

THE JOURNAL



VOLUME XXXIX - NUMBER 4 · WINTER, 2017

ISSN 0730-3106

Price: \$5 (members) \$6 (non-members)

GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

MAILING ADDRESS
PO Box 684171
Austin, TX 78768-4171

HEADQUARTERS
507 East 10th Street
Austin, TX 78701

PHONE
855 892-6691 toll-free
512-467-4569 local
512-467-4574 fax

WEBSITE: www.GermanTexans.org EMAIL: info@GermanTexans.org

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Michael Krause
VICE PRESIDENT: Charles Locklin

TREASURER: Larry Deuser
SECRETARY: Richard Gruetzner

Director of Operations - Christopher Markley
cmarkley99@gmail.com mobile - 512-228-9056
Office Manager - Doris Boerkei
office@germantexans.org
Social Media and Communications Officer,
Manuela Markley
gths4manuela@gmail.com

Position #1, Term 2015-2018
Dr. James C. Kearney
2582 FM 2434
Weimer, Texas 78962
(979) 732 0183
kearney.jp@gmail.com

Position #6, Term 2016-2019
Janis Gonser
1609 Scenic Loop
Round Rock, Texas 78681
(512) 501 0121
janisgonser@gmail.com

Position #11, Term 2014-2017
Kristi Lee-Nordin
5303 Kite Tail Drive
Austin, TX 78730
(512) 289 7880
kleenordin@austin.rr.com

Position #2, Term 2015-2018
Michael Krause
10167 Schoenthal Road
New Braunfels, TX 78132- 3352
(830)-625-3075
m.krause@utexas.edu

Position #7, Term 2017-2020
Lu Hollander
702 Jersey Lane
Brenham, TX 77833
(979) 525-7414
Lu99ace@att.net

Position #12, Term 2014-2017
Connie Krause
10167 Schoenthal Road
New Braunfels, TX 78132- 3352
(830)-625-3075
m.krause@mail.utexas.edu

Position #3, Term 2015-2018
Christopher Markley
2000-5Westfalian Trail
Austin, TX 78732
512-228-9056
cmarkley99@gmail.com

Position #8, Term 2017-2020
Eddie Wolsch
404 N. Foley
Seymour, Texas 76380
(940) 613-9154
ewolsch@hotmail.com

Position #13, Term 2014-2017
Rosemary Mueller
5226 Jamaica Beach
Galveston, TX 77554
(409) 750-6096
lindleyrosemary@gmail.com

Position #4, Term 2016-2019
Brent Hunter
513 E. Anne St.
Austin, Texas 78704
(512) 461-7646
hunterbrent@gmail.com

Position #9, Term 2017-2020
Richard Gruetzner
120 Fox Road
Burnet, Texas 78611
(512) 423-5760
pzfahrer@aol.com

Position #14, Term 2016-2019
Charles Locklin
7507 Long Point Dr.
Austin, TX 78731-1215
(512) 343-0782
chlocklin5@austin.rr.com

Position #5, Term 2016-2019
Dr. Marc Pierce
Dept. of Germanic Studies
University of Texas at Austin
2505 University Ave, C3300
Austin, TX 78712-1802
(512) 436-9579
mpierce@austin.utexas.edu

Position #10, Term 2014-2017
Barbara Berthold
629 Winchester Drive
Richardson, Texas 75080
(972) 207-4319
barbberthold74@gmail.com

Position #15, Term 2017-2020
Dr. Larry Deuser
111 Rudder Drive
Lakeway, TX 78738-1012
(512) 261-0402
ldeuser@austin.rr.com



Founded 1978

German-Texan Heritage Society
A 501(c)(3) Non Profit Organization

507 E. 10th St · Austin, TX 78701

Mailing at P.O. Box 684171 · Austin, TX 78768-4171

Tel: 512-467-4569 · Fax: 512-467-4574 · Toll Free: 855-892-6691

www.germantexans.org

info@germantexans.org

December 1st, 2017

OFFICERS

Michael Krause, President
Charles Locklin, Vice President
Richard Gruetzner, Secretary
Larry Deuser, PhD, Treasurer

WE WANT YOU BACK!

It is the time of the year to think about renewing your 2018 GTHS Membership.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. James Kearney, Weimar
Connie Krause, New Braunfels
Kristi Lee-Nordin, Austin
Dr. Barbara Berthold, Dallas
Brent Hunter, Austin
Eddie Wolsch, Seymour
Janis Gonser, Round Rock
Dr. Mark Pierce, Austin
Chris Markley, Austin

Or do you want to purchase a membership as a Christmas gift for someone?

When you joined the German Texan Heritage Society, it may have been because you are descended from a German-Texan, interested in early Texan history, learning the language, or are perhaps a new German-Texan. Whatever the reason, GTHS is still in the business of promoting awareness and preservation of the German cultural heritage in Texas and we are doing so in a variety of ways.

ADVISORY BOARD

Dr. Hans Boas, Austin
Charles Kalteyer, Austin
Charles Thompson, Houston
Helga von Schweinitz, Austin
Helgard Suhr-Hollis, New Braunfels
Rodney Koenig, Houston
Teddy Boehm, Brenham
Van Massirer, Crawford

Our German language program with classes for children and adults in Austin, Round Rock and San Antonio is very popular, we feel it may be due to German language instruction being eliminated in public schools around the state. Our program will continue to grow and if this is something of interest in your area, please let us know. As of November 1st, 2017 we are now the only certified Goethe Institute testing center in the Austin/San Antonio area.

HEADQUARTERS

German Free School
507 East 10th Street
Austin, TX

In Austin at our state headquarters, the historic German Free School, we celebrate Maifest, Oktoberfest, and Christmas Market and the building and gardens are now available to rent for weddings or other special celebrations.

MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 684171
Austin, TX 78768-4171

We hope to see you at any of our monthly speaker series with interesting guest speakers about German Texan history or you can join our weekly German speaking Stammtisch for coffee and conversation.

Director of Operations

Chris Markley cmarkley99@gmail.com

The GTHS is a 501 ©(3) non profit organization and with your paid membership, you will receive discounts on language classes, as well as four issues per year of our publication THE JOURNAL and our monthly email newsletter.

Office Manager Doris Boerkei
office@germantexans.org

Program Manager & Graphics
Manuela Markley
gths4manuela@gmail.com

Mit freundlichem Gruss,



Michael Krause

Promoting awareness and preservation of the German cultural heritage of Texas



German-Texan Heritage Society

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/>
New	<input type="checkbox"/>
If New, how did you find us?	

Name: _____

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

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

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

Yes, I want to Join/Renew!

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

\$ _____

Yes, I want to make a donation!

Dues account for only a small portion of our income

Donation *	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total Enclosed		\$ _____

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

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

Payment Information: Check # _____ MasterCard/Visa Signature _____

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

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

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

 **22nd Annual** 

German Christmas Market

Presented by the German-Texan Heritage Society

Saturday, December 2nd

10:00AM-6:00PM, Tax-Free Event

Grand *Christmas* Raffle

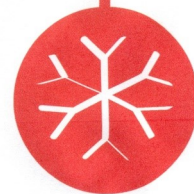
**Two drawings
for 1 round trip
TICKET to Germany**

valid June 27th - September 1st.



Single — \$5
5 Tickets — \$20
10 Tickets — \$40

Tickets
\$5
each



- ❄️ Win a German book
- ❄️ A membership to GTHS
- ❄️ A Christmas Stollen
- ❄️ A Christmas Ornament



DANKESCHÖN!

Sigi, aka Mrs. Santa, has gone above and beyond turning our Christmas market into a grand success. She searches the internet for new suppliers and calls them up in the wee hours to make sure everything is authentic and hand crafted in Germany. She's making all lists and checking them twice. Sigi has a great eye for decorating and has had a layout of the market in her head since the beginning of July. She sprinkles her fairy dust on old, recycled and donated Christmas ornaments and decorations to make them look new so we can decorate our grounds. We hope to have her around for many years to come so we can continue to learn and be in awe of her. Mrs Santa is selfless and never asks for anything in return. She shows up every week with new ideas and ready to tackle whatever obstacles we might encounter. At 71 years young, Mrs. Santa is like a fresh whirlwind with lots of ideas and passion for our Society working tirelessly. We wish we had more volunteers like Mrs. Santa :-)

On behalf of all the members of the German-Texan Heritage Society, THANK YOU for your talents and the time you are investing to make our Christmas Market a resounding success!

Sigi and her husband Roland joined the society 2006. They continued to be active members and volunteers throughout the years. She received the recognition of the Ehrenstern in 2008. Roland, her husband would always know an answer if something electrical would not work on the Christmas Pyramids or Schwibbogen. There was nothing he could not fix. Unfortunately Roland passed away in June of 2015.

THANK YOU!

Our Christmas Market takes place on December 2nd, 2017 from 10am to 6pm at the German Free School in Austin.

**THE JOURNAL OF
THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
VOLUME XXXVIII - NUMBER 4, WINTER 2017
"Zur Erhaltung der deutschen Tradition"**

- 336 President's Notes, Michael Krause**
- 337 Operations Director's Notes, Christopher Markley**
- 338 Operations Update**
- 343 Leave Your German Mark, Rodney Koenig**
- 345 Genealogy Inquiries, Liz Hicks**
- 346 Portal to Texas—Ralph Bickler Papers**
- 347 Helga's Corner, GFS Ironworks by Helga von Schweinitz**

BULLETIN BOARD

- 348 German "Trails" Mobil App Released**
- 349 GTHS becomes an official Goethe Institut certified testing center for the Austin / SanAntonio region!!!!**
- 350 German Dialect Project Map**
- 351 Book Report, "Train to Crystal City"**
- 351 Need Translator**
- 352 German Free School History Booklet**
- 353 Gamhof Student Scholarship Essay Contest**
- 354 Weihnachtskonzert in Houston**

COMMUNITY/STATE EVENTS

- 355 Ceremony to celebrate completion of individual's home, submitted by Weldon Merhsiovsky**
- 360 "The German Community of New Ulm and Others in the Surrounding Counties", submitted by Dr. Walter Kamphoefner**
- 368 Mohrhusen Building Ad, submitted by Richard Gruetzner**
- 369 German Choirs Gave S.A. Cultural Boost, submitted by Rodney Koenig**
- 371 Meat clubs of Fayette County, submitted by Rodney Koenig**
- 371 LGHS Students inducted into National German Society, submitted by Rodney Koenig**

PEOPLE

- 372 Carl Wilhelm Pressler & Clara Johanna Doerk Pressler, submitted by Paul Pressler**
- 382 Still Tough as Nails at 102, submitted by Rodney Koenig**
- 384 "Henry Kiesling Dies from Wound Inflicted by an Assassin", submitted by Richard Gruetzner**
- 387 100-Year-Old Letter Provides Insight into The Fears and Daily Life Locally During WWI, written by Annette Citzler, submitted by Rodney Koenig**
- 388 Hermann Lehman, submitted by Liz Hicks**
- 389 Volksdeutsch by the Dozen, Part 7, submitted by Jim Johnson**

OPERATIONS

- 419 No minutes available by publication time**
- Books We Sell**

Vielen Dank to these contributors

Rodney Koenig, Houston
Weldon Mersiovsky, Walburg
Richard Gruetzner, Burnet
Dr. Walter Kamphoefner, College Station
Annette Citzler,

Liz Hicks, Houston
Paul Pressler, Houston
Jim Johnson, Double Oak
Lucy Conn Sherrill, San Antonio

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

Support our Sponsors:

German Genealogy Translations
Expert in reading the Old German Script

Translating documents pertaining only to German Genealogy

Dr. Elke Hedstrom Phone: (972) 279-9279
622 Perdido Dr. E-mail: elke.hedstrom@tx.rr.com
Garland, Texas 75043 www.OldGermanScriptTranslations.com

This space for Rent

**Dreaming Up the
Ideal Retirement
Is Your Job. Helping
You Get There Is Ours.**

To learn more about why Edward Jones makes sense for you, call or visit a financial advisor today.



Fernando Kempff, AAMS®
Financial Advisor
2137 B West Anderson Lane
Austin, TX 78757
512-467-0007

www.edwardjones.com
Member SIPC

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



President's Notes

As we approach the end of the year and the holiday season our thoughts turn to holiday gatherings and memories of the past. Many times we today are discouraged by all the things we have to do and the lack of available time. If you feel overwhelmed by everything you need to do these days, just consider some of the things our early German ancestors had to do and how much technology has changed our everyday lives.

If you wanted to keep your home warm you had to cut wood and build or tend a fire daily, as well as take out the ashes. If you wanted to keep your food fresh you had to salt the perishables or order block ice and place ice blocks in a refrigerator routinely, also remembering not to forget to empty the water pan below. If you wanted to go somewhere you had to first round up the horses and hitch up the wagon or buggy and plan well in advance to allow for the half day or longer trip into town.

If you wanted water in your house you had to carry it from a nearby well or river. If you wanted a hot bath you had to build a fire to heat the water in a large kettle. If you wanted to cook some food you needed to build a fire in a wood stove or over an open fire pit.

Remember to be thankful for all the conveniences of today and remember the things that have become your traditions over the years. After you have survived a big Thanksgiving turkey, be sure to make plans to come to the German Free School in Austin where you can visit St. Nikolaus at the GTHS annual Christmas Markt on Saturday December 2. We will again have live German Christmas music and various entertainments. The GTHS is also a great place to purchase imported German Christmas items to help support our mission. Items for sale include numerous glass ornaments, hand carved wooden decorations, and children's toys. Make sure you bring your kids or grandkids as the building will be decorated in traditional German Texan style. Also remember to be on your best behavior as we will be having St. Nikolaus stop by and visit with you again checking to see who has been good or bad.

Nearing the end of the year also means that you should not forget to take a few minutes and renew your annual GTHS membership unless you are already a life member. Also consider giving a gift membership or a gift of sponsored tuition to one of our many German classes in the coming year for one of those hard to buy for family members or German friends. If you have a life membership and/or have already completed your Christmas shopping, remember our annual fund drive which is vital to helping us maintain our programs and facilities.

I hope you will make time to attend some of our Austin area GTHS events this year and wish to express my thanks to the many members and volunteers who help make these a success. I look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Markt. In the meantime, don't forget to tell your German friends about GTHS and invite them to come to one of our events.

Froehlich Weihnachten und Prosit Neu Jahr!!!

Michael Krause,

President, German Texan Heritage Society

Guten Tag / Moin Moin / Servus Y'all,

The fall leavers are changing color outside and I'm surrounded by hand crafted Christmas decorations from Germany, which means we're extremely busy getting ready for the ever growing and expanding nationally known Christmas Market. It is gearing up to be one of the largest on record for GTHS.

We continue to make major progress at a rapid pace in improving and expanding our programs and events.

Oktoberfest was a huge success to the point where we had to run out to get more beer, since our initial order sold out. I know Germans can drink, however I didn't expect that much. We had a great turnout and a wonderful mixture of bands and kids activities that kept everyone entertained.

Our Education program continues to improve and expand. We were recently certified as a Goethe Insitut testing center starting Nov 1st. We are only one of three testing centers in Texas and we're the only one serving the Austin / San Antonio area.

We expanded our German Samstagsschule into San Antonio and now have 12 kids learning German there. Our Austin location is buzzing with children programs, Home School and adult classes taking place at various times during the week. The German Free School started off as a center of German education back in 1857 and 160 years later it is still a center that is alive and flourishing as a German language center for all ages and levels.

Our current Membership Renewal drive will begin shortly, please be on the lookout and support us. Without your support the programs currently being enhanced and expanded, such as the German Language classes, various festivals and outreach programs would not be possible. It's a very rewarding time within GTHS with all the growth and momentum taking place. So, please help us by renewing in 2018 and telling friends and family about our membership opportunities, which in turn support the various activities taking place within GTHS.

A lot of operational changes and mindsets changed in 2017 which will allow our organization to leverage and capitalize upon in 2018 and beyond.

Now, I must get back to unwrapping and taking inventory of the Christmas market items, otherwise I'll be in trouble from our Christmas Head Elf, Siegi Keimling.

Frohe Weihnachten und einen Guten Rutsch ins neue Jahr Merry Christmas y'all and Happy New Year.



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

GTHS Board of Directors Update Nov 4th 2017

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)

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)

✔ 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)

Q3 & Q4 Priorities:

Q3 Priorities (July / August / Sept)

Task	Point of Contact	Priority
✔ Fall Education Program	Chris/MK	(HIGH)
✔ Events Planning	Chris	(Medium)
Xmas Marketing Ordering	Siegi	(Medium)
Oktoberfest Planning	Chris	(High)
Annual Conference	Richard	(High)

Task	Point of Contact	Priority
<u>Q4 Priorities (Oct/Nov/Dec)</u>		
✓ Oktoberfest	Office	(HIGH)
Xmas Market	Office	(HIGH)
Membership Renewal	Office	(HIGH)
<u>Q1 2018 Priorities: (Jan / Feb / Mar)</u>		
Spring Education - Registration		(VERY HIGH)
Membership Re-newel		(HIGH)
Social Media Alignments & Update		(HIGH)
Communication Strategy (Books, etc)		(MEDIUM)
Events Planning (Karnival/Maifest / Oktoberfest / Xmas)		(HIGH)

Online / Social Media / Print Strategy Update

Facebook 17% increase in followers (can be considered members) - 3,282 followers on Oct 31st vs 2,795 on January 1st—Dramatic increase in exposure and awareness over the past six months

Website is being updated with current events, photo content, updates and Blogs

Youtube, Instagram and Twitter - Periodical updates. Still needs work and focus

Email (eKourier) -new format in place replaced for a cleaner look and feel

Journal—no major updates in 2017

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

Membership Update

365 members at the end of February—Started targeted campaign as of March 1st

RESULTS: **149** new memberships or renewals, a **41%** increase in membership since March 1st

Now GTHS has 514 Members and growing!!!

PHASES

All communication will focus on 2017 growth within programs & festivals. Includes 2018 strategy and direction.

