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GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

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2017 annual CONFERENCE

Members learn

GTHS Program



Our first teacher's event for continuing education credits

Sausage/sauerkraut/beer/wine in the gardens after tough first day!!!



The 2017 Annual Conference has come and gone. A fun time was held in Austin seeing friends, both new and old, listening to the various speakers and enjoying the German Free School gardens on Friday night.

In addition to the Annual Conference, GTHS sponsored it's first ever teacher's conference with German instructors at High School and University levels. They came together to share and explore ways to enhance their German language programs.

The Annual Conference focused theme was about "Uncovering the Hidden Heritage in Texas" and how WWI affected Germans turning into Texans. As always we had great speakers. On Friday Dr. Tom Alter and Dr. Walter Kamphoefner talked about "The Meitzen Family" and "Reactions to WWI" in addition to the "German Texan Project" by the Texas Historical Commission. Off site tours involved a cemetery tour of the Historical Austin Cemetery given by Liz Hicks as well as an opportunity to visit the Ransom Center to view one of the five remaining Gutenberg Bibles.

April Garner, from the Texas Historical Commission (THC), shared the exciting news about the THC's new travel guide on Germans in Texas at our Annual Conference and then joined the teachers group and shared how they could utilize and garner resources from the German Texans Mobile Tour Application.

On Friday night we enjoyed "Friday Night Lights" in the GFS gardens. Dinner was served by Franks. We had plenty of cold drinks, entertainment and Gemütlichkeit in the German Free School gardens. It was a fantastic way to end the first day, establish new friendships and catch up with old friends in a relaxed and enjoyable oasis type setting in the middle of downtown Austin. The gardens are truly a hidden gem in this ever expanding city.

In the coming weeks a survey will be sent out asking members where the next Annual Conference for 2018 should be held. Please keep an eye out for it in your email boxes. If you don't have email, please call us in the office or send us a letter suggesting a location.

Christopher Markley, Operations Manager

The German-Texan Heritage Society presents:

Servus Y'all



Oktoberfest

2017

SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 14, 2017
11 AM - 7 PM



Come
and enjoy
German
Beer & Food

Traditional Music:

Austin Polka Band, Yodel Blitz, The Siekers

& Kinder-Fun:

Story Telling by Rudy Roberson, Puppet Show, Balloons...

*This project is supported
in part by the Cultural Arts
Division of the City of Austin
Economic Development Department.*

FOR EVENT-DAY TICKET SPECIALS VISIT WWW.GERMANTEXANS.ORG

GTHS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the German cultural heritage of Texas

LOCATION: THE GERMAN FREE SCHOOL 507 EAST 10TH STREET, AUSTIN, TX
512-467-4569, www.germantexans.org

German-Texan Annual Christmas Market

Saturday
December 2nd
10:00AM-6:00PM

Entertainment
Refreshments
Shopping
Raffles



*This project is supported
in part by the Cultural Arts
Division of the City of Austin
Economic Development Department.*

Proceeds Benefit Texas German Endowment

German Texas

German immigrants and their descendants form the most significant European element in the history of the settlement of Texas. German immigration to Texas began in the early 1830s, when Texas was still part of Mexico. Organized immigration began with the Adelsverein in the 1840s and continued into the 1850s; after revolutions in Europe settled oppressed people fleeing the continent. After the German city-states and Prussia were unified in 1871, Texas saw a decrease in European immigration. For decades, Germans continued to form a distinctive group of Texans, but it became unpopular to be German following World War I, and Texans of German ancestry began to integrate more into American society.

German immigrants first settled around the town of Industry in Austin County, and along the wagon trail that stretched from the Gulf port of Indianola north to Fredericksburg. After the construction of the railroads made the interior of Texas more accessible, Germans moved north and west, settling towns like Wuenster near the Red River and Marienfeld in the Great Plains.

Although German Texans have become integrated into American society to a large extent, areas around the original settlements still retain a distinctly German flavor, from the German names of major roads in northern San Antonio to the 8,000-10,000 people who still speak Texas German today.

Komm mit nach Texas!

Timeline of German Texas

1831 Johann Friedrich Ernst received a land grant in the northwestern part of present-day Austin County from the Mexican government. He started farming and liked the area so much that he wrote glowing letters home to his native Oldenburg, Germany. Ernst's praises of Texas were soon published in the book *Reise nach Texas*, which had a sizable effect on German opinions about Texas.

1832 - 1840 Inspired by Ernst and other publications detailing the abundances of Texas, a steady stream of German immigrants moved into the area. Most settled what are now Austin, Fayette, and Comanche Counties.

1836 Some Germans actively participated in the Texas Revolution, winning the state independence from Mexico. One of these, a Prussian surveyor Hermann Ehrenberg, was a survivor of the Goliad massacre who wrote about his experiences in *Witl Familien: The Adventures of a German Boy in Texas*.

1838 Ernst established a settlement of which eventually became Industry. It is said to have been inspired by the hard working Germans. Tobacco was an important crop; the town cigars and other goods.

1842 April A group of twenty-one in Germany set up the Verein zum Schutz deutscher in Texas (Society for the Protection of Germans in Texas) - also known as the Adelsverein. The major goals of the society were to acquire land for settlement and to create a German colony in Texas. They expected to make a profit as the land was populated and developed.

1842 May The Adelsverein sent two Joseph Boos-Waldeck and Victor August of Westenburg-Al-Leiningen to the Republic of Texas to purchase land for new settlements. The two coastal regions of Texas and naively thought the entire country was as it was there.

1844 Meanwhile, west of San Antonio, H began settling his land with immigrants from the town they founded, Castroville, was laid European village. It soon became known as "The German Village."



The historic Lindheimer Home in New Braunfels. Friedrich Lindheimer (1807-1875) was a botanist, the first to clearly map of central Texas from more than 30 varieties of his name.

New Braunfels

The first German immigrants to settle New Braunfels were led by Nicolaus Zink in March 1845. They built the town where the Guadalupe River meets Comal Creek, on a site chosen by Adelsverein leader Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels. Within a few weeks, the prince had foundations laid for the Sophienberg which was meant to be the immigration society's headquarters. The town enjoyed a permanent water source and was located on the road between San Antonio and Austin, as well as on the main road that immigrants traveled inland from the Gulf. New Braunfels soon prospered, and by 1853 it was reported as the fourth largest town in Texas.

New Braunfels' newspaper, the Zeitung, was published in German from 1852 until 1857. Textiles, agriculture and the processing of furs were the town's main industries in earlier times, when today tourists visit one of New Braunfels' most important sources of revenue. The city annually hosts the world-famous Wurstel and maintains a distinct German character.

Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels

Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels (1812-1875), founder of the town of New Braunfels, grew up in Germany and had royal lineage linking him to the royal families of England, Belgium, and Russia. He was a general in the Austrian Army, and in 1841 he was promoted to captain of cavalry in the Austrian Imperial Army. He held assignments in Eastern Europe, Bohemia, and the Rhineland. While stationed at the garrison of Bistritz, he read Charles DeMele's novel *Sketches of Life in Texas*, and became enamored with the idea of German settlement in Texas. He took a year off from his army duties to direct German emigration to Texas as the commissioner of the Adelsverein.

Solms-Braunfels established Carlshafen as a port for German immigrants and named it after himself. He worked diligently to bring Germans to Texas and to shield them from what he viewed as the backwaters of the Republic's Anglo settlers. Subsequently, he founded New Braunfels, named after his ancestral hometown of Braunfels in Hesse, and returned to Germany in May 1845. In 1846 he published a state guide to Texas. Solms-Braunfels continued his military career in Europe, serving in the Austro-Prussian War, and retired as a general in 1868. He died in 1875, and he is still remembered for his tireless promotion of German immigration to Texas.



The Steinkirche Museum in Fredericksburg.

Fredericksburg

Fredericksburg was founded on May 8, 1846 by John O. Mosbacher when 120 settlers arrived from New Braunfels. He named it after Prince Friedrich of Prussia, an influential member of the Adelsverein (see timeline). Surveyor Hermann Wilke laid out the town along the same lines as the German farming villages along the Rhine River. Fredericksburg was intended as a way station on the road from the Gulf of Mexico to the Adelsverein's land north of the Llano River. In reality it became the end of the road for many Germans heading into Texas.

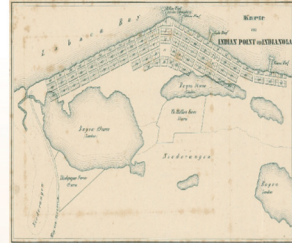
Fredericksburg became one of the largest German towns in Texas. The first newspaper in town, the Wochenblatt, was established in 1877. Until 1890, almost all of the town's residents spoke Texas German. With the arrival of the rail system in 1913, the town became more cosmopolitan. Today, Fredericksburg is an important commercial center and tourism plays a large role in its economy.



The Texas German Union monument in Comstock.

The Nueces Massacre

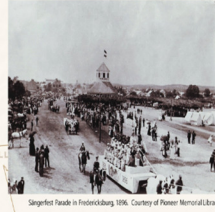
The Nueces Massacre took place on August 10, 1862. This violent confrontation between Confederate soldiers and Texas Germans occurred in Kinney County in southern Texas, when sixty-one peaceful German Texans fleeing to Mexico to avoid the Confederate army draft were overtaken by southern soldiers. Thirty-four Germans were killed. The Texas German Union monument in Comstock commemorates the event. It is the only Union Civil War monument in the south and is entirely in German.



Indianola

Sam White and William Cook founded Indian Point in 1846. Two years later, Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels selected an adjacent area as the landing place for immigrants from Germany, and named it Carlshafen. Briefly, the two places were distinct settlements, but in February of 1849 they jointly became known as Indianola. His name is preserved in two settlement names: Solms and New Braunfels.

Indianola developed into an important seaport and supplied German immigrants, US Army forts and Anglo farmers alike. Additionally, it was the closest Gulf port to San Diego, California, and became the eastern terminus of the shortest overland route to the Pacific Ocean. Indianola quickly became the second largest port in Texas after Galveston and in the 1850s was selected as the terminus for Charles Morgan's steamship line. Indianola was important in the Civil War that Union gunboats sailed west from New Orleans to occupy and loot the city. In December of 1862, when it boasted a population numbering more than 5,000, its September of 1875, Indianola suffered a direct and catastrophic hit from a hurricane that killed much of the population and destroyed the city. It was rebuilt but then was again obliterated by a hurricane in 1886, and by 1890 the site of the city had been completely abandoned. It is remembered as an important site for Europeans who settled in Texas in the mid-19th century.



Singsfest parade in Fredericksburg, 1916. Courtesy of Pioneer Memorial Library.

Bringing Music from Abroad

Though Germans' appreciation for music was common cultural knowledge, the immigrants' musical presence in their new home became noticeable relatively late, after the successful settling of the land by the Adelsverein in 1846. In the following years, singing and playing instruments in groups became quite popular. In 1853, the numerous organized German singing societies held a Singsfest (Singers' festival) in New Braunfels and formed the Texas State Singsfest Singers' League, which consisted mostly of folk music. Also during this period, individuals and families often gathered around the piano to learn classical and concertic works. Among these were famous composers, musicians and teachers, including Julius Weiss of Spenry, who gave lessons to a young Scott Joplin in Texarkana.

German music became less popular in Texas around the time of the First World War, marked especially by the discontinuation of the statewide Singsfest after 1916. However, many of the local singing groups have continued and still give regular performances, especially at festivals like Wurstel, Malheur and Oktoberfest, when dancers pack the floor for German folk tunes. Additionally, music of all sorts can still be heard at historic country dance halls frequented by Germans, such as Gruene Hill.

Texas German

Texas German, a group of dialects present in the state since immigration to Germany to the northern coast of the Gulf of Mexico region in the 1840s, Texas German quickly became predominant in the area by the end of the 19th century. It was spoken by nearly 90% of the residents of Comal County. There were also many German language newspapers, schools, churches and social clubs at this time. However, German language and culture became unpopular with the advent of World War I, and today only an estimated 8,000-10,000 people speak Texas German.

English	Texas German	Std. German
blank	die Strickkarte	das Strickbrett
arglane	das Luftschiff	das Flugzeug
without	mitaue	ohne
what/ever	wawever	was auch immer
fence	die Ferce	der Zaun
water faucet	die Wasserkrahn	der Wasserhahn

1860s Texans joined the Confederacy a few months before the start of the Civil War. With Union blockades of Confederate ports, immigration from Europe in Texas all but ceased during the war. The 48ers took a very pro-Union stance, and supported the emancipation of slaves. Ninety-six percent of voters in Gillespie County voted against secession, which put them, and by extension all German Texans, regardless of their political leanings, at odds with Confederate Texas.

1880s Immigration increased after the war, but never quite reached the level it had before 1860. As access to water increased and transportation between Central, Northern and Northwestern Texas improved, Germans began moving into more remote regions.

1900 Texas was home to about 200,000 ethnic Germans, who constituted about 6% of the state's population. Most remained in Central Texas.

All proceeds from this map benefit the Texas German Endowment. Delivery will take 2-3 weeks.

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Further questions? Contact the TGDP at (512) 279-2462

THE JOURNAL OF
THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
VOLUME XXXVIII - NUMBER 3, FALL 2017
“Zur Erhaltung der deutschen Tradition”

- 268 President’s Notes, Michael Krause**
- 269 Operations Director’s Notes, Christopher Markley**
- 276 Leave Your German Mark, Rodney Koenig**
- 277 Genealogy Inquiries, Liz Hicks**
- 278 Helpful Websites**
- 279 Helga’s Corner, Helga von Schweinitz**

BULLETIN BOARD

- 280 New Immigrant Genealogical Resource, submitted by Dr. Walter Kamphoefner**
- 281 Crawford Celebrates 150 Years, submitted by Van Massirer**
- 282 Ask A German, submitted by Rodney Koenig**
- 283 History of the German Free School Booklet by Liz Hicks**

COMMUNITY/STATE EVENTS

- 284 Old High Hill Cemetery Association receives \$6000 donation, submitted by Darlene Quiring**
- 286 Maifest in Flatonia, submitted by Rodney Koenig**
- 286 Building Once Housed Museum, Undertakers, submitted by Rodney Koenig**
- 288 Kreische’s Quick Lime, submitted by Rodney Koenig**
- 289 Fifty Years Of Glory: The Old Glory School As An Assimilation Factor In The Community, submitted by Joan Griggs**

PEOPLE

- 295 Chorgemeinschaft Texas Trip To Gluckstadt, Germany, July 7 – 24, 2017 submitted by Gladys Haecker**
- 297 Proving a Family Tradition, submitted by Liz Hicks**
- 299 Beethoven Mannerchoir Celebrating 150 Year With Anniversary Concert, submitted by Rodney Koenig**
- 300 Transitions from Germans to Americans: Ideologically and Physically Spurred by the Climate of Germany in 1849 and the Peculiar Crisis of the American Civil War, submitted by Eddie Oliver**
- 310 Journey to a Better Life in Texas, Part I of II, submitted by Rodney Koenig**
- 311 Journey to a Better Life in Texas, Part II, submitted by Rodney Koenig**
- 312 Changes in Christmas and New Year Traditions for a Family of German Immigrants to Texas in 1913, submitted by Fritz Weigl**
- 319 Kearney to Give Special Program at LGArchives, submitted by Rodney Koenig**
- 319 Foundation Donates Rare Artwork, submitted by Rodney Koenig**

OPERATIONS

- 333 Minutes of the July 21, 2017 Board Meeting
334 Minutes of the July 22, 2017 Annual Meeting
Books We Sell

Vielen Dank to these contributors

Rodney Koenig - Houston
Fritz Weigl, Austin
Eddie Oliver, Arlington
Joan Griggs, Chappel Hill
Dr. Walter Kamphoefer, Austin

Liz Hicks—Houston
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As always, keep those cards and letters a'comin'love hearing from you! mjwhig@gmail.com or 7529 Eagle Ridge Cir., Ft. Worth, 76179

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Do you need help with your real estate needs?

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I am your German real estate agent in Texas. I speak German and English, am used to working both metric and non-metric measurements, and can help you deal with the differences between the German and the Texas real estate market – small distinctions that can make a big difference in your search for your Texas home.

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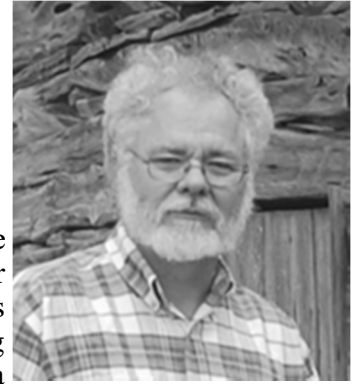
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President's Notes



Guten Tag!

As I was thinking about writing this I realized that the last letter I wrote was while I heard raindrops on the metal roof of the ranch house. Believe it or not - that was the last real rain we had until we got the 2.5 inches earlier this week. Those little spritzes that we get when things are getting dry do nothing but get our hopes up..... When things are dry here on the ranch we need a nice gentle rain of at least an inch or more – none of those gully washers do us any good and just move the topsoil. Just like our continued hope for rain, to keep the grass growing, we try to continue to keep our German-Texan Heritage alive. However without the help of you, your families, your friends and others, we will have our German-Texan culture shrivel up and die.....

I know that we all do not want that to happen and many of ya'll spend countless hours doing your part, be it at GFS, for GTHS or one of the local organizations you belong to. You deserve a "BIG THANK YOU and pat on the back"!!!! We would also like you to send us some photos of what you are doing. We would love to post them on Facebook!!!!

We were sorry to cancel Maifest this year but Austin got some real downpours and soggy pretzels and watered down beer just does not taste too good. Hopefully next year Austin gets the rain a few days before or after..... so we do not have to cancel it again.

Chris Markley has been doing a fantastic job as the GTHS Director of Operations. In July, he was able to "make lemonade out of lemons" by having GFS be a "Bavarian style Biergarten" for the City of Austin and the Red River Cultural District's "HOT SUMMER NIGHTS on Red River". Not only did he find a way not to lose our Maifest deposits but he was able to get a grant to cover some of the extra costs of the event. Please read his report to see what other great things he is doing for GTHS.

Lastly, I wish to thank the speakers, volunteers, and Activities Committee for all their hard work on this year's Annual Meeting. I am very sorry if you missed it as it was a very informative and enjoyable weekend. We are currently looking for suggestions for future annual meeting topics or locations. If you have ideas and/or would like to volunteer to help host an annual meeting in your area please contact me.

Michael Krause, President, German Texan Heritage Society

Guten Tag Y'all.

Summer is winding down and Fall is on the way (I hope so, because it's still very HOT and I would like to have some cooler weather). Children and parents are getting ready for back to school and normal family routines will start up once again. And it's the same at GTHS. The Fall timeframe leading into December is one of the busiest times of the year at GTHS, due to Fall Education program for children and adults, Oktoberfest and our nationally known Christmas Market all taking place. A lot of planning, work and countless hours go into these programs to ensure each one is a success and continues to surpass expectations. If you would like to volunteer we would be more than welcome for the help!!! (Hint Hint J)

A lot of GTHS **FIRST's** happened this summer, which we are very proud of, but kept us busy and on our toes!!

first German Immersion Summer Camp for kids was held in July, which was a HUGE success with 14 children from 3-13 taking part. It was a HUGE success with all the kids wanting to come back next summer. The Samstagschule Vorschule (3-6 years olds) classes in June and July were filled to capacity.

first annual Hot Summer Nights 3-day festival sponsored by the City of Austin and Red River Cultural District took place in July, which GTHS took part in with German bands, food, drinks and Gemütlichkeit.

first ever Teachers Conference was held during in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. Partnerships and networking connections were made at High School and University levels allowing us to build upon and enhance the great work that is starting to take shape.

At the annual conference, I gave an operational update on the status of current programs and their results along with future opportunities. I've attached a slide presentation of what I presented.

If you have any questions, feedback or suggestions on improvements, please let me know via phone or email.

Christopher Markley, Director of Operations – GTHS
512-228-9056
cmarkley99@gmail.com



Goals – 5 Key Areas

- Our 5 Key Focus Areas need to be in alignment, working in sync and driving the right balance between the mission of GTHS:

Awareness & Preservation & Revenue

With the right focus, transparency and mind shift these can be achieved

- Communication to GTHS membership is KEY:
 - Highlight strategy / direction
 - Tangible targets and objectives within the key areas need to be highlighted **AND ACTED UPON**
 - Qtr. Updates on progress, challenges and needs



Q1 Priorities: RECAP (Jan / Feb / Mar)

✔ = achieved goal

TASK	PRIORITY
✔ • Spring Education - Registration	(VERY HIGH)
✔ • Social Media Strategy, Alignments, & Update	(HIGH)
✔ • Communication Strategy (Books, etc)	(MEDIUM)
✔ • GTHS Website	(HIGH)
✔ • Events Planning (Maifest)	(HIGH)
✔ • Membership Re-newel	(HIGH)
✔ • Office Operations	(HIGH)

Q2 Priorities RECAP (Apr / May / June)

✔ = achieved goal

TASK	PRIORITY
✔ • Summer & Fall Education - Registration	(VERY HIGH)
✔ • Communication (Email) Review	(HIGH)
✔ • Communication Strategy	(MEDIUM)
✔ • GTHS Website - Adjustments	(Ongoing)
✔ • Events Planning (Hot Summer Nights / Oktoberfest) (Medium)	
✔ • Membership Re-newel	(HIGH)
✔ • Annual Conference Planning	(HIGH)

Next Steps: Q3 & Q4 Priorities:

• Q3 Priorities (July / August / Sept)

- Fall Education Program (HIGH)
- S.A Location for School (HIGH)
- City of Austin Relationship (HIGH)
- Events Planning (Medium)
 - Xmas Marketing Ordering (Medium)
 - Oktoberfest Planning (High)

• Q4 Priorities (Oct / Nov / Dec)

- Oktoberfest (HIGH)
- Xmas Market (HIGH)
- Membership Re-newal (HIGH)

Online / Social Media Strategy Update

- We **NOW** have a working foundation to build upon!!!!
 - **Website** has been revamped and is being updated everyday
 - **Facebook** is being updated 2-3 x weekly with events and activities
 - **Instagram** to be worked on
 - **Email (eKourier)** functionality to be replaced with a newer and better solution
 - Janis (Board Member) is poc for this initiative

Main focus is to **maintain, update and grow** our various communication channels (online, social media and print)

Media Update - FACEBOOK



- Updating 2-3x weekly on our FB page.
- All questions are being answered
- “likes” continue to grow and increase
- Have access to reporting and data usage



GTHS Online Update (website)

- www.germantexans.org
- Now easy to update
- **Google** Analytics will allow us to track usage



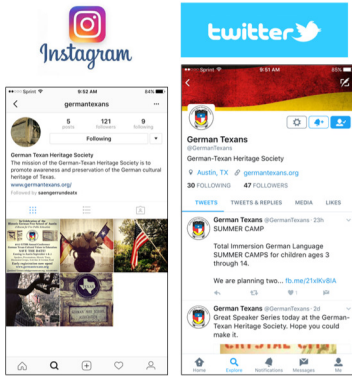
Impacts of Social Media: Hot Summer Nights

- **Social Media impact was HUGE** - During the timeframe of 7/13-7/16 we had the following Facebook results:
- Reached: **9,169** (people that saw our posting)
- Engagement: **3,908** (people that saw and liked or shared our posting)
- New Followers: **23** new followers putting us close to 3K
- video views: **1,331**

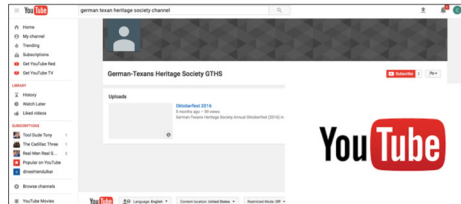


Best comment left: “Don’t call it a comeback, BUT GTHS SEEMS TO BE BRINGING IT!!

Social Media Update – Next Phase - YouTube / Twitter / Instagram



- Goal is to be updating 2-3x weekly in conjunction with Facebook
- Twitter is linked to Facebook
- Continue to grow these important channels.



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

- **365** members at the end of February
- Started targeted campaign as of March 1st
- **RESULTS:**
 - **126** new memberships or renewals
 - **35%** increase in membership since March 1st.
- Now GTHS has **491** members and **GROWING**

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: phased approach

• 1st Phase

- **Email** – targeted previous members (2010 – 2017) with focus on growth of programs & festivals was sent out on March 3rd
- Resulted in 14 new members:
 - And a life time member **was obtained from this one email.**

• 2nd Phase

- **Letters** - 657 former members targeted with a letter highlighting the growth and opportunity taking place within GTHS in April.

• 3rd Phase

• Corporate / Business Sponsorship Focus

- Goal is to start to target German Texan businesses and German companies, both large and small all across Texas. Examples below:



- This will require a unique proposal, but one that we can start to develop and work on
- Advertise them on our website and social media channels

German Language Program - KIDS

- Kids program is GROWING
 - Spring Vorschule class (3-6yrs) had such demand that a 2nd class was added for Samstagsschule



- Total Immersion German Language Summer Camp
 - 14 children took part
- Summer Samstagsschule for Kids
 - June – 10 children
 - July - 17 children

41 kids learning German in Summer

- High demand already for Samstagsschule in Fall



German Language Program - Adults

- Demand for Adult classes are very high

- Spring classes were at capacity

80 students took German in spring

- Summer classes filled

- German I – 14 students
- German II – 10 students
- Conversational German – 17 students
- Advanced Grammar – 7 students

48 students taking German in summer



German Language Program - Adults

• FALL Schedule

- Austin @ GFS - nighttime classes (as usual)
- Austin @ GFS - day time classes for adults **NEW**
- Austin @ GFS - homeschool students **NEW**
- Round Rock – expanding to offer two classes in the fall **NEW**
- West Austin - German I and Vorschule for kids (3-6 in age) targeting Steiner Ranch, Bee Caves and Lakeway (new opportunity) **NEW**
- San Antonio - working on securing a location to get our kids program back in SA, due to continued demand



German Language Program



Goethe Institut - discussions held



- GTHS will become **THE ONLY** certified testing center for the Central Texas area.
 - DFW and Houston are the only two other locations
- gearing our language program curriculum to match the CEFL – common European Framework of Reference for Languages
- Major marketing and advertising opportunity once we become certified

Outreach Update -



• School Visits

- 90 students from two middle schools have or will attend a viewing of the "Off To Texas" DVD.



