Phillipsburg Henry J	59	mt	" " \$1200 \$500			Prussia	/	/							
32	32	" Jeanette	42	ft	keeping house			"	/	/							
33	33	" Maria	32	ft	at home			Texas	/	/							
34	34	" Phillipsburg Minna	19	ft	"			"	/	/							
35	35	" Edward	16	ft	attending school			"	/	/							
36	36	" Edward	14	mt	"			"	/	/							
37	37	" Francis	10	mt	"			"	/	/							
38	38	" Elizabeth	9	ft	"			"	/	/							
39	39	" Schuster Augustus	19	ft	"			"	/	/							
40	40	" Sibba	12	ft	"			"	/	/							

No. of dwellings, 11. No. of white females, 16. No. of males, foreign born, 8. No. of families, 7. " colored males, 4. " females, " 2. " white males, 11. " " females, 3. " blind, 1.

Henry Schenker  
Emma  
Bertrude  
Soph  
rest  
Isabell

Augusta Schenker  
Bertha "  
Carl  
- Albert "  
Agnes "  
William "



## German Texas Information Originally Included In Henrietta Marie Weinert Strub's Scrapbook

A copy of the ship's log of the Ship Timoleon, published in the New Braunfels Zeitung Centennial Edition 1936- Captain Ferwald-"The Ship Timoleon-November 28, 1845. Reinhard Weinert and wife, daughter Louise, sons August Hain (Karl) and Jacob Mueller."

Excerpts of an account written by Willie Mae Weinert:

Book C of deed records of Coma I County, Texas (New Braunfels) on pg 342-343 state that Reinhard Weinert and August Hain Weinert received certificates #1362 and #1363 as emigrants. These are Lots 173 and 174 of the original town plot. It has a date of Feb. 15, 1848. Jacob Mueller is not mentioned.

Book A of the marriage records of Comal County record that a marriage license was issued to August Hain Weinert and Henrietta Breustedt on May 13, 1851 and the minister G. W. Eisenlohn married them on May 16, 1851. This is on pg 20.

Brand book A, pg 480 records the brand of August Weinert under the date of January 7, 1852. It was a SW joined together and put on the hip. (Max Weinert's father was the son of August and Henrietta and was also named August. The August Jr. Cattle Brand is recorded in Guadalupe County (Seguin). It is a heart with a diamond hanging from the bottom of the heart. Recorded Sept. 26, 1877, pg. 6 of Device and Brands.

Volume F of the deed records of Coma I County page 348 and dated April 27, 1859 has a quit claim deed from Reinhard Weinert to August Weinert Sr. It was said that large numbers of the early settlers of New Braunfels died of Cholera in an 1859 epidemic and that year Reinhard died.

Interview with Ferdinand C. Weinert, a son of Weinert Sr.: "My father's house stood on Seguin Street in New Braunfels, Texas. It was in the second or third block from town. It was built in 1851 at the time of his marriage. They dug out a cellar where the old portion is and it faced an alley. All of us were born at this house. As a boy I played with Indians. Tonkaways I think. There is a spring and live oak mott at Three Mile Spring where thousands of arrows have been found. There were two rooms built of adobe bricks made from the clay that came out of the cellar hole."

"We moved to Guadalupe County about 1870 after the Civil War. We boys cut cedar rails and cedar posts near Harboth Hill in 1871, but we hauled the eight foot rails from New Braunfels. We used water elm as slats to hold the rails and used spike nails. We used ex-slaves for labor and we had a camp on Geronimo Creek and herds of cattle came across the prairie near our camp on the trail to Kansas."

### Handwritten by Henrietta Marie Weinert Strub:

In the "History of the First Protestant Church" written by Mr. Oscar Haas, we are told that the first contingent of the German Emigration Company, brought over by Prince Carl Solms of Braunfels, landed in Port Lavaca, Texas on Dec. 22, 1844. "Divine Services were held on Dec. 23. Prince Carl celebrated Christmas for the children by putting lighted candles on an oak tree and stringing it with bags of candy for them." December 1844: after means of transportation were provided the company of immigrants started on their difficult journey by ox-cart and horse back over uncharted roads and thru rivers without means of crossing. Always fearful of the unknown and enduring many hardships they reached the site of the new settlement at the confluence of the Guadalupe and Comal Rivers on March 21, 1845.

Prince Solms had gone ahead with an advance company and met them on that date. The first divine services were held in a grove of trees, at the foot of a hill. This hill was later named Sophienburg in memory of Prince Carl's fiancée, who died while he was absent on one of these trips. A beautiful museum has now been built on this hill and houses all the relics of those early pioneers. The pioneers immediately began cutting the virgin cedars and hauling them to the settlement for construction of log cabins. Others started breaking ground for fields and gardens. The first school was started on Monday August 11, 1845 and was taught by Hermann Seele. Dr. Roemer, who is known as "the father of Texas geology" visited Texas from 1845 to 1847. He wrote "at the time of my visit in New Braunfels in 1846 there were probably 80 to 100 houses and huts to be found there. On the main street the Evangelical Church is located, a frame building with window frames but no glass." Mr. Oscar Haas gives a very good picture of those early days and also accurate dates. The charter of incorporation issued the congregation on October 15, 1845 by the Republic of Texas is still in existence in the files of the church. It was interesting to me to learn that New Braunfels was founded while Texas was a republic.

I was told by my father that the wife of Reinhard Weinert, listed on the Ship's Log did not come along to Americas but preferred to stay in Germany. He also said that Jacob Mueller was not a son of Reinhard Weinert, just a friend



of the family who wanted to come to America. He is not listed with the Weinert family on the Charter Members list of the church. Reinhard's wife is not mentioned either as a charter member. Reindard Weinert and son August each received a lot (lots 173 and 174) of the original town plot. In 1852 Reinhard and August crossed-deeded their lots to each other. Next year August bought his father's half for \$250. It is supposed that Reinhard Weinert died in 1859 and is buried in an unmarked grave in the West Cemetery of New Braunfels. (a quit claim is recorded from Reinhard to August in 1859 so it is assumed he died in that year).

Henrietta Breustedt came to Texas in 1849 with her family from Brunswick, Germany. A brother, Andrew, had come over earlier and joined the Texas Rangers. Later he and his brother owned farms at Clear Spring on the Guadalupe River near New Braunfels. August Karl Weinert and Henrietta Breustedt were married on May 16, 1851 (photostatic copy of marriage certificate and birth dates of children in album). At the time of his marriage, August built a house on his lot facing Seguin Street on corner of Water Lane. August was a baker by trade and established his business, at the time of his marriage, in the same building. He also sold sweet wine, cider, and gin. He saved enough money to open a mercantile business next to the home. The Indians used to steal the bread, even while it was still baking in the oven. A band of friendly Lepans camped near Comal Springs every winter and the Indian children made friends with the white children. One Indian boy name Tonca was recalled by the older Weinert boys. Thousands of arrow heads were found at 3 Mile Creek. All of the children of August and Henrietta Weinert were born in this home, attended school and were confirmed in this church. The pastor of the church was often the teacher, and all the children received a good education. August Weinert Sr. helped build the stockade on the Sophienburg Hill. He also worked for Mr. Merriweather making irrigation ditches where Landa Park is now located. As soon as the boys were able, they began helping the father earn money. When older they went to Austin and San Antonio to clerk in mercantile stores.

When the war years came, times were hard and people could not pay their debts. In consequence the business failed and grandfather was forced to sell. By this time the older boys were able to help him establish himself on a farm. He sold the store in 1870 and bought a farm from Joseph Landa for \$1000. It contained 520 acres. It was situated on the Geronimo Crick near Harbotles. The boys and father with the help of ex-slave labor, cleared the land and cut cedar posts and built fences using wooden spikes. While clearing and improving the land, they camped under the trees. The land was near the Chisholm Trail, a route to Kansas over which cattle were driven to northern markets. Once while the cattle were driven thru the Weinert farm, they stampeded and Ferdinand had to hurriedly climb a tree to save himself from being run over. The cattle were driven across the Guadalupe River at Young's Ford near McQueeny.

My father, William J. Weinert, the oldest of the family, was a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. of a Scout Troop and Ferdinand at age 11 was a member also. This was during the war and probably was like a Home Guard. When he was 19 years old he was in business in Austin. There he met my mother, Gertrude Marie Thielepape. After they became engaged he came back to the home farm and rented part of it from his father. Later he moved to the Mill Creek farm which was my birth place. After a disastrous storm and crop failure he moved to the F.C. Weinert farm on the Geronimo. Later he bought a part of the original farm on the west of F.C.'s farm. In 1877 F.C. Weinert bought land from his father. This land was part of a tract of 11 leagues which was the Esnaurezia Grant. A daughter of Esnaurezia married James Bowie, who fought at the Alamo. Bowie himself surveyed the E. Grant. (Hilmar Weinert, a son of F.C., gave me a Bowie knife found on this land by Mexicans as they plowed the field, old and very rusty, but still a B.K.) In 1878 August Sr. deeded to August Jr. 75 acres of land out of the land purchase of 1870. My father's land joined this farm and Charles Weinert also had land adjoining my fathers. August Sr. wanted his sons to live near him.

This was after my father moved from Mill Creek to F.C. Weinerts farm, where my mother died in 1889. My father, William Weinert, and my mother Gertrude Thielepape were married April 1, 1874. They had three daughters and two sons. After my mother died in 1889, my sister Laura and I lived with our grand parents while my sister Nettie kept house for father and the two boys. My father finally gave up farming and moved to Seguin and entered the store of J. M. Blanks as salesman. When my grandfather died in 1892, my grandmother sold the farm and homestead and moved to Seguin. When my father married my aunt Minna Kemper, we came back home to live. Uncle Adolph Kemper, Minna's husband, had died several years before my mother did. She had four children: George, Gertrude, Wilhelm and Herman.

In 1902 my sister Laura married and my father and stepmother and I moved to Fort Davis, Texas, hoping the change of climate would benefit my father's health. We stayed 2 years and then returned to Seguin. Father worked in several stores finally ending his days at Seligman's store. He died July 3, 1922. He was a friend to the Mexicans who came to trade at the stores in which he worked. He helped them in many ways, writing and translating letters for them and loaning money when needed.

Ferdinand C. Weinert, the second son of August and Henrietta Weinert, was a public spirited man and entered into a political life at an early age. He was elected Justice of Peace of Guadalupe Co. in 1876 and later county Commissioner, Representative, County Judge, Senator, was on thee Petitionary Board. He instituted many and as a tribute to his understanding many meritorious bills were enacted into law, including the establishment of the Pasteur Institute and suspended sentence law.

Emil Weinert, the third son of August and Henrietta Weinert was a cotton buyer and classer. He lived in Seguin.

August Weinert, 4th son of August and Henrietta Weinert lived on the farm he bought from his father of the original Landa purchase. Later he bought a farm from F.C. Weinert on which F.C. had lived earlier and where my mother had died when we lived there. He moved to Seguin in early 1900's, was Justice of Peace and also School Trustee for many years.

Bertha Weinert married Ernest Beisele whose father was also a pioneer and lived at York's Creek.