Email & Social Media (Nov & Dec) targeted all members and previous members (2010-2017)

Letters (Jan) – member & former members

2nd Notice Letters (Feb) - members & former members

Membership Update – HAPPENS IN 2018

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



EDUCATION UPDATE

German Language Program

2017- Year of Enhancement

Goethe Institut Certified

Launched Summer Camps for Kids

Re-established kids program in San Antonio

Launched classes for Home School students

2018 - Year of Improvement and Expansion

Entire Program: Goethe Institut focused curriculum for Adults and Kids

Samstagschule operations to be modified, currently based on age

Moving forward based on language knowledge

GFS: Summer Camps for Kids to expand from 2 to 3—Late June / middle July / early August

San Antonio: Adult classes to be offered

Temple / Killeen: offer Adult classes

GFS: Mommy & Me (weekday) program to be offered in Spring

German Language Program Expanding

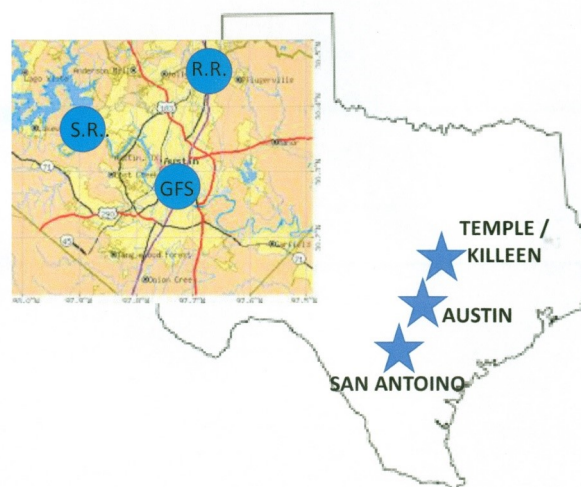
Austin—GFS—Adults-Kids

Round Rock (R.R.)-Adults

Steiner Ranch (S.R.)-Adults-Kids

San Antonio-Adults-Kids

Temple / Killeen (SPRING)-Adults



Oktoberfest Update



Oktoberfest Eve

Oktoberfest

At the German-Texan Heritage Society

Saengerrunde - Partnership—Social Media- 1st annual keg parade —Keg marched from Scholz to GTHS for opening of Oktoberfest by the Saengerrunde



Overall Results & Impressions

- Over 700 people attended. -Ran out of beer (10 Kegs)
- New layout and tables was very well received
- Bands and adult entertainment in the gardens
- Kids activities in the upper parking lot
- Payment systems worked fantastic and reduced the need for a lot of volunteers
- We had Anke Bar, an award winning children's book author and illustrator from Bremen, visiting Texas in October 2017 for a two week long Lesereise of her debut book, "Wilhelm's Reise". She was sponsored by the German government.
- \$4,000 grant awarded by the City of Austin for Oktoberfest.

2018 Festival / Program Schedule:

Spring Semester (German Classes) Jan 22nd
 Karneval/Fasching (NEW Festival) Feb 17th
 Maifest (Festival) May 5th
 Summer Semester (German Classes) June 4th
 Summer Camp 1 (1wk) June 25th
 Summer Camp 2 (1wk) July 16th
 Summer Camp 3 (1wk) Aug 6th
 Fall Semester (German Classes) Sept 10th
 Annual Conference (Meeting) Sept ??
 Oktoberfest (Festival) Oct 13th
 Christmas Market (Festival) Dec 1

Outreach Update -

Austin Sanguerrunde-Taking active role to coordinate and align first annual keg march for Oktoberfest
 Austin Koblenz Sister City delegation —Working with group to support Karnival festival in Feb
 AATG—Active role in supporting the Texas State German Contest and activities
 Texas Historical Commission—Active role in supporting the THC via conference sponsorship and tour stop

**Christmas Market
has reached a
league of it's
own!!!!**

We have posted one
time Facebook about
event—Results are *ter-
rific*... however some-
what *scary*.....

1,100 people said they
are coming, 26,057

people are interested in coming, 2.1K people have shared our 1 post. We have an audi-
ence and most important EXPOSURE!!! If only 10% come that is over 2,700 people. Last
year we did only 1,700. **Mark Your Calendars for this years event—December 2, 2017**



Improvements / Changes

Scanners have been purchased—This will speed up the purchases inside the building, thus
speeding up the line outside

Two Huts will support item sales

One hut will sell food. The other hut will sell small items

Each one will be supplied with an ipad / tablet for cc sales

Building will house more expensive items

Downstairs Apartment (Big Room) - Will have outside vendors selling decorated cookies
and leather goods

Downstairs Apartment (Small Room—Will be the packaging area

People will ask for the boxes through the window.

Music / Entertainment—Will located in the upper garden

Kids area will be placed in the area between the downstairs apartment and wall

Food / Drinks—Food will be provided by Franks and will be placed in the alley way.

12 staff are assigned to the event. 3x the amount from previous events.

Beer and Gluhwien will be sold in the beer hall

Gluhwein will also be sold in the first garden

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*) starting 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)



Recently, on Sunday, October 29, 2017, I was fortunate to attend an interesting lecture by German Astronaut Hans Schlegel, at the Houston Liederkrantz Hall in Houston. Prior to Astronaut Schlegel's comments, Gene Hackemack and Frank von Possel treated the audience to some German song, playing their accordion and guitar. Gene, who worked at NASA, had been instrumental in getting the first Polka into space. As many of us know, Gene ran Hackemack's restaurant in Frelsburg for many years, and Frank is lead singer for the Houston Shanty Chor. The event was organized by Erika Teske and Irene Pflingsten of the Houston Liederkrantz, with speakers introduced by Liederkrantz President Robert Bracken. Astronaut Schlegel

spoke of weightlessness, exercise, variations of food and eating, language, the breath taking view of earth and countless other topics of interest in space.



The main speaker, Hans Schlegel, has travelled in space twice. He was born in Ueberlingen, Germany, but considers Aachen to be his hometown. Hans is married to Heike Schlegel-Walpot, who is a medical doctor, was an Olympic swimmer, was also selected as a German Astronaut, was a 747 pilot with Lufthansa, and is currently a Swimming Coach. He has eight children. Recreational interests include skiing, scuba diving and flying. He also enjoys reading and do-it-yourself work.

Schlegel was an international exchange student at Lewis Central High School in Council Bluffs, Iowa and also graduated from Hansa Gymnasium in Cologne before studying physics at RWTH Aachen University in his home country. After having received his university degree, he conducted research in semiconductor physics before being trained as an astronaut in the late 1980s by the German Aerospace Center (DLR). He flew as a German payload specialist in 1993 aboard Space Shuttle Columbia on STS-55, which was the second German-sponsored Spacelab Mission, D-2. From 1995 to 1997, he trained as the backup

crew member for the German-Russian Mir'97 mission, and afterwards received additional training in Russia to become qualified as a second board engineer for the Mir space station. In 1998, he became a member of the European Astronaut Corps.

His early training during 1970–72 had Hans serving as a paratrooper with the German Federal Armed Forces. In 1979–86 he worked as an experimental Solid State Physicist at the Rheinisch Westfälische Technische Hochschule (University) of Aachen and researched electronic transport properties and optical properties of semiconductors. During 1986–88 he was a specialist in non-destructive testing methodology in the research and development department of the Institut Dr. Förster GmbH & Co. KG in Reutlingen, Germany. From 1988 to 1990 Hans performed basic astronaut training at the DLR (German Aerospace Center). The training included about 1300 parabolas to experience weightlessness on a KC-135 aircraft. He became a certified research diver and earned a private pilot's licence, including instrument rating and aerobatics.

In 1990 he was assigned as a payload specialist for the Spacelab D-2 mission and started Payload Training in Cologne, Germany and at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. The second German Spacelab mission D-2 took place from 26 April to 6 May 1993 as STS-55 on Space Shuttle *Columbia*.

In August 1995 Hans went to the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Moscow, Russia, to train as backup for the German-Russian Mir-97 mission. During the mission from 10 February to 2 March 1997 he served as Crew Interface Coordinator responsible for ground-to-air communications. Between June 1997 and January 1998 he

received additional training and certification as a flight engineer for Russia's Mir space station. In 1998 Hans joined ESA's Astronaut Corps. In August 1998, ESA sent him to the Johnson Space Center to train as a Mission Specialist with NASA's Astronaut Class of 1998. He was also assigned to the Capcom Branch of the Astronaut Office, speaking to astronauts on the International Space Station. He worked as lead Capcom and as Space Station Capcom Instructor.

His first spaceflight from 26 April to 6 May 1993 had Astronaut Schlegel as Payload Specialist on Space Shuttle *Columbia's* STS-55, the Spacelab D-2 mission. Nearly 90 experiments in life sciences, material sciences, physics, robotics, astronomy, Earth observation and atmosphere research were conducted during Spacelab D-2. However, his first flight was not to be his last; 15 years after his first space flight, Schlegel, now a senior ESA astronaut at JSC, flew into space again on 7 February 2008.

His second spaceflight, STS-122, on Space Shuttle *Atlantis*, ended on 20 February 2008. The highlight was the delivery and installation of ESA's Columbus laboratory, Europe's major contribution to the International Space Station. Hans performed a spacewalk that lasted nearly seven hours to help prepare the space laboratory for its scientific experiments, and replaced an empty nitrogen tank on the Station's P1 Truss.



Astronaut Hans Schlegel, ESA Photo

Hans Schlegel, who currently resides in Texas near the Johnson Space Center (JSC), is currently a Contractor with the European Space Agency, and continues to work in space related endeavors, previously having worked as chief ESA astronaut at JSC. Hans Schlegel has truly left his German Mark!

How will you leave your German Mark? Will you travel in space like Astronaut Schlegel? Will you provide gifts to German Singing groups like the Chorgemeinschaft Texas, Houston Saengerbund, Dallas Frohsinn, Houston Liederkrantz, 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!

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.



>Update from last *Journal* –

Hillaire – Hilyer – 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: Since conflicting records have been found for Michael Hillaire, it was necessary to look at anything and everything to try and determine his place of origin in France/Germany. A search of Gillespie County, TX Court Records (digitized and available on www.familysearch.org, and nicely indexed gave Michael's naturalization. This is a sworn document in which he said he was 26 years of age as of Oct. 11, 1855 (date of naturalization), emigrated from Le Havre, France to Port of New York, was born in Paris, France. This is different from previous answers he gave on his enlistments in the U.S. Army. His enlistment records stated he was born in Landau, France and Landau, Germany. A search of parish records for the 3 towns named Landau (when they were part of France, Alsace-Lorraine, and or when town was in Germany) did not turn up any Hillaires (or variations of the spelling of the surname). 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.

A new search of parish records for Paris, France for the timeframe of Michael's birth has turned up the surname. It seems we may be in the right location at last. A possibility is a village of Landau once existed and later became part of the large city of Paris. Additional research must be done to locate his actual baptism and his parents.

Note: An emigrant could file their Declaration of Intent and Naturalization in ANY Court of Record (County Court, Probate Court, Commissioners Court, District Court). As in Michael Hillaire's case-the Gillespie County Court. For Helpful information for Declaration of Intent and Texas Naturalizations see <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/arc/local/aboutrecords.html#6>.

Hahn – Decker – Schuetze - Klauser

Renee Read, 6026 Sedberry Rd., Nashville, TN 37205, e-mail: rnread@bellsouth.net, phone: (615) 352-1484

I am doing some research on Michael Hahn, 19th Governor of Louisiana, who is an ancestor of mine. He immigrated to New York in 1832 with his widowed mother, Margaretha Decker Hahn, and four older half-sisters. I know they were in New York in 1837, when his youngest half-sister, Caroline Klauser, was born. The family left NY arriving in New Orleans in 1840. Margaretha died there of yellow fever in 1841. Several record entries state Michael Hahn and family were in Texas before going to Louisiana. However, I have not found any documentation to verify this.

References that mention Texas as a stopping place between New York and New Orleans: Memorial Addresses on the Life and Character of Michael Hahn (made by members of Congress upon Michael Hahn's death). Another by William Henry Schuetze (Michael Hahn's nephew) stating, "My Mother, Juliana Hahn Schuetze, sisters, and only brother, Michael Hahn, came to America and lived in Texas and Louisiana...."

Reply: Interesting. Unfortunately, due to "Harvey" all my reference material for this time frame for Texas are packed up. There are some early tax lists and land records for the Republic of Texas. However, depending upon how long the Hahns were in Texas, they may not appear in any Texas records. I would definitely look for any Galveston, TX records, and see if the Rosenberg Library in Galveston can assist. Use www.worldcat.org search for "Texas 1830 -1845" in books and especially manuscript collections. I would look at the manuscript collections in the Briscoe Center for American History at The University of Texas-Austin. Was there a part of Texas that was Louisiana (after the Louisiana Purchase)?

Note: There were and are many Schuetzes in Texas.

Kuhn – Kuhne – Kuehn

Ellen Donaldson, e-mail: Donaldsong@prodigy.net, seeks information on Samuel Kuehn, born Jun 22, 1829 Germany, died June 13, 1898, New Ulm, Austin County, Texas.

Reply: A family tree on www.Ancestry.com posted by ekuehn41@windstream.net has place of birth for Samuel Kuehn as Wielkopolskie, Poland (in 1829 this would have been Xions, Germany from 1815-1918). Doing a www.google.com search, this place appears to be Ksiaz Wielkopolski now, County Srem, Poland. There are records for Samuel in the Trinity Lutheran Church, Frelsburg, Texas, which are searchable on the Nesbitt Library website. <http://library.columbustexas.net/church%20records/trinity%20baptisms%201.htm>

Helpful tip: German Genealogical Word List: scroll down
https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/German_Genealogical_Word_List

Portal to Texas History:

Ralph Bickler Papers

Ralph Bickler was a prominent Austinite active in many social activities. Jacob taught in various schools until he founded the Texas German and English Academy, a private school for boys, in 1877. He remained at the school until 1887 when he became Superintendent of the Galveston public schools. He held that position for five years before returning to Austin in 1892 when he founded the Bickler Academy. Jacob was also active in teaching associations and the Texas Department of Education. He died in 1902.

Ralph received his education at his father's German-English Academy and Austin public schools, graduating from Austin High in 1911. He held various jobs, including a clerkship at the School of Military Aeronautics at the University of Texas at Austin during World War I. For most of his career he was as a secretary to the Texas Supreme Court. He was also active with the Boy Scouts of America, the First Congregational Church of Austin, the Travis Audubon Society, and other social clubs. He died in 1974.

About the Physical Collection

The Ralph Bickler Papers include thousands of photographs documenting the Bickler and Lungkwitz families and life in Central Texas in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Among the photographs are cabinet cards and carte-de-visite portraits of family and friends, a series of stereographic views of Central Texas, snapshots of leisure activities in Central Texas, group portraits of school children, snapshots of men training for service in World War I, scenes from the School of Military Aeronautics at UT, group portraits of social clubs in Austin, portraits of the Texas Supreme Court members, and reproductions of artwork by Friedrich Petri and Hermann Lungkwitz.

WacoMcLennan Co. digitizing marriage records back to 1850

http://www.wacotrib.com/news/mclennan_county/county-digitizing-marriage-records-back-to/article_aec538d0-a3d5-5dee-bd3c-bab0830d4c0a.html?utm_sq=fhrsfa9dvk&utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=Federation+of+Genealogical+Societies&utm_content=FB+-+Curated+Posts

Helga's Corner

GFS Iron Work

Originally Published in Schulhaus Reporter Vol 6 #2 March-April 1999

Inspired by our January program on the Voss Metal Works of San Antonio, Teresa Chavez and I browsed through some old catalogs that had come to the GTHS with the German Free School building. !?! Between the pages we found a note in Kelly Stevens' handwriting with the words "Herrera Iron Works, Austin" on it. We checked the phonebook, called the number, and a week later Mr. Louis Herrera Sr. and his son, Louis Herrera Jr. visited the old German Free School.



Yes, they remember installing all the iron railing and the gate in the 1960s. Dr. Stevens had picked the pattern from a catalog. The railings were made by the "Tennessee Fabricating Company" in Memphis. Minor changes were done to the design, but the house number "507" that we thought Dr. Stevens had cleverly included in the design, is simply incidental, says Mr. Herrera. However, the star in the gate has to be something especially included for this home, because Kelly Stevens called his house "Good Star".



Somehow we had suspected that the Weigel Brothers of Austin had made the beautiful iron railings based on Kelly Stevens' design, but seems that we were mistaken.

Bit by bit we find out more and more about our historic house, but much has yet to be discovered. We would love to find a drawing or description of the original schoolhouse.

Editor's Note: A change in Helga's usual....she has so much information about our historic school and other information seems a shame not to include it in the Journal.....let us know if you like!!!!



Bulletin Board

Dear Friends,

Just in time for Oktoberfest, the Texas Historical Commission's new mobile tour - *German Texans: Land, Freedom, Community* has launched!

You are receiving this notice because your site or city is included as a point of interest, or you have worked with us to develop the stories and gather the photographs contained in this tour. Thank you to all who had a hand in production – this truly was a ‘community’ effort. We are delighted with the outcome and hope you will be as well.

German Texans is one of many that can be explored at *Texas Time Travel Tours* using your computer or any mobile device. Access the tour directly here: <https://texastimetravel.ocell.com/en/german-texans-land-freedom-community-152215.html>

The *Texas Time Travel Tours* app is also available for direct download through the App Store (iOS devices) and Google Play (Android devices).

Here is a link to our recent Facebook post about the tour:

<https://www.facebook.com/TexasHistoricalCommission/videos/1381474808631987/>

Please share on Facebook and let your community know you are part of this new heritage travel product designed to excite the public about Texas’ German heritage and inspire travel to sites across the state. I hope you enjoy perusing the tour’s video and site stories and finding your community in the app.

Die besten Wünsche,
Sue

Susan Shore

Texas Heritage Tourism Program

Texas Historical Commission

PO Box 12276

Austin, Texas 78711

512.463.3893

www.thc.texas.gov

Mobile tours: texastimetravel.ocell.com





As of today, November 1st, GTHS is an official Goethe Institut certified testing center for the Austin / San Antonio region!!!!

It's not an easy process in becoming a certified center, however with focus and determination we did it!! We join Dallas and Houston as the only three testing locations in Texas.

The Goethe Institut has developed a series of exams for learners of German as a foreign language (Deutsch als Fremdsprache, DaF) at all levels: A1 up to C2. These can be taken both in Germany and abroad, and have been adapted to fit into the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFL), the standard for European language testing.

In 2018, we will be offering exams: A1, A1 Fit, A2, B1, B2, C1

Exam Dates:

01/14/2018

03/10/2018

05/19/2018

09/22/2018

In addition to becoming a certified testing center, certain adult and children curriculums will be aligned to Goethe Institut standards starting in 2018. Our Home School class has already made the shift to the new curriculum, such as one finds in New York and Washington D.C.

For professionals and students (University / High School / Home School) studying German remember you can then take a test at GTHS (or Dallas and Houston centers) to see if you achieve a certification, which is recognized in Germany and Europe. A huge addition to your resume and professional profile.



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 politically 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 Muenster 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 Comal Counties.

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

1838 Ernst established a settlement on 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 German in Texas) - also known as the *Adel*. Major goals of the society were to acquire land for settlement and to create a German colony World. They expected to make a profit as the land populated and developed.

1842 Mai 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 entire country 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 historic Lindheimer home in New Braunfels. Friedrich Lindheimer (1800-1879) was a botanist, the first to clearly map of upper Texas flora; more than 30 canyons bear his name.