Outreach Update



Sister City Alliance

Red River Cultural District



City of Austin



Sanguerrunde

Festival Updates

- Oktoberfest – Oct 14th, 12:00-7:00pm
 - Bands are booked



- Christmas Market – Dec 2nd (these are last years results)

- 1,500 + plus attended
- 50 + signed up for interest in German Classes (without even promoting or advertising)
- **Nationally known.** Visitors came from FL, Ohio, across Texas from DFW, College Station, the Valley and of course the Austin area
- Recognized on **USA and Expedia as Top 10 Xmas markets destinations**



Next Steps -

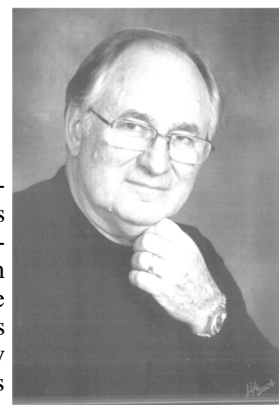
- Continue building operational foundations and communication platforms
- Detailed focus **now on** Maintaining, Advertising and Brand awareness activities
- Enhance our programs for near and future expansion and exposure



We're now in a good (but still early) position which will allow us to maximize and drive positive results over the next couple of years

LEAVE YOUR GERMAN MARK

By Rodney C. Koenig (past President of GTHS)



During July 2017, Chorgemeinschaft Texas traveled to Gluckstadt in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, to take part in the 6th Deutsch-Texanisher Saengerfest in Gluckstadt. Gluckstadt is celebrating its 400th anniversary in 2017. Chorgemeinschaft Texas is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2017. Gluckstadt is located on the Elbe River between the North Sea and Hamburg in Schleswig-Holstein. Danish King Christian IV established Gluckstadt 400 years ago in 1617. Denmark ruled this part of Europe until 1864 when Prussia took over the rule of Schleswig-Holstein. My mother's family, the Thomas Henry Oeding family, left Wedel on the Elbe River in the early 1850s while this area was still ruled by the Kingdom of Denmark. Several members of our touring group, which included Gretchen Bohn Jones and Niki Bohn Sanders (first cousins), trace their ancestry to Gluckstadt. Gretchen indicated that this was her 5th trip to Gluckstadt, having first come in 1953. Her father, Hermann Bohn and Niki's father, William Bohn (brothers)

were both brought back to Gluckstadt from Austin, Texas to be baptized in the Lutheran Church on the main market place in the center of Gluckstadt. Gretchen's daughter, Laura Talbot also was part of our group which traveled on this choir trip.

Our choir, composed of 48 singers and traveling companions (including Rodney and Mary Koenig), sang throughout the area, including Gluckstadt, Hamburg, Bremerhaven, Lubeck, in Denmark and in Norway. We took a 4 ½ hour ferry ride from Northern Denmark to Langesund, Norway. Our choir director was David Nelson, who also directs the Beethoven Mannerchor of San Antonio. Claus Heide and David Uhler were also group leaders for us. We had singers from San Antonio, Austin, New Braunfels, Dallas, and Houston. Chorgemeinschaft Texas left its German Mark on Northern Germany and Scandinavia, and Northern Europe left its mark on our singers!



Members of Chorgemeinschaft Texas in the Lutheran Church on Gluckstadt Main Market Place, July 2017

How will you leave your German Mark? Will you provide gifts to German Singing groups like the Chorgemeinschaft Texas, Austin Saengerrunde, Beethoven Maennerchor, San Antonio Liederkanz, Houston Saengerbund, Dallas Frohsinn, Germischer Chor Harmonie, Houston Liederkranz, or other similar groups? Will you support the Journal of GTHS, or the German Language departments of your favorite school or university? Creating a Scholarship Fund or supporting the Texas German Dialect Project are all ways to leave your German Mark. If you have no will, plan to sign a new will in which you give a portion of your estate to a favorite German cause. Add GTHS or other German charity as a beneficiary to your IRA or life insurance policy. Consider naming GTHS as a contingent beneficiary if your family is all gone. For help in doing any of these things, call the development officer at your favorite school, email me at Rodney.Koenig@NortonRoseFulbright.com or call me at 713-651-5333. You may also speak to any of the officers or Board Members of GTHS for help. In any event, please do Leave Your German Mark!



Fayette County Record Travels to Copenhagen

The Koenigs were on a choir trip to Northern Europe with Chorgemeinschaft Texas. They had 48 singers and travelers. The group sang in Gluckstadt, Hamburg, Lubeck, and Bremerhaven, Germany as well as in Norway. They also were in Copenhagen, Denmark and sang at ChristianKirke. Mary and Rodney Koenig are pictured at Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen.

Genealogy Inquiries: Liz Hicks, Genealogy Editor

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

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



Hillaire – Hilver – Hiliare (Landau, Germany/France)

Mrs. Kathleen Huston, 2508 Faulkner Drive, College Station, TX 77845-5672., e-mail: kahuston4@hotmail.com My ancestor, Michael Hillaire (born circa 1826-1830) in Landau, France. However, on other records said born Landau, Germany. Michael served at Camp Verde and Fort Mason prior to the Civil War. I have not found a passenger list for him. I have read numerous books, contacted several people, and the National Archives for any records on Camp Verde and Fort Mason. I would like to hear from anyone with information on these locations.

Reply: There is going to be a problem with the variations of spelling of Hillaire. There are three places by the name of Landau. One Landau is in the Pfalz; another near Waldeck in Hessen; another Bayern, Landau (a. Isar); and a location in France, Haut-Rhin, Petit Landau. You will need to know if your ancestor was Catholic or Evangelical (Lutheran). If you do not know, you will have to look at parish records for both. The parish records for Landau, Pfalz have been digitized and are viewable for free at www.familysearch.org. Click the search tab, scroll down for catalog, do a place search for Germany, Landau (Pfalz). Since your ancestor said France then Germany on various records, I would guess he was from the part of Germany that went back and forth between France and Germany (Alsace-Lorraine).

Fischer

Jeri Porter, P.O. Box 125, Fischer, TX 78623, e-mail: jeripster@gmail.com would like to find a passenger list for my ancestor, Hermann Fischer. Hermann had a brother, Otto, who came to Guadalupe County, TX about 1849. We think Hermann came alone about 1846. Hermann later moved to Comal County, and Fischer is named for him.

Reply: Seems everyone is looking for a passenger list. Not all passenger lists survive. Hermann is listed as 21 years old, born Germany on the 1850 Guadalupe Co., TX census. In his household are Hermann Kornemann age 26, born Germany, and an Amelia Hin (Heine) age 58 born Germany. Amelia is listed as a servant on the 1860 Guadalupe Co., TX census. I looked at the 1846-1851 tax lists of Guadalupe Co. for Hermann. He is living on the B. Fuqua and King land grants. I looked at a map of Guadalupe Co. on the Texas General Land office site, and noticed many DeWitts. Was Hermann part of DeWitt's colony, and could he come with them? The "WPA-Index to Texas Naturalizations Found in Texas State District & County Courts 1846-1939" lists Hermann Fischer age 21 as of Petition for Citizenship fall of 1854. His place of former residence is listed as Brunswick (not far from Hanover). I suggest you write the District Clerk of Guadalupe County for a copy of Hermann's Petition for Naturalization and his Grant of Citizenship as may tell you when and where he landed in U.S.

Who are these other Fischers in Guadalupe County? Possibly, you can find a passenger list for them? Charles W.C., Heinrich, and Louis Fischer. Sometimes one has to look at the forest for the tree. You need to know who all those other Fischers are.

Someone has posted information on Hermann Fischer and his family on www.findagrave.com You can contact the person who submitted this information.

1867 Yellow Fever Epidemic: The Fayette Heritage Museum and Archives is preparing an exhibit about the catastrophic 1867 yellow fever epidemic at La Grange. Additionally, a new historical marker on the subject will be dedicated later this fall. Please contact me at archives@cityoflg.com if you have knowledge of someone in your family who was lost during this epidemic. Rox Ann A Johnson <roxannjohnson@me.com>

Helpful Websites:

No official Galveston Passenger Lists survive for 1872-1894

<https://aad.archives.gov/aad/>

National Archives site with some passenger lists

www.castlegarden.org

Passenger Lists 1820-1913 (pre-dates Ellis Island)

www.ellisland.org

(Ellis Island 1892+)

www.Ancestry.com (\$\$\$ or available at most public libraries)

Hamburg Passenger Lists, and other Passenger Lists

http://www.cah.utexas.edu/services/finding_items/ship.php

Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas, Austin

www.worldcat.org

Do search for "Passenger Lists", "Ships Lists", "Texas Germans", etc.

<http://212.227.236.244/passagierlisten/index/php?lang=en>

Die Maus – Bremen Passenger Lists

https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/German_Genealogical_Word_List#W

Fantastic German word list for genealogy

Mr. Joachim Volke
Güterweg 90c, 09474 Crottendorf, Germany
e-mail: jovolke@aol.com – phone: 03222-
1141985

Genealogy Research
Sachsen(Kingdom of Saxony)
and
Thüringen
(recommended by Liz Hicks)

Helga's Corner

Nullen

Null is German for zero. English has the expression “null and void”.

So you might think that the verb *nullen* means to turn into zero.

Pustekuchen! Not at all! *Die Null* does not exactly turn you into anything special and doesn't morph you into Nirvana or beam you into heaven, but it can cost you a lot of money if you live in Deutschland. The reason for that is that *nullen* tells everybody that you are celebrating a birthday that ends with a zero, a *Null*.

An ordinary *Geburtstag* is rarely ignored, and it is the person with the birthday who has to pay for everything. A birthday ending in a zero, a *Null*, demands special attention. When my brother turned sixty (60), we all expected him to throw a big party in a restaurant with a delicious buffet. For the money he spent on that event he could have bought a condominium on Mallorca.

For me, the most memorable 70th birthday happened in 1944. A distant relative in the village of Oettinghausen invited everybody who could make it – with air raids and bombings we never knew what the next day would bring - for *Kaffee und Kuchen*. The coffee was not made of coffee beans but of roasted barley and was called *Muckefuck* which rhymes with book. We felt safe from the bombs while in the village, but on the way home to town in the street car, planes dropped bombs here and there and seemingly everywhere. We got out of the street car because it would not run without some lights on.. My mother threw me and my brother into a ditch and covered us with her body. We made it home eventually– wet but alive.

When I did my most recent “nulling” (80), my friends and family honored me as if had achieved something. Well, in a way I had. I had survived several attempts by other people to kill me: like when I was seven, and Allied bombs turned my neighborhood into ruins; or when my husband and I drove in a jeep through the desert of Saudi Arabia and local boys felt that I was a Christian whore dirtying their sacred soil. Stones were their weapons until my husband threw some back at them with excellent aim.

Nullen is a great excuse for getting those old photo albums off the shelf (a good opportunity to do some dusting there). Just don't ask me why the door to an out-house has two *Nulls*. 0 0 .



Bulletin Board



New Immigrant Genealogical Source

By Walter D. Kamphoefner

Browsing the first few issues of the *Neu Braunfelser Zeitung* on the Portal to Texas History, which thus far has digitized only the first year beginning on November 12, 1852 through the first 52 issues, I happened upon a number of immigrant passenger lists that it published. None of the six below are included in Ethel Hander Geue, *New Homes in a New Land*, although other voyages of the “Hermann Theodor” and the “Texas” are. Especially valuable is the fact that German town of origin are often included. Many lists also distinguish between cabin and steerage passengers. Unfortunately the full-text search capability apparently can’t handle the Fraktur; at least I was unsuccessful searching for Passagierliste or Passagier, so it may be necessary to simply browse the issues. How long the NBZ continued to publish such lists is unclear. In October 1853 it published the list of the “Frederich Grosse” which Geue also transcribed; it gives only the German state, not towns. The issue of October 7, 1853, listed the arrival of several immigrant ships without publishing passenger lists. But if there proves to be much new material, GTHS or some genealogical group might consider a transcription and indexing project. At very least, we should campaign to have more of the *Neu Braunfelser Zeitung* digitized.

Here is a description of my findings:

Neu Braunfelser Zeitung, vol. 1 No. 1, Ed. 1, November 12, 1852:

Passenger list of the bark “Diana,” embarked from Bremen on September 9, arrived October 31, 1852 in Indianola, with complete names and German origins of all heads of families.

Neu Braunfelser Zeitung, December 10, 1852:

Passenger list of the bark “Texas,” Captain D. G. Rabe, no ports or dates, names of heads of family, number of accompanying persons only.

Neu Braunfelser Zeitung, December 10, 1852:

Passenger list of the ship “Wanderer,” embarked from Bremerhaven on October 9, arrived December 1 1852 in Galveston. Passenger list in running text, heads of family, number of accompanying persons, most with place of origin.

Passenger list of the ship “Hermann Theodor,” embarked from Bremen on October 9, arrived in Indianola, n.d. Passenger list in columns, names and places of origin of all passengers, repeat migrants Roeder Bechem, and Runge with Texas residences.

Passenger list of the brig “Hohenstaufen,” embarked from Bremerhaven on September 20, arrived November 20, 1852 in Galveston. Passenger list in running text, heads of family, number of accompanying persons, most with state but not town of origin.

Passenger list of the bark “Vinke,” embarked from the Weser [Bremen or Bremerhaven] on October 16, arrived in Indianola, n.d. Passenger list in columns, heads of family, number of accompanying persons, most with place of origin.



Crawford Celebrates 150 Years

1867 ~ 2017
October 21, 2017

An Event Like Crawford Has Never Seen!!!

Parade • Antique Car Show • Model Train Display • Music Tent • Food & Crafts Booths • Historical & Genealogical Booths • The Best Little Agricultural Show in Texas Featuring Exhibits of Farm Tools & Machinery from 1867 to Present Day • Kid's Area • Drone Demo • Vendors & Exhibitors • PLUS MUCH MORE!!!

Donations & Volunteer Help Are Needed!

**For Info on the Parade, Ag Show, Tractor Show and Car Show,
Contact Van Massirer at 254-486-2366 or
vmassirer@yahoo.com**





ASK A GERMAN ASTRONAUT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2017 - 3PM
-DOORS OPEN AT 2PM-

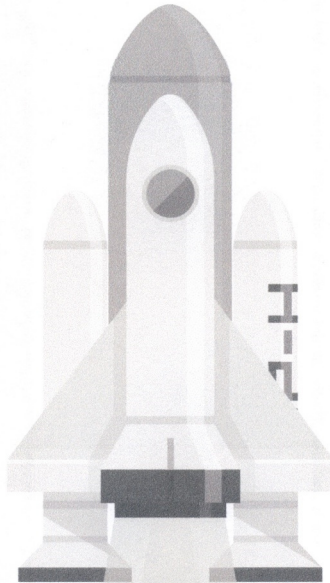
Enjoy an amazing picture show
 and talk with two time space pioneer (spacewalk 2008)

HANS SCHLEGEL
EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY
NASA

Entertainment by Gene Hackemack (Accordion),
 who sent the first polka into outer space!

Please let us know if
 you will attend:

info@houstonliederkranz.club
 irenepfingsten@gmail.com
 Irene: 281-890-8232
 Erika Teske: 281-356-3260



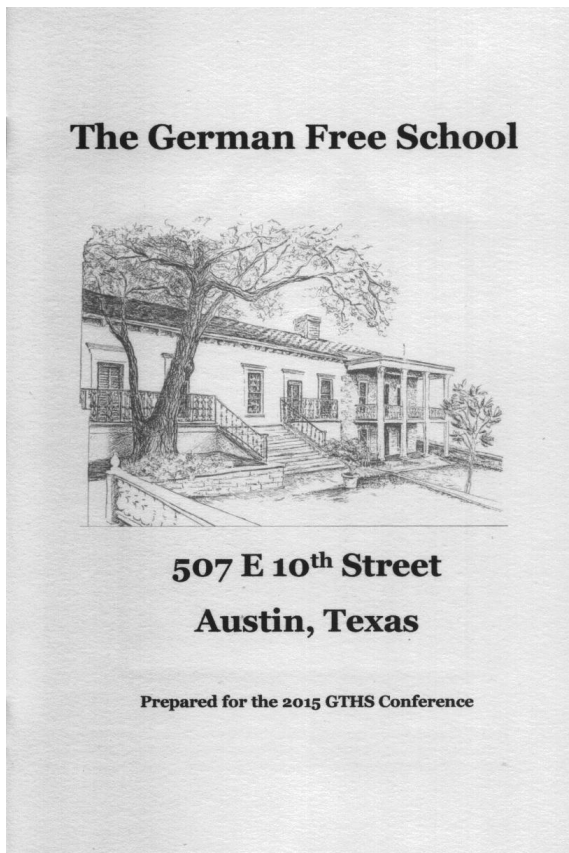
Cash Bar

Snacks
 Cake and Cookies

Donations
 Appreciated

HOUSTON LIEDERKRANZ HALL
5100 ELLA BLVD., HOUSTON, TX 77018

www.HoustonLiederkranz.club
 Hall For Rent



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

Community Events

Old High Hill Cemetery Association Receives \$6,000.00 Donation

By Darlene Graf Quiring, President
Old High Hill Cemetery Association, Inc.

Old High Hill Cemetery Association, Inc. recently received an extremely generous donation of \$6,000.00.

The donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, stipulated that the donation be used on Old High Hill Cemetery property, specifically for beautification of the landscape including tree trimming, tree removal, shrub and vine removal, spraying for poison ivy and poison oak, and any other projects that may be revealed during this phase of restoration.

Budget constraints of the Old High Hill Cemetery Association have limited the ability to complete trimming of the beautiful old oak trees and to keep the landscape healthy. The cemetery was threatened by falling limbs in some locations which could result in damage to old, historic tombstones.

A small team of dedicated, hardworking volunteers including Mike and Lynette Meador, Gene and Linda Clark, and Stan and Darlene Quiring spent several days clearing shrubs and cutting vines. However, it quickly became apparent that the project was too extensive and beyond our abilities. Professional services were needed.



Majestic oak trees more than a hundred years old are no longer hidden by vines and shrubs. These magnificent oak trees which stand tall and proud could tell a lot of stories. They have seen a lot of history and have survived many droughts and hurricanes.

After the activities were complete and the workers left, I walked through the cemetery...on this hallowed ground. In the stillness, I felt a warm summer breeze and heard the birds chirping. It was as if the cemetery was enjoying a fresh

This monetary donation is a wonderful and unexpected blessing! I am completely overwhelmed with gratitude. This is by far the largest donation ever received in my more than 17 years as President of OHHCA. Through this donation, the beautification project will help preserve the natural beauty and historic integrity of the Old High Hill Cemetery property. OHHCA shares in Fayette County Judge Ed Janecka's focus on the environmental stewardship and historic preservation of these old country cemeteries.



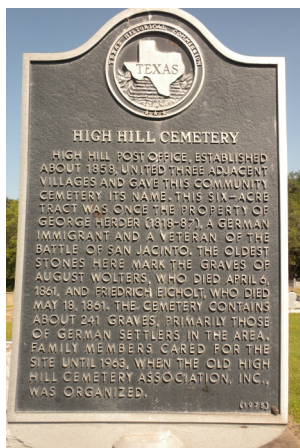
breath of air. Our beloved Old High Hill Cemetery is a community of family and friends together at rest. Our ancestors would be proud.

The Old High Hill Cemetery is on a six-acre tract located approximately three miles northwest of Schulenburg on FM2672 in Fayette County. The cemetery contains about 400 graves. Many German immigrants who were High Hill's earliest settlers lie at rest here.

Eschenburg, Graf, Seydler, Baumgarten, Creuzbaur, Stuercke, Herder, and Nordhausen are just a few family names that have living descendants in the Schulenburg area.

John Christian Baumgarten who is recognized as the Father of Schulenburg and Louis Schulenburg after whom the town of Schulenburg is named lie at rest here. The oldest stones mark the graves of August Wolters and Friedrich Eicholt who died in 1861.

Old High Hill Cemetery is the final resting place for many veterans dating back to the Texas Revolution and the American Civil War.



In January 1976 an official Texas Historical Marker was erected and dedicated. The marking of local historic sites and landmarks is part of the Texas Historical Commission's program to preserve history, arouse interest in historical places, and acquaint people of the community with their unique heritage.

The Board of Directors and Trustees are exceedingly grateful for this very generous donation. Much of the work is complete. However, more landscape improvements are needed.



Our ability to honor the final resting place of ancestors and loved ones and properly steward this beautiful, historic cemetery is subject to outside support.

Discover the history and the beauty of Old High Hill Cemetery! Become a part of OHHCA by making a monetary, tax-deductible donation or offering to "lend a hand" to maintain the beautiful grounds. We greatly appreciate donations of any size.

The Old High Hill Cemetery Association, Inc. is recognized as a non-profit, exempt organization under IRS Code Section 501(c) (13), which makes contributions tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

To learn more about OHHCA or to donate, please e-mail sdquiring72@yahoo.com or call 281-352-7135



Submitted by Darlene Quiring, Sugarland

A Procession One and a Half Miles Long
Mai Fest in Flatonia in 1877
The Fayette County Record, May 2, 2017

Transcribed by JUDY PATE

The celebration of the Mai Fest has long been a tradition among German immigrants in Texas. The first to be held in Flatonia came a mere three years after the first train arrived in the town and less than two years after it incorporated. By that time, the original location of the town was already being called "Old Flatonia," while Praha was still known as "New Prague." The following is a transcription of an article which appeared in the *Galveston Daily News* on May 2, 1877, sent by special telegram and subtitled a "Fine Celebration of a Thrifty German Community in the Interior:"

"FLATONIA, May 1, 1877. The Germans of Flatonia and vicinity held their first Mai Fest today at the school house at Old Flatonia, two miles from town. The morning opened bright, and at an early hour the farmers and citizens from the surrounding country began to pour in, so that by nine o'clock the town was full of men, women and children. The procession was formed by the Marshal, A. Linkilstein of Flatonia, and C. Brunnel of New Prague and, marched through the principal streets, headed by the High Hill brass band. They then marched to New Prague and from thence to the school-house, where the day and night were spent in true German style. The procession was one and a half mile long.

The first car contained emigrants coming to Texas. This car represented Germans with families and baggage checked to Flatonia, and drawn by four yoke of oxen.

The second car represented ten years later, drawn by mules. This car was fitted up with a parlor-set of black walnut furniture, and was intended to show the progress they made in ten years. It carried an elegant family.

The third car represented mechanics at work. It contained blacksmiths, tinsmiths, carpenters, painters, harness-makers, shoemakers and barbers.

The fourth car represented the City Market, and it contained beef, vegetables, bread and cake.

The sixth car contained the Queen, Miss Eda Koek. This car was most gorgeously fitted up, and the maids of honor surrounded the Queen.

The seventh car contained the old and the new way. The old way, in front, was loaded with lager beer, wines, etc., and the new, cold water drawn from a new well on the car.

The eighth car was loaded with Flatonia school children and teachers. The ninth car was full of little boys, and was tastefully decorated.

The tenth car was drawn by three teams nicely decorated, and contained the school children of New Prague.

After this came citizens in carriages, wagons and on horseback. They reached the grounds at 1 p.m. where dinner was awaiting them. After dinner Miss Eda Koek, of New Prague, was introduced and crowned. After the coronation, all took part in tripping the light fantastic toe until a late hour. All the wagons were decorated with the German and American flags." (Transcriber's note: In the first paragraph of the text, Linkilstein is probably meant to be Finkenstein and Brunnel meant to be Brunner.)

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

Building Once Housed Museum, Undertakers

The Fayette County Record, April 4, 2017, By Shirley Schaeffer

Henry Mohrhusen immigrated to Texas from Germany at the age of 16. He lived and farmed in Rutersville for 36 years before coming to La Grange. He went into the mercantile business with Ernst Knigge, but later bought out his partner's interest to go into business with his son-in-law, Dr. Bernhard (Benno) Schmidt, a masseur who immigrated to the U.S. in 1905. Mohrhusen's daughter, Anna, married Dr. Schmidt in 1909. Mohrhusen and Schmidt purchased the original Fink building and lot when they needed a larger building to expand their business. The Fink building was called an "eyesore" by then, so they began tearing down the old structure. The partners broke ground for a new building in August of 1914. The building would be two stories, possibly three, made with brick in a modern design with the ground floor featuring large plate glass windows. The masonry of the new building was completed in October of 1914, leaving the carpenters to finish the building. The paper reported that the Mohrhusen-Schmidt Company would be "the largest store building in this section of Texas".

In 1915, the partners moved into their new building, which was twice the size of the old Fink building.

"Everything spick and span" was the verdict of the first visitors to the new home of MohrhusenSchmidt Company with its plate glass windows and concrete walk. The lower floor, that was 60 by 90 feet, was used as a sales room. Manager Schmidt supervised the interior display arrangement in the style used in big cities. The store carried a variety of household necessities, including furniture, wood stoves and heaters, linoleum, paint, wallpaper, plumbing supplies and hardware, as well as galvanized cisterns.

The building had a hand-operated, rope-propelled wheel elevator from Otis Elevator in the back of the building. According to Charlie Tobias, a future business owner, the original hemp rope was replaced with a sisal rope, and he believed that was the only time the rope was replaced. The elevator remained in use through 1997. (Remnants of the old elevator are still displayed in the lobby entrance of the Pioneer Bank.)

The west end of the second floor was utilized for storage. The front end of the second floor was the home of Heintze's Traveling Men's Museum, also known as the Texas Museum, which held August Heintze's collection of

Footprints Of Fayette

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

curios from around the world. It was dubbed the finest show in the South with Heintze's main collection housed at 130 N. Washington on the second floor now occupied by the Vallejo law firm. The collection became so massive that Heintze needed additional room in other buildings on the square; hence part of his museum occupied space on the second floor of the Mohrhussen.

Footprints Of Fayette

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

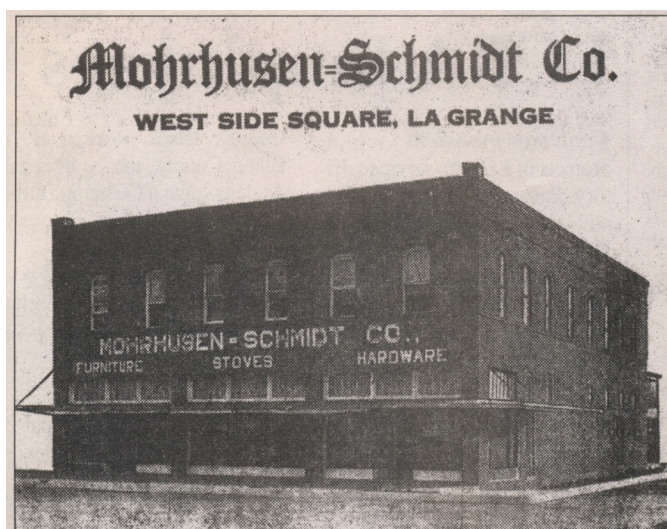
In 1922, Mohrhussen-Schmidt Company placed an ad in a local newspaper that announced their addition of an extensive line of undertaker's supplies which would be shown in their new showroom. The ad stated that A.W Koenig, who was the undertaker, became a licensed embalmer in 1909. Koenig brought a complete line of undertaker's supplies with an assortment of coffins and caskets to place on the showroom on the second floor. By 1929, Koenig and Mueller, who were the undertakers at Mohrhussen-Schmidt at that time, had added an ambulance service. Some remembered that one could tell when someone in the community had passed away, because the lights on the second floor of the store would be shining during the night.

Schultz Studio with Earl D. Schultz as proprietor was on the second floor of the building from 1946-1947. When Schultz moved to the Hermes building, Marburger Electric Shop, licensed and bonded electricians, moved into the back of the building.

The late Nettie Freudenberg recalled that part of the second floor of the building was used as a meeting room and demonstration kitchen when she came to La Grange as an extension agent in 1957. The EH building at the Fairgrounds was built the following year in 1958 to provide for the needs of the county Extension Homemakers Club.

The Mohrhussen-Schmidt Company continued operating as a furniture business at 155 N. Main until 1958 when Leon Schmidt sold the business to Charlie Tobias, who remained in business until 1973. Clarence Schulze operated Furniture World in the building from 1973 to 1976. The building was next operated as Satterwhite & Peel Furniture from 1976 to 1986. From 1986-1997, John Schaeffer Interiors occupied the building with a furniture and design business.

From 1998 to 2006, numerous food establishments under several different proprietors occupied the building. Colorado Valley Bank purchased the building from the descendants of



Mohrhussen-Schmidt Company store.

Courtesy of Fayette Heritage Museum and Archives

Bernard and Anna Mohrhussen Schmidt in 2006 in order to expand from its original space next door. The building is now owned by Pioneer Bank after its acquisition of Colorado Valley Bank in 2012. Today, when looking at the corner that was once 155 North Main Street, one may not realize how many changes have occurred there since the mid-1800s.