Herman Weinert, 5<sup>th</sup> son, had a ranch near Kingsbury Texas. In 1906 when school lands were placed on the market in West Texas F.C. Weinert bought land in Haskell County and the town of Weinert was founded. Herman moved to Weinert and farmed and was active in public affairs. He devoted his life to improving methods of farming, crop production and stock raising. Before moving to Haskell County he was head of the Water works in Seguin for many years.

Charles Weinert, 6<sup>th</sup> son, was also a farmer and lived on the farm bought from the father, the original homestead farm. Charles told a niece that religious intolerance and political and personal restrictions prompted the Weinerts to leave Germany.

Hedwig Weinert, the youngest daughter of August and Henrietta Weinert, who was a young girl at the time Laura and I stayed with the grandparents, was like a mother to me and I loved her dearly. She and Grandmother took such good care of us. She married George Kemper Sr., the oldest son of my stepmother, which created quite a mix-up in the relationship but I won't go into that. A genealogical table is found in appendix.

Reinhard Weinert's daughter, Louise, married Chas. Floege and lived in New Braunfels. They are buried in the Comal Cemetery and their dates are on their tombstone. Louise Weinert Floege, born April 24, 1824, died Aug 19, 1888. Chas Floege born Sept 20, 1819, died Jan. 25, 1893. Their son Hermann had two daughters, Hulda and Irene. Their daughter, Augusta, married Oskar Dietzel, a son of Friedrich and Charlotte Dietzel, nee Helmride March 18, 1871.

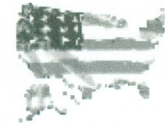
Later a daughter, Katherine, of Reinhard Weinert, who had married Wilhelm Ernst Eimer came to New Braunfels from Nassau, Germany. There is a record of the baptism of their sons, William Eimar, born Feb 5 1854 and Karl Eimar, born Sept 7, 1855. They were baptized in 1857 in New Braunfels, Texas. Some time later, they must have moved to Galveston Texas. I remember my father speaking of his cousins "Eimer" living there. A daughter, Johanna, married a Dietzel and I remember Tanta Johanna (as we called her) visiting my aunt Hedwig and other Weinert cousins.

E. Eimer is listed in the church history (pg 89) as a member of the council from Aug 1856 to Nov 1857.

**Submitted by Liz Hicks, Houston**



Forwarded to me through the Internet



## A Navy Salute from Germany

Verified True by the "[\*Urban Legends Reference Pages.\*](#)"

**The USS Winston Churchill is an Arleigh Burke class AEGIS guided missile destroyer, commissioned March 10, 2001, and is the only active US Navy warship named after a foreign national. If you haven't served onboard a Navy ship "Manning the Rail" is a ceremony usually reserved for only high ranking dignitaries, such as Heads of State.**

Dear Dad,

Well, we are still out at sea, with little direction as to what our next priority is. The remainder of our port visits, which were to be centered around max liberty and goodwill to the United Kingdom, have all but been cancelled. We have spent every day since the attacks going back and forth within imaginary boxes drawn in the ocean, standing high-security watches, and trying to make the best of our time.

It hasn't been that fun I must confess, and to be even more honest, a lot of people are frustrated at the fact that they either can't be home, or we don't have more direction right now. We have seen the articles and the photographs, and they are sickening. Being isolated as we are, I don't think we appreciate the full scope of what is happening back home, but we are definitely feeling the effects. About two hours ago the junior officers were called to the bridge to conduct Shiphandling drills. We were about to do a man overboard when we got a call from the Lutjens (D185), a German warship that was moored ahead of us on the pier in Plymouth, England. While in port, the Winston S. Churchill and the Lutjens got together for a sports day/cookout on our fantail, and we made some pretty good friends. Now at sea they called over on bridge-to-bridge, requesting to pass us close up on our port side, to say good-bye.

We prepared to render them honors on the bridge wing, and the Captain told the crew to come topside to wish them farewell. As they were making their approach, our Conning Officer announced through her binoculars that they were flying an American flag. As they came even closer, we saw that it was flying at half-mast. The bridgewing was crowded with people as the Boatswain's Mate blew two whistles- Attention to Port- the ship came up alongside and we saw that the entire crew of the German ship were manning the rails, in their dress blues. They had made up a sign that was displayed on the side that read "We Stand By You."

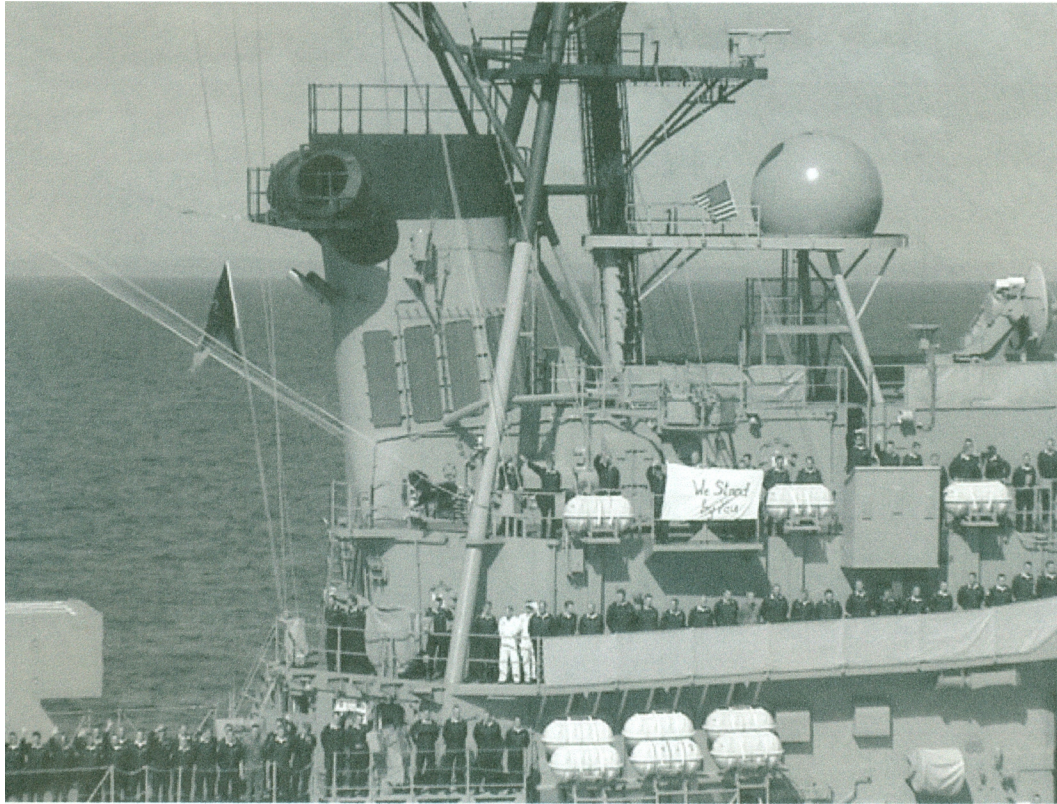
Needless to say there was not a dry eye on the bridge as they stayed alongside us for a few minutes and we cut our salutes. It was probably the most powerful thing I have seen in my entire life and more than a few of us fought to retain our composure. It was a beautiful day outside today. We are no longer at liberty to divulge over unsecure e-mail our location, but we could not have asked for a finer day at sea.

The German Navy did an incredible thing for this crew, and it has truly been the highest point in the days since the attacks. It's amazing to think that only a half-century ago things were quite different, and to see the unity that is being demonstrated throughout Europe and the world makes us all feel proud to be out here doing our job.

After the ship pulled away and we prepared to begin our man overboard drills the Officer of the Deck turned to me and said "I'm staying Navy."

I'll write you when I know more about when I'll be home, but for now, this is probably the best news that I could send you. Love you guys.





A graphic containing three icons: the United States flag, the German flag, and a ribbon with the colors of the US flag.	<p>This page was created and is maintained by <u>M &amp; M Consulting Services</u> Copyright ©2005-2055 by <u>mark zen</u>. All rights reserved. <i>A German Navy Ship Salutes a US Navy Ship, after 9/11</i> was last modified on 04/04/2007 12:36:19</p>
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Submitted by Liz Hicks, Houston

# Volksdeutsche by the Dozen, Part Four:

## Surviving In Yugoslavia, Then Fleeing for the First Time: Jakob & Katarina Webel Escape from Marinci to Vinkovci

By James J. S. Johnson



In this fourth episode of the "Volksdeutsche by the Dozen" family history series, the ethnic-German family of Jakob and Katarina Webel, then living in what is today Croatia, face and struggle with the turmoil of life in the broken-apart country of Yugoslavia. Life in war-maimed Yugoslavia is unimaginably harsh. The family unit's survival is often tenuous. As the outcome of World War II becomes predictable the Webels make the hard decision to evacuate their native country.

The Webels spoke German fluently - it was the language of their home life - so they were treated differently by the German soldiers who occupied Yugoslavia during World War II. Life then was dominated by violent military aggression, counter-aggressive guerilla actions, and escalated vengeance in surrepley. If a German soldier or a Croatian soldier was found killed, a reprisal swiftly followed: *several* Serbs would be seized and killed, for *each* German or Croat found dead.

Jakob Webel, as a matter of Christian conscience, did not want to fight for the Nazi-Croatian military agenda. So avoiding Jakob's conscription into the Nazi war machine - the German army or its deputized ally, the new Croatian army) - was an ongoing peril. Likewise, Jakob tried to avoid being forced into the Communist war machine - the so-called "partisan" guerrilla forces - which would eventually lead, after the war, to Yugoslavia's communist dictatorship (headed by Marshal Josip Tito, a Croat). So dodging abduction by local Communist "recruiters" was also an ongoing peril. Like many other non-combatants, Jakob and Katarina Webel were *striving*, as marriage partners and parents, *just to survive* the World War II chaos. Even the peaceful act of church attendance, for non-Catholics, became a life-threatening endeavor in the Croatian part of Yugoslavia, because all religions except Roman Catholicism (Hitler's religion from childhood) were persecuted by the Ustase Croats (often to the point of violent murders), -- although the chief religious target of Croatian persecution was Serbian Orthodox Christianity (which was Roman Catholicism's chief competition in Yugoslavia).<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Recall (from earlier episodes in this series) that the Webels belonged to a small group of Bible-believing Protestant evangelicals whose roots traced to "Schwabbe" German Anabaptists, a group demographically smaller than the few Lutherans who then lived in Yugoslavia. As indicated below, in the interview portion of this episode, the Webels faced this crisis by offering their own home for conducting church worship services. See Rosalie Webel Whiting, *From Vinkovci to Medina* (Webel family history), page 25-26.



But domestic living in Yugoslavia - for the Jakob and Katarina Weibel family - would not survive World War II, because the Webels would leave Yugoslavia and become refugees before World War II ended -- trekking through many countries in the process. The Webels became 12 souls within a massive evacuation exodus. Their refugee experience would involve traveling through many countries, by various means. The first major part of the Weibel family's migrations was by train, as they evacuated Yugoslavia (painfully leaving Jakob Weibel's father behind), and thereby passed through several neighboring European countries to Poland.