New Braunfels

The first German immigrants to settle New Braunfels were led by Nicolaus Zink in March of 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 Siphonberg 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 1957. Textiles, agriculture and the processing of flour were the town's main industries in earlier times, whereas today tourism is 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 Sade'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 Castroville 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 guidebook, *Solms-Braunfels' continued his military career in Europe, serving in the Austro-Prussian War, and ended as a general in 1868. He died in 1875, and he is still remembered for his tireless promotion of German immigration to Texas.*



The Sween Kirk's Museum in Fredericksburg

Fredericksburg

Fredericksburg was founded on May 8, 1846 by John O. Wuesthoff when 120 settlers arrived from New Braunfels. He named it after Prince Frederick 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.

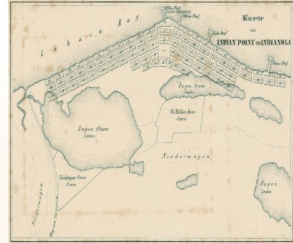
Fredericksburg became one of the largest German towns in Texas. The first newspaper in town, the *Wochenblatt*, was established in 1877. Until 1890, almost all of the town's residents spoke Texas German. With the arrival of the rail system in 1913, the town became more cosmopolitan. Today Fredericksburg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



The Texas Civil War 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 boys fleeing to Mexico to avoid the Confederate army draft were overtake by southern soldiers. Thirty-four Germans were killed. The *Freud der Union* monument in Comstock commemorates the event; it is the only Union Civil War monument in the south and is entirely in German.



Hopkinsville in 1853, courtesy of Texas State Library



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

Billing information

Name (Last, First) _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Home Phone _____ Other Phone _____
Email _____

Would you like to include a donation amount of your choice with your purchase?

(Donations are tax-deductible.)
 Yes! I have added an extra donation in the amount of \$ _____ No
Number of maps _____ Total amount \$ _____

Form of payment:

Check enclosed made payable to University of Texas at Austin. Please write "Texas German Endowment" in the memo line.
 Credit card:
 Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____
Name on Card _____
Shipping address: Same as above Alternative address - indicated below
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Signature x _____ Date _____

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

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. Union gunboats sailed west from New Orleans to occupy and loot the city in November of 1862. When results, it booted a population numbering more than 5,000. In 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.

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 *Singerfest* (Singer's festival) in New Braunfels and formed the Texas State *Singerfest* (singer's festival), which consisted mostly of folk music. Also during this period, individuals and families often gathered around the piano to learn classical and operatic works. Among these were famous composers, musicians and teachers, including Julius Vetter of Saxony, who gave lessons to a young Scott Joplin in Texas.



Singerfest Parade in Fredericksburg, 1896. Courtesy of Pioneer Memorial Library

German music became less popular in Texas around the time of the First World War, marked especially by the discontinuation of the statewide *Singerfest* after 1916. However, many of the local singing groups have survived and still give regular performances, especially at festivals like Wurstel, Waldorf and Osterkerk, where dancers pack the floor for German folk tunes. Additionally, music of all sorts can still be heard at cultural country dance halls founded by Germans, such as Gruene Hill.

Texas German

Texas German, a group of dialects present in the state since immigration from Germany to the northern coast of the Gulf of Mexico began 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 are 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
bank	die Strickkatz	das Strickier
arsenic	das Luftschiff	das Flugzeug
without	mitaus	ohne
whatever	wawever	wach immer
fence	die Ferce	der Zaun
water faucet	der Wasserkran	der Wasserhahn

1860s Texas 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 Texans.

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.

Revised by Carl Gustaf Lindquist
© 2005 Texas German Endowment



Train to Crystal City

A recent article in the TX Observer and reviews in The New York Times and TX Monthly of The Train to Crystal City by Jan Jarboe Russell, examined a little known episode in WWII, that of the internment of German and German-American “enemy aliens.” Overshadowed by the attention received by the more numerous Japanese-American internees, German-American and Italian-American internees were also forcibly relocated to internment camps. Latin-Americans of German extraction were also forcibly uprooted and interned at camps in the U.S. One such camp was in Crystal City, southwest of San Antonio, about 50 miles from the Mexican border. One could argue that today’s call by Trump and many of his supporters for restrictions on immigration of ethnicities normally associated with Islam and for heightened official “observation” of their activities, are eerily reminiscent of the WWII internee program.

As the book pointed out, the power of the state was used to surveil those of “questionable” patriotism well before U.S. entry into the war with FDR in 1936 ordering J. Edgar Hoover’s FBI to develop a list of those Hoover deemed might pose a security risk. Development of this list first necessitated a definition of patriotism as determined by government officials, irrespective of citizenship. FBI agents, then armed with search warrants based on this definition, subsequently searched homes for evidence to support their pre-ordained conclusion that recent immigrants of German extraction were security risks. Evidence confiscated to support this conclusion were letters, books, and other materials written in German, with memberships in cultural organizations and the like also considered as subversive. Following Wilson’s WWI anti-German-American policy followed shortly thereafter by the House Un-American Activities Committee, FDR’s WWII internee policy was only one incident in a continuum of anti-immigrant fervor and fear of the “Other,” be it non-Anglo or non-conformist in our nation’s past – and present. With time, one could possibly find a German-Texan family which experienced the Nueces Massacre and Haengerbaende, federal WWI and II anti-German deprivation of civil liberties, and recipients of Patriot Act “observations.”

Similar in some respects to the current controversy over the current Administration’s promotion of amnesty for parents who are here illegally but with children born in the U.S., the book presented the case of one such child, born in the U.S. to German parents who were legal aliens. In an effort to “cleanse” America of undesirable foreign influences such as those of the same ethnicity as Hitler, although here legally, the plight of one family – including the child who was a U.S. citizen - was detailed as it was forcibly repatriated to war-torn Germany.

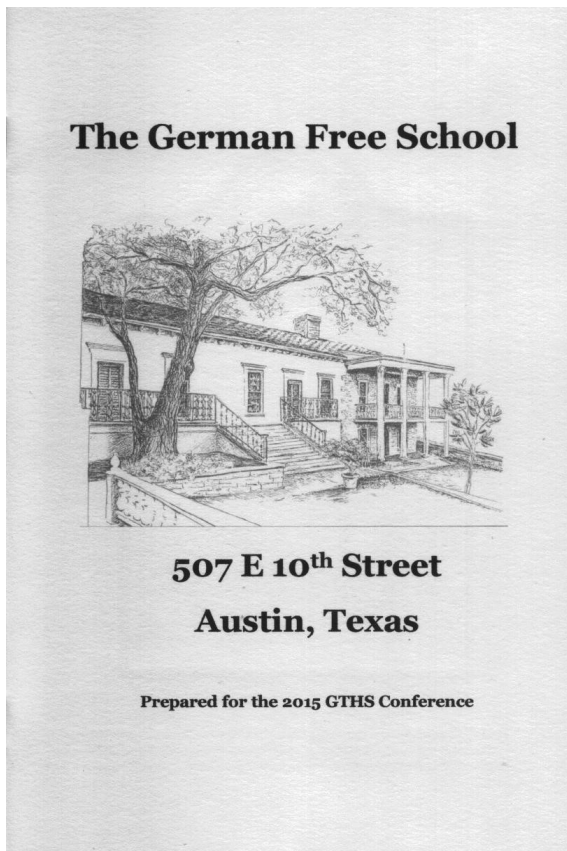
The reviewers made the point, which students of German Texan history already knew, that the trickle-down effect of federal policy and pronouncements from those in high office or running for it, and actions pursuant thereto at the local level, have consequences. Well-written and very readable, The Train to Crystal City complements Will’s War by Janice Woods Windle, an account (fictionalized but based on court documents) of her German immigrant grandfather’s ordeal as a farm labor organizer in WWI-era Haskell County; Turning Germans into Texans by Matt Tippens; and work by Dr. Peter Buckingham on “Red” Tom Hickey. Prominent in the Agrarian Socialist movement in TX and OK he married into the Freidenker Wolfe/Boer clan of Stonewall County in the early 20th century and was caught in the sweep of WWI-era labor activists, as was Windle’s grandfather.

Need Translator

I am searching for a “non-professional” translator for about 50 pages of church records. I am writing the history of my home church, established in the early years of the last century, consolidating in the ‘60s. I was given a copy of the first records of the church by the granddaughter of the first church secretary, fellow GTHS member and cousin, Joan Griggs.

Although the writing is fairly clear, being written in cursive makes it slow going for a novice. A familiarity with Lutheranism would also be a plus. I have copies made and ready to mail to whomever would be willing to undertake this project, after we negotiate a price. Because a professional translator is well out of the price range of affordability for a semi-retired educator, I hope a fellow member with an appreciation for historical preservation will be willing to help me with this project. After completion, the translation with the historical narrative and the original records will be deposited in either the state or national LCMS archive, crediting the translator and sources used for the narrative, in particular Joan’s thesis.

Please contact me at ewolsch@hotmail.com if interested or if you have suggestions for someone who may be.
Eddie Wolsch



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

GAMHOF Student Scholarship Essay Contest



October 2017

Dear Friend,

The German-American Hall of Fame (GAMHOF) Board of Trustees is pleased to announce an exciting initiative, our 2018 GAMHOF Student Scholarship Essay Contest.

With separate competitions for college and high school students, the essay contest will offer cash awards totaling \$3,500 for the winning students in 2018. The two First prize winners will each take home \$1,000, with Runners-up winning \$500 each, and Third place winners earning \$250 prizes.

Students who will have graduated high school prior to July 31, 2018 should enter the college competition. Student who have completed their Bachelor's/ college degrees are not eligible for this competition.

The mission of GAMHOF is to highlight the contributions of outstanding Americans of German ancestry, underscoring the tremendous positive impact of America's largest immigrant group. Such notable Americans as President Eisenhower, Babe Ruth and Albert Einstein have been inducted into the Hall of Fame.

This year's student essay contest asks each applicant to write an essay, in 750 words or less, about the impact of an athlete of German descent in the United States. The athlete can be male or female, immigrant or not. But the athlete's primary impact should be in the United States.

To view and access the application for the GAMHOF Student Scholarship Essay Contest, visit [click here](#). The deadline for all applications is 11:59PM Eastern Daylight time on Monday, January 15, 2018. Essays must be written in English.

ONLY electronic entries will be accepted, and should be e-mailed to herbertstupp@gamhof.org.

IMPORTANT: IN an applicant's e-mail to GAMHOF, he or she must list their name in the "subject" line, along with the words: "2018 Essay."

Do you know of students who might be interested in applying and writing an essay about the irreplaceable contributions of German-Americans to one of the 50 U.S. states and territories? Simply refer them to the GAMHOF website or this letter. Good luck to all the applicants.

Sincerely,
Herbert W. Stupp
Board of Trustees
Chairman, Scholarship Committee
Email: herbertstupp@gamhof.org

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston



Weihnachtskonzert

German Christmas Concert

Tuesday
December 5
7:30 pm

First Evangelical
Lutheran Church
1311 Holman St

Reception
following

houstonsaengerbund.org



Free event!



Community Events

The following is a description and account of a traditional German ceremony usually performed after a new home has been framed. It was discovered by Weldon Mersiovsky in the 19 & 26 Feb 1914, *Giddings Deutsches Volksblatt*, Giddings, Texas.

Speech on the completion of the roof-frame of Ernst Kubsch's new dwelling-house in Serbin, Lee County.¹

Delivered in 1897 by Gustav Mutscher.²
(Passed on for printing by request.)

First, the hymn 'Now thank we all our God' was sung with musical accompaniment, after which G. Mutscher gave the following speech:

'Now thank we all our God' – this universally known hymn which so often used to ring out from the roof-scaffolding of every new German house and which ends with the words 'In all my deeds' – with these words 'Now thank we all our God' I greet you today, all of you who are standing down there and looking at this newly erected dwelling-house. In the 19 years I have been here I have three times been permitted to be mindful of this fine German tradition. Yes, we are certainly Germans, but what has become of the traditions and customs?

How many are there who have built new houses, but did they thank God and pray that the Lord might move in with them and remain with them until they are carried out of their house and laid to rest in the silent chamber?

We today, however, in this abandoned and half deserted Serbin intend to make a new beginning and ask God to keep us healthy and well in our work; may God bless the owner and endow him with good health and may he live long in this house. And may this house be the beginning of the prosperity of this place and to the well-being of the community.

So, my dear listeners, as I step here for the first time in this location onto the summit of this new roof-scaffolding, I should like to compose my simple words into a poem and declaim:

Praise God, we have reached the stage, when the structure stands here in all its glory. The crown which the work deserves only if the master has executed it well.

Praise God, the carpenter cries aloud. Praise God, the work is now completed. The axe is now at rest, the saw likewise. After hard labour repose is good.

Because our work is now completed, we praise the power of the Most High, and bring tribute and thanks to the Lord. Because his help was never far from us, as we were building. Because he protected us from danger and because no one who took part in our work came to harm.

This house constructed under your protection, a work of our hands. Be entrusted to your care, that you may by your grace divert from it all and every sorrow, so that the owner may long cherish his property.

Yes, my dear listeners:

Now, once again, a building has been completed with much industry and labour. Thank God, who both early and late helped us to work and guarded us. He, all-seeing, above the dome of stars built by his masterly hand, sees any distance and cares still for his lowlands, the earth, so that, in its orbit, whatever is active may live its allotted span and enjoy its existence in its own way in security. For the animals he builds caves in the rocks, for the birds their canopy in the trees. And even the snail must not be left without its house in the gaily coloured field of flowers. How abundantly his true fatherly hand has delivered dwelling-places. The deepest moss, the highest peaks are the abodes of happy creatures. Even in the dark chasms of the earth, whose vapours are feared by men, he raises shelters beside pastures for the worm, who rejoices therein; and where floods of wild waves stretch through unmeasurable space, there are dwellings, built by him, convenient for the spawning of water-creatures. Of all the creatures of the earth he is most concerned, o man, about you; look at yourself and find traces of his wise goodness and power. Who built the house for the reasoning soul which thinks in you, raised in it the hollows for bones and implanted in them the

¹Carl Ernst Kubsch and Maria Magdalene Miertschin were married on 20 April 1896 at St Paul Lutheran Church located at Serbin, Lee County, Texas. In 1900 Kubsch was a wheelwright in Serbin.

²This was most likely Gustav Reinhold Mutscher (born in 1852 and died in 1922) who immigrated in 1883.

bonnie framework? ... Who made it possible for us to build ourselves houses for our activity and repose, where we care for ourselves and sleep safe at night? It is he who looks down through the clouds, who loves us as a father, who builds a dwelling for our spirit and gives us whatever is needed for building ... Into the carpenter's heart he gives the courage to build high into the sky, strengthens his arm to build with confidence and makes him laugh at fear.

So today we have erected the roof-frame, as everyone can see; the beams at the ends are like a hallmark expressing a sign of success; when the building began there were many who had doubts about its completion and how much time has passed since the beginning was made with the foundations? Was it not from the first moment as if God's help was revealed here, early and late, and to our good fortune and joy the work prospered? Once again there is an example here to teach you that whoever trusts utterly in God's kind, fatherly hand will never lack his help and has certainly not built on sand!

Oh thank him! Let our joy, as is fitting for us, be our heartfelt thanks, for only with him has this building been so happily carried out by us. Now we present it out of our hands into God's faithful father's hand. May his hand help to complete it with his blessing and protect it then from instability. And may it by this hand with his blessing be consecrated to the owner, so that love and friendship here attend him and contentment be at home. And they who ever live in it must be happy in his shelter, and free from care and troubles, and rejoice in the benefactor.

Yes, may good fortune bind the brightest bunch of flowers for our worthy owner, that his profession may be combined with the bright splendour of a rich blessing. May all things unite to ensure the success of his bakery. May he thrive! And may his family thrive and prosper to a ripe old age!

Now let us pray: Take this house into your protection! Guard it against fire and flood, against lightning and storms. For yours is the kingdom and the power which can do anything and creates everything: to you be praise, glory and honour!

Now let us sing with vigour the first verse 'Praise, honour, and glory to our God!'

It is good for us that the owner praises us. In this way the work has been approved and any criticism in word or expression fades into nothingness. Well for us! Our deeds have succeeded! And so this evening we shall rest and enjoy the fruits of our success, so mild and sweet, as if they were apples from paradise. And now I drink to prosperity, that this building may long survive.

First: let us mention our worthy house-owner, with whom we have been joined in this building work: may his house stand in God's protection and in defiance of dangers and time! And, like a house, may his good luck endure, long, firm and handsome, into the future. May he enjoy many pleasures therein before, the later the better, he arrives at his destination.

Three cheers for him! Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah!

Secondly: the owner's worthy wife, who has indeed honoured us greatly, but owing to her absence has forgotten to decorate the beam with drapery. Three cheers for her! Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah!

Three cheers for the owner's parents-in-law, Mr August Miertschin³ and his family! Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah!

Three cheers for the music section, which accompanied our singing so wonderfully. Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah!

Our neighbour Skeide⁴ and his family – three cheers! Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah!

Also all those who slowly pass this place and look at this house from the side. Three cheers for them! Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah!

To our neighbours the merchants Kessel and Moerbe⁵ we wish constantly far and wide that they may have the best beer in their tap-room and that everyone shall praise their drinks, when even the brandy is approved, so that every critic is bound to drop his fault-finding. Three cheers for them! Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah!

Furthermore: Everyone who has worked on this building-site, especially those who at a word would stay but who slowly disperse: three cheers for them!

Finally, let us think of ourselves, who have carried out this work. May master and apprentice live long, today and in the future, in peace and joy. May many more buildings grow from our efforts and spread our fame and blessing, until we see the eternal homeland, where we shall build in another way! So let this house now stand here in God's name. Amen

Then we sing 'In all my deeds' verse 1.

Translated from German by Gerald Stone, June 2017

³August Miertschin (Ben Nevis family 65) who had married Maria Domaschka-Jurz.

⁴Ernest Skeide was a blacksmith in Serbin in 1900.

⁵Ben Kessel and Andrew Moerbe were merchants in Serbin in 1900

Bau-Rede

Beim Richten des neuen Wohnhauses von Ernst Kubsch in
Serbin, Lee County⁶

Gehalten von Gustav Mutscher 1897⁷

(Auf Wunsch dem Druck übergeben.)

Zuerst wurde mit Musikbegleitung das Lied "Nun danket alle Gott" gesungen, worauf G. Mutscher die folgende Ansprache hielt:

"Nun danket alle Gott"⁸ – dieses allbekannte Lied, welches so oft von dem Dachgerüst eines jeden neuen deutschen Hauses ertönte und mit dem Schlußgesang "In allen meinen Taten" endigte – mit diesen Worten: "Nun danket alle Gott" begrüße ich Euch heute Alle, die Ihr da unten steht und dieses neu errichtete Wohnhaus ansieht. Es ist mir in den 19 Jahren meines Hierseins dreimal vergönnt gewesen, der schönen deutschen Sitte eingedenk zu sein. Ja es heißt wohl, wir sind Deutsche, aber wo bleiben die Sitten und Gebräuche?