The original Fink building was razed, a new building was constructed, and then it was altered multiple times to fit the needs of the proprietors, who sometimes came and went in "the blink of an eye". Although the facade has changed somewhat, and the interior has been renovated, the external structure of the original Mohrhussen-Schmidt Company store still exists.

Sources: *Fayette County Texas Heritage, Vol. I & II; Fayette County History Book Committee, Curtis Media, 1996*

Fayette Heritage Museum and Archives

Heinsohn, Carolyn. "Heintze's Museum"; Footprints of Fayette, April 2001 and March 17, 2009

La Grange Journal. May 21, 1914; August 6, 1914; October 8, 1914; January 21, 1915; September 14, 1922; August 14, 1929

Williams, Marjorie. Fayette County Past and Present, 1976

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

“Skill, Determination and German Work Ethic”

Kreische’s Quick Lime

The Fayette County Record, April 25, 2017

By CHARLES HEBERT

Heinrich Kreische arrived in Galveston, along with his brother Carl, on December 27, 1846; together, they began their trek inland towards what is now Mason County. Both men had each been awarded a 400-acre tract of land on the Llano River by the Organization for the Protection of German Immigrants to Texas.

Heinrich soon departed Mason County, leaving behind his land grant, to seek his fortune in Fayette County. Arriving sometime in late 1848, he began to exercise his trade as a stonemason and soon became friends with Georg Carl Willrich, a prominent German settler in the Bluff area. Although Willrich was a lawyer in Germany, he became a wealthy farmer in Fayette County. Kreische soon convinced Willrich to sell him 172 and 114 acres on the top of the bluff overlooking La Grange, and it is here where Kreische’s Quick Lime production began.

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Lime kilns originated in Europe and were quite useful during the Victorian Era in England (1831-1901) and in part of the Edwardian Era soon after the death of Queen Victoria. It is also probably safe to say that Kreische observed or possibly participated in the construction

of such kilns prior to his arrival in Texas, bringing with him this skill along with those of a stonemason.

The 19th century lime kiln on the bluff, constructed by Kreische, is 13 feet square and 13 feet tall with corbelled inner walls to increase the thickness at the top. His lime kiln was a first priority, for without it, the Kreische Home, his brewery, the second Fayette County Jail built in 1853, the third Fayette County Courthouse built in 1855, multiple homes, his beer hall and other business establishments would not have been possible.

So, what exactly is quick lime and how is it made? Quick lime is the calcination of sandstone (calcium carbonate) achieved by burning the stone to a temperature of 1,000 degrees (Celsius) or 1,832 degrees Fahrenheit for a period of three to four days, depending on the quantity of quick lime needed. The process used by Kreische involved lowering a worker via a ladder from the top of the kiln to the bottom. Once inside the kiln, the stacking process began with a layer of wood placed at the base, followed by a layer of stone, with the process being repeated until the height of the interior wood and stone reached about 12 feet with all of the materials being loaded from the top of the kiln. Once the process was completed, the worker exited the kiln at the top, and a fire was started at the base of the kiln to burn the sandstone. Sampling was done by removing some stones from the bottom during the burning process, placing the stones in water to test the liquidity of the sandstone and to assure that the temperature was close to the required 1,000 degrees Celsius or 1,832 degrees Fahrenheit. The process also required the kiln fire to be watched and frequently fanned for 24 hours per day for the duration of the burn. The hazards associated with such work required the workers to wear protective gloves, eye-wear and a mask to lessen the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning, burns and the effects of other noxious



Kreische’s limestone kiln near his brewery at Monument Hill State Park.
Photo courtesy of Charles Hebert

gases. The lump lime stone, once cooled, was removed through the opening at the base of the kiln, moved from the area, and was then dissolved with water in a process called slaking. The slaked lime (calcium hydroxide) could then be mixed with sand for mortar or plaster.

Kreische’s kiln ceased operation after his untimely death in 1882. When the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department acquired the property in 1977, the mortar in the kiln was in such good condition that there was no need to do any restoration. Over the years, however, the mortar began to deteriorate, and water began to erode the walls of the kiln.

Wesley King, a professional mason, was consulted to assess the integrity of the kiln. It was determined that at a minimum, the kiln needed repointing, and the capstones needed to be replaced. Starting in late July and working through August 2008, Wesley King, Duncan Grigsby with the TPWD and laborer, Jason Asbill, repointed and repaired the kiln.

The still-standing kiln, his home and brewery ruins all serve as a testament to Kreische’s skill, determination and German work ethic. He definitely contributed to the development of La Grange and the Bluff area by building a number of significant structures during the mid-19th century.

Sources:

"Documentation on How Quick Lime Was Made in Victorian England". YouTube video

"Lime Kiln", Wikipedia. *The Free Encyclopedia*. January 10, 2017.

Web Access: March 1, 2017

Texas Parks and Wildlife Docent Manual

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

FIFTY YEARS OF GLORY: THE OLD GLORY SCHOOL AS AN ASSIMILATION FACTOR IN THE COMMUNITY

by Joan Griggs*

As the superintendent handed the members of the graduating class of Old Glory High School their diplomas on May 25, 1981, he was participating in the fiftieth anniversary of the school. A reporter from the *Dallas Morning News* was there to cover the occasion, and the subsequent release of the news by the Associated Press found its way into many newspapers throughout the state. The articles all emphasized the fact that only two girls graduated in this class, although they also hinted at the sense of pride which the community felt for its school.

The size of the class was only one of three factors of enough significance to bring a reporter over two hundred miles to cover a story in this small West Texas community. One reason was the name of the town Old Glory. Another item was the fact that this event marked the fiftieth anniversary of the school. Coupled with this was the size of the class which, coincidentally, was the same as the first graduating class in 1931 consisting of W. B. Trice and his sister, Gertrude.

The reporter described the little settlement as "a one-grocery German town ... originally called Brandenburg" where "not that much else has changed."¹ The statement made by the reporter about the school doubling as a public meeting place for the townspeople and the red-brick building serving as a focal point of the community gives a suggestion of the role that the school played in creating the Old Glory community, but there is so much more hidden in those fifty years. The story of the Old Glory School can hardly be separated from that of the community which it serves. Basically, the area is one of German origin, but it was the school system, as much as anything else, that changed the population.

The sociological changes brought about by the educational institution served to assimilate two disparate cultures. The change in the population was one of the most significant developments in the culture of the Old Glory community in Stonewall County. As one of the basic institutions in American society, the school reflects the culture of the people, and education as an aspect of culture is largely determined by the prevailing sociological conditions. When the German-Americans moved into the county, schools were already established. Instead of the new population creating a change in the education system, the reverse was true in this case. The immigrant group saw the school as a symbol of individual success. It was a means of making the lives of their children better, richer, and happier than they, the parents, had known. It provided a unique opportunity for social and political advancement.

A more successful future was a tangible result expected from the schools, but the education system latently served as an assimilation factor also. As the communities grew, schools moved from the community system to common school districts and later consolidated into even larger districts. With each move, the children came into contact with students from different backgrounds and cultures. Gradually, cultural differences became less apparent and assimilation took place.

Stonewall County, which is located in the northwestern part of Texas with the one-hundredth meridian passing a few miles inside the eastern border and the thirty-third parallel within a few miles of the southern border, had a population of only 104 in the 1880 census. Most of these residents were ranchers who had moved west seeking good grassland on the open range. Settlers continued to arrive and establish communities around the center of the county, eventually spreading to the west and northeast. By 1910, the census showed the population to be 5,320 of which seventy people were shown to be of foreign birth, mainly from northern Europe.²

*Joan Griggs served as researcher on the original "European Folk Islands in Northwest Texas" project. This article is a condensation of a portion of her master's thesis.

¹"Old Glory Graduates Only 2, But Both Are Proudly Hailed," *Austin American-Statesman*, June 15, 1981, sec. B, p. 8.

²U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Thirteenth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1910, Abstract of the Census* (Washington, D.C., 1913), 49.

An act approved by the legislature July 14, 1879, to provide for the sale of a portion of the public lands of the state of Texas for fifty cents per acre, enticed many land speculators to buy land in Stonewall County. Large blocks of land were soon broken into smaller sections for resale to those who sought good farmland. Many of these farmers who bought the most arable land in the county were of German descent.

Land records show that G. R. Speilhagan of Bexar County and Fritz Diers, August Tredemyer, and John Vahlenkamp of Fayette County were among the first to buy land in 1904. Others who soon followed included the families of Herman Baitz, Ludwig Gerloff, August Letz, and Henry F. Luedecke.

It was not long before many others followed these first land buyers. The *Neu Branfelfser Zeitung* carried an article in 1905 titled "Gutes Land!" which was designed to attract potential land buyers. It mentioned that people from Williamson, Travis, Milam, and Lee counties had already established Swedish colonies in Fisher and Jones counties and a German colony at Brandenburg in Stonewall County. The article stated that these people "did not settle here for experimenting purposes," but "came to stake their future, their success here."³

Soon the Brandenburg community, which lies north and west of the Double Mountain Fork of the Brazos River along the eastern border of the county, was populated with families having German surnames such as Baitz, Diers, Dippel, Dudensing, Erdman, Gerloff, Graeter, Herttenberger, Hinze, Klump, Letz, Luedecke, Reber, Rinn, Suter, Vahlenkamp, Vanderworth and Wienke. The boundary lines of most of the property bought by these settlers almost eighty years ago remain the same today as when it was purchased.

After some trying and difficult attempts to establish a state school system, Texas finally created the district system in 1883, doing away with the inefficient community schools. Although the county judge had the duty of handling school affairs under the district system, the people within the community had the authority to call for tax elections to supplement the state funds. At least twenty property taxpayers had to sign the petition, but the responsibility of providing an education continued still further for the parents. A site for a schoolhouse had to be donated with the deed executed and delivered to the county judge, and the citizens of the community had to contribute in labor or an amount equal to the available public free school fund for construction of the building. The qualified voters within the district elected their own trustees which numbered three and whose only stated qualifications were the ability to read and write.⁴

It was within the school law of 1884 that the German families which had settled in the Brandenburg area established a school August 15, 1908. They built a one-room structure, which measured twenty-eight by thirty-six feet, on a rise in the center of the community. This building was erected by two craftsmen who also built most of the homes, churches, and barns for their neighbors. The school district, which later became District No. 23, covered an area of nine square miles.⁵ In 1916, another election was held "to provide funds to be expended in payment of accounts legally contracted in constructing and equipping a public free school building of wooden materials" for a two-room school measuring thirty by sixty feet.⁶ The older one-room structure was then used as a teacherage. All of the people in the Brandenburg school district were of German descent. The required twenty or more taxpaying landowners who signed the petition calling for the bond election in 1916 were Henry Rinn, William Reber, August Stremmel, Ludwig Gerloff, Otto Klump, August Stremmel, Jr., Hermann Baitz, John Vahlenkamp, Fritz Mischer, Ben Klump, Karl Wolf, Fritz Diers, H. Schluter, Bernhardt Herttenberger, Charles Erdman, Sigfried Suter, L. Ashorn, William Dudensing, Otto Dudensing, A. Hamel, and Hugo Klump.⁷

Another school in close proximity in District No. 23 was Mt. Zion school which was petitioned for in June 1908 to provide instruction for the large number of children in two families of dissimilar back-

³"Gutes Land," *Neu Braunfelfser Zeitung*, 5 Oct. 1905.

⁴Frederick Eby, *Education in Texas. Source Materials* (University of Texas Bulletin # 1824, 1 May 1919), 808; Cecil Eugene Evans, *The Story of Texas Schools* (Austin, 1955), 106, 108.

⁵A statute of 1905 declared that "No school shall be established to contain less than nine square miles of territory," and another of 1913 read, "No common school district shall be organized or surveyed in such a manner that the geographic center ... will be more than four miles from the farthest of said district." John Carrol Hinsley, *The Handbook of Texas School Law*, 2nd ed. (Austin, 1948), 208.

⁶Petition for bond election for Brandenburg School, Stonewall County Courthouse Aspermont, Texas.

⁷*Ibid.*

grounds. The Otto Rinns had seven boys and six girls, and the Pearl Davises had nine boys and one girl. Two other families with common American names who had children in school at Mt. Zion were the Carrs and the Tomlinsons.

The area to the west was continuing to develop. In 1909, the Stamford and Northwestern Railway Company, an extension of the Wichita Valley Railroad which terminated in Stamford, was chartered to build a railroad from Stamford to Spur.⁸ The track was laid approximately one-half mile north of the Brandenburg school through a town site two miles to the west provided by the Swenson Land and Cattle Company. The railroad depot in the new town sported the name "Brandenburg" on its sign, and the old community eventually became known as "Old Brandenburg." The depot was soon joined by other buildings including a one-room school which became New Brandenburg School No. 32. The names of the children enrolled in the new school reflected a change which was beginning to take place; among the names were Smith, Wienke, Shackelford, Carr, Klump, Shelton, Ellison, Robbins and Long.

The community and district schools were abolished and replaced by common school districts which continued in the county throughout the 1920's with very few changes, but consolidation of schools was being encouraged at the state level. As early as 1908, County Judge W. J. Arrington asserted that consolidation was not progress as "People [are] much opposed to consolidation on account of distance from one settlement or community to the other; at present [this] renders consolidation impracticable."⁹ Mt. Zion became the first school to combine with other schools when it became part of the New Brandenburg school to the north in 1920. However, by this time New Brandenburg had become Old Glory.¹⁰

Unrest was developing in Europe as a second decade of the twentieth century started, and the people of German descent of the two Brandenburg communities had to make a change. This change was not as difficult for these citizens to make, however, as it had been for German-Americans in other areas of the country. Most of the people of these two communities were second and third generation American citizens by this time; their children pledged allegiance to the United States of America every morning in their classrooms. Although families still used the German language at home or in close social gatherings for a feeling of security and familiarity, their children were slowly losing the use of the native language. It was not surprising that the German name of their town, Brandenburg, should lose its appeal.

With the beginning of World War I, the people of this small community rallied for a name change. Rayner, the name of the now-abandoned county seat, was suggested at a town meeting, but Mrs. M. P. (Emma) Carr insisted that a second choice-Old Glory, the name of the country's flag-also should be submitted. The Post Office Department approved the second choice, Old Glory, and the name became official. The local paper, *The Aspermont Star*, carried the news that "Brandenburg is NO MORE in Stonewall County for the name has been changed to 'Old Glory.'"¹¹ As the name of the town changed, the school also converted its name to that of Old Glory School.

Consolidation of common school districts was provided for in the Rural High School Law of 1911 which allowed a majority of voters in a district to call for action to be taken. The rural high school district was a type of common-school district. Adjoining school districts which had less than four hundred scholastics could be grouped together by the county board for the purpose of establishing a rural high school. The newly-formed district was governed by a board consisting of seven trustees, as opposed to three for the common schools, elected from the district as a whole provided at least one member came from each of the original school districts.¹²

⁸ St. Clair Griffin Reed, *A History of Texas Reiltoeds* (Houston, 1941), 399. ⁹ W.J. Arrington, "Annual Report, 1907-08," Stonewall County, Texas State Archives, Austin, Texas.

⁹ W.J. Arrington, "Annual Report, 1907-08," Stonewall County, Texas State Archives, Austin, Texas.

¹⁰ Although the town became known as Brandenburg, the school took the name of New Brandenburg and the older school remained Old Brandenburg.

¹¹ *Aspermont Star*, 12 Sept. 1918, as cited in G. D. Railsback, "History of Stonewall County," (unpublished M.A. thesis, Hardin-Simmons University, 1940),93.

¹² Texas State Department of Education, *Public School Laws of the State of Texas*, Bulletin #297, 3# 12 (Dec. 1931),82-83.

The consolidation of the common schools and the subsequent formation of the Old Glory Rural High Common School District No.4 was another step in the assimilation process. Well before the Civil War, schools were thought of as instruments to train newcomers to the American way of life, but the publication of a United States Immigration Commission report in 1911 intensified the pressure to Americanize. This massive study revealed that slightly over half of the children in the schools in the largest cities were of foreign-born parentage with the highest percentage running as much as 74.1.¹³ By the time of World War I, nothing less than 100 percent Americanism would suffice. One educator made the statement, "Education will solve every problem of our national life, even that of assimilating our foreign element."¹⁴ On the state level, Superintendent F. M. Bralley, in his biennial report, declared that "The consolidation of smaller schools into larger ones is an essential factor in the adjustment of our school system to the needs of an expanding life." He went on to express his idea that "the culture arising from association" of students in the larger classes created by broader-based schools would be a stimulating influence for school children.¹⁵ The boys and girls who belonged to the German immigrants had learned new values through the curriculum which included American history and civics, and then they became more acculturated through ever-broadening associations.

Surely, the German-American families gave little thought to the philosophical theories connected with the changing educational scene. They had experienced change from the time they or their ancestors had left the shores of Europe continuing to seek "a more free and prosperous life."¹⁶ They had the obligation to provide an education for their children. They could choose the building site, determine the amount of taxes required to pay for the building, and elect their own trustees, thus choosing a representative to hire the kinds of teachers they wanted.¹⁷

The communities took the necessary action to establish a rural high school by the summer of 1930 when five small schools joined to create the Old Glory Rural High School District No.4. The final consolidation took place after Hooker, Old Brandenburg, and New Hope combined with Old Glory. Mt. Zion had led the way previously, and later two more schools would be added.

The first school board members were appointed after the consolidation vote to represent their former districts. W. G. Wienke came from the Old Glory School, Harry Dippel from Hooker, C. F. Erdman and Oscar Vanderworth from Old Brandenburg, W. A. Wendeborn and O. H. Rinn from Mt. Zion, and A. J. Barbee from New Hope.¹⁸ This board of trustees met June 4, 1930, to organize and elect officers. W. G. Wienke became the first president, and Oscar Vanderworth was elected to serve as the first secretary.

The original appointment of members to serve on the school board was made by the county board, but subsequent elections gave the local citizens a voice. Of the appointed board, three could only serve one year each, two only two years each, and the other two would serve for three years.¹⁹ At the first election in 1931, four new members were placed on the school board for the control and management of the school. Whether or not these men would have chosen the company of the others, they were now forced to work together for the good of the school as well as their own communities. The first meetings needed to establish a new system were numerous, but the members were all faithful in their attendance at the regularly scheduled monthly meetings on Saturday night as well as the special called sessions.

¹³ Lawrence A. Cremin, *The Transformation of the School: Progressivism in America, Education, 1876-1957* (New York, 1961), 72-74.

¹⁴ John Higham, *Strangers in the Land: Patterns of American Nativism, 1860-192*. (New Jersey, 1963), 235.

¹⁵ F. M. Bralley, *Eighteenth Biennial Report* (Austin, 1912), 35-36.

¹⁶ Elsie (Wienke) Doty, "The Wienke Family," in Stonewall County Historical Commission, *A History of Stonewall County* (Aspermont, Texas, 1979), 313.

¹⁷ See Wayne E. Fuller, "School District 37: Prairie Community," *Western Historical Quarterly*, 12#4 (Oct. 1981), 419-432 for similar circumstances in Kansas.

¹⁸ Maxine Klump to Joan Griggs, 30 March 1981, in possession of Joan Griggs.

¹⁹ *Public School Laws*, 83.

The trustees undoubtedly took advantage of the chance to serve their communities by accepting these elected positions. Many names appeared on the roster for more than one term. One of the original appointees, A. J. Barbee from New Hope, was a member for fifteen years serving also as president and secretary. Beno Herttenberger was first elected for one term of three years and four years later, came back for another eight years. Carl Druesedow from the Old Brandenburg community was elected in April 1943, and served for a total of fourteen years, all as secretary of the board.²⁰

These men who served on the board of education were forced to make decisions together that would affect the community as a whole. Each of the common schools that consolidated had a bonded indebtedness which had to be assumed by the new district. A bond election also had to be held to build a new structure to house the larger enrollment. Buses had to be purchased to carry students into town from the old communities. The board also had the responsibility of determining when school would start and how many months it could operate. At one time they decided to have two more weeks of school provided there was enough money. There also was only so much money with which to hire teachers, bus drivers, and janitors; a wise choice had to be made.

Sometimes the leaders had more than routine decisions to make as conditions changed within the community. In the early hours of Sunday morning, December 13, 1936, the school building was destroyed by fire. They virtually had to start all over. The board met the next day and began plans to erect a new school. In the meantime, sufficient space had to be located to hold classes for the children. A meeting was called for December 16 to purchase new school furniture, and at the close of the meeting, the secretary, succinctly yet discreetly, recorded, "We retired to our respective places of business."²¹

The school stood at the center of community activities. It was a comfortable, centrally located building and one to which most parents had to go for various reasons. In the fall of 1942, the board agreed to let the ladies hold their Variety Club meetings in the school. If the children were too small to ride the bus home so they could help on the farm after school, they had a safe place to play while the mothers attended their social function. In 1957, rumors were circulating that the Old Glory Post Office might be closed. The trustees directed that letters should be written to George Mahon, national congressman from that district, and Ralph Yarborough, U.S. Senator, encouraging them to use their influence to prevent the closing.

The economic conditions of the community were also reflected in the administration of the school. In the fall of 1943, August 2 was decided upon as the opening date, and then school was dismissed on August 27 for four weeks so that children could help gather the cotton crop. Again two years later, help was urgently needed to gather cotton, so school began August 28 in order to allow time to dismiss for the harvest when it became necessary. Problems with the child labor law resulted in dismissing school in the fall as much as a decade later so that families could use the help of their own children.

In addition to the shortage of available farm help, the number of scholastics also dropped during the early 1940's. The wartime conditions had caused many people to move to larger, industrial areas creating a decrease in the school enrollment. In an effort to increase the number of scholastics, the district sought to take another school north, Tonk Creek, which had previously asked to be consolidated. However, because of unresolved differences, these attempts were unsuccessful until September of 1948.

Through the continued efforts of the community, the school managed to survive even as the enrollment dropped steadily until there were approximately forty students in 1981. The all-time high was recorded at 266 on the approved census with an additional fourteen transfers into the district for a total of 280 in 1936.²² In the meantime, the assessed valuation of property within the district rose from \$822,420 in 1950-51 to \$4,330,000 two decades later²³ Oil had been discovered; and after a period of decreased

²⁰ Old Glory Rural High School, Minutes of Meetings of the Board of Trustees, 4 June 1930 to 6 Nov. 1957.

²¹ Minutes, 14 Dec. 1936.

²² Census and transfer cards, Texas Education Agency, Austin, Texas.

²³ Texas Education Agency, Public School Directory and List of Accredited Schools (1/1/S. 1950-1951 (Bulletin #525), 158; and 1970-1971 (Bulletin #703), 139.

production, wells are again being drilled in even greater numbers helping to provide the necessary funds to maintain the school. In 1979, the school officially became the Old Glory Independent School District and is only one of the two schools in the county which had as many as thirty-five common school districts in 1912.

There is no doubt that the members of the school board had a definite responsibility to work together for their combined community as well as to represent the desires of the constituents from their own districts. These men from diversified backgrounds had the added obligation to travel together for state meetings or conferences. It was very logical for someone in Austin, for example, to question, in jest, why Mr. Sawyers was keeping company with Mr. Spitzer, Druessedow, and Vahlenkamp! The present board is no different than its earlier counterparts other than the fact, perhaps that now a woman also serves on the board.

The school also provided a place for entire families to go for entertainment such as class plays, basketball games and carnivals or traveling shows. Youngsters thus became familiar with other children before they actually attended classes together. Mothers often had to help sponsor extracurricular trips or even lead a troop of Girl Scouts or Campfire Girls, managing all the cultural diversifications probably without being aware of any differences.

Besides the social contact that the German-American families had with those of the Anglo-Americans, the former also gave up their native language. In the counties from which these settlers came, German was taught in the schools along with English, but when the children started their education at Old Brandenburg, only the English language was taught. There was only one recorded instance of a request for the teaching of German. On May 1, 1937, three representatives, William Reber, Hermann Baitz, and Henry Rinn met with the board to discuss the possibility of employing a German teacher. If this could not be done, they asked that a teacher be hired who could at least instruct the students in the German language. Action was deferred, and there is no further mention of the proposal. Very few of the teachers even had German surnames either in the German communities or in the consolidated school.²⁴

Daily registers of the teachers reveal more about the transition of the community than anything else. Registered in the seventh and eighth grades in Old Brandenburg in 1924-25 were Bell, Baitz Vanderworth, Lowack, Diers, Wendeborn, Erdman, and Hahn children. Thirty years later, 1954-55, students enrolled in the first and second grades were Cannon, Lammert, Letz, Vahlenkamp, Hahn, Rios, Baitz, Dial, Baumbach, Crosson, Diers, Hunt, Johnson, Soto, Granada, Newman, Pierce, Saunders, and Davis. Many of these pupils are children of those enrolled in 1924-25, beginning the third generation of the earliest settlers. There are obviously many more Anglo names, but now the names of Mexican children also become numerous, adding another ethnic group.

The names still have not changed much in the daily registers. There are just not as many of them. Some of the students are grandchildren of the students who enrolled in the newly consolidated school of fifty years ago. But one of the ironies of a good education is that the students often leave the community for a higher education or better opportunities leaving the small communities behind. The search for a free and prosperous life begun four generations earlier continued to entice students to become attorneys, ordained ministers, accountants, architectural engineers, or teachers, leaving the security of tradition and close families.

The portion of Stonewall County that lies within the Old Glory Independent School District No. 703 offered the families of German immigrants a place to put down their roots, to stake their future, to work together with their neighbors, and to make lifelong friends. By doing so, the community underwent a transition and the descendants of the immigrants assimilated into the Anglo-American culture. Even with the renewal of an interest in ethnicity in the 1960's, the older European ethnic minorities have virtually disappeared.

²⁴One exception was Maxine Klump. However, her maiden name was Wheeler before she married the son of one Brandenburg family.

People

CHORGEMEINSCHAFT TEXAS TRIP TO GLUCKSTADT, GERMANY July 7 – 24, 2017



On July 7, 2017, after 3 years of planning, 48 members of Chorgemeinschaft Texas converged on Glueckstadt, Germany, to serve as Honored Guests of the Mannchor Quartett-Lied Hoch Glückstadt to celebrate the 400th year celebration of the founding of Glückstadt, Germany. Though the timing of their arrival was a bit precarious because of the G-20 Summit of 20 world leaders being held in Hamburg and the airport and train station were closed for security reasons. There were also masses of demonstrators that were burning, looting and ravaging parts of the town. But thankfully, all the Texans finally arrived safely in Glückstadt by midnight on **Saturday, July 8, 2017**.

Sunday, July 9—Free day to spend time with host families and rest from travel.

Monday, July 10—A welcome reception was hosted by Mayor Biel for Chorgemeinschaft Texas and Mannchor Quartett-Lied Hoch followed by guided tours in German/English of downtown Glückstadt. An afternoon concert in Stadtkirche Glückstadt with Hoch Lied and Duo Gluckklang was followed by dinner with local hosts at Tivoli Restaurant. They then returned to their host's homes at 10:30 PM

Tuesday, July 11—After a short bus ride, they arrived in Hamburg at St Pauli Pier for guided German/English Tours of the city. They attended a noon prayer service at St Michael's Church and both Chorgemeinschaft Texas and Mannchor Quartett-Lied Hoch sang several selections. They then traveled on to Parliament Restaurant at City Hall for a luncheon and presentation by tour guides about the history of Hamburg followed by singing in the lobby. They then departed for Elbphilharmonie Hamburg Concert Hall for a very interesting tour.