Specifically, the Webels were delivered (by train, with many others) to a small German town near **Breslau** (on the Oder River), in what was formerly the Lower Silesia region of eastern Germany - but Breslau soon became a part of Poland (and was re-named **Wroclaw**), due to post-WWII boundary changes (under the Potsdam Conference agreement).<sup>2</sup> But many more migration miles would follow.

However, neither Poland nor any other European nation was to become a permanent home for the Weibel family. Rather, years of refugee living - as Yugoslavian "expellees" -- would eventually lead these brave souls to Ellis Island. But those later adventures must wait for later episodes in this continuing series.

This episode will present the first step in the Weibel family's emigration - specifically, the wartime experiences that escalated in AD1943, up to the time when it was no longer safe for the Webels to live in the Croatian town of Marinci (where they ran a general store) - and in less than 24 hours they fled (with everything they could transport by horse-drawn wagons) to the Croatian city of Vinkovci, home of Jakob Weibel's father (Reinhardt Weibel).



<sup>2</sup> Eventually - according to God's providence - the Webels would emigrate to America. But that fateful transatlantic journey would be a long distance into the future from the days of living in and leaving Yugoslavia, when the Webels faced the Nazi/Ustase occupation (and Communist Partisan guerrilla intrigues).



But before the war ended it would become apparent that Vinkovci would not be safe either - nor would anywhere else in Yugoslavia after the war. But sufficient for each day was the evil thereof, so this episode chronicles life in war-torn Marinci (resuming from the events reported in *Part Three* of this series) unto the Webel family's narrow escape unto Vinkovci, from where they would eventually flee Yugoslavia - permanently - as "expellees", refugees seeking the safety that God would providentially provide to them, years later, in America.

## **BACKGROUND CONTEXT**

A short introductory review would be helpful, to provide the context of the Webel family's last months of living in Yugoslavia (during World War II, as U.S. bombs rained down), in order to show how (and why) Jakob and Katarina Webel made the hard decisions to leave Marinci -- and (eventually) Yugoslavia altogether -- as refugees, during the late-war evacuation exodus (as it became obvious that the Soviets would soon overtake Yugoslavia).

As noted in Parts One<sup>3</sup>, Two<sup>4</sup>, and Three<sup>5</sup> of this series, Texas hosted the births of Nate Webel and Luke Webel<sup>6</sup>, two brothers of German stock, extending the biogenetic impact of their father's father's *immigration to America*, in AD1950. In time Nate and Luke should learn to appreciate how their family history, thanks to God's good providence, includes survival and immigration (to America, after WWII) of "Volksdeutsche by the Dozen", on Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup> of AD 1950, as "expellees" seeking refuge in America (under the amended *Displaced Persons Act*) from Communist tyranny then ruling what was "Yugoslavia."<sup>7</sup>

## **How Two Native Texans Descend from Post-WWII Refugee Volksdeutsche**

To review the Texas connection, native Texan Nate Webel gained a little brother, Luke Webel (a new native Texas), during summer of AD2012. Luke's parents are Stephen and Erica Webel, whose lives (and those of their daughters and sons) are in constant motion (due to Steve's professional responsibilities which require international travel), yet they periodically alight and reside (just long enough to catch their breaths) in Arlington, Texas.<sup>8</sup> Stephen Webel (Luke Webel's father) is the son of Chaplain Robert ("Bob") and Marcia Webel, who currently reside in Florida. Chaplain Bob Webel (paternal grandfather to Nate & Luke Webel), as an eight-year-old, was one of the "Volksdeutsche by the Dozen" who flew from Munich (Germany) to New York, arriving at Ellis Island, March 19<sup>th</sup> of AD1950. Bob Webel's parents-Jakob Webel and Katarina (nee Schleicher) Webel-who immigrated to America with their surviving ten children, have repeatedly illustrated the phrase "truth is stranger than fiction".



Jakob & Katarina (schleicher) Webel

<sup>3</sup>"Volksdeutsche by the Dozen, Part One: Jakob and Katarina Agreed to Marry Before They Ever Spoke to Each Other, A True Example of Love at First Sight ... and First Sound", *Journal of the German-Texan Heritage Society*, 35(1): 25-32 (spring 2013), quoting from page 1-4 of Rosalie Webel Whiting, *From Vinkovci to Medina* (unpublished Webel family history), supplemented by personal interviews with Chaplain Bob Webel (during August AD2012).

<sup>4</sup>"Volksdeutsche by the Dozen, Part Two: Volksdeutsche in Croatia, before World War II: Jakob and Katarina Webel are Merchants in Marinci (Taking Care of Business and the Business of Life)", *Journal of the German-Texan Heritage Society*, 36(3):154-170 (fall 2014), quoting from Rosie Webel Whiting (see footnote #1), pages 5-18.

<sup>5</sup>"World War II Confronts Jakob and Katarina Webel (Swabians Face Nazi Invaders and Yugoslavia's Break-up)", *Journal of the German-Texan Heritage Society*, 37(2):98-113 (summer 2015), quoting from Rosie Webel Whiting (see footnote #1), pages 5-18.

<sup>6</sup>Nate Webel (b. Nov. AD2007, Fort Worth, Texas) & Luke Webel (b. July AD2012, Plano, Texas).

<sup>7</sup>"Volksdeutsche by the Dozen" is the caption of an unidentified newspaper clipping, with a photograph of the 12 Webel family immigrants, who arrived at Ellis Island on March 19, AD1950, after a transatlantic trek that went from Munich to Copenhagen to Scotland to Greenland to New York City. The Webel dozen then were father Jakob, mother Katarina, Reinhardt (17, a/k/a Reini), Elisabeth (is, a/k/a Elsa), Karl (13), Adolf (12), Theresia (10), Robert ( ..... 8), Rosalia (6, a/k/a Rosie), Jacob (4), Katherina (2), Daniel (2 months old).

<sup>8</sup>The family history information in this article is derived from repeated personal interviews with Chaplain Bob Webel, mostly when he was visiting Arlington} Texas (during the summer of AD2012L and from the transcription of his sister (Rosie)'s interview of their parents) an unpublished family history titled *From Vinkovci to Medina* (which is further described below).

As noted before (in *Part One*), Jakob Webel's family belonged to an ethnically German evangelical Anabaptist church tradition, a group known as "Evangelical Rebaptizers"<sup>9</sup> -- who lived in what was then called Yugoslavia.<sup>10</sup> In Jakob Webel's mind it was vitally important, when he selected a wife, to marry within his family's faith tradition-it would have been unthinkable to marry someone of another faith.<sup>11</sup> Jakob succeeded, marrying a kindred spirit wife, Katarina Schleicher, during the early AD1930s, before the world had learned that trying times would be forced upon the world by Hitler, Hirohito, Mussolini, and their ilk.

As the testings of time (during World War II its aftermath in Europe) proved, repeatedly, the simple vows of young Jakob and Katarina (*reported in Part One and Two of this series*) were not a mere matter of happy youthful enthusiasm or ceremonial tradition. Jakob and Katarina were promised to one another; there was no looking back. It was unthinkable to consider separate lives thereafter: these two young hearts were truly united as "one" (see *Genesis 2:24*), loyal to each other (and also to their God), as later events would prove, again and again. The young couple were faithfully committed to each other, before God and many witnesses (including themselves), and World War II's horrors and deprivations would soon (and repeatedly) test that marital union.

But the couple's family business got started, as a new family (as reported in *Part Two*), before those horrific challenges confronted them.

Then war came to Yugoslavia (as reported in *Part Three*) - surviving as a family became a basic need for each and every day. Meanwhile the vying militaries of World War II, both official armies and underground resistance guerrillas, interrupted daily living - repeatedly threatening to rupture the Webel family.



For two decades daily life in Marinci, Yugoslavia (now Croatia) - for Jakob and Katarina Webel's growing family -- was always abnormal and threatening, never convenient nor comfortable (as reported in *Part Three*). Notwithstanding calamity and crisis and catastrophe (and tragedy) on every hand, the Webel family continued to grow - eventually to include 11 children, but one (Hilda, twin sister to Robert) died of malaria (in AD1943) as a newborn (of about 4 months) in Yugoslavia, leaving a dozen Webels. Hilda's short life would nonetheless display God's providence, however, due to a German law that exempted men from being drafted for military service if they were fathers of at least 7 children. (*More on that to follow.*)

In the transcribed interview, below,<sup>12</sup> notice that the replies of the Webel parents ("**DAD**" = Jakob; **MOM** = Katarina) don't always fit questions actually asked by the interviewing daughter (**DAUGHTER**). Notice also that Mom chimes in, to clarify (or correct) the English words needed to convey Dad's memory on certain details.

In this **Part Four**, Jakob Webel and his wife (Katarina Webel) are interviewed about the tumultuous times following Croatia's assertion of independence (in April AD1943 - "splitting" from Yugoslavia (which was then at war with Germany), while family life and running a family business (in Croatia) continued to become more confusing and dangerous.

<sup>9</sup>The Yugoslav-emigrated, German-speaking Evangelical Rebaptizers, when they immigrated to America, renamed themselves the "Apostolic Christian Church of the Nazarene". (This church tradition traces back to German Anabaptists - it has no ecclesiastical connection to what in America is popularly called the "Church of the Nazarene").

<sup>10</sup> Like a violently erupting fumarole, the tragic history of Yugoslavia's political factions is a series of internal fighting (dominated by Ustase-led Roman Catholic Croats persecuting Eastern Orthodox Serbs, with Nazi and Russian Communists intervening with their own agendas), and that fighting is a major catalyst in this family history-as will be noted later, *D.v.*, in future reports on this fascinating family history (see, e.g., <http://www.icr.org!article/7056!> ).

<sup>11</sup> Certainly Jakob was thinking Biblically, on this point-see Amos 3:3 & 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6:14.

<sup>12</sup> Rosalie Webel Whiting, *From Vinkovci to Medina* (unpublished Webel family history, copy provide by Chaplain Bob Webel), pages 19-25, supplemented & clarified by personal interviews with Rosie's brother, Chaplain Bob Webel, during July and August of AD2012, and afterwards.

Weekly (if not daily), Jakob strove to avoid being drafted by the Nazi-controlled German army, and also by Communist-led "partisan" guerrillas (or be killed by them for refusing to meet their extortion demands), while the Webel family resided in Marinci and then (in time, when the crisis situation escalated to a life-threatening climax) in Vinkovci. At one point (not reported in this episode, because it happened later), in all this confusion, Katarina herself was captured- and she providentially escaped-and she successfully returned to her family. But was living *anywhere* in Yugoslavia/Croatia safe? What if the USSR's Red Army invades Croatia, and decides to occupy it? ***Hard times called for hard decisions.***

Eventually, as American bombs fell - suggesting to the Webels that the Germans would eventually lose the war - it became clear that some kind of escape *was* needful. Meanwhile, baby twins Robert and Hilda would be born (June 2<sup>nd</sup> of AD1943), but only Robert would survive that year.