Wie viele haben schon neue Häuser gebaut, haben sie Gott gedankt und gebeten, daß der Herr mit ihnen einziehen möge und bei ihnen bleibe, bis sie aus diesem Hause getragen und in die stille Kammer gebettet werden?

Wir aber wollen heute in dem ausgezogenen und halb verlassenen Serbin wieder den anfang machen und Gott bitten, daß er uns bei der Arbeit gesund und wohl erhalten möge; daß Gott den Bauherrn segnen und mit Gesundheit ausrüften und er lange in diesem Hause wohnen möge. Und daß dieses Haus der Anfang sei zum Aufblühen dieses Ortes und zum Wohl der Gemeinde.

So meine werten Zuhörer, da ich das erste Mal hier an diesen Ort, an den gipfel eines neuen Dachgerüsts trete, so möchte ich meine schlichten Worte in ein Gedicht zusammenfassen und ausrufen:

⁹Gottlob, zo weit ist's nun vollbracht,
Hier steht der Bau in seiner Pracht.
Der Kranz, der erst den Werk gebührt,
Wenn es der Meister wohl vollführt.

Gottlob, ruft froh der Zimmermann.
Gottlob, das Werk ist nun getan.
Es ruht die Axt, die Säge ruht.
Es Ruhe ist nach schwerer Arbeit gut.

¹⁰Weil unser Werk nun ist vollbracht
So preisen wir des Höchsten Macht
Und bringen Lob und Dank dem Herrn.
Daß seine Hilfe niemals fern
Bei diesem Baue von uns war.
Daß er uns schützte vor Gefahr
Und daß zu Schaden niemand kam,
Der teil an unserer Arbeit nahm.

¹¹Dies Haus in Deinem Schutz erbaut,
Ein werk von unsern Händen.
Sei Deiner Obhut anvertraut
Du wollest von ihm wenden
Im Gnaden all und jedes Leid,
Damit es Eig'ner lange Zeit
Sich des Besitzes seine.

Ja, meine lieben Zuhörer:

¹²So ist durch vielen Fleiß und Mühe
Nun abermahls ein Bau vollbracht.
Dank Gott, der uns so spät als frühe
Arbeiten half und uns bewacht!
Er, über dem Gewölb' der Sterne.
Gebaut von seiner Meisterhand,
Durchschaut allsehend jede Ferne
Und sorgt noch für sein Unterland,
Die Erbe, daß in ihrem Kreise,
Was lebt und webt, sein Bischen Zeit
Verleb', und sich nach seiner Weise
Des Daseins freu' in Sicherheit.
Da baut in Fels er Thieren Höhlen,
Auf Bäumen Vögeln ihr Gezelt,
Und selbst der Schnecke darf nicht fehlen

⁶Carl Ernst Kubsch and Maria Magdalene Miertschin were married on 20 April 1896 at St Paul Lutheran Church located at Serbin, Lee County, Texas. In 1900 Kubsch was a wheelwright in Serbin.

⁷This was most likely Gustav Reinhold Mutscher (born in 1852 and died in 1922) who immigrated in 1883.

⁸Hymn 346 in *Kirchengesangbuch*

⁹*Bausprüche*, page 154.

¹⁰*Bausprüche*, page 152.

¹¹*Bausprüche*, page 115.

¹²*Zimmermanns Sprüche, Bei Richtung eines Wohnhauses*, page 33-35.

Ihr Haus im bunten Blumenfeld.
 Wie reich mit Wohnungen versehen
 Hat seine treue Vaterhand.
 Das tiefste Moos, der Gipfel Höhen
 Sind froher Wesen Aufenthalt.
 Selbst in der Erde finstern Klüften,
 Vor deren Qualm der Mensch sich scheut,
 Wölbt er Herbergen neben Triften
 Dem Wurme, der darin sich freut;
 Und dort, wo wilder Wellen Fluten
 Den ungemäß'nen Raum durchzieh'n,
 Sind Wohnungen, bequem zum Brüten
 Der Wasserwelt, gebaut durch ihn.
 Vor allen Erdenkreaturen,
 Ist er, o Mensch, auf dich bedacht;
 Blick auf dich selbst und finde Spuren
 Von seiner weisen Güt' und Macht.
 Wer baute der vernünst'gen Seele,
 Die in der denkt, ihr Wohnhaus auf,
 Wölbt' ihr der Knochenpfeiler Höhle,
 Und setzt ein Beingebälk darauf?...
 ...Wer schafft's daß wir vor Sturm und Regen
 Uns Häuser bau'n für unser Thun
 Und uns're Raft, wo wir uns pflegen,
 Und in der Nacht gesichert ruh'n?
 Er, der herab durch Wolfen schauet,
 Er ist's, der väterlich uns liebt,
 Der unserm Geist ein Wohnhaus bauet
 Und uns zum Bau'n, was noth ist, gibt....
 ...¹³Den Muth, hoch in die Luft zu bauen
 Gibt er dem Zimmermann ins Herz,
 Stärkt seinem Arm, gewiß zu bauen,
 Und macht die Feigheit ihm zum Scherz.

¹⁴So haben wir nun heute errichtet
 Das Dachgerüst, wie Jederman erblickt;
 Die Bäume an den Enden gleicht dem Stempel,
 Zum Zeichen des Gelung'nen aufgebrückt,
 Es hat wohl mancher noch, als der Bau begonnen,
 Mit Zweifeln an die Ausführung gedacht,
 Und wie viel Zeit is nun seitdem verronnen,
 Als mit dem Grund der Anfang ward gemacht?
 War es nicht, seit dem ersten Augenblicke,
 Als ob sich Gottes Hülfe spät und früh
 Hier offenbarte, das zu unserm Glücke,
 Zu unsrer Freude dieses Werk gedieh?
 Hier kann euch abermals ein Beispiel lehren:
 Wer fest auf Gottes Vaterhuld vertraut,

Der wird Euch seine Hülfe niemals fehlen,
 Und hat fürwahr auf keinen Sand gebaut!

¹⁵ Dank ihm! Dank sei unsre Freude
 Es innig, wie Er uns gebührt;
 Denn nur mit ihm ward dies Gebäude
 Von uns so glücklich ausgeführt.
 Nun geben wir's aus unsern Händen
 Im Gottes treue Vaterhand,
 Sie helfe segnend es vollenden
 Und schütz' es dann vor Unbestand.
 Und dieser Hand, mit seinem Segen
 Werd' es dem Bauherrn eingeweiht,
 Daß hier ihn Lieb und Freundschaft pflegen,
 Und heimisch sei Zufriedenheit.
 Und die es je bewohnen, müssen
 In seinem Schirme glücklich sein,
 Und frei von Sorg' und Kümernissen,
 Sich dankbar des Beglückers freun.

¹⁶Ja, unserm werthen Bauherrn winde
 Das Glück den schönsten Blütenkranz;
 Daß seine Nahrung sich verbinde
 Mit reichen Segens hellem Glanz.
 Es möge Alles sich vereinen,
 Daß sein Gebäck stets wohl gedieh'.
 Hoch lebe er! hoch auch die Seinen,
 Bis zu der spätste Lebenszeit!

Wir aber wollen noch bitten:

¹⁷Nimm dieses Haus in deine Hut!
 Du wollest es beschirmen
 Vor Wassersnoth und Feuersglut,
 Vor Wetterstrahl und Stümen.
 Denn ist das Reich, Denn ist die Kraft,
 Die Alles kann und Alles schafft:
 Dir sei Lob, Preis und Ehre!

GotNun singen wir mit Must de [] den
 ersten Vers: "Lob, Ehr' und Preis sei unserm t."¹⁸

[Fifteen lines are indistinguishable.]

¹⁹Wohl uns! da uns der Bauherr lobt,

¹³Eight lines in the original are skipped.

¹⁴*Bausprüche*, page 134-135.

¹⁵*Bausprüche*, page 88.

¹⁶*Bausprüche*, page 33.

¹⁷*Bausprüche*, page 105.

¹⁸Hymn 342 in *Kirchengesangbuch*.

¹⁹*Bausprüche*, page 90.

So ist dies Werk genug erprobt,
 Und jeder Tabel in Wort und Blick
 Sinkt in sein eig'nes Nichts zurück.
 Wohl uns! gelungen ist unser Thun!
 So wollen wir nun diesen Abend ruh'n,
 Und genießen die Frucht, so mild und süß,
 Als wären es Aepfel aus dem Paradies.
 Und nun trink ich auf das Wohlergehme,
 Daß dieser Bau mög recht lang' besteh'n.

²⁰Zuerst: Unser werter Bauherr sei genannt,
 Mit dem uns dieser Bau verband:
 Es stehe sein Haus in Gottes Schutz,
 Und biete Gefahren und Zeiten Trutz!
 Und wie ein Haus, lang, fest und schön,
 So mög hinfort sein Glück bestehn!
 Er genieße darin der Freuden viel,
 Und komme spät dereinst aus Ziel.

Er soll leben! Hoch! Hoch! Hoch!

Zum andern: Unsrere werthe Baufräule, die uns zwar
 hoch geehrt, aber durch ihre Abwesenheit vergessen,
 den Baum mit Tüchern zu zieren. Sie soll leben: Bivat!
 Hoch! Hoch! Hoch!

Es sollen leben dem Bauherren seine
 Schwiegereltern, Herr August Miertschin nebst
 Familie!²¹ Hoch! Hoch! Hoch!

Es lebe der Musikchor, der uns den Gesang so
 herrlich begleitet hat: Bivat! Hoch! Hoch! Hoch!

Unser Nachbar Skeide nebst Familie²² – sie sollen
 leben: Hoch! Hoch! Hoch!

Auch alle Diejenigen, die hier langsam vorbei
 gehen und dies Haus von der Seite ansehen – sie
 mögen leben: Hoch! Hoch! Hoch!

Unserer Nachbarn, den Kaufleuten Kessel &
 Mörbe²³, wünschen wir stets weit und breit das beste
 Bier in ihrem Schanklokale, daß ihr Getränk Einjeder
 lobt, wenn selbst der Branntwein ist erprobt, sodaß ein
 jeder Criticus das Tadeln unterlassen muß. Sie sollen
 leben: Bivat! Hoch! Hoch! Hoch!

Ferner: Alle, die hier an diesem Bau gearbeitet haben;
 besonders Diejenigen, die auf's Wort stehen bleiben,
 aber langsam wieder fortgehen – dieselben leben
 dreimal hoch!

²⁴Zuletzt sei unser auch gedacht,
 Die wir dies Werk hervorgebracht.
 Gesell und Meister leben heut
 Und lang' in Fried und Freudigkeit.
 Es wachse durch uns noch manches Bau,
 Und breite Ruhm und Segen aus,
 Bis wir die ewige Heimath schau,
 Wo wir auf andere Weise baun!
 So stehe nun in Gottes Namen
 Dies Haus hier ich mus []. Amen

Dann singen wir: "In allen meinen Taten," Vers 1.²⁵

Transliteration and notes by Weldon Mersiovsky
 P.O. Box 502
 Walburg, TX 78673

512-635-6429
weldon@ecpi.com

²⁰*Bausprüche*, page 93.

²¹August Miertschin (*Ben Nevis* family 65) who had married
 Maria Domaschka-Jurz.

²²Ernest Skeide was a blacksmith in Serbin in 1900.

²³Ben Kessel and Andrew Moerbe were merchants in Serbin
 in 1900.

²⁴*Alte und neue Zimmermanns Sprüche*, page 7.
²⁵*ymn* 329 in *Kirchengesangbuch*.

“The German Community of New Ulm and Others in the Surrounding Counties”

Originally presented as a lecture at the New Ulm Chamber of Commerce Banquet,
January 30, 2016 by Walter D. Kamphoefner

I wasn't born in Texas; in fact they had to pay me to get me to come. But although my roots are far away in Missouri, in one respect I literally have a direct connection to New Ulm. I read in a History of Austin County, “A great opportunity came to New Ulm in the year 1892, when the M.K. and T Railroad finished building the line from Houston. The railroad station of New Ulm was built about a mile from the old town, and a new town quickly grew up around it . . . It now has about 225 inhabitants, who with the exception of the railroad officials and a few Bohemians are all of German descent.” I too grew up along the Katy in a German-American community like New Ulm, but rather than Katy milepost 1014 where you are, we were almost 1000 miles up the line, at milepost 60, an hour out of St. Louis. But like the Katy, I got to Texas as soon as I could.

I think all of you would agree with me that the Germans in this part of Texas don't get the attention or respect they deserve. Ask almost anyone about Texas Germans and the first thing they will mention is New Braunfels, or maybe Fredericksburg, parts of the state settled by the so-called Adelsverein, the colonization society that brought some 7,000 Germans to the Lone Star State in the second half of the 1840s. And there is no disputing the fact that these areas were dominated by Germans like no other place in Texas. My calculations from the 1870 census show that about 85 percent of the population in these two counties was of German stock, making them two of the most homogeneously German counties nationwide. But if you look at numbers rather than percentages a different picture emerges. In 1870 there were only eight counties with more than 1,000 Germans in their population; accounting for more than 14,000 of the 24,000 Germans statewide. Only two of these counties had more than 2,000 Germans: your own Austin County is one of them; the other is right next door, Fayette County, beating it out for number one by just a hair. Comal County (greater New Braunfels) was in fourth place behind Galveston County; two other urban counties, dominated by Houston and San Antonio, were next in line. Then another local county, Washington, took seventh place, well ahead of the second Adelsverein County of Gillespie, i.e. Fredericksburg and its hinterlands. So these three eastern counties accounted for almost one-fourth of all Texas Germans, nearly twice as many as their more famous Hill Country rivals. And if county lines had been drawn differently, the quadrangle roughly formed by Cat Spring, Brenham, Giddings, and La Grange (or maybe Schulenburg), would have shown nearly as high a German percentage as well. All of this is less surprising when you consider that Austin County was the site of the first German settlement in the Lone Star State, going back to 1832 before Texas independence.

The Cat Spring Anniversary book counts twenty German settlements on the lower Brazos, Colorado, and Guadalupe area before the Civil War, stating that “Most of the Germans in these settlements were from Oldenburg, Holstein, and Westphalia in the northwestern part of Germany.” There is a reason for that. If you know your Texas German history, especially of this area, you may have heard of Friedrich Ernst. He is considered the first German publicist for Texas immigration with his 1832 letter. But fellow German Detlev Dunt actually did more to publicize both Ernst's letter and the (then Mexican) province of Texas in his 1834 book, which only last year got published in English along with a full English translation of Ernst's letter, superbly edited by James Kearney.

Both Friedrich Ernst and Detlev Dunt were pseudonyms, why the latter changed his name from Jordt to Dunt we don't know, but with Ernst it is more obvious. There was a warrant out for Christian Friederich Ernst Dirks, who had apparently fled after embezzling a handsome sum from the Oldenburg postal service where he held an important position. Like Ernst, Dunt/Jordt originated from the Duchy of Oldenburg near the northwest corner of Germany. Leaving Bremerhaven on Christmas Eve 1832, Dunt traveled via New York and New Orleans. Finally arriving in Brazoria, Texas around the end of April, 1833, he proceeded upriver and overland from there to Ernst's settlement of Industry in Austin County. Here he reports that he “can assure all of my German countrymen that Mr. Ernst's letter . . . was completely confirmed in all particulars.” He advises immigrants on the best travel time and routes, which equipment is best taken along from Germany or more cheaply obtained upon arrival. He reports on the generous land grants available, and on soil quality and agricultural practices. Appended to Dunt's account in Kearney's new book are brief reminiscences of Friedrich Ernst's widow Louise and of their daughter Carolina, recorded in 1884 and 1899. Dunt, as well as Ernst and his widow and daughter all mention many persons, Anglo and German, whom they met in pre-revolutionary Texas.

The Adelsverein was the largest colonization project in Germany or America during the 19th century, and according to one historian the biggest catastrophe. This attempt by a group of German nobles to colonize Texas transported over 7,000 persons to Texas between 1843 and 1846, before the society went bankrupt in 1847. Bad luck as well as incompetence came into play, but whatever the reason, promises of free land went largely unfulfilled, and few preparations were made for the arriving newcomers, so that many of them died from the hardships of the trail leading inland from the ports of Galveston and Indianola. From then on, immigration societies were regarded with deserved skepticism. Writing from Missouri in 1845, one educated immigrant made no bones about his disdain for colonization schemes in general and the "protective subordination" of the Adelsverein in particular: "Prince Solms, the director of this company, seems to have made himself totally laughable and hated through his ignorance of democratic conditions. On my tour I met a knowledgeable man from Texas. He said, 'We will cowhide him when he comes again.' That is to say, give him a most disgraceful thrashing with a whip made of cowhide."

Still, it appears that many of the immigrants liked Texas better than they liked Prince Solms, and induced many relatives and friends to follow them, just like Ernst and Dunt did. While Germany remained disunified until Bismarck united it in 1871, the divisions prove advantageous for the historian. The U.S. census tallied all the petty German sovereignties, some smaller than West Texas counties, enabling us to nail down quite specific migration traditions, and as luck would have it, each of these two main Texas immigration promoters has a specific little German state associated with it. Friederich Ernst, the first promoter of Texas immigration, was a native of Oldenburg. Prince Solms-Braunfels, the cowhiding target mentioned above and the leader of the Adelsverein, had his roots in Braunfels, then in the Duchy of Nassau, which was one of the prime recruiting grounds of the Verein. Although Oldenburg is slightly larger than Nassau, either one would fit three times over into Brewster County, Texas. The influence of Frederick Ernst is reflected in the fact that Oldenburgers made up three times the percentage of Germans in Texas as they did of the Germans nationwide. Natives of Nassau were even more heavily overrepresented in the Texas German population. With the genealogical resources of HeritageQuest and Ancestry.com, you don't have to search by family name; you can simply search simply by birthplace, including individual German states.

Searching by birthplace and county, some very interesting patterns emerged. Already in 1834, Ernst attracted other Oldenburg families: William Frels, the founder of Frelsburg, his brother John, and their brother in law William G. Bartels. The connection with Ernst is evident from five letters that a Bartels brother wrote from Germany between 1836 and 1847, addressed c/o Mr. Ernst, Industry. Bartels and Frels originated from the same Oldenburg town, and many of these who followed them settled in and around Round Top, which was just 12 miles from Ernst's settlement of Industry and not much farther from Frelsburg. In 1860, no fewer than 55 Germans from Oldenburg were living there. In fact, in every census down to 1930, Fayette County showed more Oldenburgers than any other county in the state. The 1870 census provides striking evidence of this chain migration. Of some 500 Oldenburgers in Texas, 175 or more than one-third lived in Fayette County; Colorado County was next with 105, followed by Austin County with 98, 90 of whom lived in Industry Precinct. So together these three counties accounted for almost three-fourths of all Oldenburgers in Texas. But when you look at the Hill Country, Fredericksburg counted not a single Oldenburger, and New Braunfels only one. By the time these areas were being settled by the Adelsverein, an Oldenburger foothold had already been established in this part of Texas, and later arrivals continued to follow these pioneers.