Lubeck Holzentor

Wednesday, July 12—Today they traveled to Bremerhaven for guided tour of city's downtown harbor and the cruise and freight terminals. They also visited School of Navy Operations of the Bundeswehr, enjoyed lunch at the Mess Hall, an address by the Commander Papenroth and an introduction of their facility. They departed for the German Emigration Museum Bremerhaven for a guided tour and free time in their center to research ancestry documents.

Thursday, July 13—Both choirs, Chorgemeinschaft Texas and Mannchor Quartett-Hoch Lied attended guided tours through the Hanseatic City of Luebeck. Both choirs sang on plaza at St Mary's Church and enjoyed luncheon at Schiffergesellschaft Restaurant. They traveled back to Glueckstadt via Travermunde and Timmendorf Beach with a view of the Baltic Sea and a stop in Eutin where both choirs performed on the town plaza.

Friday, July 14—Free day with host families and in the evening they attended a “Matges and Bier” reception at the Matges Factory.

Saturday, July 15 Schleswig-Holstein Saengerfest “400 Years – Gluckstadt Sings”

Both singing groups met on the town plaza for the opening ceremonies and welcoming speeches by Schleswig-Holstein Sangerbund President Bernd Kuppersbrusch, Mayor Biel and several other dignitaries. Chorgemeinschaft Texas and Mannerchor Quartett-Lied Hoch then opened the Saengerfest with a few songs on the Market Plaza stage. A parade led by a local band marched through the city and led Chorgemeinschaft Texas and Mannerchor Quartett-Lied Hoch from the Market Plaza to the Theater where they performed with concerts on the Theater stage. Many other singing groups from the surrounding areas joined in the afternoon of celebration by performing on any of four venues throughout the city, the Hafen/Schiff Frieda, Wasmer-Palais, Theater and Market Plaza. A performance on Market Plaza of all singers ended the celebration for the day. An evening dance at the Theater with the show band “Starlight” ended the day with dancing till 12:00 PM.



Sunday, July 16—Today was another day of performances at the four venues and, in spite of the rain, many people came to enjoy the concerts. The day ended with all singers once again gathering in the Market Plaza to close the Saengerfest.

Monday, July 17—After farewells to their host families, Chorgemeinschaft Texas departed Gluckstadt at 9:00 AM and traveled to Aalborg, Denmark, for a two night stay at the Scheelsminde Hotel.

Tuesday, July 18—Today they enjoyed a guided tour of Aalborg, the Harbor, the Castle and a Viking Burial ground.

Wednesday, July 19—This morning it was an early departure from the Hotel to reach the Ferry Port in Hirtshelms for a 9:00 AM Appointed Departure. After 4 + hour ferry crossing the North Sea, they arrived at the Norway Langesund Port at 1:15 PM. The driver, Toby, quickly brought the bus out of the bottom of the ship, picked up the Texans and they continued their trip toward Oslo, Norway. Arriving in at the Quality Hotel Expo in Oslo at 4:00 pm, they settled in for the first of two nights overlooking the beautiful blue waters of the nearby bay. After dinner, a quick rehearsal was held in the hotel lobby which provided a welcoming concert for the hotel guests.



Oslo Harbour

Thursday, July 20—Today’s activities began with a guided city tour of Oslo, (World’s Happiest City) and several of the Texans chose other tours and activities on their own for the day. The Tour group visited many of the city’s points of interest and also Holmenkollen, the site of many world Class ski jumping competitions They then proceeded to the Vigeland Gardens and saw hundreds of stone sculptures depicting the Circle of Life-Birth to death. It was very interesting to see how masterfully the artist captured the figures in the various stages of life. After the guided tour ended, they had several free hours to enjoy the many restaurants and shops along the harbor and in the City Plaza.

Friday, July 21—This morning started very early as today would be a long day of travel (600 km) to Copenhagen, Denmark. As the bus pulled out of the hotel parking lot, it began to rain and the rest of the day they traveled in rain. Rest stops were quite interesting trying to manage umbrellas in the wind and rain, but all went well in the end. The long bus ride provided lots of time for sleeping, visiting and singing. A stop in Gotoborg, Sweden, provided a quick tour through the city with lunch at the Central Train Station. Then it was back on the bus and on to the Copenhagen

Scandia Hvidovre hotel for the night. The rain did continue, however, it did quit during the night and there were high hopes for a nice day tomorrow.

Saturday, July 22—No rain today and they enjoyed another very interesting guided tour where they saw many of the interesting sights of the inner city by the harbor. As they traveled, they learned many interesting things about the city, its culture and its people. There are 3 million bicycles and very few cars and being a Saturday, ‘everyone’ was out walking or biking. Parks were filled with people enjoying the wonderful balmy weather. A stop at Our Lady’s Cathedral provided a quick opportunity to sing “Let There be Peace on Earth” and from a church with only a few visitors to people pouring in the back door as the sound drifted out of the windows and doors into the streets. Awesome! Their tour also took them to see the Little Mermaid and they also did a water boat tour and sang under the bridges and along the harbor shoreline where many people were picnicking, walking and biking. When they would hear the music, they would stop, gather to enjoy the entertainment. They then went to the Downtown Church for a concert and upon completion of the concert, they returned back to the hotel for dinner. At 8:00 PM they left for Tivoli Garden, an Amusement Park in the heart of the city, to enjoy their last evening in Copenhagen.

Sunday, July 23—Today was the last day of this wonderful adventure and there were mixed emotions all around. Sadness to see this *once-in-a-lifetime* experience come to an end, but happiness to be going home to loved ones. After breakfast, they boarded the bus for the last leg of their journey and return to Glueckstadt. There was lots of laughing, singing and happiness on board as the miles and hours flew by and arrived in Glueckstadt at 6:00 PM, right on schedule. Many of the host families were there to meet the bus and say their final goodbyes to all the Texans. Tomorrow everyone would be traveling back to Texas or continue their journey to other points of interest throughout Europe. This was the end of an awesome experience that will live on in their memories for many years to come.

Vielen Danke Glueckstadt-Auf Wiedersehen!

Gladys Haecker
Chorgemeinschaft Texas
Germistcher Chor Harmonie

Submitted by Gladys Haecker, Schertz

Proving a Family Tradition.....

My family’s tradition or family story for my Nitschke ancestor is, Carl Ludwig Nitschke (1813-1888), was asked to leave Germany due to his democratic views. I didn’t give this much thought, as have been down the “wrong garden path” from other family stories.

While shelving at Clayton Library, I saw this book, “German Revolutionists of 1848: Among Whom Many Immigrants to America”, Clifford Neal Smith, Westland Publications, ISSN0094-7806 (Clayton Library- United States Section, Gen 943 S644). Of course, I looked for Nitschke. To my surprise, listed on page 99 of Part 3: Surnames L – R is Karl Ludwig Nitzschke, cabinet maker, Lunzenau/Sachsen (Kingdom of Saxony) 48/5469. I knew from a Nitschke family Bible his marriage and the birth of three of his children had been in Lunzenau, Germany. I also knew from Austin, Texas City Directories he was a cabinet and furniture maker. The reference had to be him.

This book, “German Revolutionists of 1848....” stated one should check for American Civil War service if ancestor was listed. I knew Carl Ludwig Nitschke had fought for Texas from Travis County. There was also a reference to an LDS(Mormon) film number 1180368 which is “Revolutionsteilnehmer 1848-1849 A-Z”, and according to film notes records were at the Generallandesarchiv Karlsruhe in Karlsruhe, Baden, Germany. Using google translator, English to German, I wrote a letter to this Archives with a copy of the Karl Ludwig Nitzschke reference from the LDS microfilm. I received an email which said, “We only accept wire-transfers for payment, send 25 euros (about \$26.25)”, and they would send the records. I suggest you shop around for wire transfer fees, as Chase Bank charges \$50 plus amount (no matter what the actual fee/charge).

The Archives e-mailed 14 pages of information. Since the records were in German script, I had to have them translated. This is what I found in proving my family tradition:

Ministry on Foreign Affairs of the Grand-Duchy
Karlsruhe
Criminal Matters

Foreigners who participated in the revolt in the Grand-Duchy Baden in May and July 1849.

*To the Ministry of Baden
Division of Foreign Affairs
Karlsruhe*

*The merchant Moritz Hugo Guß from Lunzenau, Saxony, is associated in these parts with a highly treasonous handbill dated Heidelberg the 28 May. This handbill was distributed in the Grand Duchy of Baden by refugees from Saxony. Guß was certainly present there during the revolt. He was taken in by the royal justice court of Saxony for questioning because of such a handbill. He denied any participation in the revolt as well as any connection to the handbill and acknowledged only to have had contact with some of the revolutionists. He stated that during his ten to thirteen days stay in Heidelberg, from the end of May into June of this year, he lived in the same Gasthof "Zum Falken" [At the Hawk] in Heidelberg as did the **cabinetmaker Carl Ludwig Nitschke from Lunzenau** who is wanted by the Courts. Later they resided at the same time in the Gasthof "Zur Stadt Straesburg" [The City of Strasburg] at Karlsruhe.*

The undersigned ministry asks assistance for information to establish details of the activities by Guß while in the Duchy of Baden. Along with this request we are also seeking information on those persons from Saxony who participated in the revolt in Baden

*This Ministry thanks you in advance.
This dated 11 August 1849
Royal Ministry on Foreign Affairs of Saxony.*

Apparently, Carl Ludwig Nitschke was only passing out handbills, but record says he was wanted by the Courts (in Saxony?). Lunzenau is on the east side of Germany, not in Baden which is on the west side of Germany near France. Did he leave His wife and 3 young kids in Lunzenau to protest the Prussians? More questions. However, I do believe I was able to prove/document the Nitschke family story.

I thanked the Karlsruhe Archives and asked if they had a list of recommended researchers for the Archives. This is the reply:

*"Dear Mrs. Nitschke-Hicks,
We have a database with more than 38.000 participants in the revolution in 1848/49 in the state of Baden. The name Karl Ludwig Nitschke does not appear in it. This database is certainly not absolutely entire, but considers the most important archival funds. Nevertheless you can of course instruct a research-service provider. I add a list with addresses.**

*Yours sincerely
Martin Stingl*

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***If anyone is interested in the list of researchers, please contact me, Liz Hicks, e-mail: erootrot@usa.net**

A special thank you to Wolfram Von-Maszewski for translation of documents from the Archives.

Elizabeth Nitschke Hicks, Genealogy Editor, GTHS

Submitted by Liz Hicks, Houston

Beethoven Männerchor celebrating 150 years with an anniversary concert

Sanger Zeitung,
Spring, 2017

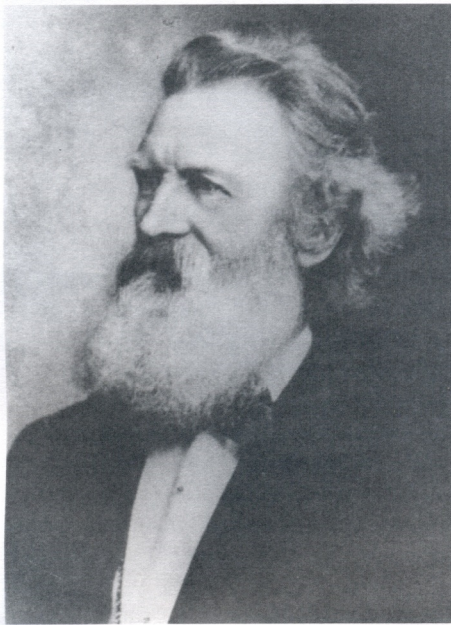
By David Uhler

Beethoven Männerchor

It was in 1873 – six years after the founding of the Beethoven Männerchor – that poet and musician Sidney Lanier received an invitation to attend a choir practice with the group during a visit to Texas.

“Seventeen Germans were seated at the singing table,” Lanier later wrote. “Long-necked bottles of Rhine-wine were opened and tasted, great pipes and cigars were all afire.

“The leader, Herr Thielepape – an old man with a long, white beard and mustache, formerly mayor of the city – rapped his tuning-fork vigorously, gave the chords



Wilhelm Carl August Thielepape

by rapid arpeggios of his voice...and off they all swung into such a noble, noble old German full-voiced lied that imperious tears rushed into my eyes, and I could scarce restrain myself from running and kissing each one in turn...”

The Beethoven Männerchor – now 50 voices strong – hopes to elicit that same kind of reaction on Sat., Feb. 25 during its 150th anniversary concert in San Antonio.

In addition to the choir, the Beethoven Concert Band and the Youth Orchestras of San Antonio (YOSA) will also take the stage for the free program at the 1,700-seat Tobin Center that includes (naturally!)



The Beethoven Männerchor of 1893

Beethoven’s “Freude, schöner Götterfunken,” popularly known as the “Ode to Joy.”

“Everyone is welcome,” says Beethoven president Claus D. Heide. “We want to fill every seat in the house.”

Founded on Feb. 24, 1867, the story of the origin of the Beethoven Männerchor will sound familiar to anyone associated with German singing and social societies.

Like many other choirs, the Männerchor was founded by immigrants who left their homeland in the mid-1800s to escape political and economic turmoil. Most of them came to America with little more than a couple of coins in their pockets, a love of song in their hearts and a strong work ethic and can-do spirit. The German choirs and other organizations they formed in the New World not only provided nostalgic links to the Old Country, they also offered plenty of *Gemütlichkeit* and opportunities for “my son Hans to meet your daughter Gretel.”

German singing and *Sängerfest* in Texas reached their peaks around the beginning of the 20th century. The Männerchor, which had been meeting in private homes and other locations for its first quarter century, built its own concert and club hall – the first ever erected in Texas – in 1894. The building burned down thirteen years later, but Beethoven members quickly replaced it with an impressive structure designed by Leo M.J. Dielmann, a noted San Antonio architect (and Männerchor singer). In addition to choir performances, the splendid Halle also hosted concerts by many well-known musicians and ensembles, including Sarah Bernhardt, John Phillip Sousa and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

The club continued to grow. In 1932, women from the local Mozart Society and

Männerchor wives banded together to form the Beethoven Damenchor. The Beethoven Concert Band had its first performance in 1945. The Beethoven Kinderchor took the stage for the first time in 1972.

Amid the triumphs, however, came other setbacks.

Like many German American organizations, the Beethoven suffered ostracism and membership declines during and between the two world wars. In 1921, progress in San Antonio forced the widening of Alamo Street and the demolition of the beautiful façade of Beethoven Halle. The Männerchor sold what was left of the building to the city and moved to a complex of buildings in the historic King William (formerly known as Kaiser Wilhelm) neighborhood, where they have operated ever since.

Following World War II, the Männerchor experienced a surge in membership as American soldiers brought home German brides and other Germans immigrated in search of better lives. By the 1960s, however, the growth had slowed and then-director Otto Ransleben told a young Claus Heide “I’m afraid the Beethoven will go under after we all die off.”

Ransleben passed away in 1981 and sadly, many choirs in Texas have indeed closed their doors. But, the Beethoven has more than 400 non-singing “passive” members today in addition to its 50-man vocal group.

“We’ve never been in better shape,” says Heide, who has served as präsidant for 32 years. “I have high hopes for the future.”

Tickets for the Beethoven Männerchor’s 150th anniversary concert are free, but pre-registration is required. Please visit beethovenmaennerchor.com or the choir’s Facebook page for details.

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

Editor's Note: GTHS Board Member, Barbara Berthold, taught a course in "Germans, Past and Present" this summer and thought this composition would be of interest to our readers.

His short bio: Eddie Oliver is a Senior and History major at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA). Prior to going back to college, he worked at a U.S. army base for eight years and graduated from Texarkana College with a concentration in History.

History has become a large part of his life, whereas it was not for most of it. *The Autobiography of Frederick Douglass* changed his life; because it changed the way he saw history by eliciting a visceral response to the book. It also sparked his curiosity, not only about that particular subject, but about the conditions of the nation as a whole.

Throughout his studies at UTA, Eddie Oliver sought to diversify his interest, to construct a well-rounded understanding of history and the world. He has taken classes that range from African-American History, Nineteenth Century German History, Transnational History, Environmental History, Texas History, and the depiction of the American West through film (viewed through the American lens, as well as through the lens of Cold-war Germany). The article below is based on research conducted during a UTA Critical Cultures Summer Institute course funded by The Charles T. McDowell Center for Critical Languages & Area Studies.

Transitions from Germans to Americans: Ideologically and Physically Spurred by the Climate of Germany in 1849 and the Peculiar Crisis of the American Civil War



Written by Eddie Oliver
Professor: Dr. Barbara Berthold
June 2017

¹"Nueces massacre," Wikipedia, June 28, 2017, accessed July 07, 2017, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nueces_massacre.

Contents

Introduction.....	3
Conditions that Lead to Exile from Germany and Settlement in Texas.....	5
Civil War Landscape in Texas and Internal Division.....	9
Reactionary Responses and the Showdown on the Nueces.....	15
Conclusion.....	22
References.....	24

Introduction

Germans in Texas are an esoteric subject, particularly when discussing the journey they endured to make it to Texas. The mystery grows even more mysterious when one points out, the only American Civil War monument in the entire south, dedicated to the Union, was erected by German citizens to commemorate their fallen brethren after a battle that took place on the bank of the Nueces River in 1862.

The American Civil War is viewed as an endemically American issue. However, there is evidence of foreign cultures who made a small but significant impact on the war. Even more important was their impact on American ideology. Ideology rests at the fore of the Civil War. It is ideology, particularly over the institution of slavery, that brought rising tensions to a physical head in 1861. Coincidentally, tensions were rising in Germany during the same period, specifically from 1813 to 1848.

Why is this political, and ideological, confrontation in Germany significant in relation to the United States and its catastrophic war? There are certainly many answers to this question, but for the purpose of this paper, the author draws attention to the “Nueces Massacre,” and the events leading up to its macabre finality.

Firstly, the author delves into the ideologies, and events, which forced mass numbers of Germans to immigrate to Texas. Secondly, we investigate the complex lives of Germans on the Texas frontier; the relationship between the German immigrants and their fellow statesmen, which includes Texans, Native Americans, and fellow German citizens. We also pay particular attention to the issue of slavery, which, in many ways, lies at the heart of the conflict. And lastly, we explore the established consensus of the confrontation by the Nueces River, and contrary findings, which complicates the perception of the event entirely.

Conditions that Lead to Exile from Germany and Settlement in Texas

With Enlightenment literature being ever prevalent in the intellectual circles in Germany, as well as elsewhere in Europe, there came with it social unrest. The social unrest was due to lack of political inclusion. These tensions mounted for years during the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century. After Napoleon's hostile takeover of the Rhineland and the rest of the German Confederation, he reached Leipzig, where he was met by an allied force. The coalition of states included Austria, Prussia, Russia and Sweden. The coalition managed to stop the progress of Napoleons army, and push him back into France.²

The German Confederation was the true hotbed of enlightenment idealism. David Blackbourn in his seminal work, *History of Germany 1780-1918 The Long Nineteenth Century*, stated:

..., the real urban dynamism was to be found in the princely residential cities, with their concentrations of officials, merchants and retailers, and in growing commercial centres. The six largest cities in the Empire fulfilled one or both of these functions: Vienna (207,000), Berlin (173,000), Hamburg (100,000), Prague (76,000), Breslau (57,000) and Dresden (53,000) ... But it was here that we are most likely to find the practitioners of new economic forms, the advocates of legal and institutional change – and those who believed in the lively traffic of ideas, especially 'enlightened' ideas.³

Blackbourn continued down this vein, to explain Enlightenment reasoning, and how this reasoning was to manifest itself within European society:

The Enlightenment had common European features. It was rooted in the belief that men could understand the workings of the universe through the exercise of reason, by observing, measuring and classifying natural phenomena... Enlightenment also meant, as the name suggests, illuminating the dark corners of human nature and making it more transparent. It insisted on the possibility of ordering institutions in such a way that society would become imbued with reason and moral sense, creating the conditions for self-fulfilment and the realization of human happiness. Thus law, administration, economics, education, health and welfare all belonged to the enlightened project.⁴

The junction of Enlightenment idealism and the American Civil War, where it concerns Germans, will be explored later in this paper.

Napoleon managed to incite the already-imbedded revolutionary idealism lying relatively dormant within the German citizens. Feeling like the quelling of Napoleon's army granted them leverage against the whims of the rulers – particularly the rulers of the German Confederation, Austria, and Prussia – the people started to protest in various forms. The rulers felt their powers were being threatened and pushed back: "The rulers, forgetful that the people had saved their thrones, denied it such right, and opened instead a long period of reaction, which manifested its triumph in dark acts of oppression and tyranny."⁵

In 1815, rising nationalism was still threatening the monarchical system in place in the German Confederation, Prussia, and Austria. "The most ardent exponents of this position were the members of the student *Burschenschaften* (societies of fraternities) ..." These were the societies who created the modern German tricolor flag (red, black, and gold). But as hard as they pushed to change the ways of their societies the monarchs pushed back:

The Austrian chief minister, Metternich, personified this resistance and the antipathy to nationalism. The German settlement he had brokered at the Vienna Congress was already a disappointment to reformist and nationalist opinion. With the possibility that constitutional government might establish itself in Prussia as well as the south, Metternich exploited the 1819 murder of a reactionary playwright and part-time Tsarist agent by a radical student to persuade Frederick William III a crackdown was necessary. Prussian reform came to an end. Hopes of a constitution disappeared, and in 1823 the king set up corporate provincial estates that underlined monarchical reliance on the landed nobility, not a representative, state-wide parliament.⁶

²"Battle of Leipzig." Encyclopædia Britannica. Accessed July 03, 2017. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Battle-of-Leipzig>.

³David Blackbourn, *History of Germany: 1780 - 1918; the long nineteenth century* (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publ., 2011). P. 25. ⁴David Blackbourn, *History of Germany: 1780 - 1918; the long nineteenth century* (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publ., 2011). Pp. 25-26.

⁵Davitt Publications, *German American Corner: German Achievements in America 12*, accessed July 03, 2017, <http://www.germanheritage.com/Publications/cronau/cronau12.html>.

⁶David Blackbourn, *History of Germany: 1780 - 1918; the long nineteenth century* (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publ., 2011). P. 91.

The events caused two reactions with the individuals in open revolt; some turned their backs on their country, and others decided to fight. Thus, began mass immigration to the United States. The Germans who persisted in the struggle for liberty brought to the fore the last and most significant revolt; the Revolution of 1848. They suffered yet another defeat from the monarchs. The result of this failed revolution was the emigration of very capable, qualified, and highly-accomplished individuals from Germany, dubbing them the Fortyeighters.⁷

What set the Fortyeighters apart from earlier German immigrants to Texas was the level of accomplishment they attained in their own countries. This was a relatively new phenomenon, since the creation of the United States. These were truly remarkable individuals. Their contributions would not be lost on the Texas Hill Country, whether it was expressed through the acculturation of the Texas frontier, radical agitation, or conformity:

Germany's loss meant for the United States an invaluable gain, as so many hundred thousands of highly cultured men and women came into this country. While the former German immigration had consisted essentially of farmers, workmen and traders, now scholars and students of every branch of science, artists, writers, journalists, lawyers, ministers, teachers and foresters came in numbers. The enormous amount of knowledge, idealism and activity, embodied in these political exiles, made them the most valuable immigrants America ever received. As they accepted positions as teachers and professors at the schools and universities, or filled public offices, or founded all sorts of newspapers and periodicals, learned societies and social clubs, these men inspired the hitherto dull social life of America, that it gained a much freer and more progressive character.⁸

These highly-accomplished individuals set course for a place with the absence of everything they had grown accustomed to in Europe. They were, in a sense, granted a clean slate to mold and cultivate an existence purely their own. There were positives and negatives, and these dichotomies would present themselves during their tenure.

Civil War Landscape in Texas and Internal Division

Internal tensions were already drawing ever-closer to their apex, when the Germans began entering the country in the later 1840s. The Germans had been prompted years earlier to move to Texas. This was largely a response to a letter by G. A. Scherpf called *Entstehungsgeschichte und gegenwärtiger Zustand des neuen, unabhängigen Staates Texas* (History and current state of the new, independent State of Texas) in 1841, in which he sold Texas as a land of unlimited opportunities.⁹ With the news of this vast land of opportunity floating about in Germany for seven years, and only becoming more appealing after the failed revolution, the Fortyeighters sailed to Texas to establish their new lives.

The Freethinkers (*Freidenker*), as they were known in Germany, came to be known as the Fortyeighters in the United States. Before they left Germany, they were a part of a radical group, which was largely responsible for the rioting that took place in Germany's major urban centers:

...this Freethinking group of intellectuals was active in a political action group called the 'Democratic Left.' The most prestigious of this group were those belonging to a fraternity known as the 'Society of Forty,' so named from the size of their membership. They demanded that the dictatorial monarchies be abolished and that constitutional governments be established.¹⁰

Not only were these individuals rebelling against monarchism, but also what was for them a product of these oppressive monarchies; religion. The Freethinkers were champions "of democracy and freedom from religion," and

⁷Davitt Publications, German American Corner: German Achievements in America 12, accessed July 03, 2017, <http://www.germanheritage.com/Publications/cronau/cronau12.html>.

⁸Ibid.

⁹LOUIS E. BRISTER, "ADELSVEREIN," BRISTER, LOUIS E., June 08, 2010, accessed July 05, 2017, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/ufa01>.

¹⁰Edwin E. Scharf, "'Freethinkers' Of the Early Texas Hill Country," Freethinkers of the Early Texas Hill Country, April 1998, accessed July 05, 2017, <https://ffrf.org/legacy/fitoday/1998/april98/scharf.html>.

“were fleeing primarily from political and religious tyranny.” They saw the United States Constitution as a beacon of freedom, and they “openly attacked tyranny, social injustice, superstition, and ignorance.”¹¹

In a critical essay by Stanley S. McGowen, when on the subject of the German Freethinkers and where religion intersects with their beliefs, he quoted a “descendent of these original settlers,” and they had this to say:

The freethinker that chose Comfort [where roughly half of the Fourtyeighters ended up settling] had more pressing things to do than read the bible on Sunday or in the evening by flickering lights... Those that wished to remain with the church settled in Fredericksburg, and those that wished to be free of any religion settled in Comfort.¹²

The new German settlers quickly gained their footing on the Texas frontier, showing their willingness to create an existence that was befitting to them and their way of life. “They quickly learned to clear land; build cabins, cabinets, wagons, and fences; cut trees; split shingles; shoe horses; distill wine; roll cigars; hunt and fish; and raise corn, cotton, tobacco and cattle.” Not only was learning to live off the land paramount for their existence, but they held education in such high esteem, they built schools and libraries to educating their children. They educated their children to be independent and self-reliant, and with minds free of prejudice.¹³

Free of prejudice is a key statement, because it shines a light on the issue that lies at the heart of the civil war and on the Texas Frontier. These accomplished individuals, with college degrees were well versed in Latin, which was considered the language of the elite in the old country. Usually leaned individuals would conduct lectures in Latin, and discuss the important issues of the day in Latin as well. This was no different in Texas. Scharf asserted, “their meetings were conducted in Latin or Greek, mystifying their neighbors and creating the name ‘Latin Colonies’ for their settlement areas. Even Large numbers of friendly Comanches would observe these sessions in bewilderment through the open windows and doors.”¹⁴

By signing a treaty with the Comanche on May 9, 1847, it was evident they had carved out a niche on the Texas frontier and could live in relative peace with one of the most menacing tribes of Native Americans in Texas. John O. Meusebach, the Commissary General of the German Immigration Company, formed a treaty with the Comanche, which allowed for safe passage of both parties into each party’s lands without the threat of retaliation. Not only was there peace between them, the treaty also garnered friendship between the groups.¹⁵

This brings us to the crux of the dissent, which ultimately deteriorated into physical confrontation. Before the arrival of the Fortyeighters, the German immigrants who were already here had a fundamental disagreement with slavery in a general sense. In Gilbert Giddings Benjamin’s influential work, *The Germans in Texas a Study in Immigration*, he expressed this sentiment, in regards to Germans on the subject of slavery: “The Germans by disposition and training were opposed to slavery. They considered it an evil and felt that it lessened the value of their own labor.” Not only did they think it lessened the value of their own labor, but there was largely no need for slave labor in West Texas. The major planters chose not to settle that area for various reasons. Because the area was near the Mexican border, it presented them with the problems of slaves fleeing to Mexico, or being taken by invading Native American tribes. The most important reason was, “it was also a long distance from a market, making the culture of cotton less profitable.”¹⁶

¹¹LOUIS E. BRISTER, "ADELSVEREIN," BRISTER, LOUIS E., June 08, 2010, accessed July 05, 2017, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/ufa01>.