The interview resumes (*from page 25*) with Mr. and Mrs. Webel recalling *life* under the new pro-Nazi "independent" regime of Croatia, which was operated the country notwithstanding intermittent pro-Communist "partisan" guerrilla warfare<sup>13</sup> during AD1943 and after. Dad Webel had just returned home (to Marinci).

\* \* \* \* \*

DAUGHTER: From that time you were drafted [by the now-defunct Yugoslavian Army] to the time you saw Mom again, how long was that?

DAD: April [of AD1943] was ... about 2 months. And Mom was, in that time, running the store by herself.

MOM: And I was pregnant with Robert (and Hilda).

DAUGHTER: Now give me approximate times on this. Robert was born in June [of AD1943]?

DAD: June 2.

DAUGHTER: So how much before June 2 did you come home?

DAD: Not much. I came home on Good Friday so I do not know what the date is but I know it was Good Friday when I came home.

MOM: His father [i.e., Dad's father = Mom's father-in-law] was with me when I was running the store and Reini was young, very young. Somebody had to be with the kids.

DAUGHTER: So, in other words, your dad [i.e., Dad's dad] was not in Vinkovci the whole time [that Dad was away with the Yugoslavian Army]. He came to help Mom.

DAD: He came for visit and for week, couple of weeks with Mom.

MOM: I was alone and it was very hard to work.

DAD: And I could not understand that I came with the bike, driving back [about 20 kilometers from Vinkovci to Marinci] and no telephone there in whole town. Mom know already at home, somebody told her Dad is home again.

MOM: They all call.

DAD: And nobody called me in the town, just others, just Schwab [i.e., "Schwabbies"] but that's the Germany.

DAUGHTER: What does that mean?

DAD: That German.

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<sup>13</sup> The interview resumes on page 19, recalling events when the Webels still lived in **Marinci**.



DAUGHTER: The German (i.e., the ethnic German people whose ancestors migrated to and lived in Yugoslavia, sometimes called Swabians or "Schwabbies").

DAD: The German.

MOM: And I was to open the store and they all come running, Schwabbies coming!

DAD: And they all call me the German because no German in that town. I was the only German [notice that Dad considered himself, ethnically speaking, as "German"] and they call me German but now that I came, nobody says that German is coming, that Jakob is coming. And Mom know already, the people talk, Jakob is coming. And I had no idea how could that sound [i.e., the transmitted news of Jakob coming home] come before me [arriving]. I am driving bike and there is no phone there. How could they know before I came there? But they knew it. And I came home and we had that church, not in the town. Church was in another town, but was Serbian town, like our town, but they had a church but they were afraid, they call the German and so they were afraid to have a church service so Mom invited, come to our place and our house.

MOM: I said, I cannot come. I have the children. I have the store and all those things. You are welcome all in our house. I'm not afraid from the German, I'm not afraid of the Serbian people, just come. I had the [church] service.

DAUGHTER: So the church came to your house.

DAD: So the men, the members ...

DAUGHTER: During this time when you were gone ...

DAD: No, in that coming Sunday, Easter Sunday. I on Friday come home and my Dad is there.

MOM: And I had the store.

DAD: And the store, full of people, I had maybe time to hug Mom, but right away start to working in the store to satisfy the people to get the people out.

MOM: The whole town was so excited, you cannot believe it!

DAD: Because I am at home.

DAUGHTER: They're all excited to see you.

MOM: They are all excited: Jakob is home! They was running through the street!

DAUGHTER: Did you have your [Yugoslavian Army] uniform on?

MOM: Oh, yeah.

DAD: Yeah, sure.

DAUGHTER: By then he couldn't get it off anymore.

MOM: No. Just that Jakob was home.

DAUGHTER: Tell me about the time you came home and Mom had Robert because this is when she was sick.

MOM: Then that was probably in April, Easter.

DAUGHTER: Were you real tired, Mom?

MOM: Oh, yeah. I was sick, with so many kids.

DAD: You could take the children, the store, day and night, no rest, but the customer in the night, the children, and then the wash, to cook, to ...

MOM: And his father [i.e., Dad's dad] was there, we already decided we can close the store, it's too much, I cannot do it anymore. There's so many people there, they overload me, and I can't do it so we decided that when this takes longer, we can close the store. And Dad is there we'll stay ...

DAUGHTER: During this time, the 2 months Dad was gone, did you go to Vinkovci and get supplies?

MOM: No. No.

DAUGHTER: No supplies were purchased.

DAD: Oh, yes. Bought supplies, written and send for them ...

DAUGHTER: Sent the men, you sent them. Okay.

DAD: Have to have supplies almost every week.

MOM: Every week you have to get yeast.

DAD: Almost every week you need something because you could not run a store ...

MOM: without kerosene ...

DAUGHTER: Okay, I just needed to know that.

DAD: And then, when I came home, Saturday, Sunday we had never Sunday opened the store, and only in emergency we give something Sunday.

MOM: They come then around and ask and I say, you know, we never give Sunday. Just believe I need it. Most was the yeast. Got to buy the yeast for they have to fix tomorrow's bread then. They got no bread to eat without yeast.

DAD: ut we give them, if they need cigarette, no. If they need, you have to buy yesterday or tomorrow of go to other store.

DAUGHTER: Sometimes you would give yeast.

DAD: Sometimes, if somebody calls or there is a custom when somebody dies or if some [one is] dying, they have to hurry in the store to buy a candle. Give him a candle with the hand.

DAUGHTER: Candle. Catholicism, right?

DAD: Huh?

DAUGHTER: Catholics or Lutheran?

DAD: No, not Catholic [and Lutheran] ... [Serbian] Orthodox and the Catholic.

DAUGHTER: Greek Orthodox and Catholic.

DAD: No, that's way different. [Serbian Orthodox is "way different" from Greek Orthodox, apparently.] They both, the Catholic too, then you get ...

DAUGHTER: But mostly Greek Orthodox.

MOM: The candle, you give it in the hands. They cannot die without candle, and they come in the middle [of the night], whenever in the store, knock on the window, it would be dark and we went to bed.

DAD: And you do it.

MOM: Yeah, order a ribbon so long, a yard or 2 yards. A ribbon to tie, I don't know what they tie but they cost so much. So that we had to give it.

DAD: Sunday was the church, they came there, the members they were surprise[d].

MOM: And they came one by one, he is home.



DAUGHTER: Is this when you had all the kids and they were under the bed and nobody even knew you had that many kids?

MOM: No, no, no.

DAD: No.

DAUGHTER: That wasn't the time. Okay.

DAD: And then was it so ... and I was at home. Then, little by little, the Croatian State got organized all right and drafted the men to the [new Croatian] army.

DAUGHTER: Were you drafted again?<sup>14</sup>

DAD: No, no.

DAUGHTER: Is Robert born yet?

DAD: No.

MOM: No, no.

DAUGHTER: And you're still talking before this.

DAD: And then when the time came Mom was more sick, and more sick, and fever, high fever, and the children [i.e., twins Robert and Hilda] were born ahead of time because of the high fever, and one baby [i.e., Hilda] in hurt, but Mom was under the doctor's care, but not from that city, but German army doctor. Because the civilian ...

MOM: There was almost nobody there. They was all gone.

DAUGHTER: Dispersed.

DAD: And we are German [i.e., ethnic Germans who speak German, although citizens of what had been Yugoslavia] so the German army take care of us, so they gave a medication, and ...

DAUGHTER: Did they come to the house to take care of you?

MOM: Yes. Go in the house ...

DAD: They were in station in the town.

MOM: There was station there.

DAD: But as a little town, we had no [medical] doctor, otherwise, we have no drug store. We have some drug items.

DAUGHTER: Were you sick before Dad came home?

MOM: No.

DAUGHTER: It was after Dad came home that you got malaria.

MOM: Yes, then I got malaria.

DAD: And she get [malaria] probably from the soldiers in the town, we don't know how getting, and when the children [i.e., twins Robert and Hilda] were born, then it start already the Partisans [i.e., mostly Communist guerrilla resistance to the pro-Nazi Croatian government, plus Serbian dissidents who opposed the

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<sup>14</sup> Dad Webel had previously been drafted into the Yugoslavian Army [see **Part Three** in this series]. When the Kingdom of Yugoslavia was politically split up -- and recognized as jurisdictionally defunct (when Croatia declared its own independence under Nazi German sponsorship), -- Dad's military obligation expired as a matter of law. So the question is asked, was Dad later drafted by the new Croatian State? (Dad replies in the negative.)

Croatian Ustase terrorists], you know what "Partisan" means. "Guerrilla" that what they call it here [in America]. The Serbian, the war against the Germans, but not the Serbs, at the time, there were some, always some fanatic. And there goes a German soldier in there, [and an assassin secretly] shot him, and then, who did it? "Nobody"! And they "knew" some Serbian did it. And then the German, where did that happened? ... they'd say, here, here.

DAUGHTER: A big search.

DAD: In the city, all the Serbian they get together and tell [i.e., ask] who was it [who killed the German soldier]? "Nobody, nobody"! So they [i.e., the Germans seeking revenge] take 1, 2, 3, 4 and take, kill, without ... [i.e., the vengeful Germans would seize a few Serbians and kill them, as a reprisal, without any trial or proof of who was responsible for the killing that was being "avenged"].

MOM: Sometimes 4 for one, it was 5 for 1. They came and took 8 for 1, and then they took 10 for 1.

DAD: And so on.

MOM: So it was worse and worse.

DAUGHTER: And did they shoot just men?

DAD: Just men. But then and no question, what do you think - this war was.

MOM: That was to just for war.

DAD: Who killed our soldier? Just a "Serbian". They know that somebody did but who did? Nobody did. And a gun has everybody because the army, this person, you know, so everybody could have a gun. Even when, I did say that, but when I went from the army home, going home was more soldier there and wounded men, had gun, with himself. And want to go with the wagon, you could not go, when you have the guns. What should I do? "Get away!"<sup>15</sup> What should I do? Over there is a bridge, put it [i.e., the gun] down under the bridge. I don't want to meet a German soldier and we are in Yugoslavian [army] uniform and we got guns, they could think we are enemies and without thinking, without explaining, they could kill us. No, we don't want that. No. If you want to go with us, threw it away. Yes. And so, whosoever<sup>16</sup> want could find a gun in that time. In normal [i.e., pre-WWII] time, in Yugoslavia, no man could have a gun or a revolver. No, no, no. Only a hunter and he have to have a license and so, but not ...

MOM: Just buy somewhere on the black market.

DAD: No. That not easy.

MOM: That not too easy, they will find out and they will come in the houses and look, and search the house ....

DAD: But in that time everybody had because the [Yugoslavian] army dispersed, you could throwaway, so ... and because one Serb killed the one German, then the German - the [German] army, not the [non-combatant ethnic German] people - the army, like I said, brought so many people. "Who did it?" "Nobody" did it. Then they take 2 and kill them [as a reprisal]. And so tomorrow over there was again a German killed. So the Serb is afraid, run away in the woods, in the mountain, so they built the Partisan (guerrilla).

MOM: The beginnings of their [guerrilla] army.

DAUGHTER: The Serbians did at that point.