The Adelsverein's influence is reflected by natives of Nassau, which was the prime recruiting ground for the society. In 1860, more than two thirds of some 1,200 Nassau immigrants in Texas, over 800 total, lived in the counties of New Braunfels or Fredericksburg alone, and nearly 100 in San Antonio. Most of the rest were scattered along the Adelsverein route inland from the coast port of Indianola. Despite a Nassau Farm that is the subject of another Kearney book, there were a mere 40 Nassauers in Fayette County where it was located; and Austin, Colorado, and Washington counties together account for only a dozen.

So Oldenburg in Fayette County comes by its name honestly, as does New Braunfels, and also New Wehdem, south of Brenham. In Washington County, church records show there is a huge concentration of immigrants from Wehdem and nearby areas of Westphalia. With New Ulm I'm not so sure. It was settled by Germans about 1850; prior to then the area was known as Duffy's Settlement in honor of James C. Duff who obtained a land grant in 1841. According to the Cat Spring chronicle, "It is said that Lorenz Mueller suggested changing the name to New Ulm in honor of Ulm in Wuertenburg, Germany, the area from which most of the settlers had come. He stressed his point, it is reported, by treating those present at the discussion to a case of Rhine wine." I think the wine had more to do with it. There were only 48 Wurttembergers countywide, barely two percent of all Germans. Lorenz Mueller left only a few traces. Born in 1813, he apparently arrived in Galveston in January 1846 on the ship Riga and was naturalized in

Austin County, along with his wife and a brother and his family. The passenger list says he was from Gaffertshausen, which sounds like a South German name. They may mean Gessertshausen, which is actually in Bavaria but only 35 miles from Ulm. Muller show up in the 1850 census as a farmer with \$600 worth of real estate, just eight houses distant from James Duff, the settlement's original namesake, but then the trail goes cold. [There is a Lorenz Mueller with the same birthplace in the 1870 census, but living way out in Llano County as a shepherd, so that may be someone else.]

Something of the process of settlement is illustrated by the letters of an Oldenburger named George Schwarting which we translated and published. He made his way to Texas alone in 1855, at the age of twenty-three, but he certainly knew what to expect when he got there. He was the third person of that name to immigrate. The first, perhaps a cousin, had accompanied Dunt on his entire journey already in 1834. The second was George's older brother Gerhard, who came to Industry in the mid-1840s, but followed the Gold Rush to California during the Gold Rush and disappeared. George's first letter from 1856 bears the postmark of Industry, but the next one of 1859 was sent from Round Top. A number of the letters sent to him from Germany were addresses c/o William Bartels in Industry, another indication of the hometown connection.

George Schwarting had received a "good education" in Germany and probably did not arrive with empty hands; his brother had taken about 400 dollars with him when he emigrated. Right from the beginning, his letters are filled with economic calculations, transatlantic gossip, and advice about future immigration. In 1856 he writes: "From what Bartles says, as long as he has been in Texas, cash has never been as scarce as it is now, except for his first couple of years. If you have cash in hand, you can make some wonderful purchases, of horses and cattle and above all of land. . . . Joh. and George Frels bought and built here in the neighborhood last summer. . . . Two miles away lives Joh. Speckles, the son of the old butcher E. Speckles. He, like a lot of Germans who live moderately and are not afraid of work, has gotten ahead well. His place, which he bought five years ago for 800 dollars, is now worth \$4000. In addition, he has a large herd of cattle, 10 horses, and a freight wagon with six yoke of oxen. Every year he makes 5 or 6 trips to Houston, hauling away cotton and bringing back merchant goods to the country." The 1860 census shows Schwarting boarding with a farmer from North Carolina, just one house down from George Frels, and two up from Robert Zapp, a Round Top merchant. We'll hear more from Schwarting later, but by pure chance he happened to be away in Germany during the Civil War.

There is still a good deal of controversy over Texas Germans' attitudes toward slavery and the Civil War. German slaveowners were extremely rare in the Hill Country, but of course it was poorly suited for plantation agriculture, and as recently as those Germans had arrived, few had accumulated enough wealth to acquire slaves. In fact, the late, great UT geographer Terry Jordan claims that Texas Germans were "unremarkable" in their attitudes toward race and slavery, and would have adopted slavery over the course of time had the Civil War and emancipation not intervened. He is supported by a study of Austin, Fayette, and Colorado counties that documented about sixty Texas Germans who owned slaves between 1840 and 1865. But upon closer observation, Germans still stand apart also in this part of Texas. Although they made up at least one-third of the white population, they constituted less than 5 percent of the slaveowners, and owned less than 2 percent of all slaves. Nor was this merely the result of poverty. At every level of wealth from bottom to top, a much higher proportion of Anglo Americans than Germans owned slaves. Even in the richest category, people worth \$15,000 or more, only half of the Germans but 92 percent of the Anglos owned slaves. Obviously contrasts in attitude as well as affluence came into play here.

Even the few Germans who did own slaves were not particularly wedded to the peculiar institution. One of the rare first-hand accounts is by Christian Emshoff, who arrived in Washington County in 1850 and wrote in February 1861 that he had bought a "slave" or "black man," which he explained on purely economic grounds: "When I die, my children will inherit him. So you can be sure that he is worth as much as two hired hands." But even such a German expressed little regret at the demise of slavery, an institution he identified primarily with Anglo-Americans, as he stated in a letter of 1866: "The Americans almost all had Negroes, . . . because whoever had a lot of Negroes, he was rich. They had to do all the work, because the Americans, they don't like to work," adding with a touch of schadenfreude, "The Americans can't get along with the Negroes now, but they don't like to work themselves."

race and slavery, and would have adopted slavery over the course of time had the Civil War and emancipation not intervened. He is supported by a study of Austin, Fayette, and Colorado counties that documented about sixty Texas Germans who owned slaves between 1840 and 1865. But upon closer observation, Germans still stand apart also in this part of Texas. Although they made up at least one-third of the white population, they constituted less than 5 percent of the slaveowners, and owned less than 2 percent of all slaves. Nor was this merely the result of poverty. At every level of wealth from bottom to top, a much higher proportion of Anglo Americans than Germans owned slaves. Even in the richest category, people worth \$15,000 or more, only half of the Germans but 92 percent of the Anglos owned slaves. Obviously contrasts in attitude as well as affluence came into play here.

Even the few Germans who did own slaves were not particularly wedded to the peculiar institution. One of the rare first-hand accounts is by Christian Emshoff, who arrived in Washington County in 1850 and wrote in February 1861 that he had bought a "slave" or "black man," which he explained on purely economic grounds: "When I die, my children will inherit him. So you can be sure that he is worth as much as two hired hands." But even such a German expressed little regret at the demise of slavery, an institution he identified primarily with Anglo-Americans, as he stated in a letter of 1866: "The Americans almost all had Negroes, . . . because whoever had a lot of Negroes, he was rich. They had to do all the work, because the Americans, they don't like to work," adding with a touch of schadenfreude, "The Americans can't get along with the Negroes now, but they don't like to work themselves."

The voting record of Germans gives us another read on German attitudes toward the Southern cause of secession, which Texas put up to a referendum in February 1861. Here too most Germans stood apart from the Texas mainstream. In an appeal to ethnic voters, the Confederate Ordinance of Secession and Declaration of Causes was also published in 2,000 copies of both Spanish and German. But the German copies largely fell on deaf ears. Across Texas, secession won by a landslide, with less than a quarter of the voters opposing. But two German frontier counties in and around Fredericksburg led the state with a 96 percent margin against secession. Even older German settlements around here show little evidence of enthusiasm for the Confederate cause. Colorado County shows an internal polarization. Three German precincts (Frelsburg, Weimar and Mentz) voted 86 percent against, while five Anglo precincts cast all but six votes in favor of secession. Similarly in Fayette County, some Anglos must have contributed to the narrow majority opposing secession, but a local paper with the telling name *State Rights Democrat* blamed what it called the "sauer-kraut dirt-eaters." And sure enough, the German precinct of Round Top showed one of the heaviest votes against secession, 70 percent.

Secession fared better in Austin County, where the Germans were divided. In Industry they cast all but two of their votes for secession, but in Cat Spring they cast all but eight votes against. New Ulm Germans appear to be split, but in a preliminary election held the previous December, they voted 52-1 against even holding a secession convention. While not united, Austin County Germans still stand in stark contrast to their Anglo neighbors, only 4 percent of whom opposed secession.

It is also clear that Texas German were more reluctant to serve in the Civil War than their Anglo neighbors or their fellow Germans up north. There were two Horstmann brothers who immigrated from Oldenburg in 1853 and 1856, the first becoming a farmer here in Fayette County and the second a clerk in St. Louis. The latter, whose letters we published, went to New York to volunteer for the Union army and advanced all the way to the rank of Captain; his Texas brother somehow managed to sit out the whole war. We also published the letters of Dr. Hermann Nagel of Austin County, who with his son Charles made a harrowing escape via the Mexican border to St. Louis; Charles later served in the cabinet of President Taft. Many of you are familiar with the "Treue der Union" monument in Comfort, commemorating the German Unionists who died attempting a similar escape to Mexico in what is known as the Battle of the Nueces or Nueces Massacre (actually it was both; ten wounded captives were executed after the battle).

What you may not know is that Germans in this area had a similar record, if not quite as violent, of resistance to the Confederacy, right here in New Ulm in fact. The muster roll of the first Rebel company from Austin County shows nothing but Anglo names, whereas a list of 32 deserters published in the Bellville newspaper included only four names that were not German or Czech. Austin, Fayette, and Colorado counties were placed under martial law in January 1863 because of German draft resistance. A resistance meeting held near here around New Years of 1863, attracted from 400-600 Germans from five counties. Five of the leaders, all of from New Ulm, were arrested. Most prominent among them was Ferdinand William Dorbritz, a merchant who is buried on the New Ulm city cemetery. Another was his next door neighbor, blacksmith Friedrich Mittank. The other three were all farmers: Charles Runge, Frederick Haubold, and Heinrich Zulauf. I wonder if they have any descendants in the audience; if so you should be proud of them.

These patterns held across the Lone Star State. I did a quick and dirty analysis by searching for common Anglo and German names on Union and Confederate muster rolls in Texas. Of every Texas soldier named Smith or Jones on the National Park Service database of Civil War soldiers, one finds that less than 1 percent of them served the Union. But searching for two leading German names, Schmidt and Meyer, in the same data reveals that of those who fought in the Civil War, one in nine served the Union, although they had to go all the way to the Mexican border to enlist.

There were a few courageous Texas Germans like those who died on the Nueces who actively resisted the Confederacy, and others who voluntarily joined the Rebel ranks. A clue to their dedication is whether they signed up before or after the Confederate draft was instituted in February 1862. There were some German units like G.T. Marold's Company E of the 16th Texas Infantry in Brenham that were formed earlier, but the three from around here in Waul's Legion were only formed when the draft was looming. One was raised by Robert Voigt of Industry, but his letters which we published show he had considered whether his postmaster job would exempt him, and at one point he reassured his wife, "I come first and then the Confederation." He also advised her on how to avoid having debtors pay him off in inflated Confederate currency. Even so, he was more dedicated than most of his soldiers. I suspect that the majority fell into the category of reluctant Confederates, who had doubts about the cause but could find no way to avoid military service. Louis Lehmann no doubt spoke for many when he wrote to his brother-in-law from his farm near Brenham in 1866: "As much as I hated to, I also had to enter the army and fight for a cause that I had never approved." Returning home after a stint as a Union prisoner, he sat out the last six months of the war with, as he put it, "intentional illness."

In general Lehmann appeared pleased with the outcome of the war: "the existence of the United States stands more firmly than ever before, the stumbling block of slavery is cleared out of the way," an opinion that most of his German neighbors shared: "No element of the population rejoiced more about peace than the Germans, since they never had any interest in the cause anyhow." You see that here in New Ulm, where Germans and Czechs joined in a Fourth of July celebration in 1865, affirming Union victory, at a time when few Anglo whites felt like celebrating on the date that Vicksburg surrendered. New Braunfels also had a rousing celebration with a brass band and dance, and Round Top claims never to have missed a celebration since 1851.

I mentioned Georg Schwarting, who happened to spend most of the war back in Germany. He briefly joined the Union army on his return trip, but as a "bounty jumper" his loyalty to the Union was rather shaky. His reaction to the war's outcome, however, is clear: He wrote his brother at the beginning of 1866: "the blood was not shed in vain, slavery has ceased. How the Negro will get along as a free laborer, time will tell . . . anyhow they are free, and the 10 bottles of wine that I bet on it with Lönneker I gave away with no little delight. And when you get a chance, you can drink up some of it to the blessings of freedom and the health of the United States."

Germans and blacks often shared a common enemy. In a letter written in summer 1866, Schwarting complained: "It is high time we had an energetic government for a change, to put an end to all the rowdies. But the Germans suffer the most from this, and they are patient – otherwise, Judge Lynch would have long since put an end to these gangs." In his next letter he mentions the problem again, but this time the victims are different: "The situation with the *Rowdy* gangs is increasingly alarming. The Negroes are the main targets – some have even been murdered, but the suspects always go free." In May 1867, he distances himself from the Anglo-Americans and their opinions: "We are still under martial law, which is no small irritation to the Americans, but the 40 soldiers who are stationed here in Roundtop can hardly keep the peace."

Schwarting tells much about local developments, of cotton prices and caterpillar infestations, of a fever epidemic in 1867 that killed some 250 of the 800 inhabitants of La Grange. Another theme that turns up repeatedly in the letters is the recruitment of new immigrants. There is also gossip about earlier immigrants, for example a slaveowner named Barthels from Schwarting's German home town. At Christmas 1867 he wrote: "With old Bartels everything is still like before, only their log cabins are increasingly falling into disrepair, and the two old folks now have to work their farm alone, cut off from the world and humanity, enriched from year to year only by a few new wrinkles in their faces." As it turns out, they were neither all alone, nor were they burdened by poverty. I happened onto a 1930 book published in New Ulm which stated that the Barthels were childless and had purchased a slave boy, who had learned their language and loved them like a child. After Mr. Barthels died and his wife was bedridden with a stroke for two years until her death, she was faithfully cared for by this former slave and his wife. The Barthels' will left their entire property to this freedman Henry Williams, who in 1930 was reportedly still in possession of the farm and of a bundle of old German letters, which he greatly treasured. I'm always skeptical of stories like this, tinged with the magnolia myth. But then it occurred to me that I had actually read some of Barthels' German letters at the archives in Austin. A

brief e-mail exchange confirmed my hunch: Gift of Annie und Henry Williams, Industry, Texas.

The political stance taken during Reconstruction by Germans also set them apart from the majority of Anglos. The first Texas Republican elected to Congress in 1868 was 48er Edward Degener of San Antonio, representing the district that included Colorado, Fayette, and Bastrop counties as well as the entire Hill Country and the rest of south and west Texas. None of the local Germans made it to Congress, but German Republican Robert Zapp was elected to the state legislature from Fayette County, and Lehmann's messmate William Schlottmann served from Washington County along with freedman Matt Gaines. In the deliberations over a new school law, Schlottmann and a half-dozen other Germans stood united against a clause that would have required segregation in the schools. According to textbooks, Reconstruction ended in 1877, but Washington County remained under Republican control through 1884, upheld by the majority of blacks, about half of the Germans, and a handful of courageous Anglo-Americans. As long as they held on, blacks continued to serve as deputy sheriffs and jurors, and received a relatively fair shake in the local judicial system. The Democratic takeover in 1884 could only be achieved through violence and intimidation, and a Republican revival in 1886 was suppressed by stealing three ballot boxes in Republican precincts, lynching three African-American Republicans, and running three white Republican leaders out of the country. One of them was German lawyer and publisher Carl Schutze. Two years after his departure, Schutze wrote to Lehmann's brother and fellow veteran Julius, who had helped finance his newspaper: "[I] am afraid the Mob will put on the same show in this election that we went through 2 years ago. Violence and intimidation will once again be the main weapons used to intimidate the Negroes and if need be control the Ballotboxes. . . . I can imagine that these are just the rascals who are doing their best to play themselves up as friends of the Germans and stir them up against the Negroes, just as they stir up the Negroes against the Germans." And Washington County was not unique; similar pattern were found in neighboring Colorado County, where Republicans maintained local control till 1890, again through a coalition of Germans and blacks.

There was a fourth ethnic element in this part of Texas that deserves notice. Judging by the 1887 Texas agricultural census, Fayette County presents the rare case where what it called "Americans," i.e. white Anglos, were in fourth place among the populations elements, outnumbered by Germans, blacks, and what the census designated as "Bohemians and Moravians," i.e. Czechs. They appear to have gotten along quite well with Germans in Texas, in contrast to their antagonisms in the Old Country. Much of this was based on their cultural affinities which set them apart from Anglo-Americans, and at times united them against a common enemy. Nationality politics notwithstanding, they were in agreement in their love of beer, wurst, and polka: In Austin County, the 1887 Prohibition amendment was rejected by over 90 percent. Cat Spring weighed in with a resounding 238-0, and Milheim and Shelby were also unanimous against it.

Like Fayette County, Austin County had a significant Czech presence, with nearly 900 born there in the 1900 Census. It was also home to the Cat Spring Agricultural Society, the oldest agricultural society in Texas, founded in 1856. Even with World War I looming, the Society's 60th Anniversary Fest in the summer of 1916 featured speakers in both German and English; in fact as late as their 80th anniversary Fest in 1936 there is mention of inviting a German speaker. But in other respects, the society gave evidence that it was not bound by narrow German separatism. During the two decades before the war, its festivities were not bilingual but often trilingual, with "Bohemian" speakers invited to give addresses alongside German and English orators. Czechs made up a significant minority on the society's membership rolls, easily outnumbering Anglo-Americans. In fact, Jozef Ernst Bergmann, often considered the father of the Czech immigration to Texas, was one of its founding members and was elected its first vice-president. Even after World War I there were Czech as well as German names among the musicians hired for various dances and festivities, including the famous Baca Band of Fayetteville or the Gold Chain Bohemian Band from Schulenburg.