¹²Edwin E. Scharf, ""Freethinkers" Of the Early Texas Hill Country," Freethinkers of the Early Texas Hill Country, April 1998, accessed July 05, 2017, <https://ffrf.org/legacy/ftoday/1998/april98/scharf.html>.

¹³Edwin E. Scharf, ""Freethinkers" Of the Early Texas Hill Country," Freethinkers of the Early Texas Hill Country, April 1998, accessed July 05, 2017, <https://ffrf.org/legacy/ftoday/1998/april98/scharf.html>.

¹⁴Edwin E. Scharf, ""Freethinkers" Of the Early Texas Hill Country," Freethinkers of the Early Texas Hill Country, April 1998, accessed July 05, 2017, <https://ffrf.org/legacy/ftoday/1998/april98/scharf.html>.

¹⁵"Meusebach–Comanche Treaty," Wikipedia, February 22, 2016, accessed July 05, 2017, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meusebach%E2%80%9993Comanche_Treaty#cite_note-20.

¹⁶Gilbert Giddings Benjamin, *The Germans in Texas: a study in immigration* (Santa Maria, CA: Janaway Publishing, 2010). Pp. 90-91.

In tracing the census' from 1850 to 1860, Benjamin postulated, there were very few slaves in the German settlements who belonged to Germans: "If we take into consideration the fact that many of these may have been free negroes and that those who were not may have been owned by Americans, it shows that very few Germans, if any, were possessors of slaves."¹⁷

When the Freethinkers arrived, they wasted virtually no time disseminating their beliefs: "The revolutionists of '48 brought a new element into the State. To many of them slavery was abhorrent." In a recorded statement, representative of the consensus they had in regards to slavery, they had this to say:

It is not to be believed that European democrats, who have suffered exile for their social theories, would at once abandon them, and, by fraternizing with an aristocracy of slave proprietors, belie here every principle for which they had struggled at home.¹⁸

A pivotal moment in this developing crisis was in 1854, when the German settlers gathered for their annual state convention called *Saengerfest*. This was a festival usually held for German singing groups to gather and be merry, but this gathering had had a clandestine agenda. The Freethinkers passed a collection of subversive resolutions, not limited to:

that laws be enacted, so simple and intelligible, that there should be no need of lawyers,
the abolition of the grand jury,
the abolition of capital punishment,
the abolition of all temperance laws,
that people be taxed on the level of income--the greater the income, the greater the tax,
that there should be no religious instruction in schools and no preachers could be teachers,
the abolition of laws respecting Sunday or days of prayer,
the abolition of the oath as a matter of religious sanction, and
that Congress should never be opened by prayer¹⁹

Not only was this openly attacking the very foundation of the American South, but to add to this, Dr. Carl Adolf Douai founded the *San Antonio Zeitung* (Newspaper) the year before and was propagating abolitionist rhetoric. This was much to the dismay of Texans, which resulted in heightened hostilities. Fear that these new German Freethinkers were forming secret societies with the purpose of destroying Southern institutions spread throughout Texas.²⁰ The *Zeitung*, with Douai at its helm, continued to spread abolitionist propaganda. During the *Saengerfest*,

...a number of the men assembled and formed a political party. The *San Antonio Ledger* states that the Germans asserted that they did not intend to form a German party, but 'to reject the abuses of the old party politics, the corruption of leading men and office-holders, and wished the Constitution of the United States to be really carried out...²¹

The Texans took these assemblies as a threat, and they responded with force, taking out their frustrations on Douai's Newspaper: "In 1855, his newspaper offices were destroyed by irate local citizens who opposed his views on freedom for all people."²² Not only did the Know Nothings (Pro-slavery proponents who were against immigration)

¹⁷Ibid. P. 95.

¹⁸Ibid. P. 96.

¹⁹Edwin E. Scharf, ""Freethinkers" Of the Early Texas Hill Country," Freethinkers of the Early Texas Hill Country, April 1998, accessed July 05, 2017, <https://ffrf.org/legacy/fttoday/1998/april98/scharf.html>.

²⁰Ibid.

²¹Gilbert Giddings Benjamin, *The Germans in Texas: a study in immigration* (Santa Maria, CA: Janaway Publishing, 2010). P. 97.

²²Edwin E. Scharf, ""Freethinkers" Of the Early Texas Hill Country," Freethinkers of the Early Texas Hill Country, April 1998, accessed July 05, 2017, <https://ffrf.org/legacy/fttoday/1998/april98/scharf.html>.

respond physically, but they also responded with their own publications in such Newspapers as the *New Orleans Picayune*. Douai, who was eventually removed from the position of editor and ran out of Texas, responded to a claim made by Jacob Waelder, a pro-slavery Northern German who was elected to the Texas House of Representatives. “He asserted that Waelder, in defending a man who had made an assault upon an anti-slavery German, stated that to kill a man who assailed the institution of slavery was no crime.”²³

The bickering between these parties lasted until Texas seceded from the Union. Upon secession, Texas released the *Declaration of Causes* on February 2, 1861. This document clearly outlined the reasons Texas held the position it did concerning slavery:

We hold as undeniable truths that the governments of the various States, and of the confederacy itself, were established exclusively by the white race, for themselves and their posterity; that the African race had no agency in their establishment; that they were rightfully held and regarded as an inferior and dependent race, and in that condition only could their existence in this country be rendered beneficial or tolerable.²⁴

The language used in the *Declaration of Causes*, was in stark contrast with the ideals of the Freethinkers. The Freethinkers did not retreat into hiding, nor quiet down their subversive rhetoric and actions, after Texas seceded from the Union. On the contrary, the Freethinkers reacted to this action by the Texas government by sticking to their rigid idealism and not conforming to the whims of the Confederacy.

Reactionary Responses and the Showdown on the Nueces

It is commonplace, to respond violently – whether that violence be displayed verbally, or physically – when one interprets an action against them to be violent. Texas seceding from the Union, to perpetuate the peculiar institution (slavery), was in direct violation of the United States’ creed of liberty. The Freethinkers saw the act of seceding from the Union as an act of intentional subjugation of Enlightenment idealism, and by extension was a repudiation of the liberty they crossed the ocean to acquire:

Texas in the late 1840’s and 1850’s offered what any liberty-loving immigrant could ever hope to seek in the way of refuge far away from the oppressions of Europe. This indeed was the promised land of liberty that attracted the German Freethinkers to the United States. They strongly admired the ideals of the great American patriots: Washington, Jefferson, Paine, Adams, Madison, and Franklin.²⁵

The Civil War ripped apart the very fabric of the United States. This rift reached every state, and even the German enclaves of Texas. This gave rise to “the most controversial organization established by the German Unionists...” This group of Germans “consisted of both political and military branches. In June 1861 a large group of these pro-Union settlers met surreptitiously and organized the Union Loyal League.”²⁶ This came in the wake of the Confederate Conscription Act, which was passed in April of 1862.²⁷ The German Unionists responded by actively opposing the Confederacy. This prompted Col. Henry E. McCulloch, commander of the Western Sub-District of Texas, to report “that German Unionists were openly celebrating federal victories and organizing military companies ‘well armed with shotguns, rifles, and pistols, with plenty of ammunition.’ He declared that martial law ‘would soon be necessary’

²³Gilbert Giddings Benjamin, *The Germans in Texas: a study in immigration* (Santa Maria, CA: Janaway Publishing, 2010). Pp. 104-105.

²⁴“DECLARATION OF CAUSES: February 2, 1861 A declaration of the causes which impel the State of Texas to secede from the Federal Union. .” DECLARATION OF CAUSES: February 2, 1861 A declaration of the causes which impel the State of Texas to secede from the Federal Union. | TSLAC, accessed July 06, 2017, <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ref/abouttx/secession/2feb1861.html>.

²⁵Edwin E. Scharf, “Freethinkers” Of the Early Texas Hill Country,” *Freethinkers of the Early Texas Hill Country*, April 1998, accessed July 06, 2017, <https://ffrf.org/legacy/ftoday/1998/april98/scharf.html>.

²⁶Stanley S. McGowen. “Battle or Massacre?: The Incident on the Nueces, August 10, 1862.” *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 104, No. 1 (Jul., 2000), p. 67.

²⁷“1862: Fiery Trial - Part 1,” 1862: Fiery Trial | TSLAC, accessed July 06, 2017, https://www.tsl.texas.gov/exhibits/civilwar/1862_1.html.

and began to organize a force to crush ‘the malignant acts of these cowardly traitors.’”²⁸ Martial law was implemented on May 30, 1862, “due primarily to perceived threats in the Texas Hill Country.”²⁹

There was intentional subterfuge on the part of the ULL, concerning their growth in numbers and their heightened militarism. McGowen’s intense research on this subject proved the hidden intent of the ULL:

Facts establish that the Unionist organized the league to assist in restoring the federal government to power in the state. If force became necessary, league militia members were fully prepared to use it to achieve their goals. When militia members realized that Union forces would not invade central Texas, and the league could not overthrow the secessionist government, the league reprioritized their intent – attempting to prevent the forced enrollment of Unionists in the Confederate army. The fact remained that the Union Loyal League’s purpose was exactly what its name stated, restoring federal authority in Texas by force if necessary.³⁰

Things in the Hill Country escalated quickly. Not only was the ULL open to taking violent action against the Confederacy, but also against its own people:

...an article translated from German and reprinted in the *German American Annual* (and may be considered as ‘friendly’ to the Unionist) states, ‘In Gillespie County... there was a secret organization in behalf of the Union [Union Loyal League], and it is stated that any member who became a traitor would have been shot at sight.’³¹

The ULL naturally received disapproval from moderate Unionists, like “The Gillespie Rifles.” The Gillespie Rifles were a “home guard company, commanded by Charles Nimitz.”

This group “passed a resolution denouncing the Unionist acts of three men – Philip Braubach, the Gillespie County Sheriff; Ferdinand W. Doebbler; and Rudolf Radcliff.”³²

These men, particularly Braubach and Doebbler, gave the moderate Unionists and the Confederacy many reasons to retaliate against them. Doebbler published an article in the *New York Democrat* “stating that the Texas Hill Country and western part of the state could be retaken by two hundred men.” However, more radical members of the ULL engaged in “intimidation” tactics against other Germans. “Doebbler’s saloon became a favored meeting place for the Unionists. Here they made speeches and threatened anyone who supported the Confederacy. “Doebbler’s saloon became a favored meeting place for the Unionists. Here they made speeches and threatened anyone who supported the Confederacy.”³³

Philip Braubach, who was responsible for carrying out the law and keeping the peace, put his loyalty to the Union ahead of his responsibilities as a peace officer. He also engaged in threats as well, and he carried them out:

Several Unionists carried out these threats by ruthlessly beating a man named Basse because of his support for the Confederacy. Philip Braubach... did very little against the perpetrators of such threats or actions. Not only did he fail to stop any threats, he participated in the intimidation of anyone who showed any desire to support the Confederate cause. For example, Carl Schwartz told friends he planned to join Captain van der Stucken’s Company C of Joseph Taylor’s Eighth Texas Cavalry battalion. When Braubach discovered the planned enlistment he told Schwartz that if he went through with his plans he would arrest him on an outstanding warrant. Schwarz enlisted and Braubach immediately arrested and jailed him.³⁴

²⁸Stanley S. McGowen. “Battle or Massacre?: The Incident on the Nueces, August 10, 1862.” *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 104, No. 1 (Jul., 2000), p.68.

²⁹Edwin E. Scharf, “Freethinkers” Of the Early Texas Hill Country,” *Freethinkers of the Early Texas Hill Country*, April 1998, accessed July 06, 2017, <https://ffrf.org/legacy/ftoday/1998/april98/scharf.html>.

³⁰Stanley S. McGowen. “Battle or Massacre?: The Incident on the Nueces, August 10, 1862.” *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 104, No. 1 (Jul., 2000), p.69.

³¹*Ibid.* P. 70.

³²Stanley S. McGowen. “Battle or Massacre?: The Incident on the Nueces, August 10, 1862.” *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 104, No. 1 (Jul., 2000), p. 70.

³³*Ibid.* P. 71.

³⁴*Ibid.* Pp. 71-72.

The ULL Threatened to kill van der Stucken for his Confederate sympathies. They also threatened to hang anyone who was loyal to the Confederacy, and “this technique was reported to all six counties of the Hill Country.” They also established an “underground communication system, not only between themselves, but with officials in the United States. League members instituted an assortment of courier methods between the various Unionist groups in Fredericksburg, Comfort, Sisterdale, Boerne, Castroville, and Mexico.”³⁵ The acts were openly treasonous. The ULL did not stop there. They pressed until the Texas Rebels could not ignore them any longer and were sent to suppress their insurrectionist sentiments.

The final straw for the Texas army was when they learned of a plan for the Unionists to free prisoners to increase their numbers:

The Unionists developed two contingency plans. If Union forces invaded Texas, the league militia prepared to free the prisoners and both prisoners and militia would join the invading force. The second plan involved freeing the prisoners, attacking local Confederate units, or fleeing to Mexico.³⁶

The ULL operated up to this point under the guise of ambiguity. Because of their initial creed of nonviolence and their claim to stay out of the war, they were largely looked over. But, “because of an abundance of information received from reliable citizens the Confederate government in Austin doubted the league’s professed purpose of nonviolence and considered it an internal threat, if not an open rebellion.” The Confederate government sent Capt. James Duff to the area. James Duff was known, shortly after his arrival, as the “Butcher of Fredericksburg.” He was accompanied by First LT. Colin D. McRae, who played a major role in the confrontation by the Nueces River. McRae was commander of the Second Texas Mounted Rifles.³⁷

Duff was the officer who declared martial law in Gillespie County. He took control of the region, but he ULL would not acquiesce to his authority. On July 5, 1862, they executed one of Duffs’ informants, “as a traitor,” and was “actually moving into the second phase of an insurgent war/military action against antiestablished government.” Duff answered this notion of aggression by the ULL, and crushed them:

Duff deemed the situation inordinately serious, arrested several local citizens for Unionist activities, and subsequently executed two German immigrants whom he considered troublemakers.³⁸

Because of Duff’s violent suppression of the region, about eighty members of the ULL “assembled on Turtle Creek...with an estimated sixty-one deciding to flee to Mexico.” After learning of the Germans plan to flee in to Mexico, “Duff dispatched a detachment of ninety-six men...but placed McRae in command...” McRae’s men found the trail the Germans left. Some of the Germans grew suspicious, thinking they were being followed. This was an astute sense, but Tegener, who was in command of the fleeing Germans, “scoffed at these reports and directed the immigrants to camp on a small, grass-covered prairie encircled by a scattering of cedar trees. He posted only two guards.”³⁹ This is where the crux of the tension was realized.

After the Texans found them, McRae split the battalion into two sections; one commanded by himself, and the other by Homsley, one of his men.

Both squads crept as silently as possible to within fifty yards of the German perimeter...Two Germans wandering from the Unionist camp in the darkness stumbled upon Homsley’s concealed force. The roar of a single rifle shot shattered the night’s stillness and silenced the chirping insects. Without orders a Confederate had fired, instantly killing one of the unsuspecting men and prematurely signaling the attack.⁴⁰

³⁵Stanley S. McGowen. “Battle or Massacre?: The Incident on the Nueces, August 10, 1862.” *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 104, No. 1 (Jul., 2000), pp. 71-72.

³⁶Ibid. P. 72.

³⁷Ibid. P. 73.

³⁸Stanley S. McGowen. “Battle or Massacre?: The Incident on the Nueces, August 10, 1862.” *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 104, No. 1 (Jul., 2000), pp. 75-76.

³⁹Ibid.Pp. 76-77.

⁴⁰Ibid. P. 78.

Thus, began the altercation. The Confederates were disorganized from that point, which caused them to fail at a clean entry into the German camp. This allowed the Germans to gather themselves – most were asleep, because it was 1:00 A.M. when the Texans mounted the attack – and fight back.

Sansom, a survivor of the battle and one of the men first fired upon, reported that the Confederates made a brief charge, which was ‘gallantly repulsed.’ The Germans then tried to force their way through Homsley’s troops but were thrown back themselves.⁴¹

The Germans thought they were fighting a force of two hundred men. This affected the psyche of some of the Germans, prompting twenty-three of them to flee into the darkness, leaving the rest to face the Texans on their own: “about ninety confronting between thirty and thirty-five unwounded defenders.”⁴²

Subsequently, McRae ordered one last advance, which “was executed in fine style, resulting in the complete rout and flight of the enemy.” The controversy over the word “massacre” derives from this decisive moment as well: When the Texans charged toward the camp the defenders made a determined stand and, in the confusion of bellowing rifles, yelling men, barking pistols, and choking powder smoke, killed two and wounded nineteen more of their attackers.⁴³

McRae, himself, was shot twice during the battle. Nevertheless, the Confederates pushed through German fire and defeated the immigrants. When McRae was shot, Lt. Edwin Lilly assumed command. Under him, macabre acts of violence took place. R. H Williams, a member of the Confederate force, “attempted to care for the wounded prisoners and bring them water.” Even though Williams tried to help the Germans, Lilly had other plans: he and some of his men “carried or dragged nine to eleven of the wounded Germans into the thick cedar trees...and his Partisan Rangers shot them in the head. Williams called Lilly ‘the remorseless, treacherous villain!’”⁴⁴

The Germans fought gallantly, but was not able to bring their plans to fruition. They were not honored in death by the Confederate soldiers, who “buried their dead in a long trench but left the Germans to the buzzards and wolves.” It was 1865 when they were finally buried, put to rest in Comfort, TX. Thirty-Six German immigrants were killed that day, including the executed prisoners. They wounded, and killed, at least twenty-one Confederate soldiers.⁴⁵ “The January 20, 1866 edition of Harper’s Weekly reported that the burial ceremony included a military honor salute without any religious fanfare.”⁴⁶

Conclusion

The Enlightenment created a generation of dreamers. Those dreamers were suppressed by monarchs and feudalism, until Napoleon embarked on mission to subjugate the whole of Europe. That notion amalgamated a fractured German Confederation with surrounding kingdoms to stop Napoleon. This victory imbued the people with the leverage to demand their natural right to freedom. When their demands and agitations were stifled by the oppressive forces of their monarchs, they revolted in violent revolution. The revolution of 1848 failed, and the Freethinking revolutionaries were exiled, and chose to settle in Texas, having been coerced by large tracks of land and freedom to live as they saw fit.

In their short time in Texas, these Fortyeighters contributed, greatly, to the Hill Country of Texas; whether it be agriculture, education, credible businesses, and peace with raiding Comanche. What they were not at peace with was

⁴¹Stanley S. McGowen. “Battle or Massacre?: The Incident on the Nueces, August 10, 1862.” *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 104, No. 1 (Jul., 2000), pp. 77-78.

⁴²Ibid. Pp. 78-79.

⁴³Ibid. P. 79.

⁴⁴Stanley S. McGowen. “Battle or Massacre?: The Incident on the Nueces, August 10, 1862.” *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 104, No. 1 (Jul., 2000), pp. 79-80.

⁴⁵Ibid. Pp. 80, 83.

⁴⁶Edwin E. Scharf, “Freethinkers” *Of the Early Texas Hill Country*, Freethinkers of the Early Texas Hill Country, April 1998, accessed July 06, 2017, <https://ffrf.org/legacy/fttoday/1998/april98/scharf.html>.

the notion of slavery. There loathing of slavery developed into subversive, abolitionist rhetoric, which clashed with the planters, and other proponents of slavery. Tensions continued to rise, until they devolved into public disputes in prominent newspapers, whereby violent rhetoric became commonplace.

In 1861, Texas published its *Declaration of Causes* for secession. The Fortyeighters disagreed with the notion of secession, because slavery was in direct violation of the notion of liberty. Texas passed the first Conscription Act of 1862, and they refused the call. They responded by forming the Union Loyal League, which attempted to restore the Union to power in the state of Texas by force if necessary. The constant agitation, violence, and surreptitious communication with the North brought the Confederacy down on them. The Fortyeighters refused to join the Confederacy, even after they inflicted violence upon them. This prompted the immigrants to flee to Mexico, where they were intercepted on the Nueces River in the dark of night. There a battle ensued. The Germans fought bravely, but were defeated. The Confederates left their remains on the bank of the river for four years until they were found and buried. The “Treue der Union” monument resides in Comfort, TX, and remains the only monument dedicated to the Union in the whole of the South.

The Fortyeighters were a shining example of individualism, and the embodiment of Enlightenment idealism. They were unapologetically in disagreement with slavery, and they chose to leave the United States, rather than live under the oppressive government of the Confederacy. Even when confronted by a superior, hostile force, they went to their graves singing, “*laszt uns unser Leben so teuer wie moglich verkaufen* [Let us sell our lives as dearly as we can].”⁴⁷ By them being adamant about upholding what they perceived liberty to be in a country foreign to them, they proved the American Civil War was not an American issue, but a human rights issue.

⁴⁷Stanley S. McGowen. “Battle or Massacre?: The Incident on the Nueces, August 10, 1862.” *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 104, No. 1 (Jul., 2000), P. 84.

Journey to a Better Life in Texas, Part I of II

By Gesine Tschiedel Koether, *The Fayette County Record*, November 22, 2016

Hundreds of thousands of immigrants left Europe for the United States in the 1800s. They were seeking economic opportunity, religious and political freedom and the chance to join family members who had gone ahead. At least three Fayette County families traveled to Galveston, Texas from Bremen, Germany in November of 1847 aboard the sailing ship *Franziska*. Whether they knew each other prior to leaving Bremen, Germany is not known.

Their trip began in early November 1847 when they arrived in Bremen with their few personal possessions, which included a large traveling trunk per family filled with family heirlooms, clothing, tools, and such. Perhaps a few food items were tucked away for the trip. It would take days to load all the items brought by the passengers onto the *Franziska*. The ship most likely was a packet ship carrying mail, cargo and people. Whether they were rich or poor, most crossed in the steerage area which was located below the decks. Whether people were young or old could also determine how successful they were in making it to Texas. Due to conditions varying from ship to ship, the steerage was normally crowded, dark and damp.

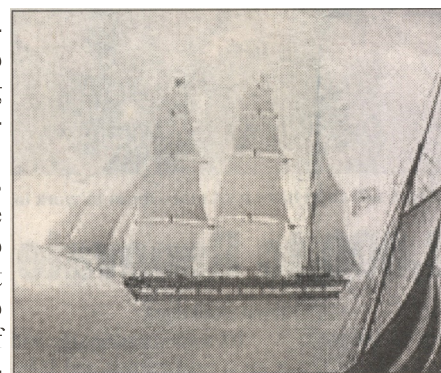


This caused additional stress to those very young and those somewhat older.

The winds provided the power needed to make for a swift crossing, but also were the cause of stormy seas causing seasickness. A typical journey would take from

six to eight weeks if they embarked in the right season for favoring winds. With just the right steering winds, a number of rain showers for refilling the water barrels, and favorable fishing for fish to eat, the journey would have been a true success. However, the journey across the Atlantic rarely was without peril.

Sanitation could present problems. Some passengers brought insects such as lice and bed bugs, others might



Bark *Franziska*, built in 1845.

Photo courtesy of Ancestry.com

have boarded with a common cold or even a communicable disease such as measles. Now close quarters would mean that the spread of illness would be more likely and potentially deadly. Many people, especially children, died from dehydration and extreme weakness resulting from seasickness, dysentery and cholera. Epidemic typhus from body lice infected with rickettsia from rats and mice was prevalent as well.

Feeding both sailors and passengers during the long voyage across the Atlantic to Galveston would have been a challenge. With no refrigeration, the most perishable foods, like cabbages and potatoes, would have been eaten first. Dried, salted, smoked and pickled meats would have been the best for preserving what proteins they needed. Wooden barrels would have been packed with these meats along with other staples

such as fresh water, flour, salt and perhaps some sugar. Sadly, the food would often become infested with weevils or infiltrated by rats and mice, causing a devastating loss.

Food would need to be rationed during the voyage as it was hard to determine how long the entire trip would take. Oftentimes, the mid-day meal consisted of a greasy, watery soup made with a few vegetables when they were still available, lentils and small portions of stringy, salted meat. Thin semolina gruel, hard biscuits and coffee were usually served for both breakfast and supper. Successful fishing and rainfall became a blessing when supplies of food and water ran low.

(to be continued)

Journey to a Better Life in Texas, Continued Part II of II

Wine was a precious commodity aboard the immigrant ships in the 19th century, as it was considered both a medicinal product and a stable source of fluid that did not spoil. Another valuable commodity found on board ship was vinegar. Vinegar could be used for cleaning, disinfecting and treating lice, warts and ear infections, as well as a natural preservative. Vinegar was and is not a "cure-all" potion and can be potentially harmful in large doses, but for the most part it had a healthy effect on board ships.

The Franziska left in early November and arrived on Christmas Day, December 25, 1847 after a turbulent eight week voyage. It most likely took a few or more days to dock and unload the passengers to be cleared by immigration in Galveston.

On board were George and Louisa Fricke, Carl August and Emilie Bauer, and Johann Nicholas and Fredricka (second wife) Henniger, as well as their five children. Sadly it appears that one infant girl of the Henniger family did not survive the trip.

With the clearance of immigration, all three of these families found themselves on a difficult journey across the Texas Gulf Coast marshes and bayous in the dead of winter. With their possessions loaded onto ox cart and bound for the German settlements inland, they most likely longed for homes back in Germany.

They were repeatedly warned of the difficulties and hardships they would find ahead, but they continued their journey. The 1850 census shows that George and Louisa Fricke eventually made it to Round Top and lists George as a farmer; they ultimately had seven children. August and Emilie made it to Spring Branch outside of Houston and were the driving force

for many of the Carl Bauer family immigrating to Texas and eventually to Round Top where the Bauers played a huge role in the building of homes, churches and schools in that community. Nicholas and Fredricka Henniger made it to the Shelby area where they farmed and reared the five children who came with them and the additional two born in Texas.

All of these families, like so many others before and after them, left a legacy. They went on to be friends with the passing Indians, built homes, mills and schools, as well as organized and supported their churches. It is important to remember they also were almost immediately thrust into the role of defending their new found country in its time of need.

Whether these families knew each other when they boarded the Franziska that cold day in November is not important.

After eight weeks at sea under such harsh conditions and another journey across land on foot and ox cart, these families knew each other. I cannot prove if their paths ever crossed after leaving the ship, but know that they shared common memories of enduring their first new adventure together in 1847 aboard the Franziska and then the adventures in their new homes in Texas. It was a journey to a better life in Texas that they sought and found.