DAD: Yeah. First to fall, some fanatic want to go to war against Germany. The majority are afraid he will kill me, the German will kill me because the German soldier is killed, they will kill me [i.e., in another

<sup>15</sup> Apparently Dad recalls that if he had a gun, then, he was shooed away from the wagon he wanted to ride, so carrying a gun was more of a disadvantage than an advantage.

<sup>16</sup> Dad uses the Old English pronoun "whosoever" occasionally, demonstrating that he learned English (in American) by reading the King James Bible.



multiplier-revenge reprisal, with the victims being selected solely on the basis of being ethnic Serbs who were Serbian Orthodox in their religion - and thus hated by the German/Nazi/Ustase killers].

MOM: They [i.e., the Serbs who feared reprisal killings] run away.

DAD: So they run away and soon there was the Partisan - we call it "Partisan" over there, but [in America] they call here "Guerrillas". Guerrillas would come and they got the multiplied through that.

DAUGHTER: Those were strictly Serbians at this point? Mostly, anyway?

DAD: Mostly, the Serbian because the Serbian [was] more persecuted from the Germans and ... [the pro-Nazi Croats].

DAUGHTER: Why did they assume a Serbians killed him [i.e., a German soldier]?

DAD: Because a Serbian was against the German, not a Croatian. Croatian, they see it.

DAUGHTER: What does "Croatian" mean?

DAD: That's a Yugoslav ... [Yugoslavia] is a part Serbian, part Slovenian [i.e., Slovenian?] and part Croatian - and Croatian and Slovenian [Slovenian?] was under Austria-Hungary for 100 years and the Serbian was independent for maybe 50 years, and before that's what other 50. So the Serbian are in the culture, culture way behind, they have no education, they have no ... but they ...

DAUGHTER: In the culture they were way behind.

DAD: Yeah, in the culture, but they are the majority [in Yugoslavia]. And in 1918 the First World War they make the one kingdom [composed of Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, etc.] ... because the majority rules, the Serbians made the ruling. Because a Serbian did the ruling, here is the Croatian town, the main officer or main office-holder, main-money-getter is the Serbian from there, from Serbia, even if he has no school [credentials]. If he had no college or no high school, he is more in the position than the man in the Croatian [town] who got the schooling. And that became friction in between the Serbian and the Croatian.

DAUGHTER: They formed a partisan at that point. Then what happened?

DAD: The people formed a partisan. Then whenever the German in the night - let's say in the day time here's a German and a Croatian, but when the night came, then the Partisan, they need bread, they need cigarette, they need ammunition, so what they do? ... they know, here are the 20 German in the barracks sleeping, and they got 2, or at the post, kill them, they go kill them to take the ammunition. Then we need ration cards to buy cigarette because the people are smoking, they have to go there in the office in the night, kill that man, or force them to give it. And I go, I have a store, I go today to the town, and I ... with no battery, could you buy battery? But the radio, people had already radio, not TV but radio, some people. And I get the battery and it is .... [end of Side A] ... I was in the town, I had the batteries. They knocked on the door, open in the night. Who is it? "Open!" Yeah, I know who it is. I have to open. "Don't put the light on, just open the door!"

MOM (recalling the midnight customers, i.e., Partisan resistance guerrillas, seeking to buy supplies in secret): "Open the door! Let us in! Close the door!"

DAD: To let in, close the door. Sit in the store. The town people you know.

DAUGHTER: "You got sharp tools?"

MOM: Yes. "Bread?"

DAD: "You got batteries?" you could not take all. Yes, I can do. There's more here. "And ... you got cigarette?" Yes.

MOM: "You got socks?" Yes.

DAD: "You got chocolate?"

DAUGHTER: And everything you gave?

DAD: Yes. Everything, whatever they want.

MOM: We had to. If not they ...

DAD: ... kill you.

MOM: ... kill you.

DAUGHTER: Then you may as well give the whole store.

DAD: No, they do not. Even the whole store.

MOM: They go nice away.

DAUGHTER: Why didn't they pay?

MOM: Why should they?

DAUGHTER: It's war time.

DAD: They even had the ration cards, you give me cigarettes. They even give ten cards not matter how many they take, a hundred they got. They can go to the court house, they bring it.

DAUGHTER: So they gave you ration cards.

DAD: Yeah, so that I could buy again. And many times they give us money too, they paid.

DAUGHTER: Oh, they did pay.

DAD: Yes - sometimes yes, sometimes no.

MOM: They sit there and they don't want to go and pay. They sit and ask all the things and talking. I want to send them away. I'm scared and they don't go away.

DAD: You must talk with them like them be the best friends, and when they go away, then you go to bed.

DAUGHTER: Did they come many nights?

DAD: People many nights, and ...

MOM: Almost every night.

DAUGHTER: How late in the night?

DAD: This is late, when it's dark. Everything is quiet, quiet, just you hear: "Daddy, there is walking?" ... [i.e., Dad recalls how he would be asked if he heard someone walking] ... Then boom!

MOM: You hear the heavy shoes walking.

DAD: You know that. And then, in the morning the neighbors said, "Was the Partisan at your late place?" "How do you know?" "I have ... don't ask."

MOM: "You saw them?" They said no. The we don't ask.

DAD: "Never came here." Never say yes, never no. You never know who.

MOM: Never can say anything to nobody. No, not at all.

DAD: And then came the time the children [i.e., twins Robert and Hilda] was born and the Partisan already is very much powerful group. They took that man and killed him and that man and beat him half-dead.

MOM: Burned the house down.

DAUGHTER: Why?

DAD: Is war time.

MOM: When you say something, when we would say they was at our place. They took batteries or took something or asked for something and took it.

DAD: And the people are making whiskey and there was more people together and one man went home and another town and the Partisan caught him and [asked] "where you was?" "There and there." "What did you do there?" "We burn whiskey." And that man say a lie too, and he said, "we have organized to fight against the Partisans". "Who?" "That and that man." And they came and caught that man the next day, next night, and was a new mayor, he was sick, and he lay in the bed and we went [to] visit them, he was in the bed, and nobody was there. All over black and blue.

MOM: They beat him so much.

DAD: They beat him almost to death.

MOM: They sick for more than a year, not moving or anything.

DAUGHTER: Because the other guy said they were organizing against them.

MOM: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

DAD: And [there] was one man, he was in German army and came home, he rent a house and he came home on leave and they know and they found out and in the night they burned the house to pick him out from the house and-

MOM: He brought the children, he had 4 children and his wife and they went out of the house, sneaking out when it start burning and went around they had the big wall, high wall, brick wall, was by the property like a front.

DAD: When there from house to house is for fence, every house and the sidewalk is there beside. But some people had a brick wall, not like a wooden, and they had a brick wall, and they hid behind the brick wall, laid down till the morning.

MOM: Lay down on the ground, flat down. Children and all with the man and wife, they stay alive, but the house burned down. Nobody come and bring the pail [of water, for dousing the house fire]. They cannot. They is not allowed.

DAD: And the fire-ware now start to go, *boom, boom, boom, boom*. No. Fire-ware, not allowed to go. They kill you.<sup>17</sup>

MOM: They cannot, cannot believe it and the next neighbor can't go out and get the pail of water, he's afraid they will kill him as soon as they see him.

DAUGHTER: Now all these visits by the Partisan, are these before Robert was born?

MOM: What? ... was born?

DAUGHTER: This was after Robert was born?

DAD: In that time. In that time was it so.

DAUGHTER: And you [i.e., Mom] were real sick.

MOM: Oh, yeah. And then we hired a maid.

DAD: And then when the children [i.e., twins Robert and Hilda] were born, in that time, and the children were born, and that happened so many times, I was afraid to be in the house.

DAUGHTER: Why?

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<sup>17</sup> Firefighting was deterred by fear that Partisans would kill any who tried to extinguish the fire.



DAD: Because they came, the man from the house is taken out, the Partisan in the night, and killed him. And everybody know I am a German.

DAUGHTER: [I] see, they didn't like the Germans.

DAD: Yeah, So ...

MOM: He [i.e., Dad] slept on the ...

DAD: So I went out in the yard in the garden [at night] and most of the time in the tree [slept].

DAUGHTER: Slept in the tree.

DAD: Yeah, because if they go down they go on the ground. If they do shoot, they do not shoot in the air, they shoot that way not in the tree. And the baby [i.e., newborn Hilda, Robert's twin sister] was sick to die.

DAUGHTER: Both of them [i.e., were both twins sick]? You mean just one of them? Hilda. Both babies had malaria?

DAD: Yeah. She [i.e., Hilda] had them [i.e., malaria germs] from the Mom.

DAUGHTER: Yeah. Both twins - Robert and Hilda - both malaria?

DAD: Just Hilda.

MOM: Robert doesn't have.

DAD: And Mom called me in the night but not holler, just half loud, "Jakob, come, child is dying." I wait [in the tree] a little bit "" watch ... went down.

MOM: Once the Partisan came and then we saw what was in window and Dad went open and we did not want to open the door. They saying something to him, you said something to them, and they said to you, "hang more out [of the window!" [and Dad disagreed replying] "year, ou will pull me out", ...Dad said, "you can pull me out".

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DAD: And Mom called me in the night but not holler, just half loud, "Jakob, come, child is dying." I wait [in the tree] a little bit "" watch ... went down.

MOM: Once the Partisan came and then we saw what was in window and Dad went open and we did not want to open the door. They saying something to him, you said something to them, and they said to you, "hang more out [of the window]" "" [and Dad disagreed, replying] "yeah, you will pull me out", ... Dad said, "you can pull me out".

DAD: Open the window and talk to them.

DAUGHTER: Open the window further.

DAD: I open the window and they talk to me, and when the window is open, they are ... their head is lower than the window sill so... because I see the house is higher and you have to go with the steps in the store, and then form the store in the house, again steps, so the bedroom is much higher than the store, and form the bedroom window sill, the men are maybe to that hedge so I shouldn't have pull out but now out. "No, you will pull me out." "I will not go out, but [you guys] come in, so I open the door, they came in."<sup>18</sup>

DAUGHTER: Is this the night that Hilda died?

DAD: No, but it was very dangerous while you go away.

MOM: She was 4 months [old] almost when she died, she was sick all the time.

DAUGHTER: She was?

MOM: All the time.

DAD: Yes, for more or less sometimes better, sometimes worse.

MOM: And the [medical] doctor give the baby shots, and she was better, then became worser, then became better, so 4 months, then dead.

DAUGHTER: Were you better?

MOM: Well, I cannot get medicine till I was .. the baby was 3 weeks old, then I get my shots for the malaria shot, pills, I have to take pills, then I take a yellow ... I get yellow jaundice. Yellow like a lemon.

DAUGHTER: Robert never got sick?

MOM: No, no, he was strong, much stronger.

DAD: No.

DAUGHTER: Were you not able to get medicine because you were pregnant?

MOM: They cannot give it, I need it, but I was pregnant. When they give it they will kill the babies, they cannot give till the babies are born. Some kid of medicine, not the medicine what I should have.

DAD: The German did have the better medicine than Yugoslavia then, and maybe they have the better medicine or the same as America had at that time. Now is the medicine much better in everywhere but they could not give.