This is not the only evidence of trilingual Texas. The biographical sketch of Rudolph Benjamin Spacek, born in 1884 in Fayette County, says that "Czech was the language spoken at home, but everyday contact with Germans and classes at Professor Hill's German School made him proficient in that tongue as well." (If any fans of the movie "Carrie" are wondering, it was not him, but his younger brother who was the grandfather of actress Sissy Spacek.) That Czechs should learn German is perhaps not too surprising given the German reputation for imposing their language on the Slavic subjects in Europe; that Texas Germans would learn Czech is more remarkable. But here is what my department chair, Walter Buenger, writes about a third-generation Texas German farmer who grew up in Fayette County and later farmed near Taylor: "Grandfather spoke, read, and wrote German and English, and judging from the letters I have read his English was better than most college freshmen these days. (That is not saying much.) He and his mother spoke Czech and I believe read a bit of Czech. I have found some legal documents that seem like tenant

agreements in Czech. (Probably for his mother's farm.)”

Despite occasional rivalries, in Texas one sees German-Czech coalition supporting their native languages in public schools. When an 1871 law required teachers to be certified for competency in English, Fayette County officials petitioned to allow one long-time teacher to be examined in one of the two languages in which he was fluent, Czech or German, because he feared his command of English was inadequate. After a year's grace period he managed to pass the English exam, and continued to instruct in all three languages in the public schools. Despite the nationalistic wave of World War I and the English-only crusading of the Ku Klux Klan, German was reintroduced into a couple of communities, and seven districts taught Czech in 1932.

World War I did raise some tensions. In February 1918, patriotic Americans in Fayetteville were shocked and outraged to see what appeared to be a smoking gun of disloyalty: a German flag flying in front of the Germania lodge's hall. Surprisingly, no one torched the building, but eleven members including the town mayor were arrested and held for a total of \$60,000 bail. But it turned out that there was a rather innocent explanation: the lodge had traditionally flown the German flag on any day that an event was planned at the hall, serving notice in this era before radio and television. The event they were announcing that day was not just harmless but patriotic: an American Red Cross rally. The club did agree, however, to use the American flag rather than the German in announcing future events.

These attempts to enforce “100% Americanism” continued after the war. In Brenham and vicinity, the Ku Klux Klan used anonymous threats, beatings, and tarring and feathering in an attempt to force churches and other institutions to abandon their use of German or Czech. A notice posted on the door of a Lutheran church in Berlin, Texas, just outside Brenham, warned “Speak the English language or move out of this city and county.” The loyalty of Texas Germans was vouched for by an unlikely source, none other than Colonel Mayfield, the publisher of a Klan weekly in Houston: “The Records show that our soldiers of German descent fought as valiantly overseas as those of families of longer resident in America. . . . Still, this is America, all America and nothing but America The people who do not care to speak our native tongue . . . should be driven from it.” It demanded in bold headlines: PREACH IN ENGLISH. One of the demands the Klan made in Brenham was that soldiers' funerals not be conducted in German; somehow they just couldn't fit into their pointy hats that language and loyalty were largely unrelated.

Here in Austin County, a dispute over the use of German at a political rally put on by the Cat Spring Agricultural Society escalated several weeks later into a shootout on the streets of Sealy, Texas, between Klansmen and Germans that left four people dead (two on each side), one German hospitalized with severe stab wounds, and a Klansman convicted of murder.

Race was not the primary concern of the Texas Klan of the 1920s; rather, as one of Colonel Mayfield's headlines screamed, “It's the KKK vs. Jew, Jug, and Jesuits.” Particularly on the jug issue, Germans and Czechs saw eye to eye. The Klan paper reported on four Bohemian bootleggers from Schulenburg, Texas, arrested by Federal officials. Meanwhile at the Cat Springs Agricultural Society, matters were remarkably calm, as the minutes record. In preparations for the 1922 Anniversary Fest: “It was decided ... to order 40 gallons of ice cream, three gallons of orangeade, five kegs of beer. . . . The sheriff and constable will be invited.” In fact, from 1921 to 1926, the minutes record orders for no less than 31 kegs of beer for the society's various balls and festivities. After 1926, beer purchases no longer show up explicitly in the minutes, but that doesn't mean they switched to lemonade. The sheriff seems to have been a particular favorite of the society; he was explicitly invited to at least seven balls or festivities, and in one case presented with a box of cigars. Sheriff Remmert was himself a Texas German and was elected to no less than five biennial terms of office. One reason the society could be so bold about recording its extralegal activities was that its minutes were still kept in German, all the way down to 1942.

Although most German speakers also had a good command of English by that time, German was by no means dying out in Texas. The 1940 census records more than 70,000 Texans with German mother tongue who were American born of native parentage, i.e. they had no immigrant ancestors closer than their grandparents. Texas was the only state where third generation speakers outnumbered second generation speakers of German.

The 1970 census tallied mother tongue right down to the county level, and here the Hill Country does have you beat. Fredericksburg and its county still had a German speaking majority of 57 percent. It was in a category by itself, but there was no stringent east-west divide in Texas. There were six counties in the 20 to 30 percent range: Austin County was one of them, along with Fayette and Washington and three other in Adelsverein territory, with county seats of New Braunfels, Boerne, and Johnson City. But second in line statewide was Lee County, with 35 percent of the population claiming German mother tongue. The Hill Country had an overwhelmingly white population,

but if rates for other counties are calculated on the basis of white population only, 41 percent of Lee County whites and more than one third of those in Washington County claimed German as mother tongue.

In Texas, some of the affinity of Germans with Czechs, and their reservations toward Anglos, goes back to the Civil War era. The opposition of many Germans toward slavery and secession were shared by most Czechs. Even before the war, Czechs as well as Germans were harassed for their association with "abolitionist" foreign-language newspapers. One Czech teacher stated during the Civil War in opposition to the Confederacy, "We have to stick by the Germans." When military conscription forced them to serve in the Confederate army, Czechs often served in German companies, especially in Waul's Texas Legion. I had a Czech doctoral student who was also a Civil War reenactor studying with me a few years back, and while driving to Austin I stopped to show him the Czech SPJST cemetery west of Caldwell. Spotting two graves with Confederate veteran markers, he broke out laughing: "Why those guys were both deserters." These Votypka brothers had their roots in Austin County, and deserted together with the sons of Czech pioneer Josef Lesikar, who is buried on the New Ulm Cemetery.

This heritage of dissent from Anglo Texas also manifested itself in relatively friendly relations with black Texans. There is reliable evidence of black Texans who were fluent in Czech or German as a result of growing up among them and working with them.

The story is told of a Chicago Czech, Mr. Precechtel, traveling on business in Texas, who got off the train at some little town like Flatonia on the railroad line between Houston and San Antonio. He thought he heard someone speaking Czech, in fact his local Moravian dialect, but all he saw on the platform were two black men. Fearing that the Texas sun had cooked his brain, he walked over and without much thinking, he asked one of these men (in Czech of course), excuse me, but are you Czech? The black guy answered him, "Ne, ja su Moravec: No, I'm Moravian." Although this sounds like a joke, since the salesman was identified by name, it probably has a basis in fact. There was only one Mr. Precechtel in the U.S. census, Constantine Precechtel of Chicago, who immigrated in 1919.

The evidence on blacks who spoke German is even more firmly grounded. You may have heard of the black Frederichsburger notorious for saying during World War I, "Mir Deutscha müssa zammahalta" (We Germans have to stick together). However, German was literally his mother tongue; he was of mixed parentage. It's more surprising is to find similar patterns around here. There was still a black resident of the Industry area, Woody Lee Williams, born in 1928, who spoke fluent German, according to a Bavarian woman whose masters I advised at University of Houston around 1992. In fact she states "His German sounds as if his ancestors had come from the North German lowlands": which would fit Oldenburg to a T. Reportedly he spoke some Czech besides, although my student was in no position to say how well. He passed away in 2010, probably the last of his kind. Unfortunately, nobody from the Texas German Dialect Project ever found time to record him. But he is proof of the strong and lasting influence of German in these areas around here settled before there was even an idea of New Braunfels.

This also provides evidence that well into the twentieth century, Czechs and Germans stood apart somewhat from the white Anglo Texas mainstream, but in many ways shared a common subculture that perhaps grew stronger once they made the transition to the English language. A few months back I was preparing a talk on campus about immigration history, and the woman who was making the arrangements had a German-sounding name and roots in the Schulenburg area, which was heavily settled by both Czechs and Germans. So I inquired about her experience with the two groups, and she e-mailed back: "I never knew one from the other. My cousins and I were not taught German, so when there were problems or issues the elders spoke in German as it was probably [not] for the children to know. They all seemed to be part of a very hard working, self-supporting community with an accordion player at every family event. My aunt married into the Hromadka family and another into the Schramek family, which, I believe are both Czech."

Indeed they are; I rest my case.

SOURCES

Detlev Dunt, *Journey to Texas 1833*, ed. James C. Kearney and Geir Bentzen, trans. Anders Sastrup (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2015).

Walter D. Kamphoefner and Wolfgang Helbich, eds., *Germans in the Civil War: The Letters they Wrote Home* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006).

Walter D. Kamphoefner, "New Perspectives on Texas Germans and the Confederacy," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 102 (1999), 441-455.

Walter D. Kamphoefner, "The Handwriting on the Wall: The Klan, Language Issues, and Prohibition in the German Settlements of Eastern Texas," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 111 (2008), 52-66.

Walter D. Kamphoefner, "German Texans: In the Mainstream or Backwaters of Lone Star Society?" *Yearbook of German-American Studies* 38 (2003), 119-138.

: Reference the article from the previous issue where it talks about an undertaker being in the Mohrhusen building

(see p. 286, Fall 2017 Journal)

Editor, pretty ladies always sell!



Submitted by Richard Gruetzner, Burnet

German Choirs Gave S.A. Cultural Boost

San Antonio Express News and MySA.com, May 15, 2017

Immigrants' love of music, song left lasting imprint on city By Richard A.

Marini STAFF WRITER

When German settlers - some seeking economic opportunity, others fleeing political oppression - began arriving in central and south Texas in the early 1830s, they brought with them the culture of their fatherland.

This included a love of choral singing and the *gemütlichkeit*, or fellowship, of traditional German singing societies.

By the 1850s, just about every German community was home to one or more choirs that performed religious, classical and, yes, oompah folk music for appreciative audiences. Initially men-only—*männerchors* in the original German - eventually, women's choirs (*damenchors*), children's choirs (*kinderchors*) and even mixed-gender choirs (*Germania chors*) were formed.

These groups also participated in *saengerfests*, or singing festivals, where choirs from different towns would engage in friendly competitions as well as share news and meet new people. "The choirs helped keep traditional German music alive while also being a way for people to socialize before the days of mass communication and travel," said Claus D. Heide, president of San Antonio's Beethoven Männerchor.

The choir, long a staple of the city's cultural scene, is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year.

The group's roots date from 1847 when the *Männergesang-Yerein* was formed by Johann



On Christmas Day, 1893, Beethoven Männerchor celebrated its 25th anniversary year.

Photo courtesy Beethoven Mem's Choir



The Beethoven Männerchor performs in the Beethoven Biergarten during a singing festival called a *saengerfest*, probably mid-1950s. Raba Collection/San Antonio Conservation Society Foundation.



The Beethoven Women's Choir, or Damenchor, sings in Beethoven Biergarten, probably in 1954.

Nicholaus Simon Menger. The Handbook of Texas calls the *Männergesang-Verein* "possibly the first formally organized male singing society in Texas."

After ceasing activity during the Civil War, the singing group was reformed in 1867 under a new name by August Thielepape, an

engineer, musician and the mayor of San Antonio during Reconstruction.

During its earliest days, the Beethoven choir rehearsed at different locations, including members' homes, and would occasionally perform at taverns, social clubs, churches and the like.

Poet and musician Sidney Lanier described a Männerchor rehearsal he attended in 1873:

"Last night at 8 o'clock came Mr. Schiedemantel, a genuine lover of music and a fine pianist, to take me to the Mäennerchor, which meets every Wednesday night for practice Presently seventeen Germans were seated at the singing table. Great pipes were all afire. The leader, Herr Thielepape, an old man with a white beard and mustache, formerly mayor of the city, rapped his tuning fork vigorously, gave the chords by arpeggios of his voice (a wonderful high tenor ...) and off they all swung into such a noble, noble old full-voice lied (song) that imperious tears rushed to my eyes."

Through the years, members of some of the city's most prominent German families have sung in the choir. In addition to Thielepape, the list includes Steves, Shilos, Guenthers, Herffs, Wuests and McAllisters.

The group's wealth was apparent in 1895 when members funded construction of the Beethoven Hall across South Alamo from La Villita. When the building was destroyed by fire in 1913, they were able to rebuild it the next year. Today, the original building, albeit much changed, houses the Magik Theater.

Anti-German sentiment in the United States negatively affected choir membership and community acceptance during both world wars. After suffering a decline in revenue following the first World War, the männerchor sold the building to the city in 1921 and bought what had been a private home in the historic King William District for \$8,000, according to director David Nelson.

The end of World War II saw a resurgence in immigration from Germany, which helped bolster interest in singing societies. Operation Paperclip, for example, was a secretive program of the U. S. government to bring scientists, engineers and technicians to the U.S. in an effort to bolster the country's



The Beethoven San Jacinto Fiesta is celebrating its 150th anniversary.

military advantage during the Cold War. A number of these emigres came to Texas, in particular Brooks AFB.

Over the years, the nonprofit männerchor which serves as the umbrella organization, has expanded to include a women's, children's and a mixed choir, as well as a concert and a dance band.

Auditions for the men's choir, which is open to all men, are held throughout the year. Rehearsals take place most Tuesdays at 8 p.m. and annual dues are \$60. Members also are encouraged to volunteer at various events to support the organization.

The modern choir stays busy year-round. Scheduled performances include Fiesta (including at the King William Fair), two weekends during Oktoberfest, monthly festivals held throughout the spring and summer, and Weihnachtsfeier, the annual Christmas celebration that last year celebrated its 112th edition.

The organization's family-friendly grounds include an outdoor, treeshaded beer garden and an indoor hall, both of which are available for weddings, meetings, parties and other events. Inside, the Club Room is a comfortable pub open to the public serving local and German brews. German classes are taught in the adjoining Kuest Haus, part of which is being renovated as a museum of German heritage and culture. And the group hopes to restore the traditional two-lane 9-pin bowling alley located in a separate building.

Online

For more photos and to follow our *history* series, GO to ExpressNews.com/SA300.



The Beethoven Männerchor's Fiesta parade float featuring a harpist. The sign in the truck window reads "62. Saengerfest."

Courtesy Beethoven Maennerchor

rmarini@expres-news.net

Twitter: @RichardMarini

COMING TUESDAY: The Buckhorn Saloon and its interesting collection.

Submitted by Lucy Conn Sherrill,
San Antonio

Meat Clubs of Fayette Co.,

The Fayette County Record, October 3, 2017

By ED JANECKA

The coming of electricity is probably the most important event that changed people's lives, especially in rural areas. Electricity not only brought electric lights and water pumps, but also perhaps the most single important appliance, the refrigerator. However, the evolution of refrigeration also brought about the end of meat clubs, also known as beef clubs.

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.

A meat club generally consisted of a group of five to seven individuals, but there could be as many as ten in a group. One member of the group was designated to be the butcher. Clubs were organized for the purpose of having fresh meat weekly, and the process was fairly straightforward. Each week one of the club members donated a steer or a heifer to be butchered. The butcher did not have to contribute an animal; his participation in the group was the butchering process. There were occasions when inferior calves were delivered to the butcher. If the same group member continued to deliver inferior calves over a long period of time, then that person was asked to leave the meat club or produce a better steer or heifer.

On butchering day, the person whose turn it was to provide a calf delivered it to the butcher's location. After the calf was butchered, the meat was divided into as many portions as there were members. If there were seven members in the group, including the butcher, then the calf was divided into seven portions. Each week, a club member received a different part of the calf that he took home in a "meat sack," generally made of a heavy-duty material.

Butchering was usually done on Friday or Saturday, so that there would be fresh meat for the weekend in case company were to come. If the butchering was done on a Friday, however, it was more challenging for Catholics, who did not



Jesse Heinsohn butchering for Willow Springs Beef Club.

Photo courtesy of Rox Ann Johnson

eat meat on Friday. Once the meat arrived home from the butcher, some of it may have been prepared for the evening meal, but most of it was fried up and then placed in large containers of lard. Usually, crocks with lids were used for preserving meat in this manner. Lard preserved the meat for a long period of time, because it served as a barrier against bacteria. Often-times, the lard-covered meat was stored in a cistern house to keep it cooler. Some individuals would take a portion of their meat, wrap it up and place it in a bucket down into the water well to keep it cool for a day or two.

The entire process changed with the coming of electricity and refrigeration. Most people then butchered their own calf at home. Once the calf was butchered, the meat was wrapped and placed in the freezer compartment of the refrigerator. Because of limited freezer space, most people butchered a calf with their relatives and then divided the meat. Just think how wonderful it was for people to have meat every single day of the week.

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston



LGHS Students Inducted into National German Society



Fayette County Record, September 29, 2017

On Sunday, Sept. 17, seven German students were inducted into the National German Honor Society, Delta Epsilon Phi, in a ceremony conducted in La Grange High School library. Students include Anna Hajek, Jacob Wolff, Julissa Sanchez, Christa Kilian, Sydney Fritsch, Olivia Kielty and Morgan Upstill. The purpose of this organization is to recognize high school scholastic achievement in the study of German and to promote interest in the study of the German language, literature. The students must have completed at least four semesters of German and have maintained an overall average of 3.0 and a German grade of 3.2. The students participated in a candlelight ceremony and were honored with a cake and punch reception in the library following the ceremony.

People

Generation XIV Charles William Pressler (Carl Wilhelm Pressler) & Clara Johanna Doerk Pressler

Charles William (Karl Wilhelm) Pressler was born in Kindelbruck, District of Weissensee, Providence of Thuringia, Prussia, on March 26, 1823 and was the youngest of the ten children of August Nathaniel Jacob Pressler and his wife Marie Christiane Hermann. He was twenty-five years younger than his oldest brother, August.

He was only seven years of age when his mother died on July 7, 1830. His education and training became the responsibility of his older brothers and sisters. The primary responsibility for this soon fell to his brother, Hermann Frederick Carl Pressler, who was born on May 28, 1814. Charles received his primary education at the small village school in Kindelbruck. At the age of eleven or twelve he attended a grammar school at Weissenfels where his older brother, Hermann, an ordained Lutheran minister, had been appointed teacher in August 1833 at the age of nineteen. Early in 1836, when Hermann was called to Eisleben, Charles returned to Kindelbruck and for the next few months received private lessons from a Lutheran minister at Cannawurf, which was half an hour's ride from his home.

When Hermann became established at Eisleben, he sent for Charles and entered him in the Lutheran Gymnasium there on October 13, 1836 when he was thirteen. Hermann was Headmaster of this school. Hermann married Marie Pauline Franz on August 6, 1838. Charles remained there until April 1, 1841, when he graduated at the age of eighteen. He took an academic course and also studied veterinary surgery. Being adept at drawing, he was encouraged by Hermann to become a draftsman and, in order to accomplish this, he was taught in a school located in the old castle at Weissensee where he finished his course as a surveyor. In 1844, at the age of twenty one, he passed the surveyor's examination and immediately entered the Prussian State Service which required being sworn into the Army. He was stationed in Eisleben.