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"Henniger Family ", *Texas Historical Marker No. 5015002438 Henniger, Monroe Richard. "Nicholaus Henniger and His Descendants (1794-1964)"; Austin, Texas, 1964*

Changes in Christmas and New Year Traditions for a Family of German Immigrants to Texas in 1913

By Frederic (Fritz) Weigl

When immigrants moved from Germany to Texas they gave up many things to realize the improved opportunities they envisioned here. They gave up close relations with their extended families and friends back in Germany. They gave up their familiar homes and surroundings. To some extent they also gave up their language, traditions, and customs. For some it was almost as difficult to adjust to the new Texas traditions and customs as it was to find work and make new homes. The loss of the old customs was perhaps most poignant during Christmas and New Year, a time when the family and friends they left behind traditionally came together to celebrate.

In October, 1913, my grandparents, Fortunat and Anna Weigl¹, left Bad Aibling, a small Bavarian town at the foot of the Alps just east of Munich, and emigrated to Austin, Texas, with their two young sons, Fortunat Lee and Herbert aged 4 and 3 respectively. They left behind a strong tradition of holiday celebrations and customs that they needed to replace with new traditions for their young family in Texas. In effect they needed to build a bridge from the old German traditions they had experienced to new ones more compatible with what their sons' new friends in school experienced. The result was an interesting amalgamation.

It is noteworthy that the Weigls were devising their new customs against the unfolding backdrop of World War 1. Fortunat had served his mandatory two years in the German army a few years before leaving Bad Aibling and was subject to recall as part of the reserve. Late in 1914, less than a year after the Weigl's arrived in Texas but after the outbreak of war in Europe, he traveled to the German Consulate in Galveston to see if his return was required. Fortunately it was not. Did the war influence the way the Weigls decided to transition their holiday celebrations? It's hard to say. No doubt the developing war, making communication with Germany more difficult, intensified any feelings of isolation the Weigls experienced in Texas. Once the United States joined the war in April, 1917, there was certainly increased social pressure to drop any German customs and traditions that might make one appear disloyal to their adopted country. As an enemy alien, Fortunat lost his job as a janitor in the Austin post office. But there were many people of German extraction in Austin, so German language and customs were not that unusual. There is nothing in our family records, nor did I ever hear anything in my many talks with Fortunat about our family history in the 1960s, to indicate that the war had any overriding influence on the celebrations, customs, and traditions the Weigls adopted.

During our own Christmas gathering in 1974 my father, Herbert Weigl, Sr.², made a tape recording in which he described the old Christmas and New Year celebrations left behind in Bad Aibling and the new traditions the Weigls replaced them with in Austin. Following are excerpts from that recording. I have changed the original spoken wording only where necessary to convey the intended meaning or to remove extraneous information.

Christmas Celebrations

Herbert Weigl, Sr.: As always about this time of the year, we ... have ... to think of the Christmases gone by, and [I] start thinking about the early Christmases that I can remember in 1917 and 1918, when we lived in a little house on East 32nd Street. Things were a little bit different than they are now. In those days, most people didn't have any electric lights. There weren't any radios. There were many things that it's kind of hard to imagine to be without, but Christmas always started ... about ten days or a week before the actual Christmas Day. It started with Pop³ bringing home fruit and things from the store that mysteriously disappeared in a closet somewhere. The front room was sealed off, the window curtains were drawn tight, [and] the doors were locked. The Sunday before Christmas, a huge Christmas tree was usually gotten, and the last we ever got to enter into the front room was when that tree was placed in a corner on a stand. Then the doors were locked, and the children were not allowed to go into that room any more. All we could do is smell all the good odors and things that came out through under the doors and through the keyholes. We'd sit and wait. Another thing is, in one of the windows in the room where we were still allowed to go, there was a little paper Santa Claus⁴ placed in each corner on the window sill, and each day when we had been good,



Photo of the Weigl family taken at Christmas, 1913, in front of a rented house they shared in east Austin with another immigrant family before moving out to East 32nd Street a few years later. The Weigls had been in Austin less than two months when the photo was taken.

¹Fortunat (1884-1973) and Anna Schmidtschneider Weigl (1890-1955) were both born in Bad Aibling where they married in 1909.

²Herbert Weigl, Sr., was born in Bad Aibling, Germany, in 1910. He died in 1977.

³"Pop" is Fortunat Weigl, who founded the F. Weigl Iron Works in Austin in 1922. A short history of his business was published in the Journal of the GTHS in Spring, 2016.

⁴Herbert uses "Santa Claus" and "St. Nickolas" almost interchangeably in parts of this recording. It is unclear which he means here, so I left it as recorded.

he'd be moved forward a little bit. The idea was that if he didn't get across the window by Christmas [Eve] night, then Ruprecht would visit us. And Ruprecht was a character of his own, which I'm going to explain later.

Anyway, when the Christmas Eve finally came, about dark, Pop usually took us for a long walk. The long walk was from East 32nd Street toward 19th Street, which was nearer the center of town. 32nd Street was the city limits and was nothing other than just a buggy trail ... between the mesquite trees at that time. ... 19th Street was where the school house was, the old John B. Winn School, where we had just started school in 1917, and just opposite from the school house, on the other corner, on 19th and East Avenue [now IH35], was a small saloon. And this saloon dispensed beer late ... into Christmas Eve, also into New Year's Eve. The idea was to walk to the store and get a small can full of beer. This can held about 2 ½ quarts or thereabouts. That was part of the Christmas celebration. During the long walk, it was story-telling time. Pop Weigl usually told of the old times of Christmas in the old hometown⁵, and how things were at the time when he was a boy, and how things were done in the old hometown. The real purpose of the walk, of course, was to give Christkindl, the Christmas angel, a chance to decorate the Christmas tree in the front room, which was closed up. And we could never tell for sure whether the long walk had been long enough, whether Christkindl had got through. And then there was always the chance, of course, that Christkindl could miss us, just like it is today when Santa Claus⁴ might miss some kids.

Anyway, to get back to the stories about Christmas in the old hometown in Bad Aibling, Germany, in the 1890's or thereabouts, it was still a little bit different from what we had then. Christmas there actually started on December the sixth, when the children were visited by either St. Nickolas or Ruprecht. Ruprecht and St. Nickolas were a team. St. Nickolas would visit the good boys and girls, and Ruprecht would visit the bad boys and girls. St. Nickolas was very much like the present-day Santa Claus, only that his costume didn't contain quite so much red and white. It was a little bit plainer, but he was always a jolly sort of person. He was rather heavy in weight, and he always carried a big sack. ...

His counterpart, Ruprecht, he was more of a masculine type of person. He ... always had kind of a tight fitting, form-fitting suit, very much like a chimney sweep. ... And he always wore and carried a long, heavy chain. And this chain, when it was dragged [on] the ground, made a loud rattling noise, which could be heard probably a city block or more. The children were not supposed to peek out to the street through which St. Nickolas and Ruprecht would parade. Ruprecht would usually go on one side of the street, and St. Nickolas on the other. So, from the noises that you heard on the street, it was kind of confusing. You were never sure just where Ruprecht or ... St. Nickolas stopped, but both of them carried a small bell, and it was usually pretty safe for the children to rush to the front door [when they heard the bell] and open the door, outside of which they had placed on each side their plates in order, usually the youngest one closest to the door and the older one further away Somehow or other, Nickolas or Ruprecht always knew whose plate was which. And the amounts of goodies that were piled into each plate, of course, were dependent on how good the child had been up until the actual visit.

Ruprecht is actually a Bavarian slang [word] for "pull hard". Translated into ... English it would mean, "pull hard." He got that name because when he actually made contact with kids, he mostly grabbed their hair and gave a hard jerk, pulled hard on their hair. Of course, he had other privileges, too. He could turn the kid upside down and paddle the rear, or he could do almost anything that was necessary. This usually happened by surprise. It was done after the bell had sounded with the all clear. The child rushing to the door would rush out, and instead of finding the [area] all clear, Ruprecht would still be hovering around, and the child would be grabbed immediately. And one of the two things, either a slight tug on the hair or a heavier tug on the hair, depending on how bad the child had been, was executed right then and there, to the embarrassment of all the other kids that were looking out of the door there at the same time. Of course, if Ruprecht was still in sight and St. Nickolas, then the doors were immediately closed, and the kids went back inside. That was part of the custom.

In our own home, as we watched our particular Santa Claus⁶ march across the window pane... [there] only being two of us, there were two windows. Actually there were three windows. There was my little sister, too,⁷ but she was a little bit younger than we. Her Santa Claus always made pretty good progress, but ours sometimes stayed at one place. But, toward the end of the Christmas season, or just before Christmas, he usually made bigger jumps than he did before. I don't know how this came about, but most likely, it was because we happened to be better at the time just before Christmas. If we knew that our Santa Claus had a far way to go yet, our behavior usually improved.



Drawing of St. Nickolas from an 1890 brochure advertising wine. His costume is brownish drab, much like a monk's cowl.

⁵Bad Aibling

⁶As described earlier, these were paper or cardboard cutout figures placed on the window sills. The idea was for them to start at one side of the window and move toward the other side with their progress determined by the child's good behavior. They needed to reach the goal by Christmas Eve for the child to get his presents and to avoid a visit from Ruprecht.

⁷Aloysia Katarina Weigl was born in Austin in 1915, but died in a diphtheria outbreak shortly before Christmas, 1919.

Anyway, by the time we'd get back from 19th Street on this long walk ... and incidentally those walks are the most impressive things that I can remember about Christmas yet. ... The stars were mostly clear. It was mostly good weather, and even if it wasn't ..., we still went, sometimes in the mist or in the rain, sometimes in the cold. And it kind of had that close-to-nature feeling, and ... there was a feeling in the air that can only come about when many people are thinking of celebrating the same thing. ... Well, if the weather was too bad and we walked too fast, somehow or other there was a kind of a signal where Pop would know whether Christkindl had been there. Christkindl was depicted as a blond-headed angel of a ... child, who always had a long, flowing gown, and she had the ability to go through walls and windows, and to fly, disappear, and so on Christmas was not so much a time of receiving toys. It was mostly a time of receiving those things that you had really wished for during the whole year, mostly clothes were the main gift at that time, and goodies ... that is cakes and candy, things like that, because ... cakes and candy were not part of the regular diet for most people. The meals were much simpler. Cakes and candy were something that people ate only ... when they had parties or on weekends, on Sunday. Therefore, Christmas, with a huge plate of cookies or cakes, was the exceptional thing.

And also ... one of the things that led up to this anticipation mostly was the smell in the kitchen. All these goodies and stuff had to be cooked on a wood stove, and we didn't have refrigeration. They couldn't be prepared too far ahead of time. They had to be cooked according to how long they would last. Certain types of bread and cookies would last longer than others. They would be baked first. The others would be baked later. The whole house was always smelling of spice and cookies and, most of all, fruit. Fruit and vegetables were something else that people didn't have in the house all the time. They were brought just before Christmas. The whole house began to smell different after Pop brought home, say maybe, a half a box of apples or a half a box of oranges and stored them somewhere. And us kids would get a big delight just going near that apple box and just taking a big sniff. And later on, [we smelled] the cookies, [and] mostly in our home, instead of the fruitcakes and the [other] things, it was a stollen [that we smelled], a Christmas stollen. That was actually a sweet bread with mostly nuts, and citrus rind, and orange rind, and raisins, and powdered sugar over the top. And in the days when the finances were not so good, the top of the stollen was covered with native nuts, and later, when we had a little extra money, it got covered with almonds, and walnuts, and other nuts like this. But the stollen was always a kind of a long loaf of bread, which had to be hand sliced with a knife, and it could be toasted on the hot stove on both sides. It was good plain, but, for the special occasions, it would be slightly toasted on each side, which gave it kind of a crust on each side yet too and gave it an extra good smell.

Well anyway, if we got home too soon, then we were led in through the back, and we had to patiently sit and wait in the back room until the little bell sounded in the front room⁸, because Christkindl was just like St. Nickolas, when it [she] was ready for the door to pop open and for us to enter the room, a little bell tinkled. And when the bell finally came, which sometimes seemed like it might have been several hours, we were led in procession, the oldest one first and the next one later and the youngest one last, into the door there, and the door would pop open, and, in the corner of the front room, the first thing we would see, of course, was the big Christmas tree. And it had burning candles on it. The ... houses didn't have electric lights, so electric lights were impossible, but the candles would all be burning. Each candle would be a slightly different color. The colors were always red and green and white and yellow, and the candle holders were special arrangements, which you'd clip onto the tree with a ... holder on it [a clip], and they'd have to be so placed that the flames wouldn't catch the branch above on top [on fire]. So instead of having a very full tree like is the practice now, we had a tree with some of the branches cut out so there would be room for the burning candles and for the balls to hang down. Preparing that tree was a big celebration the week before mostly, the Sunday before Christmas it was always. That was one of the things that the children were allowed to help in, to put the tree up. Well, of course, as soon as we saw the tree and beheld the beautiful lights, by that time the old Gramophone in the corner would start playing one particular record. This was an old-time record, and it was a woman singing "Silent Night, Holy Night," and she was quite famous at that time. It was Schumann-Heink⁹. It was always the same ... record, and none of us were allowed to make a dash toward our plates under the Christmas tree until Schumann-Heink got through with all three verses of "Silent Night, Holy Night" [in German]. That was part of the ceremony, and we all accepted that, and we practiced it all during that time, until we nearly became grown...

And the rest of Christmas Eve was usually spent in story telling, because the people in the old hometown in Germany, they went to midnight mass. It usually started about 11:30 and lasted until about 1 o'clock, and there, too, they split. Those that had children at home would go home and go to bed, and those that were young and childless usually went to a dance after mass. And the dance was usually (in a small town) only at one place, and they'd stay as long as as they'd last. And of course, some of them would make all night out of it. But practically everyone in the old hometown was Catholic, so between about 11:30 and 1 o'clock everybody would be in church¹⁰, and the ceremonies there, of course, w[ere] always one of the things that the older children and the young people also took part in and w[ere] part of the so-called Christmas celebration.

So, Christmas Day usually was a holiday for Dad. He didn't work on Christmas Day, but there w[ere] usually so many things to do around the house that it wasn't really that. But the children were given the privilege of eating all the cookies and cakes that they wanted. That was the one day, the one time, when food wasn't restricted, and the big

⁸According to Wikipedia, the ringing of a bell is a common way to begin Christmas Eve festivities when Christkindl officiates.

⁹Ernestine Schumann-Heink (1861-1936) was an operatic contralto singer.

thing on Christmas Day usually was that, no matter how we worked or what we did, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, we were all called together for the 4 o'clock coffee, on a special celebration. And it consisted of the family gathering around the table and coffee being served. And the difference between coffee on that day and any other day was that, family to get together and to usually talk about what had been accomplished during the past year and what the family hoped to accomplish through the next year, which was actually a build-up toward the New Year celebration, which my folks always considered more important, actually, than Christmas.

Christmas was always considered more of a children's festival and a gift-giving festival, while New Year was considered a turning point in history and the beginning of something new. It's the time to sit back and take notice of what you had done, to ... [think back on] what you had planned to do, and to see how the two actually jived with one another. It's not that Christmas was belittled in any way, it was very much like it is today. It was considered a very important thing in religion for one thing, in faith, and also the same things that are being stressed today were stressed then, love, family life, friendship, working together, helping those that needed help, and the theme was very much like it is now, if you help others, you also help yourself while helping them.

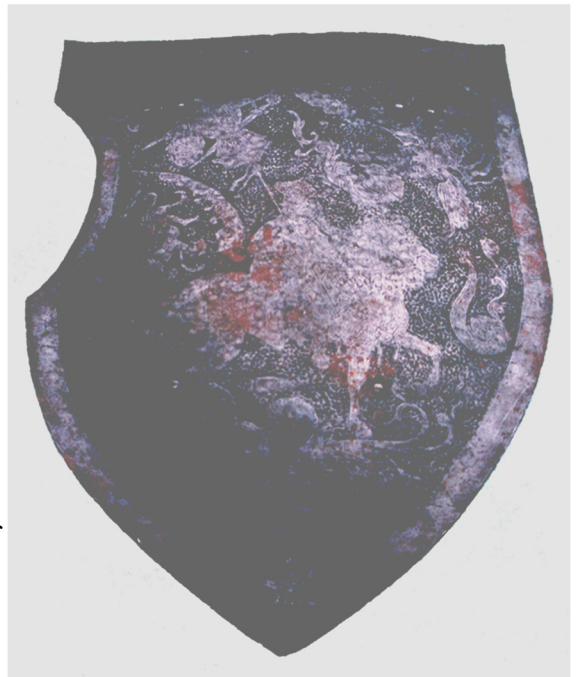
Another thing about the candles on Christmas Eve... they were only allowed to burn a short time, because ... part of the celebration was [that] during the Christmas week, which was always one week from Christmas to New Year, every night during that week those candles would be lit and let burn for a short while. [The candles weren't very big], and they had to last during that whole week. And on New Year's Eve, which was the other half of the celebration, so to speak, the candles were finally allowed to burn all the way down into the holder, and no matter how long it took that night

New Year Celebrations

Herbert Weigl, Sr.: In the old hometown, when Pop was young, his mother and dad belonged to a club which was known as the Ritterbund¹¹, and the Ritterbund was a group of people that had gotten together and did research on the Medieval times to see just how the knights, or the nobles of that period, actually lived and worked together. They formed this club, and in this club, the system was very much like nobility was practiced during the Middle Ages in that part of the country. You started in this club as a knave ... which gave you minor privileges, and you stepped up, step by step, until you finally became a knight. And what these people actually did the research on was how the festivities, or so-called parties or get-togethers, were conducted at that particular time. And in order to finance this organization and to have a purpose for the organization, this group was a theatrical group. They gave plays.

The club itself was not one of a kind. In fact, ... the countryside was divided into districts. Each district, very much like an independent school district of today, had a similar club, and it went state wide, and the theatrical groups in each particular club competed with one another as to the excellence of their plays and also to the amount of people that would attend these plays as they were presented. And the money from the plays was used to finance the club activities and also to buy the props and the costumes for the plays and the material that they needed to produce these plays. And whatever was left over was pooled into a fund, which was spent for a vacation fund for the entire group. It would be a group vacation for all the people that participated in this theater, once a year, with all the money that was left over from the money they made during the plays. And my grandfather¹², my Daddy's father, he was a big cog in this theatrical group. For one thing, he was quite a talker and also quite an actor, and it was his thing. He enjoyed it.

Another thing about the Ritterbund was that not only did each character in the Ritterbund assume a name when he became a knight, but he also acquired a coat of arms. Of course, this coat of arms was mostly of his own design or of something that some of his friends or neighbors got up and suggested that he should have¹³. The rules in this organization were very strict. The head knight had absolute authority over the rest of them. And in their meetings, they had another cute little trick that, if anyone violated any of the rules, they immediately got fined. They got fined by whatever the head knight ... assessed [for] this fine. It could be monetary or it could be in the way of an unpleasant chore. So whenever they needed something done that nobody wanted to do, a person didn't have to step out of



Fortunat Weigl made this steel replica of a 16th century shield while still living in Bavaria. All the decoration was chiseled in by hand. It was likely a prop for Ritterbund activities and, as such, an indication of the importance the Weigls ascribed to them.

¹¹The word "Ritterbund" can be translated as "Association of Knights"

¹²Herbert's paternal grandparents were Josef Weigl (1851-1935) and Therese Egger Weigl (1860-1912).

¹³Josef Weigl's coat of arms depicted a leather coin purse upside down with his last two pennies falling out.

line very far before the head knight would decide that the rules had been violated, and someone would be sentenced to an unpleasant chore, which he'd have to carry out. And also, this was not strictly a men's club The women were in this club, too, and they also had a title, and they played a part. And among the props that they collected on through the years were all the things that were actually used ... during the Middle Ages.

The types of plays that they presented were actually kind of folksy sorts of things, and mostly consisted of hunting, poachers hunting on estates where they were not allowed to hunt Then, of course, there was the everlasting triangle. The other version of the plays would hinge around the unhappily married couple where the wife or somebody would either poison her husband or vice versa. The means of poisoning was usually mushrooms.

In these plays, my grandfather and grandmother, as I said before, were very active. My grandfather usually played the lead, and Grandmother (Therese) usually did much of the play arranging, and she was ... mostly what they called the prompter. She was more or less, you might almost say, a director.

The Ritterbund, of course, on New Year's Eve, they gave a public celebration. And the public celebration ended in a public dance, but before the dance, there was a ceremonial, very much as that which the knights actually used in that locality each New Year's night. ... It usually wound up in a feast. It'd start with everyone, that's the knights

and their ladies and their knaves, gathered around a huge banquet table in a big hall, on which was set a tremendous banquet. The banquet would consist of a tremendous dumpling, which was known as a Bundesknaedel¹⁴, and it would be served on a tremendous platter. And it usually was so big that one person couldn't carry it. It usually took either two or four to carry it. When it took four people to carry it, it was placed on a big tray on a litter, very much like a stretcher, so that one knave could get on each corner and carry it. And it was placed on the table in front of the head knight. The head knight was usually at the head of the table, and it was placed there, and he would get up and hold a short speech, mostly dealing on unity of this particular group. And the single dumpling actually symbolized how the whole group was together as one. And the ceremony would end with the head knight taking a tremendous double-handed sword and slicing the tremendous dumpling through the middle, which mostly took more than one swing with the big sword, and then quartering each half, and then finally down into as many pieces as were required for each knight to get one particular piece of this particular dumpling, which of course symbolized again that each and every one of them, and each and every knight's lady, was part of the whole thing. It all started from this one particular dumpling.

And as soon as this dumpling was passed around and every one had his portion ..., the next thing [that] came was a tremendous stein. This stein held probably between three and five gallons. It was full of wine, or, if times were not so good, beer. And it, too, symbolized the whole. ... The first sip would be taken by the head knight, and then it would pass around the table until it came back to the head knight. And, of course, the trick was to be sure that there was something in it by the time it got all the way around. Everyone was to take one sip, ... and this was so timed and had to be so arranged that it terminated on New Year's Eve just about a quarter before twelve. And the timing of all this was also a good part of my grandmother's job.

Something else in this ceremony, which was important and had a bearing on my grandfather's welfare in the community to a great extent, was at these get togethers, or actually the knights in themselves, whenever there was a group, they had a so-called private priest. Someone had to play the part of this priest in these gatherings, and, of course, being that this was a rather controversial thing in a strong Catholic church, the volunteer for this particular priest role was my grandfather. And whenever a ceremony came, then he played the part of the priest. And he faked up the ceremonies, and being a kind of a devilish sort of character, he could use the dialect of the German language in such a way to where he could actually say something real silly, and it would sound like Latin. And he would always figure out something or other that would make the priest, who was usually in the audience on New Year's evening, kind of mad. My Daddy [had] memorized these blessings, and he could recite them. And they would touch on all the worldly subjects. It wasn't the usual "we thank Thee for this and that," but it was also to ask for the strength to resist certain things. And one of his favorite ones always wound up with asking for the strength to resist the temptation to sleep with a Goddess maiden. This, of course, always tickled the citizens, but the priest didn't enjoy it so much.

Anyway, fifteen minutes before twelve o'clock on New Year's Eve, a special-written play would start. And this play had to be so timed that exactly when the church bell in town struck twelve, the New Year would enter on this stage. Now ... the Old Year, as is familiar now, was usually depicted by an old man carrying a scythe, and he was usually dressed in drab clothes, and he was usually tall and haggard and worn out, and usually humpbacked, and he'd stalk across the stage. Now, he usually recited a verse, and this verse had to be different every year. ... He brought up all those things that happened during the [year in the] town that were bad, that he wished would not happen, such as,



A Ritterbund ceremony ca 1960. The Wendelsteiner Ritterbund, the local branch in Bad Aibling, still operates.

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¹⁴“Bundesknaedel” can be translated as “Dumpling of the Association”. can be translated as “Dumpling of the Association”.



Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

if anyone had a fire or if there was a death in a family, an untimely death, or anything like that, it was usually brought in. And exactly as the town clock began to strike the New Year, or twelve o'clock midnight, then the New Year, which was usually in the form of a beautiful young maiden¹⁵ in a white flowing gown, [came in]. Only the difference between her and the Christmas angel is that the New Year maiden was usually a girl in her late teens, and the Christmas angel was usually one of about the twelve-year-old bracket. And the New Year would bring in all the blessings and so on ..., and, usually the opposite from the old, it would be joy. And then when the New Year got through with her presentation, then the whole thing would close, and the dance would start, and the public would participate in the dance. The tables would have been cleared during that time, the banquet tables were removed, and the dance would start. And the dance would last, of course, until dawn the next day.

And, of course, New Year's Day was usually the last day of the so-called goodies. Whatever was left over from Christmas or thereabouts would be consumed, and New Year's Day was also a day of visiting. ... It was not the private family affair that Christmas Day was, which was more or less inside the family, but New Year's Day was the day when the neighbors would visit one another, and friends would visit friends, and so on That's the way it was practiced in the old hometown, and pretty much that way is the way we practiced it at home until the time when we started going our separate ways.

On East 32nd Street, ... what we would do on New Year's Eve, being that there was no Ritterbund in Austin, and being that we were not so wealthy in those days, it would be strictly a family affair. It mostly consisted of us sitting around the table with Mama and Dad spelling one another reading stories. These stories were usually put in the form of full length books, and they mostly were a repeat of the stories that they had read during the time [they] decide[d] to quit their way of life over there and come to Texas.

The stories were mostly adventure-type stories If they dealt with our community in Germany, they were usually written by Ludwig von Ganghofer¹⁶, and if they dealt with Texas ... they were mostly written by Karl May, who was an adventure-type person that wrote about ... experiences in early Texas¹⁷. And it was his stories and Ludwig von Ganghofer's stories which gave us an insight into history, both over there and here. That was mostly read in book form. ... We'd all sit around the table, and Mama and Dad did most of the reading. It was not a high-speed process. They took the time to explain, especially with the stories of Ganghofer's that dealt with historic happenings and stuff that happened in our local community back home in Germany, ... what it was [like] then, and what it is now, and how the two kind of tie together.

Sometimes we didn't get but three or four or maybe five pages, or maybe just one whole chapter [completed] in any one night. And whenever the family didn't have anything else to do and we got through with our ... homework, that was one of the things that we all looked forward to.

And the other ... family entertainment we had was [that] we were one of the few people that had a phonograph and phonograph records on the street. It's not that we acquired that here. The records were brought from Germany.

But, we were always allowed more or less to stay up until midnight. We didn't always have a clock that struck midnight, but the one thing that we did at midnight, if we had nothing else to make a noise with and all that Noise had to greet the New Year. It was usually a washtub or something that was slapped on the bottom side by a hand or something like that and made a ... kind of a bunging noise, but some form of celebration had to come on New Year's night.... And it was mostly provided by Dad and Momma in some way, and, of course, after the New Year came in, the first thing that always happened in the New Year would be [to have] more coffee and more stollen and more goodies. And, then, of course, on to bed.

New Year's Day was mostly a day for visiting some of the neighbors. Visiting was more or less not as easy to do in those days, because people had too many chores, especially in the wintertime [as] it was too much trouble to heat or have comfortable facilities. The visiting was mostly done ... by the women during the daytime. ... New Year's Day was usually a day when we'd go into the pasture to chop down dead trees [for fire wood].

¹⁵As a change of pace for the beginning of the 20th century, Therese (Fortunat's mother) decided that the New Year role should be filled by a young man in the 1900 play. Fortunat remembered his lines all his life, reciting them just a few months before his death in 1973

¹⁶Ludwig von Ganghofer (1855-1920) was a Bavarian author who wrote plays and historical novels about German history. This clearly ties back to the Ritterbund.