DAUGHTER: So then after Robert was 4 months old and Hilda died, when was it that you left the town of Marinci? Was it much longer after that?

MOM: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah.

<sup>18</sup>Dad Webel rightly fears what will occur if he leans too far out his window, to where the Partisans can yank him outside of his house. Dad Webel tells the nocturnal visitors that they can enter his house, to talk with him, but Dad does not want to go outside with them (or allow them to accomplish that result by yanking him out of his window).

DAUGHTER: Was Rosie born here too?<sup>19</sup>

ROSIE (ANOTHER DAUGHTER): No, no, no, I was not born there. And I want to know what happened to your hair at that time. Did you have bond hair then? Is that when your hair fell out? Because of the malaria?

DAD: Wait. We did go ahead of time.

DAUGHTER: Okay. Let's go backwards then.

DAD: Yeah, backwards. When I came home from the army (spring AD1943), Croatia organized and they pullout their own army, and I as a German was not obligated to go to the Croatian army but was a propaganda made. That we should go to the German army, or not to the army, we should just be a German club because we are [ethnically] German. And I went there and they took my name there and I regret later because I went there. Then, not long after that the German organized the German there to go in the German army. But the German could not draft us as a soldier but they could take us as a volunteer or as a 55 and so they make all the German have to go in there. Now it is here to go to sign but later on to the [medical] doctor to look if I was ...

DAUGHTER: Physically well.

DAD: Good for us to do that. And I did not went. And then they send me a paper, I have to go to that place to be drafted.

DAUGHTER: Did you go then?

DAD: Yes, I went there. Sunday I was in the church and I gave the song, the seventh in the addition or (sings ... "Be Faithful unto Death"). Next day I gave others I give that song and next day or two days later I have to go to be examined by the [medical] doctor. Then I came there, there is a big hall and here is a table, they ask me my name, they ask me, they know nothing about me. Then I see but what I came here as a by my free will. And I see right away, see the train to Germany.

DAUGHTER: They want to send you to Germany?

DAD: They did.

DAUGHTER: They did?!?

DAD: They did.

MOM: Three months!

DAD: yes.

DAUGHTER: And you didn't know where he was?

DAD: Nobody knows.

MOM: Nobody! He went away and this was all.

DAD: I went to [medical] doctor to look if I am healthy and just go right away. When I came there into Germany ...

DAUGHTER: Now tell me, when was this? If Robert was born in June, is this before he was born?

MOM: No, no.

<sup>19</sup>Rosie is responsible for producing the interview with Dad and Mom Webel. However, it appears here that the main interrogator is a sister of Rosie's - although earlier episodes in this series presumed that the interrogator was Rosie herself. (It is obvious that the one asking questions is a daughter of Jakob and Katarina Webel; it is also obvious, above, that Rosie Webel is involved in the interview and is the one who ultimately produces the interview.)



DAUGHTER: No, he [i.e., Robert] was born in '43, this was afterwards.

MOM: This was in fall [i.e., autumn] when we was by Dad [i.e., Dad's dad, in Vinkovci] and when they took you.

DAUGHTER: You said you were in a tree [evading the nocturnal partisans] when she [i.e., baby Hilda] died.

DAD; Mon, no, no, that was before. Don't ... that was before Robert was born. Then when I was there in the army and right away first you have to get a gun. I refused and then the first thing, go over to the Corporal hall to the sergeant, and he put you to clean the toilet, then after that you go in the jail, then go here and that question, then that, then that, then they take picture [of] you and sent you to Vinkovci and come back and so on, and after 3 months I was in jail. And ...

DAUGHTER: Why were you in jail?

DAD: Because I didn't take up gun. I didn't take the arms.

MOM: That's when Robert was born.

DAD (disagreeing with Mom's chronology): No, Mom, wait. You will see. You will see he [i.e., Robert] was not born. You will see. I will prove to you.

DAUGHTER: What were you doing in the jail?

DAD: Nothing.

DAUGHTER: You just sit around.

DAD: Sat around and ...

DAUGHTER: Did they feed you?

DAD: Sure, that they did. And when now is 3 months over, the unit is ready to go to the battlefield, and what should they do with me? They call me many times before the office and once they called me, would I go to the battlefield as a medic? Yes, I would. Okay. I was not happy when they ask me because I know what what's battlefield mean, and then I went back, then they came afterward back, if I go, they as a medic they asked, would I take a handgun? No. Then I was happy when they ask me that. No, I would not. I could not tell them that I am glad you ask me that one. But ...

DAUGHTER: Why were you glad they asked you that question?

DAD: Because if I said no, they would not send me in the battlefield.

DAUGHTER: You didn't really want to go.

DAD: Yes, but who want to go there? A medic is of better protected than a ...

DAUGHTER: I know that.

DAD: ... and sure they said to me everything, they said, you will not see your family and I think, do you get a guarantee that if I take the gun that I will see the family? I know what you ...

MOM: Yeah, there was always asking something.

DAD: And when the 3 months was over, they called the captain, and they said [to Dad], "what should we do with you? It's up to you." Then they said, "we don't want to send you to the court martial and the doctor said you are sick", and they gave me papers, send me home.

DAUGHTER: In the head? What kind of "sick"? Were you really sick? "Sick in the head"?

MOM: No, he was sick he was 3 months in jail.

DAD: When you are 3 months in the jail, between the 4 walls.

MOM: No windows, no air ...

DAUGHTER: Oh, you really were physically sick.

DAD: I was, but not sick that I could not go to ...

MOM: He was so pale ... and so thin.

DAD: So they send me home because they felt they don't want to send me to court martial and then when they send me home, they could not give me paper to home, just only to capital city to Vienna, to capital city of Austria, and there I have to go to that office. When I came home there, I give the paper to the office, that's the soldier in there.

DAUGHTER: Home to where?

DAD: When I came to Vienna, when I came there, again the **SS** office, that's one of their office, when I came there, sure, we prove that them by the court, was not court martial, but just a examine. We are not volunteer. How could I be volunteer? We are forced. How can you voluntary when you didn't want to take a gun? I didn't came volunteer, I they take me by so and so ... and explained to them and they know it is so. So when I came to the Vienna, the office, they take the paper, "what kind of sickness?" "It says right here I am sick." "You know you are not sick, you go to doctor." The he reads letter. "Oh, Marinci [in Yugoslavia]", he sees. "Oh, do you know Langenfelter?" "Sure I know; is our neighbor." [Dad now provided some editorial information that he learned, later, about Langenfelter the spy.] And that ... when he was in Marinci, there was a German man, he was in the Hitler party, a spy for the German, and he went to the Yugoslavia and got in the Orthodox a priest and married a Russian woman and was in Marinci a priest, but a German spy.<sup>20</sup> And he was our neighbor, and when we talk with the children and he comes to us, he said, like you, like Mom talk, the same language, and he like to came to us [i.e., Langenfelter liked to visit the Webels and speak the German language with them] and when nobody was there, he talk only German to us, but he was a wear [i.e., he was wearing garb] like an Orthodox priest and he wasn't.<sup>21</sup> And that man [i.e, the Nazi SS officer] ask, "do you know Langenfelter?" "Sure, I know." "How is he? Where is he?" "We are neighbors" - and so on, "he is our house neighbor" ... and then he [i.e., the SS officer] give a paper, [saying] "go!"

MOM: Not even to the doctor -- "go home".<sup>22</sup>

DAD: No doctor. That he gave me the paper to go home. But again not home only to **Esseg**.

DAUGHTER: What's the name of this Orthodox priest?

DAD: That's Langenfelter.

DAUGHTER: Now he was a German spy.

MOM: Not even to the doctor—"go home".<sup>22</sup>

<sup>20</sup>Dad is being interrogated by a Nazi SS officer in Vienna. The SS officer notices that Dad's paperwork indicates his residence as Marinci (Yugoslavia), and perhaps the paperwork indicates Dad's ethnicity as a Swabian (Le., an ethnic German) whose ancestors settled in Yugoslavia. The Nazi SS officer recalls that the Germans have a spy in Marinci named Langenfelter. Langenfelter's "cover" identity is the pretense of being an Eastern Orthodox priest, married to a Russian woman. This would allow Langenfelter to spy on the Serbs (whose Serbian Orthodox religion is a variety of Eastern Orthodox Christianity) and his marriage to a Russian woman would allow him to learn about Soviet-related Partisan doings. Because Langenfelter is actually a German himself, Langenfelter is naturally attracted to the Webel family, who are ethnic Germans. So, if Langenfelter wants to visit folks who are not anti-German he would be inclined to visit the Webels in MarincL Speculations aside, the SS officer could test Dad Webel's "story" by corroborating what the SS officer knows about (and from) Langenfelter, the Webels' neighbor (who was really a Nazi spy in Yugoslavia).

<sup>21</sup>Langenfelter was wearing the costume of an Eastern Orthodox priest but really he was no such thing; Langenfelter was actually a Nazi party member in the *Schutz-Stoffel (IISS)*.

<sup>22</sup> The paperwork provided by the Nazi SS officer did not direct Dad Webel to undergo further medical examination; rather, the paperwork directed that Dad Webel go home to Marinci in Yugoslavia. Perhaps the SS officer thought that Dad Webel would be of some assistance to Langenfelter the spy (if Dad Webel was allowed to return home to Marinci).

DAD: No doctor. That he gave me the paper to go home But again not home only to **Esseg**.

DAUGHTER: What's the name of this Orthodox priest?

DAD: That's Langenfelder.

DAUGHTER: Now he was a German spy.

DAD: He was a German, was a **SS** [i.e., *SchutzstaJjel* = **ff** = "guard staff"] in the [Nazi] party, and he was a spy in Yugoslavia.

DAUGHTER: Did you know that [then]?

DAD: No, no.

MOM: No, no, we don't know this. Later on.

DAD: We would never say -- nobody would say.

MOM: No, we never say this.

DAUGHTER: Okay. Then he sent you ...

DAD: He sent but he gave a paper to go to Esseg and there where I was drafted or where I should be drafted, to go there.

DAUGHTER: How do you spell "Esseg"?

DAD: **ESSEG**.<sup>23</sup>

DAUGHTER: I knew it wasn't X.<sup>24</sup> You went there? That was your original place where you went for your physical [examination by a physician].

DAD: Yes, yes. And when I came there, I give them my paper and they said no, you will not go home. You will go in the mountains [to] fight against the Partisan. They need men over there. But you go see the doctor. Because I was sick, sent to doctor. When I go to see the doctor, the army doctor, there's nobody there, it is now is Good Friday. The doctor is not there and that ... Again is Good Friday, I remember that's very good.

MOM: Good Friday, a Good Friday: no train, and the next rain ...

DAD: And I know ...

DAUGHTER Bob [i.e., baby Robert] had to have been born then. It's second Good Friday?