Charles stopped on the isle of Wright and in England before he came to Texas. He told his family about seeing Queen Victoria riding in a carriage. She was a young girl at the time. Charles' comment was that, "she had a very long neck and looked like someone's washwoman."

Evidently, he did quite well as an architect, engineer, and draftsman because at the age of twenty-two he drafted plans for the construction of an industrial development for the Leipsig Dresden area which were major cities a little over 100 miles from Kindelbruck. These plans were rejected by Parliament of Saxony in 1845, evidently for political concerns. A report of this was given in the Hamburg paper of November 4-5, 1995 and translated from German as follows:

"After the first railroad train had 'steamed' [gedampft] from Leipsig to Dresden-this was in the year 1845-an engineer named Karl Pressler put forward a plan for a network of rail and water. He proposed the building of a central train station and a harbor in the 'Grossen Gehege' [this is a proper name, literally 'large plaza] in Freidrichstadt. But in this matter, he was before his time. The Parliament declined the project.

Nevertheless, this did not remain entirely inconsequential in the following period of time. For after the construction of the harbor of Fieschen and the first Saxon transport harbor in Dresden-Neustadt, the Saxon Parliament decided on a unified plan for a rail and harbor construction."

In 1891, construction began, and the present development is based upon his plans. He had gone to Texas well before they were approved. The fact that these plans were ultimately adopted shows great talent in such a very young man. Because of his close relationship with his brother Hermann, it is quite impossible to understand Charles without understanding Hermann and his convictions.

In the 1840s, pro-democracy sentiment was strong in the Eisleben area. Hermann Pressler was among its advocates. He was well-known as a Lutheran minister and head of the Lutheran gymnasium (high school) in Eisleben. As

Martin Luther was born in Eisleban, and preached his last sermon and died there, it was a prominent Lutheran center, and the Lutheran leaders located there were particularly influential. Eisleban is located less than fifty miles northeast of the Pressler family home in Kindelbruck. Hermann Pressler and the wealthy Alwin Heinrich Sorgel became close friends and staunch allies in the pro-democracy movement. Together they started a newspaper which Sorgel financed and Hermann Pressler edited. Sorgel had a dream of establishing a colony in Texas which would be free to practice the democratic principles in which he believed. This never materialized because they could not get a land grant. However, the ideas of Albin Sorgel and Hermann Pressler greatly influenced the early thinking of Charles Pressler.

Charles did not approve of the prevailing political and religious climate that existed in the country and felt that improvements should be made. He also was probably very discouraged with the rejection of his plans for the development of the Dresden-Leipzig area. These reasons, along with the poor economic situation in Germany, were the probable motivation for his move to Texas. For several years, the German papers had been carrying considerable material regarding the new Texas Republic in America. Large colonies had left Germany for the new world. Charles was now past twenty-two and had an adventurous youthful attitude and a good education. He decided to try his future in the new world and join the Fisher and Miller colonists in Texas.

He emigrated as a member of the Manizer Adelsgesellschaft, a group started by some minor German noblemen. Their group consisted of 234 immigrants. These included Julius Franz of Torgau, brother-in-law of his brother Hermann, Friedrich (Fritz) Kanngiesser of Kindelbruck, brother-in-law of his sister Marie, and other friends. A leader of this expedition was Albin H. Sorgel, the friend of Edward Doerk and Herman Pressler. On October 29, 1845, Charles signed an agreement with the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas (the successor organization of the Mainzer Adelsverein) whereby he secured 160 acres of land in what was then called San Antonio County. They left Bremerhaven immediately thereafter on the ship "Franziska" and after a fairly eventful crossing, which he described as follows:

We left in October from Bremer-Hafen. A terrific storm in the canal forced the ship to shelter between the Island Wight and Portsmouth. Here we anchored for a whole month on account of the storm. We had the opportunity to visit the city Portsmouth and the beautiful island Wight known for the scenic parks and high chalk cliffs. During a manouver (sic) of the royal fleet we saw Queen Victoria and her husband Prince Albert. Finally we had a favorable wind. We sailed around the island aiming south passing the island Madeira and finally ran into the passat-winds turning now straight west. After crossing the ocean where we saw many dolphins (about 30 – 40 ft long) and flying fish we sighted the north coast of St. Domingo sailed between St. Domingo and Jamaica, passed Cuba and the half-island Saratan. The northern route brought us to the shores of Texas. We sailed along the coast for several days on account of unfavorable wind conditions. The low coast was hardly to be seen in daytime only at night we would notice the coast due to the burning prairie. The last 8 days on the boat, food was rationed and drinking water had a bad taste. We finally reached Galveston, a low island on the coast. Several hundred emigrants we found here. The Adelsverein had promised free transportation to our destination; however, since the war with Mexico was going on, all kind of transportation was occupied by the government. We three rented a room in Galveston while Sorgel went inwards. During his absence we went hunting and fishing. Sorgel came back after several weeks – he bought a few hundred acres in the Fayette court district (now Roundtop) – we all went with a river boat to Houston and from there walked with two packed mules to his acres. Arriving Galveston the first of February 1846, the time had advanced already quite a bit to assure a good harvest already in this year. We finally separated. Sorgel got employed by the Adelsverein; Schafer went to New-Orleans. Fritz Kennengiesser stayed on a place which was bought by a cousin of Sorgel. Julius Franz and myself were heading for Austin. So we started walking. However Franz took a job after a while to cement a water well on a farm. I was by myself now. I arrived in Austin on June 15th 1846.

Charles, Julius, and Fritz were somewhat disappointed with the conditions which existed at Galveston at that time and seriously considered leaving Texas for the New Grenada (Colombia and Panama) or going to California. Charles resented the reported Mormon influence in California and decided against going there. He made some very critical statements in his letters about Mormon practices. Charles and Julius then planned to join the U.S. Army which was

moving through Texas for the war with Mexico that had been declared in May. Julius backed out and Charles decided not to go alone. Instead, they decided to go to Sorgel's farm in Fayette County on Rocky Creek and try their hand at work on the land. This did not prove very satisfactory, and Charles soon left for Austin in order to seek employment as a surveyor. He made the journey with \$10.00 in his pocket, one loaf of cornbread and a violin. He arrived there on June 15, 1846. He described Austin as follows: "Austin is not a town like Berlin or even Kindelbruck, but a community of 75-100 log-cabins surrounded by wild Tonkawa-Indians and Buffalos. Without a gun you cannot farther than half an hour out of the town." Being unable to make any successful contacts, he worked for a German man in his bakery at \$9.00 per month plus free room and board. After he had worked for the bakery for two weeks, a friend of his named Kruezbauer came and told him that Col. Ward, a hero of the Texas Revolution and head of the Land Office, wanted to see him. Col. Ward offered him a job for two months for \$20.00 a month and free room and board. This was a happy time for Charles. He drew maps from 9:00a.m. to noon and then 2:00 5:00 p.m. He finished his work on August 25th and had saved \$35.00 by that time.

He decided to leave Austin on August 26th, 1846, and join General Woods' army in its attack on Cihuahua, Mexico. However, on that day he met Jacob de Cordova, who was in Austin making preparations for sending out surveying parties. De Cordova hired him for \$20.00 a month plus free room and board as the head of a small surveying expedition, and Charles left Austin shortly thereafter for San Antonio. De Cordova was a major influence in Charles' life. Born in Jamaica on June 6, 1808, he spent four years in Philadelphia, ending in 1833. In 1835, he left Jamaica again and went to New Orleans where he became a merchant who shipped goods into Texas. After Texas Independence, De Cordova moved to Houston. By 1845, he was well established as a land merchant there, and in 1847 he was elected to represent Harris County in the Second Texas Legislature. He employed surveying parties to survey land which he would advertise for sale outside of Texas. In his letters, Charles described De Cordova's land operation as follows:

"Every soldier (in the Texas Revolution) got a Certificate and was paid in acreage. The owner of a Certificate can claim his land where he wants it. There are plenty of those Certificates issued, and Cordova buys those or stakes out the claims for other people. He is looking after it himself to be sure those people get good soil. His fee is 1/8 of the claim.

Pressler went through Castroville and made surveys as far west as Eagle Pass. After several encounters with the Indians and some rather trying situations, he returned to Austin where the party disbanded. He made a trip to Sorgel's farm to see his friends and returned to Austin in November where he was again placed at the head of a surveying party by De Cordova. They left for Austin after covering 1200 miles through wild and uninhabited country. On this expedition, he narrowly escaped with his life when an Indian raid killed several of their men.

Charles' left final undertaking for De Cordova, before he returned to Germany, was the actual surveying of the Esnaurizar Grant in Guadalupe County in March 1848. We are extremely fortunate that Charles Pressler wrote a number of letters home during his first visit to Texas. These were preserved by the family in Germany. After World War II they were purchased by Mrs. Harry Barnhardt (Nellie Sterzig Barnhardt) a granddaughter of Charles Pressler, and returned to Texas. These letters not only give excellent insights into his personality and activities, but also reveal a great deal of the cultural and socioeconomic situation in Texas at that time. The account of his battle with Indians has particularly captured the attention of each younger generation of his descendants. As told in his own words literally translated from the German, his letters which were started in March of 1846, were as follows:

My dear ones:

Austin, Travis County
State of Texas March,
April 1846

Your letter arrived just in time, since I have been thinking of leaving Texas pretty soon, believing I would have more luck in South America. I am planning on leaving for New Granada. However, this depends on what passage I can get from New Orleans. I changed my former plans which were to settle in California because the Mormon are dominating there. Mormons also settled

about 23 English miles north of Austin, Texas. They have built a mill, and they seem to be very industrious. However, rumors tell about their practice of monism and that they do not hesitate to take other people's property. News from California seems to confirm this since the Mormons, after their half year trek through the rocky mountains, finally reached San Francisco. There they bought a few head of cattle to feed themselves. They let others know that this is the first and only time that they have bought or will buy cattle from any other man. Your letters arrived in December 1846 with Sorgelt. However, I did not get them until March when Julius send them from New Orleans. You hardly can imagine how excited I was hearing from you. I could hardly even sleep after looking at all the pictures you send me from home. To tell you the truth, I am not happy here at all. How could I be? The people despise our fatherland and give us a dirty look when we talk German with another fellow or show interest in what is going on in Germany. Yes, we are free here, but nobody in this nation has a heart or kind feelings towards us. It is hard to be happy under those conditions. I might not regret it if I leave America, but I am sure I will regret it if I return to Germany when I would be under the pressure of government employees, police and a government which mistreats all human rights. Our English will always have an accent, and we will always be recognized as foreigners right away. It is better to stay out of politics here. We are not Germans and not Americans. We will forget our own language more and more. I just received a letter from Fritz date the 16th of April, 1848. His advice was to up Klappenbach and ask him for aid from the Verein though is out of the question. I do not like favors, especially from the German-Verein. According to August's letter, I have to assume that none of my letters have reached you. Therefore I will repeat my diary.

I have already written that Julius and I decided to join the troops in the war against Mexico. Since I do not own a horse, Julius promised to help me. Therefore, I helped him on his farm. We worked hard for two or three days making fences and plowing quite a bit. But Julius backed out and told me to stay too. I cannot join by myself, and I did not want to be ungrateful to him. From our log cabin looking down the hill, we can see the road from Washington to La Grange leading to West-Texas. Often we saw volunteer companies from East Texas and the northern States passing by quite cheerfully. I was sad that I could not go along with them.

The way Julius is farming here, it will never amount to anything. Of course he has to save his money. I have already been working for him three months, and still he does not have a cow. This means we have no milk in the house. We fenced 2½ acres carrying all the lumber on our bare backs. It took us a full week. A sled with only one ox could have done the work in one day. With three more men, we plowed the soil (2½ acres) in two weeks where two men, one ox and a plow could have done the job in two days. You can see that under these circumstances I will never get any place. I talked things over with Julius, Fritz Kannengiesser and Schafer and we decided to separate from Soebel. Believe me, it was hard for me to leave him, and I would rather give up my own interest if it was not for you. Julius and I left in June while Fritz and Schafer, who were more involved in the place, stayed with Soebel. We left for Austin (95 English miles), hoping to find some employment there in the General Land Office. All I had was \$10—while Julius had little more than his violin on his back. One loaf of cornbread was all we took along. At noon we camped near a small creek enjoying there a slice of our bread. Julius was playing the violin when all of a sudden a Yankee showed up. After listening for a while, he showed us the way he played the violin. In the evening we made the past of La Grange, which is on the east side of the Colorado River. It is the largest settlement in Fayette County, with seventy to eighty log cabins and the frame houses, surrounded by beautiful life oaks. On the other side of the Colorado River are banks 150 to 200 feet higher. Being the main place of the county, people buy and sell their goods here, attending court, and conduct political elections. It looks more like a German market place than a city. They have a press, hotels and warehouses and even a stock market office (which is usually closed). Big signs saying "hot chocolate and pastries" are all over the town, but if you ask for some of them, they don't have it. Julius wanted to stay here and had several offerings as a building contractor. I left him and headed for Austin myself. There is no hospitality here. Every morning I had to pay fifty cents for

one cup of coffee, cornbread, and some of the universal food here, bacon. After three days, I reached Bastrop, in Bastrop County which is located on the Colorado River also. Since the revolution, it has become an important town, but it does not look like La Grange. At first, I thought I found Schmidt from Torgau, but this Schmidt was from Elsas. No news from the other Schmidt. Someone from Galveston told me he is living in Corpus Christi, on the delta of the Nueces River. On the fifth day, I arrived at Austin, the capital of Texas in Travis County. It is pretty and located on the east side of the Colorado River surrounded by the hills. Do not expect palaces here. Not at all. There are only log and frame houses like elsewhere, even the Capitol and Governor's home are so built. There are fifty to sixty homes in all. Austin is the last settlement on the river. There is not even a farm above Austin: it is all Indian territory. The next day I called upon a German who is working in the Land Office drawing maps. He told me he could not help me on account of my poor English. He tried to speak to Colonel Ward but without success. I tried everything but after already having run up a debt of two dollars at the Hotel, I finally took a job in a bakery as a helper for \$9 a month and free room and board. The boss was a German who own the bakery and brewery here. The beer is good as are the cookies. You would lick all your fingers. After fourteen days, my friend Kreuzbauer from the Land Office came to tell me Colonel Ward wants to see me. He offered me a job for two months. I went to see him dressed in style with Cotton pants and short blue coat, one trouser leg in my boot and my felt hat on my head. I was introduced by Kreuzbauer. He offered me a chair and told me I could work here for two months for \$20 a month and free room and board. I got a room in a log cabin with a sofa, upholstered chairs, a mirror with a golden frame and a bed with a mosquito-net. Here I lived very happily for a couple of months. Colonel Ward was a grand old soldier of the Texas Revolution and San Jacinto where he lost his right leg and arm. Now I had good meals again. There was poultry of all kinds, pastries, ham, peaches, figs, watermelon, etc. I wish Julius was still with me. I had three meals a day and, according to the custom here, each was a warm meal, every one like a big german supper. Mostly, of course, the meals consisted only of meat. I am only missing greens. The work was not hard at all, just drawing maps from 9-12 and 2-5 p.m. To really enjoy the meals, a Negro had to fan with a big flag to bring a kind of a cooling effect in the room and shew the flies away. Our drinks were water, sweet milk or buttermilk, which always was made fresh half an hour before dinner time. In the meantime the Fourth of July approached. Independence Day was celebrated with a big Ball in the Capitol. I did not go because I did not have a Congress coat. However, I peeked around and enjoyed it from the outside. An American played the first violin while a German played the second and a Negro played a triangle. That was the band. Uncle Sam's daughters are easily satisfied. The daughter of the Governor even said she never saw such a fine big Orchestra. From there I went straight to a funeral. Our Office surely was not a health center as it is surrounded by small mountains. We lost three persons out of fifteen in the last fourteen days. We just buried our Spanish interpreter, who had to translate all Spanish documents. The coffin was placed on a wagon drawn by four horses. A negro was driving and everyone else was riding along on horseback. Some were in blue coats, some dressed in white, some in black with white hats or dark hats. We went up to the cemetery, in the woods. However the coffin was too big for the grave, and we all had to dig a little wider hole before we could let the coffin go into it. Then we all filled the hole with soil. On the 25th of August my work was finished and I had to quit. However, the world looked brighter with a saving of \$35 in my pocket. After looking for a job for nearly a month, I finally was employed by the government in the surveying office. Aiming to see and learn everything in Texas I stayed only 3 months in the office, changed to a land-agency and was employed there with free room and board and \$25 – monthly salary. The Agency was surveying, buying and selling. So I travelled through Texas. Seldom in a bed at night, mostly camping outside beside my horse. The saddle was my pillow and my blanket kept me warm. In the winter 1847/1848 while on a surveying trip with several men we were attacked by Indians while our cook with 2 half-civilized Indians, breaking up a deer in our camp where we had our rifles too, stayed behind. Three were killed. I with two Americans could escape. In April 1848 I read about the revolution in Germany. So I decided to go back. I left from New-Orleans went to Le Havre, Paris. Here I stayed for a week and went to Cologne, Minden, Magdeburg and Halle. You know the Reaction

was victorious. In June 1849 I married the daughter of the Land and City-director Doerk in Eisleben and went back to Texas where I bought 160 acres near a good friend of mine. I had a good cotton crop that year.”

For the next six months, he continued to work for De Cordova on surveys and assembling field notes. He traveled extensively in Texas, some trips on surveying parties and some as a companion of De Cordova. They became close friends, and Charles wrote in his letter home as follows.

“I think Cordova is going to help me. He is leaving for New York this summer to sell Texas land and in case he does a good business, he wants to buy cattle, make me his foreman and promises me to let me have every third and fourth calf out of a bunch of hundred cows and the same amount of sheep. I think it is worth it.”

Charles’ letters home showed that he was discontent with a number of things in Texas. They included the following:

1. The weather with its hot summers and northers in the winter which could rapidly change the weather.
2. Discrimination against Germans by many English-speaking Texans and the denial of governmental jobs to Germans.
3. Evangelical religious efforts, particularly by the Methodists.
4. The snakes
5. The bad roads, hardly passable after a hard rain, and the fact that there were not bridges across Texas rivers.
6. The fact that one-third of the immigrants died, and the others, including himself, were often sick.
7. Texas didn’t know much about style, and he did not like the simple type of clothes every one wore.

The Texas newspapers during April 1848 reported the outbreak of a revolution in Germany, and as Charles had been a member of the Army, he decided to return to his native land in spite of his expressed reservations. He sailed from Galveston and, by a rather odd route, reached home in the summer. Quite naturally, he did a great deal of talking about Texas and, as the civil war in Germany was quite acute for a time, he persuaded many to try their luck in America.