¹⁷Karl Friedrich May (1842-1912) wrote novels about Texas and the Southwest among other topics. His books were significant in Fortunat and Anna Weigl deciding to emigrate to Texas.

Conclusion

Author's Note: The old German traditions described above were somewhat unique to the part of Bavaria the Weigl's came from. The character Ruprecht appears to be derived from "Knecht Ruprecht", who, according to Wikipedia, first appears in recorded German folklore in the 17th century. In the high Austrian Alps south and west of Salzburg and just east of Bad Aibling, he is portrayed simply as St. Nickolas' assistant with the disciplinary duties described above being carried out by Krampus, a horned, goat-like creature. Apparently there was no tradition of Krampus in Bad Aibling. Ruprecht was the disciplinarian there.

Again according to Wikipedia, Christkindl is the traditional gift-bringer at Christmas in Austria, Switzerland, and south and west Germany among other places. Christkindl was promulgated by Martin Luther during the reformation when the date for giving gifts was changed from December 6th to Christmas Eve. Bad Aibling was mostly a Catholic town, not Protestant, but most Catholic areas of Germany had also adopted Christkindl during the 19th century, so it is interesting that in Bad Aibling they still distributed gifts on 6 December with St. Nickolas and Ruprecht in charge. In the Weigl's Texas tradition the gifts were given on Christmas Eve by Christkindl, presumably to be more like the American tradition of Santa Claus, who shares many of Christkindl's attributes, including the ability to fly, pass into closed rooms, etc. A bad child might still get a visit from Ruprecht but on Christmas Eve, not December 6th.

The Weigl's practice of their Texas traditions as described above faded as time went on and their boys grew older. But many of their Christmas traditions, such as the opening of gifts on Christmas Eve rather than Christmas morning, gifts brought by Christkindl, the way the children entered to see the tree and their presents, playing the Schumann-Heink recording, the use of real candles on their tree, etc., were still practiced by Fortunat and Anna with their grandchildren into the 1940s and 50s. But I guess Ruprecht had gone back to Bad Aibling by then because I don't remember him.

Probably beginning in the 1930s, but certainly by the late 1940s when I can remember events myself, the Weigl's celebrated New Year's Eve attending the annual Austin Saengerrunde ball.

Kearney to Give Special Program at LGArchives

The Fayette Heritage Museum and Archives is pleased to host an exciting program at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 6th given by Colorado County author and historian, James C. Kearney, Ph. D.

Dr. Kearney will be speaking on the German artist and naturalist, Conrad Caspar Rohrdorf. Hired as the official artist of the Adelsverein, a German emigration company, Rohrdorf was killed in 1847 during a shoot-out at Nassau Plantation near Round Top. The incident which left Rohrdorf and another man dead became known among the Germans as the Katastrophe and set off a long chain of events in Fayette County.

Dr. Kearney is the author of *Nassau Plantation: The Evolution of a Texas-German Slave Plantation* and *No Hope for Heaven, No Fear of Hell*. He has edited translations of two nineteenth century books, *Friedrichsburg* and *Journey to Texas in 1833*, and is a lecturer at the University of Texas in Austin. He was recognized by his peers and inducted as a fellow of the Texas Institute of Letters in 2016.

Following Dr. Kearney's program, a substantial gift from the Luck and Loessin Collection Trust will be unveiled. The event will be held at the Fayette Public Library, Museum, & Archives located at 855 S. Jefferson in La Grange.

Foundation Donates Rare Artwork

The Fayette County Record, May 19, 2017

On Saturday, May 6, the Fayette Heritage Museum & Archives (FHMA) hosted a lecture by Dr. James Kearney about the noted 19th century artist, Conrad Caspar Rohrdorf. The artist's travels took him from his native Zurich to Dresden, Heidelberg, Bonn, and then on to Texas in 1846, where Rohrdorf was first a member of a naturalist society collecting samples and sketches of Texas flora to send back to Germany. He soon became the official artist of the Adelsverein, the Association of German nobles responsible for the largest waves of German immigration into Texas.

Rohrdorf's short but successful career came to an end, when he was shot and killed just east of present-day Round Top on October 29th, 1847 in the infamous "Katastrophe," or shoot-out at the Nassau Plantation.

Rohrdorf is important not only to 19th century European art, but also to Texas's art history. After learning of Rohrdorf's significance to Texas and Texans, the trustees of the local Luck & Loessin Collection Trust sought to find a way to reflect Rohrdorf's connection to Fayette County, given that it was here that he died and is presumably where he still rests today in an as-yet unknown grave.

The Luck & Loessin Collection Trust was created by the late Eugenia Miller, whose ancestors lived in the Black Jack Springs area, as a means of supporting the local history and culture through financial and in-kind donations, predominantly via the FHMA. JT Koenig, co-trustee along with Rodney Koenig and Janet Christie, learned that a copy of Rohrdorf's only known surviving Texas artwork, an 1847 Panorama of New Braunfels, was for sale. It was decided that this should be the token of esteem the Luck & Loessin Collection Trust could acquire on behalf of the FHMA.

This rare lithographic print, of which currently only five others are publicly known to exist, was donated to

the FHMA this past Saturday following Dr. Kearney's lecture.

Thus, Fayette County's Heritage Museum joins Yale University, the University of Texas, the Sophienburg Museum, and the Library of Congress in owning this beautiful piece of original Texas history and art. The FHMA encourages all who are interested to come view the artwork which is now on display upstairs in the Museum and Archives.



The Fayette Heritage Museum and Archives recently unveiled a rare lithograph that was donated by a local trust. Pictured are JT Koenig on the left and Allison Shimek, Museum Director, and Rodney Koenig.

Both articles above submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

The Diary of Julius Schuetze, 1855—1864 Part II

Courtesy of Jo Peebles Adams

San Antonio, Wednesday Jan. 3, 1855

This being the first day of the year in which I start anew page in my diary, I believe it proper to note down a retrospect of the year just passed. Last year, at this time, Louis whom I had brought to Yorktown on December 9, 1853, lived with us and I teamstered on the road, was on the way from Indianola to San Antonio with a load of emigrants, French, I believe. When I returned from San Antonio, Louis had already moved down upon the farm we had rented. On the first of February, we entered upon our rent contract. Middle of February I took Emilie, who had been staying with Adolf, to San Antonio. In March, I brought up the last of Louis's things. During the whole month of April, I was on the road between Yorktown, Goliad, Victoria and Indianola and earned right nice money. In May I took a load of potatoes to San Antonio and remained there for the Sangerfest on the 13th. I made another trip with potatoes and coming back from there fell out with Louis and we separated shortly afterwards. In July, I went to Frauensteins intending to stay there only a few days, when mother became sick and the days became weeks. End of August, I left Yorktown and came here and have been here now since the 24th of August. September and October I had the fever and during November and December I was still in a weak condition. Now I am all right again.

San Antonio, Jan. 7, 1855

Yesterday I sold the Stockholmes sketches to Thielepape for \$2.50, but I was very sorry after I had done so and I would gladly revoke the transaction.

San Antonio, Jan 25, 1855— Yesterday the Alsatian (Elsasser) a boy of 14 years took his first lesson. Just wrote to Adolf.

San Antonio, Feb. 14, 1855

Saturday I received three letters. One from Adolf who would like to come up here, one from Frauenstein and one from H. Guenther from New Braunfels, who offered me two situations, one for \$800 and one for \$400 annually as Colony teacher, the last one as assistant.

Seguin, Guaqdalupe Co. Texas, Jan. 18, 1856

Now with a short and gratefull resume of the past year, with its salient good and bad days—I organized, after having rented a piano, a German school, which I brought up to 18 scholars and retained the same until my departure, which took place on the 15th of September of last year. Following are some of the leaves contained in my Portfolio, which assembled, gives me considerable data concerning my activities during the past year: In the first place envelopes for letters of not written letters: - a word construction nicely written from out of my school: "The inhabitants of Germany perform all occupations of civilized people," 1855, 12343567890.—Beginning a chess game with Iwonski, this was end of December—The notes of the voices written by me for the Singing Society of San Antonio, 46 General bass—I made up my mind to perfect myself in music, as I had this intention in view ever since I have become "Professor of Music and Teacher of Modern Language" in my present occupation since February.

5) "There's much good cheer in youthful age." An English songlet of adolescence, which I got Marie Riotte, one of my scholars to write down for me. At that time I did not think that six months later, I would be tortured trying to inculcate the song into the brains of the unlearned American misses of the Female academy of Seguin by repeatedly singing it to them a hundred and more times.

6) A leaf of paper in Louis' handwriting, 4 little songs. He shall be doing right well now as Adolf told me, when he was up here about 8 days ago and paid me a visit. He found me at Heinz's just as I left my sick bed, to which I had been confined four or five days. At that time I lived with Rob. Root, but became sick there. I now live, since Jan. 1 and mother returned from New Braunfels.....

7) Another one of the Stockholm sketches

8) My bonafide intention to become a citizen of the United States, but which I have not yet applied for, as my age will not be 21 until the 29th of March.

9) Receipt from Schenk for rent of the piano for 6 months.

10) A little note: Durme, Durme, mujer adorada, sinque nadie, perturve tu mente, etc. "from my scholar the rich Signora Guilbeau. The good lady surely would not have left a sample of her handwriting in my hands if she would have realized that I was more competent to write in her mother tongue orthographically than she was.

11) A list of all my scholars in San Antonio, 32 adults and 22 children.

12) "The Literatue of the United States of America." A lecture I attended in Greifswald, Pomerania. Glorious Days!

13) Another precept: Practice makes perfect!

14) "Und wennst mit dei Herzel so stadtsch willst sei, etc." Fond remembrance of the Turn-Gesangverein of San Antonio of which I was the Director.

15) Byron's "Tears" translated into German. A remembrance of Ruge in Rostock where I had my first English lesson and where this poem so appealed to me that I learned it by heart.

Verse: O du meiner Jugendflur seliges Land,
Nach dem ich mich ewig noch sehn',
Als ich einst noch den letzten Blick nach Dir wandt,
Sah ich kaum deinen Turm durch die Thraen!

16) Boy's roster of the Turn-school of the TurnVerein at San Antonio, about which the verein and I came to split and I withdrew from same.

17) By-laws of the S. A. Turnverein, which Riotte, Pentenrieder and myself, as a nomination committee had compiled. Art. 13: The Turners, which active on the Turn grounds, shall address each other with "Du." That was the rock upon which the Turn V. would break its leg, had been prophesied by me, and so it came to pass. It is true he is not quite down on his nose, but he has only got a half a leg to navigate on.

19) "Soft, soft, music is stealing, etc." "O, you dear Herzen", a spiritual song, a most spiritless song.

20) Musical note paper with compositions started.

21) "Es chule mi mariners que cuandi ali a la mar." A composition in Spanish or a Spanish composition, must take it as you want it.

New Braunfels, April 24, 1856

Since March 14th, I am living in New Braunfels, after accepting an invitation of Hartmann to come here and open up a store. Hartmann apparently means to play guardian over me, but before everything in the world, no dependence. In a few days I intend to return to Seguin to remain there, maybe forever. I find that my bodily constitution is torn to pieces, but will hope for the best. Yesterday I handed in my application to become a citizen of the United States from Rossy, the district Clerk.

Seguin, March 21, 1856

I reached my 21st birthday on the 29th day of March and celebrated the same. Yesterday mother's picture was drawn.

Seguin, Oct. 30, 1856

Today it is the third day during which I had sleepless nights almost. On the 17th, Monday morning, Henrietta woke me and said I would have to go to the doctor, Dr. Reed, and at 10 o'clock in the forenoon she gave birth to a son. Everything went off well and good. Had written to Edward 14 days ago. Henrietta wrote to her parents, Jan. 13, 1857.

San Antonio, Jan. 14, 1857

On December 21, 1856, on a Sunday, we came from Seguin to San Antonio, It was very cold, We embarked at Kocke's. January 1st we moved into our present abode belonging to Schreiner. January 6, Emil Philip took his first lesson under me.

On November 13, 1856, we left Seguin to take a trip to Fredericksburg with Gruenwalds. We stayed in New Braunfels for several days, took a wagon there (4 miles) and drove on notwithstanding at a time when news of Indians came infrequently. Just as we were driving off the further news reached us that Dr. Kneiges son, 19 years of age, and the only support of the family, had been killed. We drove by way of Middletown. It there began to rain, which was really beneficial, as the Indian region began in that neighborhood and the bow-strings made out of sinews became soft and useless in wet weather. But it stopped raining the next day and that day in the afternoon, our dogs suddenly jumped up with a fierce howl and ran into the thicket following a trail. We were under the impression that it was a bear-track and drove on. All at once, one of the dogs set up a fearful howl. It was the best one of the two dogs, a large shaggy black one. Then everything became quiet. After several minutes the other dog came limping after us and wounded by an arrow shot through his left fore paw. We never saw the black dog again. I have to admit this state of affairs did not appeal to me, particularly as I had no weapon with me, not even a pocket-knife. Grunwald had a six-shooter, the driver two pistols, Bechstadt a gun, Hermann and I a pocket-knife between us. The driver was somewhat of a tardy nature, as it was 4 o'clock and the prospective camping still 5 miles distant. To camp at this notorious place now, was plumb out of the question, as we would do so, we would surely have been attacked during the night. The nearest water was four miles further on and a German settlement, and we had to make it till there. The sun went down a little before six and we had to make 9 English miles in an hour and three quarters, and this with a load of 2500 lbs., four mule-team, furthermore in an unknown hilly country, through defiles, creeks and brooks, in which a road never ran level. The teamster thought it would be impossible. Grunwald and his wife, one more scared than the other, trembled in their shoes and of the others not one of them ventured to poke his nose out of the wagon, for fear it might be struck by a darting arrow. I assured the driver that if he would turn over the team to me, without assuming any responsibility, I would drive the nine miles before sundown. No one was gladder than he, for looking around cautiously on all sides, he crawled under the wagon sheet. I took a drink of brandy, whip in hand, went

astride on the saddle-mule and “now get up here!” Old remembrances of my three years teamstering service came to my mind; with a hip and hurra we traveled along at a speed that made rocks and flints fly and spark. We were not driven along by morning dawn but the evening dusk. Sometime when it went down a long steep hill my passengers would cry out from the unmerciful knocks they were getting. Never, even at the steepest declivities could I apply a brake as only in the way we would be able to reach our goal. The team sometimes went in a gallop down the hill and gave an impetus to keep the wheels rolling going up. It also must be taken into consideration that the road was unknown to me, as I had never been in Fredericksburg and had to expect a dangerous place at every turn or bend. Several times the wagon slid along on two wheels. Coming within two miles of the settlement, a sharp, whizzing “norther” came up and against this cold wind this distance had to be weathered. About five minutes after sundown we arrived at the first farm-house, the first after thirty-five miles. The next day about 2 p.m. we landed in Fredericksburg. I there met mother. Kocke and Emille had gone down to Louis, and did not return until evening. All three of them were preparing to move to San Antonio, In Fredericksburg, I gave a concert, which was well attended. Nothing but Germans lived there, only three or four American families scattered among them. I did not see Louis. We first met in a saloon (Dr. Assig’s) and were very glad to see each other.

San Antonio, April 19, 1857

Got up late. In the afternoon Rev. Jones came to me and brought me a letter from Root, in which he begged me to let him have the music for two pianos that I borrowed from Tips, as a loan. He further requested me to induce Henrietta’s parents to join the Episcopal Church. How absurd! After dinner I answered Root’s letter. In the evening Sophie Krussler paid us a visit. Lent Listig a bound music book. Mrs. Shehen “The Battle of Buena Vista,”; Timan (?) “The Spy”; Schieffer “Das Volk, Wallenstein.”

San Antonio, April 20, 1857

In the morning Rev. Jones came by to take the answer to Root’s letter along. Went to town and played three games of ches with Klotz. Afternoon remained home. Gave Emil a lesson. Did not attend rehearsal on account of weariness.

San Antonio, April 22nd

In the afternoon lesson at Shehen’s. Played and won game of chess with Klotz at Schlichams. Then took a walk with him over the San Pedro. (Here was a drawing of the Bridge over San Pedro River in San Antonio. P. 101 of the original.)

San Antonio, May 8— Sophie Kreusler came to us at 4 o’clock and engaged board with us.

San Antonio, May 8

Yesterday Sophie Kreussler celebrated her wedding with Schwarz at our house. Hugo Klock was here also. Today he leaves again.

San Antonio, Aug 15, 1857— “The Elf King” lent to Mrs. Jones

Nov. 2—Captain Ogden’s child took the first lesson.

Nov. 3—Lent from Sergt. B. M. Hall 25 dollars to be payable thirty days after date.

Nov. 4

Lieutenant Pitcher’s wife took her first lesson. \$8.00 per month. Sergeant Hall his first of the month and Miss Fanny Phillipe the first lesson in this month. Gress’ boy took a lesson.

Nov. 5

Ogden’s daughter, Fanny and Gray Phillipe, Patzig took lessons. Gress did not come. Tonight ought to have been meeting of our quartet bur Harold did not come. Spoke to Schunke about joining our choir.

Nov. 7

Wrote a letter to Rosenberg and told him that the laws of the school association were to my satisfaction and I should be happy to accept the place.

Nov. 8—Went to Church. Very cold, After that Burstieg wrote a letter for me to Goliad with regard to the pianos.

Nov. 9—Saw lawyer Houston about insuring Heinz’s houses.

Nov. 10

Wrote parts for the play “Ihr Bild.” Fanny Phillipe a lesson. A lesson to the Sergeant. He gave me a loaf of his splendid soldiers bread to take home and let Henrietta taste it.

Nov. 12

Last night and this night I ought to have given a lesson to the Sergeant but both nights it rained very strong. I expected Schenke here today but the rainy weather must have kept him away

Nov. 21

Lessons to Mrs. Pitcher, Gress and Guy Phillip. The Sergeant could not take any for having gone to Seminski's concert. In the morning at church, the choir broke down; miserable preaching. In the evening a lesson to Patzig. At night in the theatre with Henrietta when I met Gustav Frauenstein. I was prompting in both pieces, "Die Dienstboten." English

Nov. 23

Commenced a lesson at Mary Ogdens when a visit came and I left. Went to Mrs. Simpson, when the same ladies came and drove me off. From there I went to Mrs. Pitchers and just commenced to give the lesson when the very same ladies came and I left again. Lesson to Fanny Phillips.

Nov. 25

Sieminski came and got my piano, which I lent to him for the concert. At night I went to the concert with Henrietta and saw Frauenstein there.

Nov. 26

Lesson to Mary Ogden. There I was introduced to Miss Chalmers of Austin, and by her requested to play the piano. The piano was moved back again.

San Antonio, Nov. 28, 1857

Lessons. At night stayed at home and practiced duets with Henrietta. From Pentewieder I borrowed 50 cents having no money with me. Yesterday I bought a box at the post office. No. 96.

Dec. 2—The Sergeant told me that he cannot take lessons for a few days as he is going to be married.

Dec. 3

Gave a lesson to Mary Ogden. After the lesson played a game of chess with Capt. Ogden. The gentleman tried his best to checkmate me with his (?) move by queen and kings, bishop. I beat him awfully. In the evening gave a lesson to Guy Phillips. Sent 50 cents to Louis Voigtlander and signed for him a document as witness against Meyer.

Dec. 4

It rained so hard all day that I could not give any lessons. My indebtedness to Sg. Hall due yesterday, worries me considerably. I hope I will be able to settle the same in the next few days.

Dec. 7

In the evening went to Sgt. Hall. He is willing to lengthen the term to the 13th of this month. Within that time I have to raise 27 dollars or die.

Dec. 15

Yesterday Mr. Piche paid me ten dollars. Today I borrowed ten dollars from Pentenrieder and paid the Sergeant 19 dollars and gave him a note besides for 10 dollars, payable after days, 25 of December, for which he handed me the bill of sale which I wrote him and my note. Lessons.

Dec. 17—This evening Schwarz was released under a \$5000 bond.

Dec. 18

Today is Henrietta's Birthday. This afternoon at 2:00 o'clock when I came home, I found Henrietta's mother had arrived. She also brought me a letter from Edward. I left shortly afterwards to tune a piano at Newtons. Was introduced to Captain Williams at Ulrichs who invited me to his room.

Dec. 19

Lessons to several. Played chess with Houston. He made a move that would have lost him the game, but re-drew his move and won.

Dec. 21

When I came home this evening (8), I found a note awaiting me from Blersch, which had been brought by Heiling. I immediately left for the rehearsal at the new Casino. After the rehearsal I remained a little while down at Hertzberg's and then went home with Pentenrieder.

Dec. 22

Received from Ogden 9 dollars. Borrowed 1 dollar from Bisenbach and paid Pentenrieder and Biersch 10 dollars I had borrowed from them last Wednesday.

Dec. 26—Received 10 dollars as Christmas gift from Phillips. Made a small Christmas tree.

Dec. 28—Henrietta's mother left for Seguin with Albert.

1858

San Antonio, Jan 1, 1858—Remained home during the day. Gave lessons in the evening.

Jan. 3—Played two games chess with Houston. We both won a came apiece.

Jan. 10

This morning on the way to Houston's, something happened to me that I did not experience even when I was a kid. In the open street, on a clear day, I suddenly slipped up from a plank I was crossing and measured my full length in the mud, to the great amusement of the young Mexican beauties looking on and that lived there. Played two games of chess with Houston winning both of them.

Jan. 17

In the evening first theatre performance in the new Casino. "Der verwunschene Prinz" and "Eigensien." Took Halls with me. I there met Klocke who had just come down.

Jan. 18—Meeting in the Casino Hall in the evening.

Jan. 21

Lessons. Theatre meeting in the evening at which Listig and I were appointed a committee to revise a code of stage regulations.

Jan. 31

To rehearsal in the morning. In the afternoon with Henrietta, Schwarz and wife, Voigt and Voigtlaender to San Pedro Springs where we drank coffee. At the Casino at night.

Feb. 17

When I came home at 10 o'clock, I learned that old lady Heinz had been there and brought Albert back, but left immediately with the stage so I did not even get to see her.

Feb. 24

When I came home from the Casino, Hugo Klocke was there.

Feb. 28—At church in the morning. In the afternoon at Voigtlaenders, in the evening in the Casino and saw Pentenrieder and Bondlemann off to Europe. Afterwards back to the Casino where we drank champagne.

(Between Feb. 28th and March 4th, father was more or less sick.)

March 4—Klocke left with the stage.

March 25—Bought a new coat and a pair of pants a Zorks. Coat for \$8.25. Pants \$7.00.

March 29

My birthday. Today I am 23 years of age. I feel as if I will not get older than this. Only yesterday I told mother that this would probably be my last birthday. How the times do change. Two years ago I celebrated by birthday here in San Antonio in Schreiner's house under trying circumstances. Two year ago made a visit to New Braunfels. Three years ago in the old house of Vonder Straten, the Hollander. Four years ago (1854) on the Colleto. Five years ago (1853) in Victoria on a Concert Tour through Texas. Six years ago in 1852 in Rostock (Mecklenburg) as a member of the Theatre in Rostock. I am now sitting in the friendly room with mother and my dear little Albert and am writing this in Phillips house. My wife is busy with her household duties. In the front room stands the piano and this morning early I had played Bertinis Etudes. It is now 10 a.m. and I should be giving Mrs. Pitcher a lesson, but a person does not feel inclined to muddy up those nice carpets. In the afternoon at 4 a heavy storm came up accompanied by hail. The rain formed a waterspout on the S. Antonio River. The hailstones (4 inches long, 2 1/2 inches wide, 2 inches thick, weight 5 ounce (were tossed over to me by a Mexican. (Father pictured this over his writing.—Al.) The first storm was followed by a second, then a third, and everyone of the storms followed by hailstones that we thought every minute the roof would be smashed to atoms. Spring is here— with all its tropical beauty, and everything looks more promising than I have ever seen it before in Texas. If only we don't get a late frost.

San Antonio, March 30, 1858

In the evening performance at the Casino Theatre "Ohrmachers Hut" and "Ihr Bild." In the latter piece I played the role of Pierre. We attended in company of Schwarze's, Wm. Kasel and Frankels.

April 23—After several lessons given, I was vaccinated by Dr. Nohe in the afternoon.

April 30

Several lessons attended to. In the evening I went to give Emma Milby a lesson and we were just on the point of beginning when Henry Newton came to take Emma to choir-meeting. She asked me if I would not come on Monday and invited me at the same time to come along with them, which invitation I accepted and went with them and had a very enjoyable evening. Dr. Hermann, whom I met there told me that I had played a wise trick by not accepting the directorship of the new choir. The grasshoppers, Mrs. Samuels told me, were playing havoc in Goliad, for they not only devoured all grain, etc., fruit from the trees, but window curtains, dresses and other wearing apparel. At 9:00 o'clock a.m. the stores have to close, for fear of serious destruction to store goods.

May 3

Today is Edward's birthday. Wonder if he is thinking of us. Attended regular meeting at the Casino in the evening.

June 5—Mrs. Heinz and Matilda arrived.

June 6—In the morning conversed with "mama" and Matilda in the kitchen.

June 10—My little Mary Ogden died today.

June 11—Attended funeral services.

June 13—Had a terrible altercation with old lady Heinz in the morning, after which she left and went to Nochers.

San Antonio, July 4, 1858

Went with Henrietta to San Pedro Springs attending Fourth of July celebration. Met the whole Girand family there and had a good time

Aug. 27—Amateur Concert by the pupils of J. Schutze.

Aug. 28

Obtained return of piano. Had dinner at Bowens, then paid a visit to all of my pupils and thanked them for their assistance at the concert.

Oct. 27—Today is Albert's birthday (8 years old).

Dec. 5—Remained at home all day. In the afternoon Follmar visited us and stayed for supper.

1859**San Antonio, Jan. 1, 1859**

Stayed at home until 11 o'clock, then went to the barbers, played billiards afterwards with St. Mark, then to Dr. Bunters, where I met Mr. Baker, who claimed to be a great chess player. Three games were won by me out of five games, one went "remi" and he won the last one.

(Nothing of note follows hereafter from Oct. 4, 1859 to Oct. 21, 1859, where Father entered his lessons given and names of scholars. On Oct. 21, he mentions that mother, Henrietta gave the lessons, Father being sick. Following 7 or 8 pages were cut out. Then he begins lessons entering, Nov. 26, 1862. He now writes his Journal with Austin as he residence.) - Al.

1862**Austin, Dec. 12, 1862**

Collected the money for the school. Turned over the same to Ohradorf against receipt. Received \$80.00 for which I gave a receipt.

Oct. 13

Went to Swenson's and tuned piano for \$10.00. Gave Luck \$10.00 in silver for currency and bought three turkeys and four chickens.

Dec. 14

Stayed at home in the forenoon. Went to a solo party with keg of beer up in the afternoon. Bastian, Whiele, M. Steussy, Flagge.

Dec. 15

Was summoned to appear before the Grand Jury and had to dismiss school at 11 o'clock. Wrote a note to Dietz about it.

Dec. 19

No lesson this evening. Ohrndorf paid me \$28.00 for my notes. Schuchardt came up this morning to take Matilda home tomorrow.

Austin, Dec. 20, 1862—Matilda left for home today. Hoffmann and I went and got corn from McKinziss.

Dec. 21—Remained at home all day and worked on Ragsdale's Piano.

Dec. 23—Got a letter from Emilie today. Bought one dozen chickens from Hoffmann for \$6.00.