DAD: No, that's ... wait. I will tell you. Then when I came, see, should I get no doctor? Should I wait Monday? (It's Saturday.) Monday? No, I go home on my own. So I went to the train depot and went in the train home. When I get on the train, they come to ask the passport, I give him the German paper, he do not know read, he could not read that, it in German. And I had the German uniform, he cannot read, so I get home. When I get home, everybody was surprised, Mom too, and then I think that was the time where Mom ... when Dad [i.e., Dad's dad] was there, but makes no difference though. And then was Sunday, we went to church, and a couple of weeks later on, came from the Esseg, from the army, writing to the our mayor, to send me with police there, because I am a - how do you say? - VO.

DAUGHTER: **AWOL** ["away without leave"].

DAD: AWOL, yes. And we have no post office there. And we have just one police in that little town and

<sup>23</sup>Apparently the paperwork that directed Dad Weibel to "go home" specifically indicated that he was to return via Esseg (also known as Osijek), a large city in the Slavonian region of Croatia, located on a bank of the river Drava, about 16 miles upstream of the Drava's confluence with the river Danube. There was then a German population living in Esseg (n/k/a Osijek), as well as an Axis-controlled oil refinery that was the target of Allied bombing on June 14th AD1944.

<sup>24</sup>Apparently Dad's pronunciation of "Esseg" sounded somewhat like "Essex", so the spelling clarified this word.



that police goes to another town to bring that post, whatever that is, and goes on our house by, and then he goes to the city hall or township hall and there he has to divide that mail. But he pass on our house and he saw that German letter, and he cannot read that stuff, from the mail, he threw it through the window, it was Sunday, threw it through the window into our room.

MOM: We had always the window a little bit open where he can throw the mail in.

DAD: And we came home from the church, here is the mail, and I am the wanted [i.e., Dad is a "wanted man"]. What should I do? What should I do?!?

DAUGHTER: Mina Habrinsky, that's the Mayor of the town of Marinci.

DAD: Yes. What should I do? It's not the mayor, but an official.

DAUGHTER: The head official.

DAD: What should I do? And then we decide open it up and read. When I read, I know right away I'm from whom is it, and could be only me because there's no Germany here. So I opened and saw what is it. What should we do? No, we will not give it to them. We will not give it to them. We will not destroy, just hide somewhere. So I did.

DAUGHTER: And Robert still isn't born yet? Mom, you should remember this.

DAD: No. That was all. Then was the time elapsed and Robert was born and as soon that children was born, I went to the town, to Vinkovci, to the priest [who kept the birth records] and put them in and got certificate that we have now 7 children - because we had 5 and Robert and Hilda is 2 [more], is 7. According to the law, German law, if I have 7 children I don't have to go [into the military draft], I am relieved [i.e., exempt] from the whole army.

DAUGHTER: So you immediately went to the priest in Vinkovci to get your certificate of birth for your 2 children [twins Robert and Hilda], -- you had to go to the Orthodox priest to get that.

DAD: Not, no, no, no. Lutheran priest. Not that certificate, to report the 2 children born and then the whole family and the one paper to certify I have - we have - 7 children. So I keep that in my pocket, we have 7 children and I don't have to go [into the military draft]. Then it's no army - no, no, nothing ....

MOM: Dad, Dad, I even sent this to you when you was, when we finds you, I sent this to the Marinci office ... of all these 7 children. This was when Robert was born. Still, just [to] be sure, I'm sure, I had to sent it. I had to go to Marinci to the Mayor and make the papers to Vinkovci, Dad [i.e., Dad's dad - Mom's father -in- law] brought me to Vinkovci, when in Vinkovci I went in the court house and he made the paper, we sent them, when we find through this man, where you are. Was 3 months you was away. You remember that?

DAD: Okay, okay. And then because the Partisan they didn't give us peace. They know I get home and they one night came 2 Partisan or 3, and one was very rough with a -- how you say? - rifle and a knife.

DAUGHTER: Oh, yeah, the bayonet.

DAD: We say - the German say too - "bayonet". Serbians say "bayonet". I came from Germany, I have to have a gun, I had to give the gun, and I have bought some picture for the children and you could buy nothing in store except war picture. And a German soldier on the road, a German soldier war [picture], not Russian or American would be there, and they see German soldier, and picture, and [Partisan] people get mad and the other, right away they want to take me along, one, and the other said let him alone till tomorrow evening, I guarantee he will give you a gun.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>25</sup>The anti-Nazi/anti-Ustase Partisans, when they see that Dad Weibel has a war picture (that depicts a German soldier), are upset, assuming that Dad favors the Nazi/Ustase military cause. The immediate goal fo the Partisans is to coerce Dad into providing them with a weapon. The Partisans assume that Dad has easy access to German weapons, but he does not. One Partisan decides to allow Dad some time to locate a weapon - the Partisans will return later, expecting a firearm of some kind. The Partisans do not care how Dad gains possession of a gun; they only care that he gets one for them, soon. (This is especially problematic for the Weibels - they belong to a Swabian-German Anabaptist "Nazarene" church tradition of non-violent pacifism.)

DAUGHTER: They knew that you'd have a gun by the next morning so you went into town ...

DAD (correcting the Partisan's deadline): By next evening.

MOM: By next evening they came and we had to prepare at least one gun, they want 3. One has to have it.

DAUGHTER: Why did they think you had a gun? Because you were a German?

DAD: Because they need it, they want it.

MOM: They don't care wherever you get them (from), just they want it.

DAD: In war time, is a man's life nothing.

MOM: I went to this lady and told her, "Lady, please feed the horses; we have to go 4:00 in the morning to Grandpa", to Dad's.<sup>26</sup>

DAUGHTER: Robert was already born.

MOM: Yes. Hilda was already died. So I went to this lady and said. She was kind of surprised and 4:00, she was here. We went on the wagon, me and she, we traveled all the way, we don't talk anything, we always used to talk and have fun. She was also talking all kinds of things to them, what's going on in the town, all kinds of things. And then we was very polite and none of us saying anything and when we came to his father [i.e., Mom's father-in-law = "Grandpa" Webel], very early and first went up, just start daylight.

DAUGHTER: Now you were in the wagon with her and all the children.

MOM: Not the children.

DAUGHTER: Just you and her. And you had all the kids at the house?

MOM: They was home. When I came to his dad's - Grandpa - and I told him what happened last night, almost Dad was thrown away, for tonight we prepare, we have to have gun, otherwise they will kill him [i.e., Dad] and they will burn the house down. They say it and they did in this town and many more places and they will do ours too.

DAD: So we said he [i.e., Grandpa Webel = Dad's dad, i.e., Reinhardt Webel of Vinkovci] should hire a man with a wagon and come move us in the city.<sup>27</sup>

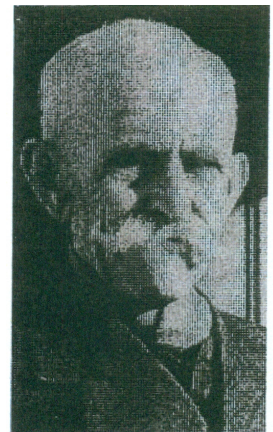
MOM: Yeah. Whatever they ask. They don't want money. They want all food, was very short.<sup>28</sup>

DAD: Corn or wheat or whatever ...

MOM: There was never [enough] food, was any kind of food, there was a shortage on food. Whatever they ask, we give it, and Dad [i.e., Grandpa Webel = Reinhardt Webel] hired. They know all his dad in the whole city [of Vinkovci] and he went and hired wagons. Still we had all hired this wagon.

DAD: And they came there and came down. The store was full with people and they came.

MOM: And he was working hard.



Reinhardt Webel

<sup>26</sup>The decision was made to go to Vinkovci (where Grandpa Webel lived), to acquire a gun, to meet the threatening demands of the Partisans. To do this Mom recruited a neighbor woman to help her travel from Marinci (where Jakob and Katarina Webels then lived).

<sup>27</sup>This is decision-making at the climax of a growing crisis: The family of Jakob and Katarina Webel needs to completely relocate from the town of Marinci, to the city of Vinkovci (where Grandpa Webel lives), in order to flee from the Partisans (in Marinci), before it's too late for the Webel family to do so.

<sup>28</sup>Mom Webel recalls that the men who moved the Webels' personal property, from Marinci to Vinkovci, wanted to be paid in food, not money - because food was scarce then.

DAD: Then pack, no, but nothing, -- just put on the wagon.<sup>29</sup>

MOM: The whole town [of Marinci] was so surprised. Was such a shock. *[The interview transcript of interview indicates that both parents were then talking over each other - obviously this dangerous experience was one of the most traumatic days of their lives.]*

DAD; Nothing packed. Nobody know we moved. Nothing packed ...

DAUGHTER: You mean you moved the whole store, you packed the whole store up in these wagons.

MOM: Yeah, as much as we can .... by daylight that we should come on the main roads [to Vinkovci].

DAD: Before the night came.

MOM: Before the night came the Partisan will come and cut us up and maybe we [be] killed off. Before daytime, just taking out was everything.

DAD: Not before daytime. Before night came.

MOM: Before night came, yeah, before it. This was after noon already.

DAD: And so they moved me away with the children and whatever we could. And leave the other stuff opened over there.

MOM: There was so many stuffs.

DAD: And the next day again, the day time you can go and bring it. SO we moved there and when we moved there, then again came the ... from the ...

MOM: This was already October, November. This was, and Robert was already 8 months, no, he was born in June, he was already 4, 5 months. And Hilda, she was buried too, Robert was alone. Then we moved away.

DAUGHTER: Where is she [i.e., Hilda] buried? Was she buried in Marinci?

MOM: Yeah.

DAUGHTER: In the backyard, a cemetery, or what?

MOM: Cemetery.

*There is then a brief discussion aimed at getting timeframes sorted out.*

\* \* \* \* \*

DAUGHTER: **And then you got moved to Vinkovci.**

MOM: Yeah, yeah.

DAUGHTER: Okay. That settles that.

DAD: But, then in Vinkovci, they came calling me to the ...

DAUGHTER: Who are "they"? The Partisans?

MOM: No, no.

DAUGHTER: Oh, Esseg [i.e., the German military].



[TO BE CONTINUED, D. v. ]

<sup>29</sup>Both household items and the entire store inventory needed to be moved in one day-there was not time for packing. It was enough to get everything onto a horse-drawn wagon going from Marinci to Vinkovci.



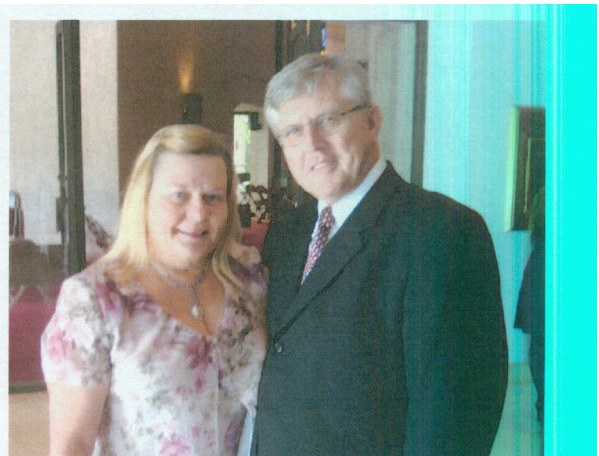
In the next report the Webel family adventures continue in Vinkovci, but the hard decision would there be made, by Jakob and Katarina Webel, to flee Yugoslavia altogether - for good.