1863

Austin, Jan. 5, 1853

Commenced school again. Under subpoena as witness before the mayors in case of State against Stremme.

Jan. 7—Siemering passed through here today on his way to Vicksburgh.

Jan. 8

Siemering went away today. I accompanied him as far as Sussmanns in a buggy, stayed there over supper and drove back to Austin after rising of the moon. Albert was with me

Jan. 9—Stayed at home after school. No music lessons.

Jan. 10—Received a letter from Emilie and Louis to Siemering appraising me of the death of Lina's child.

Jan. 12

School—wrote to Emilie and Siemering. Induced Col. White to let me have \$25 in advance and bought me some cloth for a pair of pants for \$25.00. Had a fearful headache in the evening causing me to vomit.

Jan. 13—Today is Emilie's birthday.

Jan. 14

Yesterday I received the pants from Klucke. What persons sometimes put up to you, the following will illustrate. F. Reissig, a rich man, who sends his children to my school, met up with me Luck's store and instructed Luck to give us a dollars worth of sugar (4 lbs.) and make me a present of the same. Of course I left it lay there.

Jan. 15

Got a letter from Klocke containing very pleasant contents. Also one from Emilie. In the morning was summoned as a witness before the Mayor in case of city of Austin versus A House of Prostitution.

Jan. 21

Mr. Emanuel told me that Emilie was to come over this week and I stayed up till the stage from San Antonio came in. I slept in Albert Thal's wagon until it arrived.

Jan. 24

Rode out to Alfred Smith's place (7 miles from here) to tune his piano. Stayed there until 1 o'clock and received \$10.00. From there I proceeded Aaron Burleson's, tuned his piano for the same price and left there towards evening and got home after dark finishing up with two lessons besides.

Jan. 26

On account of heavy rain only four scholars were in school so I sent them home by 10 o'clock. Received a letter from Schildknecht and attended to his affairs as far as I was authorized to do so. In the evening it was too cold to give any lessons.

Jan 28, 1863—Wrote a letter for Scholz to Gen. Garland in behalf of his son Gustaf Reissner.

Feb. 2—Brush paid \$40.00 to me. Bought 100 of flour. A center table for \$18.00.

Feb. 3—Tuned a piano at the blind asylum for \$10.00. Had a bushel of corn ground and paid for another one.

Feb. 5

Left at 12 o'clock by stage in company of Major Cunningham for Bastrop. Arrived there a 9 o'clock at night and stayed at Nicholsons.

Feb. 6, Bastrop

In the morning tuned Mr. Yates piano and he paid me \$10.00. at 11 o'clock I went to Mr. C. K. Hall and commenced repairing his piano, worked on it till night. Then spent the evening with Wertzner's and stayed there all night.

Feb. 7

In the morning I finished Mr. Hall's piano and gave Miss Kate some instruction on the guitar. Mr. Hall paid me \$45.00. At three o'clock I was taken out to Judge Jones and turned his piano (the one I had previously turned for Mr. Yates) for \$15.00. They took me the same evening to Mr. Glass, where I commenced turning and repairing his piano. I worked until 11 o'clock.

Feb. 8, Austin

In the morning I finished Mr. Glass' piano. He paid me \$20.00. I started to town on a pony, arrived there at 11 o'clock, took dinner with Wertzners and after dinner was taken by Mr. Yates to Mr. Crashon and turned his piano for \$10.00, where the stage-coach took me from. I arrived at Austin at 12 o'clock at night and stayed up until four to wait for mother who was to come from San Antonio, but was disappointed. I did not sleep any that night.

Made:		Expenditures:	
Mr. Yates	\$10.00	Fare.....	\$11.00
Mr. Hall	45.00	Meals on Road.....	2.00
Mr. Jones	5.00	Meals at Bastrop.....	2.00
Mr. Glass	20.00	Wash tub.....	10.00
Mr. Croshon	<u>10.00</u>	Bucket.....	2.00
		Bottle Whiskey.....	5.00
		Given to a company.....	1.00
		Books.....	<u>13.50</u>
	\$90.00		46.50
	<u>46.50</u>		
Profit	\$43.50		

Austin, Feb. 10, 1863—On this morning, one half hour after midnight, Henrietta gave birth to a little healthy boy.

Feb. 11

After school I went to Greys and turned a piano. In the evening I dispatched letters to Heinz, Schmitt's and Klock's. During the night at 3 o'clock, mother and Emilie arrived with the stage.

Feb. 16

No scholars attending on account of rain. In the afternoon Dr. Phillips came to me to see about the Fredericksburg teamsters.

Austin, Feb. 17, 1863

After school I went to Fox where I met Dr. Phillips to whom I gave letter to Ad. Schild, Knecht, Louis, Alberthal and Nimitz to take along.

Feb. 24—Henrietta very sick.

Feb. 25

During the night Henrietta became very sick, and she said a heart-breaking good-bye to me, the children, mother and the family. The old Heyer ran with Emilie to Dr. Letten, who came right away and gave her some medicine. From that day on I did not hold school and gave her the best of attention. On March 12th her mother and aunt arrived. They entered her room immediately making noise and reproaching us. On March 14th they left again, and on March 15th, Sunday morning at 10 o'clock my dear, dear Henrietta died after she had told me one more good-bye and had assured me how much she loved me. I am writing this today on March 23rd, Monday morning, at school, which I intend to open again today, heartbroken. I myself feel very sick, and although my life is not worth anything to me without my dear Henrietta, it would be terrible for my poor children if I had to leave them, too, without being able to leave protection and assistance behind. Mother is blind, and Emilie thinks so much of her own sole child that there is no room for love in her heart for anyone else. What should then become of them? I feel awful about this thought. The little Eduard I now with strangers, the family of saddler Meyer, who do not want to keep him any

longer either. At first he as with Waechters. Thus he must wander from one hand to another, and he hardly realizes what great loss we all have suffered. My dying Henriette has talked very much to Emilie about him, and she in fact promised to take care of him. Oh, I wish she had not promised it as her health and her position do not allow her to keep this promise which is so sacred as it was given to a dying mother. A promise given a dying mother about her child must be kept, or fate will take revenge. Surely, I don't wish this for my sister for she is otherwise good to me, loves me, and has brought me much happiness. I only feel sorry that she made this promise. How I wish that fate will not hurt her own child whom she loves to much on account of this promise. This is my most ardent wish.

March 23

Today I am in the school again for the first time, after the death of my Henrietta. I took Julie with me to school, while Albert was to stay with his grandmother, to be helpful to her, as she was blind. But after I came home a 2 o'clock he had gone away and I had to get him from Domschkes in the evening. Old man Falteich was at the house in the afternoon.

March 25

School. In the afternoon I went to Mrs. August Palm to try out her piano which I had turned for her previously. Mrs. Palm was highly pleased with my work and she referred me to Mr. Palm for payment at the same time she told me that Mrs. Porter, Mrs. White from Lockhart wanted their pianos tuned. Mrs. Palm paid me. \$10.00.

March 26

This morning before school hours, I first went to Mrs. Meyer and gave her \$20.00 for the care and expenses for my little Eduard. Paid \$28.00 to Schafer for Henrietta's coffin and \$7.00 for a bookrack which I owed him.

March 27

During the night Mrs. Meyer sent me word that the baby had become very sick to come to see it. From there I went to Dr. Niemeyer at Buaa's, who after viewing the child went with me to Luffans to see about the prescription to be filled. Towards Saturday morning I came home feeling very bad and laid down. Sunday on the 29th, my 28th birthday I was very sick and wasNot able to hold school for 14 days. On the 28th we took the baby into our own care since that time.

April 13

After two weeks involuntary vacation, I again held school. Yesterday I received a visit from old man Degener of Sisterdale, with whom I made an excursion about Austin on horseback. In the evening, we stayed at Geislars until 12 p.m. This morning Degener and I visited the Land Office, Hall of Representatives, Senate Chamber, Supreme Court room, Geological Bureau, Cap Factory, Artesian Well and then took a ride out to the Lunatic Asylum.

April 14—After school had a long conversation with Judge Wheeler about Jura (law).

April 15

Played a game of chess with Reichel. The first one in a long time and altho I had forgotten a great deal, I still succeeded in winning the game.

April 19—Visited Henrietta's grave in the forenoon.

April 22

After school went to Mr. Richardsons to tune the piano. Miss Richardson sang "Juanita" for me, Henrietta's favorite song.

April 23—Today Mrs. Zumberge entered her services as housekeeper for me.

April 27—Was invited to supper at Col. Merrill, where a select party was met and I remained until 11 o'clock.

May 6—In the evening Stratting came to see me and got me to write a letter for him to his General.

May 9

This morning mother, Emilie, Albert and little Eduard left for San Antonio. I went to town with Julie, met Tom Baker and had a long conversation with him. In the afternoon went with Julie and Meyer to ..?..for a cup of coffee and played a game of chess.

May 11

Lessons to Misses Ohrndorf, then to Miss Emanuel. At the latter place I was called away by Carl Ohrndorf to come to his father, who informed me of the same news of the death of my little Eduard, who died on route in the stage near Blanco.

May 17

Remained home during the forenoon. In the evening went to Ohrndorfs, where definite declarations were arrived at. Stayed there until event and left Julie there overnight.

May 18

After various lessons during the day, I went to Ohrndorfs to find my little daughter had already gone to sleep. I then stayed until 10 o'clock. Went home and finished a letter to Eduard.

Austin, June 20—Sick all day in Bed

June 21, Sunday

Home all forenoon. Ate dinner for the first time in the Avenue Hotel. At Scholz in the afternoon. In the evening at 10 according to agreement the celebrated night.

June 22, Monday

School. For the first time again from 8 to 12 and 2 to 4. I was so sleepy towards evening that I laid down and did not wake up until next morning.

June 25, Thursday

It rained all forenoon. No. School. Mrs. Ohrndorf and Siemering arrived in the morning. Carl Ohrndorf, my good friend, died Sunday, June 21, in New Braunfels. Towards evening went with Siemering to Ohrndorfs.

June 29, Sunday—In the evening went to Ohrndorfs where Mrs. Ohrndorf, Julchen and I had an understanding.

July 10, Friday

Attended the funeral of Theodore Nuthe, who during the killings of the two Hopkins was accidently killed also.

July 16, Thursday

The brothers Schramm paid us a visit about military affairs. A fire broke out at Simpsons this evening. Bought two shirts for \$25.00

July 17, Friday

Bro. Schramm paid me \$5.00 in gold for my trouble in their behalf. They stayed with me overnight.

Aug. 7, Friday—Traveled with Clara, Julie and Albert from San Antonio and arrived here next morning.

Sept. 1, Tuesday

Went with Scholz and Buses to a Notary to sign Tabular statement. From there with Nutter to the courthouse. Unable to get through, I dismissed the children home. In the afternoon my headache was so severe that I could not give lesson at Whites. Went to see the Governor on behalf of the Fredericksburg teamsters.

Sept. 19, Saturday

Went around with George Iftner to free him from conscription. He begged me to wait with the payment until next Saturday. Wonder if he will keep his word?

Sept. 29, Tuesday

In the afternoon a man by the name of Schroeter, a musician, came to see me. He was on his way to Mexico and we played duets together.

Sept. 30, Wednesday

Mr. Schroeter remained as my guest. In the evening, Orhndorfs came to see us and we played piano for them.

Oct. 1, Thursday

In the evening Schroeter and I went to Travues and entertained them with musical selections. As I went to bed with Schroeter that night I was amazed to find out that S. suffered with hallucinations and a fixed idea in his mind that he was being pursued by a woman from town to town probably the result of an unhappy love affair. If the man would not have been of such a harmless and goodnatureed demeanor, I would have hunted up some other place to sleep.

Oct. 3—Schroeter left for San Antonio.

Oct. 11, Sunday

In the afternoon went to Dohme's with the children where Albert came nearly to his death. He fell down from the second story.

Oct. 14, Wednesday

Weise came to the school and as he behaved in a disorderly manner, I threw him out and gave him a beating. He made complaint against me and I had to pay a fine of \$3.00. No school.

Oct. 15, Thursday—I lodged a complaint against Weise and he was fined \$5.00.

Oct. 16, Friday—Handed in my resignation as teacher. Had sprained my ankle so I could not walk.

Oct. 17, Saturday—Louis arrived from Fredericksburg.

Oct. 18—In the afternoon with Louis at Scholz's.

Oct. 20, Thursday—In the evening at 8 o'clock was married by W. Baker.

Oct. 23, Friday

No lessons. At Hermanns everything was closed up. In the evening the last keg of beer remaining over from the wedding was disposed of.

Oct. 24, Saturday

In the afternoon in company with Tillmann, Louis, Klocke, visited the Insane Asylum. In the evening company at our house.

Oct. 25, Sunday

Drove out to Sussmanns in the morning remaining until the afternoon and in the evening at Tillmanns.

Oct. 27—Klocke and Louis left us again.

Nov. 2, Monday—Today is the eleventh year of arrival on American Soil.

Nov. 5, Thursday

I was too unwell to go to school this morning. Furthermore Governor Murrah's inauguration took place today and all schools were closed. In the afternoon I went to the Blind Asylum and brought the claviatur along home. Paid Mr. Custard \$20.00 rent.

Nov. 6, Friday

Stayed at Whies for supper and incidentally made the acquaintance of Governor Murrah with whom I had an interesting conversation about music and German culture.

Nov. 8, Sunday

Worked on piano in the morning. In the afternoon was visited by L. Hartung to see me about conscription matters. In the evening we were at Ahradorfs. William's (Wm. Brueggerhoff) farewell. (Left for Conf. Army—Al).

Nov. 9—Received visit from Seele.

Nov. 23, Monday

Went to the Blind Asylum to work on the piano. There met Mrs. (Gov.) Murrah, who engaged me to give her lessons in the Mansion.

Nov. 26—Received letters from Siemmering and Klocke

Nov. 28—It was very cold and I remained home all day.

Dec. 25, Friday

Worked the whole night with Julia and Clara fixing the Christmas tree and awakened the children in the morning and gave them their presents.

Dec. 30, Wednesday—In the evening a terrible snow and ice norther came up.

Dec. 31, Thursday

Very cold. Snow covered the ground all day. Went to Gov. Murrahs and remained there until in the afternoon.

1864

Jan. 1

Very cold. Ice and snow all day long.

Jan. 12, Monday

Started school in Bueas Hall. Settled with the trustees about the inventory of the school and refused to accept balance due me in Confederate money.

Jan. 26, Tuesday—Julia's birthday. We had company in the afternoon.

Jan. 31

In the forenoon arranged papers against the German-English school. Visited Henrietta's grave in the afternoon. In the evening at Reichols with Julia and Clara.

Feb. 4, Thursday—Clara Ohrndorf and Max Maas wedded.

Feb. 9, Tuesday—Mrs. Heinz and Mathilda came up from Seguin. I accompanied them to the cemetery

Feb. 10, Wednesday—Today it is a year that Henrietta gave birth to little Eduard.

Feb. 11, Thursday—Mrs. Heinz left again greatly enraged because I would not allow her to take little Julie along.

Feb. 14—Today I killed our hog.

Feb. 15—Clara Siemmering left today.

Feb. 27, Saturday—Received the terrible news of brother Louis' Murder.

Feb. 28, Sunday

Left for Fredericksburg in a norther and rain about 3 p.m. Got as far as Hessner's. Terrible storm during the night and in the morning everything was covered with snow and ice.

Feb. 29, Monday

Could not travel on account of the way being covered with snow.

March 1, Tuesday

Left Hessner's. The whole neighborhood covered with snow and ice. My horse not being shod, I had to get off every time it went down hill, in order not to be thrown from the horse. Arrived at Jaegers in the evening, where I was hospitably received.

March 2, Wednesday

Had left Hessner's in the morning; he accompanied me about four miles. Arrived in Fredericksburg at 5 p.m. Was very ill. Stayed at Wrede;s.

March 3, Thursday

Went out to Louis' family. Heart rendering scenes. Back again in the evening with an escort.

March 4, Friday—Attended to everything that could be done in the horrible affair.

March 5, Saturday

Left Fredericksburg with an escort of ten men. On the way scene at Bauers. Arrived at Boerne in the evening. Great Excitement at Boerne.

March 6, Sunday—Arrived in San Antonio about 5 p.m. Met mother and Emilie on street on their way home.

March 7—Looked up Gen. Ford, Gen. Knox, Major Jefferson.

March 8—Finished my business in San Antonio.

March 9

Left San Antonio, arrived at New Braunfels at noon. Saw General Becton and reported to him. Stopped at Risches.

March 10—Couldn't leave New Braunfels until late. Arrived at Austin late also. Again with my loved ones.

March 11 - In the morning visited the Governor and stated the affairs to him. He promised to do all he could for us.

March 12— Paid a visit to Mrs. Murrah and Whites.

March 14—Started up my school again.

March 25—Worked on translations for political prisoners.

March 26, Saturday—Oscar Schutze came over from San Antonio.

March 27—Still working for the prisoners.

Mach 29, Tuesday

My Birthday. Company in the evening at our house ending with splendid supper. It was late when we separated.

March 30—Simmering arrived today and did not know a thing about the tragedy that had occurred.

April 2—In the evening with Simmering visited Mrs. Murrah up to 12 o'clock.

April 3—Julia was sick all day in bed. My horse ran off.

April 4—Met Hunter from Fredericksburg who brought disconsolate news.

April 5—Became sick at Buaas' and stayed there two days and nights.

April 8—Sent Mrs. Murrah the composition "Birthday Morning" for her birthday.

April 9—Simmering left today for Fredericksburg.

April 10—Hunted for my horse all day.

May 3—Got my horse back.

May 5

Prof. Stremme was arrested. In the evening was serenaded by the Brassband. I took these people to the Governor, where we remained late.

May 6—Picnic at Barton Springs. In the afternoon Professor Stremme was released.

May 9—Went after the cow I bought from Henderson across the river.

May 12—At an evening party to which I was invited by the Governor and where I met a very select crowd.

May 21—In the morning four soldiers from Fredericksburg came to Austin to arrest Waldrip and other murderers.

June 9—Was busy in the morning getting the four N. Braunfels teamsters out of prison.

SCHUETZE, JULIUS (1835–1904). Julius Schuetze, judge, German-language newspaper publisher, and music teacher, was born in Dessau, Anhalt, Germany, on March 29, 1835. He was the son of Heinrich and Louise (Seelman) Schütze. He arrived at Indianola, Texas, with his family in November 1852. His brothers Louis and Adolf had preceded him to Texas. Julius lived in Yorktown and hauled freight between Indianola and other points. He also lived in Meyersville, where he founded the Texas Sängerbund, a German singing society, and in 1853 he participated in the first state *Saengerfest*, held in New Braunfels. In 1854 he moved to San Antonio. There he taught speech and music and married Henrietta Heinz of Seguin, one of his music pupils. In 1858 he moved to Austin, where he taught at the **German Free School**, and he also tuned pianos.

(Editor's note: The copies given me to reproduce were very poor and I had to retype. The translator used different spellings of proper names in different places which I carefully reproduced and some were just unreadable. Translator also indicated where Julius wrote in English rather than German.)

OPERATIONS

GTHS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, 21 July 2017

The regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the German Texan Heritage Society was held on 21 July 2017 in the German Free School headquarters of the Society with the President in the chair and the Secretary being present.

Note: The meeting had previously scheduled for 6 August, but was rescheduled for 21 July since most Board members would be present in Austin already.

Meeting Attendees: Michael Krause, Charles Locklin, Richard Gruetzner, Connie Krause, Janis Gonser, Chris Markley, Barbara Berthold, Eddie Wolsch, Marc Pierce, with Larry Deuser arriving after the meeting had been called to order.

President Krause called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and it was established that a quorum was present.

The minutes of the previous Board meeting of 30 April 2017 previously been approved electronically and printed in the Journal.

Committee Reports – President Krause reminded the Board that committee chairs should submit written reports of their activities prior to Board meetings so they can be distributed and reviewed prior to the meeting.

IT Committee – Janis Gonser reported that website improvements and updates are being made. He is working on getting our email software updated and reported that bar code scanners are being investigated for use with the Square readers. This will make checking out faster and more accurate. He is also looking for less expensive software to replace the Sales Force program.

Membership – Vice President Locklin noted that membership is increasing as reported by Chris Markley.

T-Shirt partnership – Operations Director Markley reported that the discussions with the T-Shirt vendor revealed changes to the earlier proposal made to the GTHS which included a thirty-dollar monthly fee and changes to the shipping arrangements. He has therefore declined to move forward with that vendor. He believes he has located a different vendor that we may be able to work with and will continue discussions.

Terry Smart Publications – A proposal to work with Terry Smart regarding a publication that was never brought to fruition will be assigned to the Publications Committee for a recommendation.

Operations Manager Report – Chris Markley's formal report was presented at the conference. President Krause asked if there were questions about the report. None were presented but comments were made that the monthly reports made to the Board via email were very informative and greatly appreciated by Board members.

Award Nominations – No written nominations have been received for the Ehrenstern Award to date. Information about the award is to be put on the website and nominations will continue to be accepted.

Next Annual Meeting – Suggestions for the location of next year's annual meeting were requested. Chris Markley suggested that we send out a simple survey to the membership soliciting their input. Barbara Berthold suggested we conduct an after-action review of this year's conference before we make any decisions about next year.

Board Member Nominations Slate for the Annual Meeting – President Krause noted that we have three current members whose terms are expiring and requested suggestions for a recommended slate of candidates to be presented at the annual meeting. The expiring terms are: Position 10 - Barbara Berthold; Position 11 – Kristi Lee-Nordin; Position 12 – Connie Krause; Positions 7 & 13 are currently vacant. Marc Pierce made a motion that we present a slate of candidates consisting of the members currently occupying the filled positions. The motion was seconded and approved by a voice vote. **Motion adopted.**

There was additional discussion regarding other possible candidates for the Board but no specific action was taken.

Other Action Items – Janis Gonser noted that some of our banners and signs and possibly some flags are getting old and worn. He has found a local company, Build-A-Sign, which can provide the items for a reasonable cost. He will follow up.

Larry Deuser gave a brief financial report. He indicated that our investment account is doing well due to the stock market conditions. Our expenditures for this year are currently in line with our budget.

Charles Locklin stated that we need to sell more of the books that we have in storage. President Krause requests the Publications committee make a recommendation on how to deal with the issue.

Larry Deuser then made some additional comments on our work with the Red River Cultural District giving us possible inroads to the use of city properties. He also commented on a possible future project with TEPSA. No specifics discussed.

Schedule of next Board Meeting – The next Board meeting is scheduled for 5 November 2017 at the GTHS Headquarters.

Connie Krause made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote. **Motion adopted.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

GTHS Annual General Business Meeting Minutes

22 July 2017

The regularly scheduled annual general business meeting of the German Texan Heritage Society was held on 22 July 2017 in the Fellowship Hall of the University Baptist Church located in Austin, Texas with the President in the chair and the Secretary being present.

Meeting Attendees from the Board of Directors: Michael Krause, Charles Locklin, Richard Gruetzner, Connie Krause, Larry Deuser, Eddie Wolsch, Barbara Berthold, Marc Pierce, and Chris Markley.

President Krause called the meeting to order at 1:07 a.m. and it was established that a quorum was present. He then welcomed the membership in attendance and made a few opening remarks. It was noted that the minutes of the last general business meeting of last September had been printed in the Journal. There were no suggested amendments offered by the membership.

President Krause then referred to the operations report made yesterday by Chris Markley and asked if anyone had questions or comments about it. None were offered.

Ehrenstern Award – President Krause discussed the history of the Ehrenstern Award and the criteria for its award. He mentioned that nominations for the award are requested from the membership. The award nomination forms are being posted on the GTHS website so that people may make nominations.

Financial Report – Treasurer Larry Deuser reported that the society is solvent. Our investment account is doing well due to stock market conditions. Our expenses are in line with budgeted amounts. Some questions from the membership were addressed. Our largest annual fund raiser is the Christmas Market. The school language classes also bring in a good amount of money. The new summer camp program has been successful and has made a profit.

Next Year's Annual Meeting – President Krause requested input from the membership regarding the location and the date of our annual meeting in 2018. He advised that there will be an online survey put in place for suggestions.

Administrative Actions –

Board of Directors – President Krause introduced the Directors whose positions are expiring. Barbara Berthold and Connie Krause were present and made a few comments to the membership. Kristi Lee-Nordin was absent but Chris Markley spoke on her behalf. President Krause then noted that the Board has recommended a slate of nominees to fill the expiring slots consisting of:

Position 10 – Barbara Berthold

Position 11 – Kristi Lee-Nordin

Position 12 – Connie Krause

Charles Eckert made a motion that the three be elected to fill the positions by acclamation. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote. **Motion adopted.**

Vacant Positions - Nominations from the floor to fill the two positions that are still vacant were then requested by President Krause. Mary Whigham made a motion to nominate Lu Hollander to fill a vacant position. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote. **Motion adopted.**

Charles Eckert made a motion to nominate Rosemary Mueller Lindley to fill a vacant position. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote. **Motion adopted.**










President then welcomed the new members to the Board of Directors.

Electronic Journals – President Krause discussed the decision by the Board to begin sending members digital copies of the Journal as the default option beginning at the end of this year unless a member requests a printed copy. A discussion of the pros and cons was then held about the issue. It was noted that some organizations have made their digital newsletters available only to members via password limited access on their website. Other issues were discussed including that libraries and other organizations that receive our Journal may require printed copies. Liz Hicks specified that the Clayton Library will need a printed copy. President Krause assured the membership that anyone wanting a printed copy will be able to receive one, although there may be a small additional amount to their membership fee to cover the additional cost of printing and postage, especially since we will no longer receive bulk mailing rates. A motion was then made by Warren Friedrich to send digital copies of the Journal to members as a default but with the option to receive a printed copy if requested. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote. **Motion adopted.**

Warren Friedrich made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and approved by a voice vote. **Motion adopted.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

BOOKS PUBLISHED BY THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Journal		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
Diary of Hermann Seele		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.	\$27.50
A Sojourn in Texas, 1846-47		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, \$30
Roemer's Texas		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.	\$35.00
GTHS German Immigrant Ancestors		ISBN 1-57168-240-6, 292 pp, 8½ x 11, paperback. Index and maps. Edited by Christa Prewitt. Genealogical records.	\$15.00
Handbook and Registry of German-Texan Heritage		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. Currently out of Stock	\$22.95
History of the German Settlements in Texas, 1831-1861		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.	\$35.00
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In This Edition:

Page

- 268 President's Notes
- 269 Operations Director's Notes
- 276 Leave Your German Mark
- 277 Genealogy Inquiries
- 278 Helpful Websites
- 279 Helga's Corner
- 280 New Immigrant Genealogical Source
- 281 Crawford Celebrates 150 Years
- 282 Ask a German
- 283 History of the German Free School Booklet
- 284 Old High Hill Cemetery Association receives \$6000 donation
- 286 Maifest in Flatonia
- 286 Building Once Housed Museum
- 288 Kreische's Quick Lime
- 289 Fifty Years of Old Glory: The Old Glory School....
- 295 Chorgemeinschaft Texas Trip
- 297 Proving a Family Tradition
- 299 Beethoven Mannerchoir Celebrating 150 Years
- 300 Transitions from Germans to Americans.....
- 310 Journey to a Better Life in Texas, Part I
- 311 Journey to a Better Life in Texas, Part II
- 312 Changes in Christmas and New Year Traditions for a Family....
- 319 Kearney to Give Special Program at LGArchives
- 319 Foundation Donates Rare Art Work
- 320 The Diary of Julius Schutze

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