So, for now, this "chapter" rests with an appreciation that two native-Texan boys, **Nate Webel** (born in AD2007) and **Luke Webel** (born in AD2012), as well as their sisters, descend from German immigrant stock ("*Volksdeutsche*") who trace back one ancestral line to paternal grandfather's parents, **Jakob Webel** and **Katarina Schleicher**, *whose early family life together included surviving WWII*.

><> [JJSJ\\_profijjsi@verizon.net](mailto:JJSJ_profijjsi@verizon.net)

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Dr. James J. S. Johnson is a member of the **German-Texas Heritage Society**, and an occasional contributor to its Journal pages. A lover and teacher of Providential history and geography, Jim has taught at 4 different Christian colleges (LeTourneau University, Dallas Christian College, Concordia University Texas at Fort Worth, and ICR School of Biblical Apologetics) in Texas, as well as aboard 9 different cruise ships. As a C.P.E.E. (*Certified Paternity Establishment Entity*, credentialed by the Texas Attorney General's Office), Jim maintains a strong interest in family history documentation. After studying under many teachers, at many schools, Jim happily acknowledges that his best teacher (under God) was Chaplain Robert (Bob) Webel.

Below (left) is a newspaper caption, dated 3-19-AD1950, with the "Volksdeutsche by the Dozen" Webel family, who immigrated to America. Also shown below (right) is Chaplain Robert Webel (who was 8 when his family came to America) with his wife, Marcia, residents of Florida. Chaplain Bob Webel provided information that supplemented and clarified his sister (Rosie)'s interview of their parents, titled *From Vinkovci to Medina*, quoted extensively hereinabove.



# OPERATIONS

## **GTHS General Business Meeting Minutes held at Annual Meeting 5 September 2015**

The annual scheduled general business meeting of the German Texan Heritage Society was held on 5 September 2015 in the German Free School headquarters of the Society with the President in the chair and the Secretary being present.

President Krause called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m. and welcomed the attendees. For educational purposes, the group sang the song "Fox You've Stolen the Goose" in German.

**Financial Report:** Treasurer Gudenrath reported that GTHS expenses are generally exceeding income, mostly due to declining membership levels. We have received a boost this year due to the agreement made with the company constructing the hotel next door which put a one-time payment into our account. President Krause and Vice-President Locklin then discussed the status of several items of interest to the membership.

**Restaurant Lease:** The proposed lease of GTHS property for a restaurant has not come to fruition and negotiations have been terminated. The expected cost to the restaurant exceeded the possible return on investment and thus negotiations were terminated. Vice-President Locklin has been in discussions with Franks Restaurant regarding provision of food service for our events and noted that they would be serving at the dinner/dance for this conference.

**Free School Building:** Vice-President Locklin provided updates on the status of improvements made to the Free School property such as the patio.

**Hotel Construction:** President Krause and Vice-President Locklin then discussed the effects of the hotel construction on Free School access, the heritage tree and society events.

**Board of Directors Positions:** President Krause reported that Board Positions 4, 5, 6, and 14 are up for renewal. Position 6 is currently vacant. Position 5 is presently occupied by Treasurer Gudenrath but he has indicated that he cannot continue on the board and positions 4 and 14 are presently occupied by Brent Hunter and Charles Locklin respectively. President Krause opened the floor for nominations to fill the renewing positions. A motion was made to continue Brent Hunter and Charles Locklin in their current positions for the 2016-2019 term by member Ewing Evans. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. No nominations were received to fill positions 5 and 6.

### **Open Discussion**

Member Van Massirer of the Texas German Society discussed the need for the GTHS and the TGS to work together. President Krause elaborated on the issues that have separated the organizations and the need to resolve them. Director Elizabeth Hicks commented on the need for local people to assist our organization at local events. Director Connie Krause suggested that people need to purchase books published by the Society in order to increase revenues. President Krause talked about the need to attract new and younger members to the Society if we are to continue as an organization. He also talked about the Texas German Trails app which has been stymied of late due to issues with the family of members working on the project. He noted that the app project isn't dead, just on hold for the time being. The Texas Historical Commission has some projects that we might be able to collaborate on as well. A comment was also made regarding the Society for German-American Studies 40<sup>th</sup> annual symposium to be held 28-30 April of next year at the Marriot Plaza Hotel in San Antonio. The meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

## **GTHS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, 4 October 2015**

The regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the German Texan Heritage Society was held on 4 October 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, Connie Krause, Eddie Wolsch, along with Dr. James Kearney and Dr. Barbara Berthold attending via conference phone call.

President Krause called the meeting to order at 11:15 am and it was established that a quorum was present. The minutes of the previous meeting of 14 June 2015 were approved via email vote on 30 July 2015 as submitted. A motion to approve the minutes of the General Business meeting of 5 September 2015 as submitted was made by Jim Gudenrath. The motion was approved.

**Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer Gudenrath presented the financial report. The Treasurer's report was accepted. A discussion was held regarding the monies from the hotel for preservation of the heritage tree in our parking lot. It was decided that the society should document the efforts taken to assist the tree over time.

## Reports -

### Activities Committee:

Annual Conference – A discussion regarding the survey conducted by Liz Hicks about the annual conference was held. A motion was made by Liz Hicks and seconded to hold the annual conference in Austin every other year. The motion was approved.

Museum Day. Charles Locklin reported that we had about sixty visitors at the German Free School for Museum Day.

Oktoberfest – Two bands have been contracted for Oktoberfest; Lorelei & Schatzi and the Tuba Meisters. Franks will provide the food service.

Christmas Market – It was discussed that we should control access into the market by means of tokens or wristbands or some means so that people can mingle in the gardens while waiting for access instead of having to stand in line. Groups of people could then be called in while everyone else enjoys entertainment and food in the gardens. Details to be worked out. It is planned to have a “members only” sale day on Friday which memberships available for sale that day.

Membership Committee: Liz Hicks commented that in the future, conference registrations should be mailed via first class letters and not done by post cards. It has been learned that post offices around the state handle post card delivery differently and this led to problems with timely delivery of the post cards sent out for this conference.

German Free School Committee: Charles Locklin reported on the various improvements being made to the property including the new cellar storage and the insulation and air conditioning of the exterior storage shed. The Hyatt Hotel people will also be using the property, at our invitation, to host a ground breaking ceremony at 10:30 am on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.

Other Actions or Committee reports: In the area of neighborhood planning, Charles Locklin has been working with the Red River Development Group and working with our business neighbors regarding the forming of a “neighborhood association” to represent the interests of the businesses in the area.

### Administrative Actions –

Establishment of Publications Committee as a Standing Committee: On 11 August 2015, the following proposed provision to the GTHS Board By-Laws was emailed to board members for their review:

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 develop policies and procedures for Board review and approval concerning both the sustainability of current and the creation of new GTHS organizational publications to insure relevant content of both contemporary and historical information.

A motion was made by Charles Locklin to approve the establishment of the Publications Committee as a standing committee as per the above proposed provision. The motion was seconded and the motion was approved. The current members of the committee will continue to serve. They will be joined by Dr. Kearney, Richard Gruetzner and Connie Krause will serve as Co-Chairs of the Publications Committee.

Review of vacant Board positions: In addition to three positions that are vacant, Jim Gudenrath will be leaving his position as of the end of his current term on 31 December 2015. He has volunteered to continue assisting with doing the financial reports as needed but will be unable to continue as a member of the Board. The need to recruit new members for the Board was discussed and several suggestions for possible members made. Liz Hicks was appointed to form a nominating committee for the selection of officers for the Board. Eddie Wolsch agreed to assist Liz on the committee.

Management Actions: It was determined that we need to send letters to members who do not have email in order to ensure they receive notification of events and other activities of the society. Issues with the print quality of the last issue of the Journal by Alpha Graphics was discussed. Charles Locklin has been in communication with them about the issue and will continue discussions with them regarding future actions and possible forms of compensation for the past issue.

In other actions, Liz Hicks made a motion to sell the accumulated GFS booklets left over from the annual conference for ten dollars, which would include the mailing/shipping costs to purchasers. The motion was seconded and approved. Liz also commented on several newsletters from other organizations.










The next meeting of the Board was scheduled for 13 December 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

*The minutes were approved by electronic vote on 28 October 2015*



## BOOKS PUBLISHED BY THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

<b>The Journal</b>		ISSN 0730-3106, 4x per year, 8½ x 11, paperback. Since 1978. Each issue of this member publication contains over 100 pp of German-Texan genealogy, history and related info in English, with occasional German articles translated.	\$5 members \$6 non-GTHS members
<b>Diary of Hermann Seele</b>		ISBN 1-57168-238-4, 504 pp, 6 x 9, hardback. Illustrations, bibliography, index. Translated and edited by Theodore Gish. Gives a revealing and intimate picture of 19th century Texas. Includes Seele sketches from Texas.	<b>\$27.50</b>
<b>A Sojourn in Texas, 1846-47</b>		ISBN 1-57168-237-6, 400 pp, 6 x 9, hardback. Illustrations, maps, index. Edited by W.M. Von-Maszewski. A. Sorgel's Texas Writings. This dual-language edition is filled with observations, advice, and warnings for those who chose to come to Texas.	\$35 signed by author, <b>\$30</b>
<b>Roemer's Texas</b>		ISBN 1-57168-043-2, 308 pp, 6 x 9, hardback. Bibliography, index. By Dr. Ferdinand Roemer, translated by Oswald Mueller. Long considered one of the best narrative accounts of life in early Texas.	<b>\$35.00</b>
<b>GTHS German Immigrant Ancestors</b>		ISBN 1-57168-240-6, 292 pp, 8½ x 11, paperback. Index and maps. Edited by Christa Prewitt. Genealogical records.	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Handbook and Registry of German-Texan Heritage</b>		ISBN 1-57168-239-2, 192 pp, 8½ x 11, paperback. Index. Edited by W.M. Maszewski. Contains information on early German-Texan businesses, churches, cemeteries, schools, etc. <b>Currently out of Stock</b>	<b>\$22.95</b>
<b>History of the German Settlements in Texas, 1831-1861</b>		ISBN 1-57168-236-8, 280 pp, 6 x 9, NEW edition, paperback. Maps, illustrations, appendix, index. By Rudolf Biesele. Covers the actual founding and history of many German settlements and towns in Texas prior to the American Civil War.	<b>\$35.00</b>
<b>The Cabin Book</b>		ISBN 0-89015-525-9, 296 pp, 6 x 9, hardback. Illustrations. By Charles Sealsfield. Sealsfield's hopes about America focused on Texas when he wrote this in 1841. This novel, in part about Texas life in the 1830s, became a best-seller.	<b>\$20.00</b>
<b>Texas in 1848</b>		ISBN 1-57168-242-2, 240 pp, 6 x 9, hardback. Bibliography, index. By Victor Bracht. Originally published in German in 1849, this book has been described as a "treasure of German-Texan history." Filled with early Texas observations.	<b>\$30.00</b>

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



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