In December 1848, an investigation took place at Eisleban in connection with a treasonable remark regarding the King of Saxony which his brother Hermann was alleged to have uttered at a meeting on March 20th, nine months before. This case aroused considerable public comment and was of such a nature that District Circuit Court Justice, Edward M. Doerk, resigned his position in order to conduct the defense. Edward Doerk was originally from Koenigsberg in East Prussia but was then residing in Eisleben.

The resigning of his position to accept the defense of Hermann caused a local stir because Counselor Doerk had been an outstanding patriot of the Prussian Army. He had just completed several major decisions on the rights of the people. In 1843 he had finished a history of the Regiment in Blucher’s Prussian Army in which he had served as a lieutenant during the Napoleonic War. He and his command nearly captured Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo, but the Emperor left his coach and rode away on horseback faster than they were able to travel on foot. Napoleon did leave a large amount of personal property in the coach which was divided among the members of the Regiment.

During the hearings, Charles resided with his brother Hermann. He renewed his friendship with Counselor Doerk’s daughter, Clara Johanna, in the early part of 1849, and they soon fell in love. He had known her when he had lived with his brother Hermann for schooling, but since she was four years younger, they were not close friends at the time. Clara was born on March 29, 1827 at Quedlinburg, Providence of Saxony, and had received her education at an exclusive girls’ finishing school. She spoke French fluently, which showed the good education she had and the social position which she and her family held. In some of her books still in the family, in beautiful handwriting, she wrote her name as “Claire Doerk.” This is the French adaptation of her name and gives us a clue as to her resentment of the then Prussian political situation as well as her identification with the then socially prominent French influence in European society.

According to the custom, their engagement was announced on April 27th, 1849. They were married at Eisleban

on June 18th in a ceremony befitting the occasion. Prior to their marriage, the couple had made tentative plans to settle in Texas. They made preparations to leave with Moritz and Edwina Doerk, brother and sister of the bride, as well as Frank (Franz) Pressler, a son of August and nephew of the groom. Their departure was delayed awaiting the outcome of the trial.

As the trial progressed, it became increasingly obvious that Hermann Pressler would be convicted. Edward Doerk learned that Hermann would be sentenced to ten years imprisonment. Therefore, the Hermann Presslers joined the group planning to leave. They sailed from Bremerhaven on September 7, 1849 with a large party of immigrants and landed in Galveston on December 5th, 1849. The Hermann Presslers went from there to New Orleans where he pastored a Lutheran church until his death in 1865 in a terrible yellow fever epidemic there.

Charles' trip to Germany had lasted only a year-and-a-half. During that period, he had married and decided that his future would be forever in Texas. The Charles Presslers first went to Fayette County near La Grange where they had decided to settle. Charles was unable to settle in the vicinity of Round Top as he had planned, so he purchased 160 acres in the Duff settlement of Austin County. They built a log cabin near New Ulm. The winter was extremely difficult for the newcomers and the hardships they faced were dire. They survived the winter of 1850 and in the spring began to plow the land. Their first crop was not as successful as had been hoped, and they were rather discouraged.

Their first child, Lucia, was born there on April 11, 1850, but died on May 29th of the same year, adding to their discouragement. Charles realized that farming was not his vocation and felt that he should try to resume surveying. Clara did not want him to follow his former activities as head of a surveying party owing to the dangers he had previously encountered. Therefore, he journeyed to Austin in the fall of 1850 with the intention of securing employment in the General Land Office. He was remembered there for the good work he had done during his previous two months' job and was promised employment. He immediately returned to his farm near New Ulm and loaded their belongings in a covered wagon and left for Austin with his wife. They arrived there on December 13th, 1850 and several days thereafter he entered the Land Office as a regular employee, being classified as a draftsman.

After the death of their first child, they had the following children all of whom were born in Austin:

- 2) Sophia, was born on August 29, 1851, but she lived less than one year, dying on May 6, 1852.
- 3) Agnes Franziska, was born on October 13, 1853. She survived them, living until May 22, 1938, when she was almost 85 years old. She married Frederick Sterzing on May 5, 1874. He was from a prominent German family and served in elected office in Travis County for many years as Tax Collector/Assessor.
- 4) Their first son, Rudolph Mortitz Pressler, was born March 3, 1856 in Austin and died on January 7, 1938, just four months before his older sister, Agnes. He married Pauline Luckenback of the Luckenback, Texas German family.
- 5) Carl Otto was born February 7, 1858, but lived only three-and-one-half years, dying on November 1, 1861.
- 6) Herman Paul, was born on April 7, 1861 and died there on December 30, 1937, just a few days before the death of this brother, Rudolph. He was named after Charles' older brother, Hermann, who played such an important part in Charles' life and also after his nephew, Paul. He married Veannis Maddox, whose uncle, John Maddox, had helped raise her and whose brother was mayor of Austin about the time of their marriage. They were married on December 6, 1899.
- 7) George Edward William, was born on October 31, 1870, and died on December 15, 1928. George was retarded and lived at home. Such a situation naturally caused difficulties in providing for his care. He survived his mother by eleven years. His oldest sister, Agnes, and other members of the family helped take care of him after their parents' deaths.

Of their seven children, only four survived infancy and one of these was retarded. However, the home life was pleasant, and there was a close and warm relationship. The other three surviving children lived beneficial and profitable lives and provided the Charles Presslers with fourteen grandchildren.

The children were all brought up speaking German. Close ties were kept with the family in Germany, as numerous letters, all written in German, indicate. However, there was no meeting of the German and American branches of the family until shortly after World War II, when Nellie Sterzing Branhart met Gerhard and Margaret Pressler from Kindelbruck and their young daughter, Christa, in Frankfurt. Soon thereafter, the wall separating East and West Germany was erected by the Communists and no further contact was attempted because Kindelburck was in East Germany. In 1989, Nancy and Paul Pressler (Herman Paul III) and their son Paul IV drove through Eastern Europe and visited the family in Kindelbruck several months before the wall was taken down. Since then, there have

been many happy times of contact between the European and American branches of the family.

The Charles Pressler family moved in March 1855 to a tract of land located less than fifteen miles south of Austin as his brother-in-law, Moritz, became interested in farming. They remained there until May 1856 when they moved to an 80-acre plot three miles northeast of Austin on Manor Road. However, their home burned with considerable loss to the family. Among items destroyed in this fire were a handkerchief, glove and other items which had belonged to Napoleon which were taken from his carriage by Edward Doerk, father of Clara Doerk Pressler, when he captured it in 1815 at the battle of Waterloo.

On the Manor Road property, his three nephews, Paul, Frank, and Ernest Pressler, established a brewery in 1860 which Charles' financed. This venture continued until 1862 when his nephews joined the Confederate Army.

They later moved to what was referred to as "the cottage" on East First Street. Their daughter, Agnes Pressler Sterzing, lived next door. The Four Seasons Hotel now occupies the space where this fine red brick home was located. Pictures of it remain.

On February 4, 1856, the Legislature approved an act incorporating the German Free School Association of the City of Austin. "Free" did not indicate that the school charged no tuition. Rather the word meant that the school was free of the clerical influence which dominated education in Germany. Evidently Charles was not very sympathetic to religious leadership even though he had been raised by his clergymen brother.

Before 1863, Charles and Clara Pressler joined St. David's Episcopal Church in Austin. Since they were prominent and leading members of the German community, this is remarkable. Probably the reason for not being part of the local German Lutheran congregation was resentment against the Lutheran Church's support of the Kaiser in Germany and the conflict with the local Lutheran Clergy over the creation of the German Free School. In his letters, we see resentment against Mormons and Methodists. This probably reflects a general resentment of organized religion. There is no evidence that they were particularly active in church activities.

Family lore relates a very unusual event. In Austin one night after 1896, Clara Pressler was awakened by a rapping sound from her bedstead and heard her sister Therese's voice say, "Clara, Clara, I'm going home." She had not seen her sister for over fifty years. She told her family about it the next morning. A telegram soon arrived telling her that her sister had died. When the time was compared, it was at the exact time that her sister died in Germany that Clara heard the rapping on her bedstead and her sister's voice. As her sister died, she threw up her hands, hit the bedstead of their bed in Germany, and her last words were "Clara, Clara, I'm going home."

Charles progressed in his employment, was appointed and sworn in as chief draftsman on February 10, 1853. He suggested to the Commissioner that the position of "calculator" be created. The duties of this position would be to calculate the field notes of every survey returned to the Land Office in order to determine the acreage contained and to ascertain whether or not the survey closed. This was to be established before the survey was placed for patenting. His suggestion was adopted, and this position was continued by subsequent examining draftsman in the office.

He later prepared certain information, most probably "Texas Lands," for the first Richardson's Texas Almanac of 1857. He also continued his close relationship with Jacob De Cordova and calculated the area of all the counties in Texas for De Cordova's book "Texas; Her Resources and Her Public Men" of 1858.

The (Galveston) Civilian and Gazette of April 25, 1857 published an item from The Dallas Herald concerning an expedition that had set out to make surveys and locate land script in north Texas. Charles called the newspaper's attention to the fact that Captain R. B. Maroy's survey of the 100 Meridian in 1852 was incorrect, and Maroy had actually marked the 99th Meridian. The position of Fort Belknap had been very accurately established previously, and the distance from that point to the 100th Meridian as set forth by Capt. Maroy's failed to check. This precipitated a lengthy pro and con discussion in the newspapers by all interested parties and continued for over five years until November 1857. On February of the following year, a Representative from Texas introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives a bill to authorize the President of the United States to have boundary line rerun and marked. This survey was made in 1859. At least nine others were made before the correct line was established, marked, and accepted by the U.S. Government on March 17, 1930. The line finally established proved that Charles had been absolutely correct and that Captain Maroy's survey had been about one degree east of the true 100th Meridian. The land located by the expedition of 1857 was actually in Indian territory (Oklahoma) instead of Texas.

He came here when life was hard and dangerous and the state was experiencing its first Anglo-Saxon development. The foundations were being laid for its future greatness. This period involved the settlement and development of our great land areas from a wilderness to civilized communities, to homesteads, ranches and farms. As a surveyor and cartographer, he had a part in this development. His map of 1858 of the State of Texas is the first accurate map

made of the state according to J.P. Bryan, a map expert and close friend of Herman P. Pressler, Jr. J.P. Bryan was a direct descendant of the sister of Stephen F. Austin and a serious student of Texas history. Bryan went to Spain and arranged for an artist to make him copies of the maps in the "Archives of the Indies" which included the area which became known as Texas. He wrote a pamphlet entitled "From Potelmy to Pressler", describing these maps.

As a surveyor, Charles W. Pressler covered a great part of the state, survived an Indian fight near San Marcos and triumphed over other hazards.

Charles remained with the Land Office, but his services seem to have been transferred to the Engineering Department of the Confederacy about September 1863. On January 30, 1864, he was commissioned a Captain of Company C, 4th Regiment, Texas Infantry, (State Troops) of the Army of the Confederate States and served in Houston and Galveston. He went back into the Land Office on September 6, 1865 but was relieved of this position in June 1866 when the U.S. Military Government took over the various State Departments and the Yankee Reconstruction Government ousted those who had supported the Confederacy from governmental positions. In the summer of 1867, he was appointed City Engineer of Galveston but resigned in the fall when the yellow fever epidemic started there. He was back in the Land Office in September 1867 and remained there until January 1870. At that time, he became connected with the U.S. Government Engineer Commissary Service at Austin, which was a part of the Federal Military in Texas. One of his duties was the compiling of a map designating a new route from Austin to Ft. Yuma, California. It is not known whether he actually made the trip but the map prepared by him is in the War Department in Washington, D.C. and is dated June 16, 1870. During this time, he accompanied Captain L.C. Overman of the U.S. Engineer Corps on an expedition to survey and inspect Forts Richardson, Griffin, Concho, McKavett, Clark, Dawson, and McIntosh. He left Austin on June 26 and returned October 22, 1870.

When this tour was complete, he reentered the Land Office under Commissioner Kuechler in early 1871 and remained there continuously until his retirement of January 16, 1899. One of Charles' fellow employee was Will Porter, who wrote under the pen name of O'Henry. They were close friends. Charles' son, Herman Pressler, posted a \$5,000 bond for O'Henry when O'Henry was indicted for theft. O'Henry jumped bond, fled to Nicaragua and Herman Pressler was forced to pay the forfeited bond. O'Henry never made an effort to repay the family even after he achieved success.

Charles' mind was clear and his memory excellent. He retired at the age of seventy-five in 1899. After retirement, he lived quietly on First Street and occupied his time with his garden and flowers. He suffered a paralytic stroke on February 3 and died on February 6, 1907 within two months of his 84th birthday. He was buried in the family lot in Oakwood Cemetery. His wife survived him by ten years and died August 29, 1917 in her 91st year.

It was a well-recognized fact that in matters of litigation, especially where questions of boundaries were involved, his knowledge was accepted by attorneys and used as evidence. He was credited with being more thoroughly acquainted with the intricate and important duties of the Land Office than any other person who had served in the department since its organization during the Republic of Texas. The distinguished service rendered to the State during his many years is an outstanding monument to his skill, ability, honesty, and integrity, and there is hardly any map in the Land Office of any part of Texas prior to 1900 that does not carry some of his handiwork.

The first map of Texas by Jacob De Cordova was in 1849, and while this was actually compiled by Robert Crouzbaur, Charles had checked all the details with the Land Office records. This was done during the last nine months he was in Texas prior to returning to Germany.

Apparently he did not do any of the revisions on the 1850 De Cordova or the 1851 (a) map, but he did check the correctness of the 1851 (b) before it was published. The changes he made were quite noticeable. In 1854, the De Cordova map does not show revisions while the 1856, 1857 (a), and 1857 (b) were each brought up to date. All three of these show on the face that they had been revised and corrected by Charles.

Charles decided to publish his own map in 1851. It was published in Germany with W. Volker assisting. It is the only map on which he uses his German name, Karl Wilhelm Pressler. It was published in a book written on Texas by George M. von Ross called *Der Nordamereuanusde Freustaat Texas*. It was for the use of German immigrants. The map is printed in the German language. His later maps, beginning with the 1858 one, gives his name as Charles William Pressler, and were in English, indicating that he then had permanently abandoned the land of his birth for Texas.

A copy of his rare 1851 map was sold at an auction in Austin January 10, 1998 for \$28,000 plus 23% for tax and commission. The description of this 1851 map as given in the auction catalogue was as follows:

“Exceedingly Rare and Little-Known Pressler Map of Texas in 1851. 183. [MAP: TEXAS].

PRESSLER, Charles W.&W. Volker. Map of Texas. Compiled from Surveys at the Land Office of Texas by K.W. Pressler [sic] & W. Volker, Lithographed map of Texas to approximately 100N W longitude (Presidio) and north to the Red River. Printed on 2 sheets, northern and southern, measuring overall 61.7 x 44.7cm. (24-1/4 x 17-5/8 inches). Original outline coloring around counties. Scale: 1 inch+approximately 23 miles. First edition of Pressler’s little-known and earliest map of Texas. This two-sheet map appeared in George M. Von Ross’ 1851 immigrant guide, *Der nordamerikanische Freistat Texas* (see Graff 3582 & Howes R55); according to the printed caption above the neat line (L.Holle’s *Handatlas von Texan* 20 [&] 21), the map also appeared in an atlas. *Martin & Martin* 46 (citing Pressler’s 1858 map of Texas, but not mentioning the present map, which predates it by seven years): ‘The role of the General Land Office in mapping Texas in the second half of the nineteenth century centered in the career of Charles William Pressler, who immigrated to Texas from Prussia in 1846. As a trained surveyor, Pressler moved from Galveston to Austin, where he was employed by the noted mapmaker, Jacob De Cordova, to conduct surveying expeditions for the benefit of De Cordova’s cartographic productions. In 1850, Pressler joined the staff of the General Land Office, where he collected and disseminated information concerning the geography of Texas until his retirement in 1899. Having come to Texas as part of the *Adelsverein*, an organization created for the purpose of bringing German immigrants to Texas, Pressler was keenly aware of the needs of potential immigrants. He aided these people by making available travel literature and maps of the period.’ Along with De Cordova maps, Pressler’s maps can be regarded as the first truly accurate maps of the state because of the actual surveys which had been accomplished... Pressler... record[ed] the greatest era of change in Texas history (*Contours of Discovery*, pp.57-58). Phillips, *America*, p.844. Taliaferro 317n (mentioning this map). See also *New Handbook* V:334. This beautiful two-sheet map by one of Texas’ great cartographers is a fantastic item, both for its cartographical advances and as documentation of German immigration to Texas. Certainly nothing can compare with Stephen F. Austin’s great map of Texas, but this is one of a handful of maps of Texas produced from 1830 to 1860 that contribute to Texas geography as a whole and provide an important record of the evolution of the state during the pivotal years when it was first settled by Europeans.”

The first Pressler map of Texas published in Texas was in 1858. It was considered to be the most correct map of Texas that had been issued up to that time. It is a large map which folded into a carrying case. A copy of this map may be seen in the San Jacinto Museum on loan from the Herman Pressler, Jr. family. A revision of this map appeared in 1862. Because of the war, it did not have a very large circulation. A copy of it hangs in the reception room of the Meridian Oil Company in the Williams Tower in Houston. The Pressler map was completely revised, redrawn and issued in 1867. Being after the War Between the States, it was greatly in demand by people outside of the state who contemplated moving to Texas. It also, was a large map that folded into a carrying case.

In 1872, a map was published by Colton. This map was completely checked by Charles Pressler before its issuance and indicates thereon that he had furnished the authentic material. A reissuance of this map was made in 1873, 1874, and 1875 with very slight changes.

The 1874 Roessler map indicates that a portion of it had been copied from either the Colton or the previous Pressler maps. It is very hard to ascertain if Charles Pressler had worked on the project. He did, however, furnish some information but the nature of it cannot be ascertained. This may also be said in regard to the 1875, 1876, June 1876, November 1876, and the 1878 Roessler maps.

The Pressler-Langermann map of 1879 was considered the outstanding map of Texas. Its three sizes have been widely used throughout the State and was considered extremely authentic. One of his descendants pointed out that on this map in northeastern Gillespie County, there is a description of an area as “Pressler’s Ranch.” It is not known whether Charles put this on the map himself or whether Langermann put it on the map at the last minute to surprise Charles.

In 1879, Charles W. Pressler had bought his ranch in northeast Gillespie County near Willow City. The 4,428 acres were purchased from Southwestern University at Georgetown for 79 cents per acre. Two years later, in 1881, he sold one half of it to his nephew, Franz Pressler, for 81 cents per acre. He enjoyed his ranch, but getting to which then required a several day journey to go the approximately eighty miles from Austin. At first, they went by

horseback, horse drawn vehicle, or train. Later the family went by car. Since there were no motels at that time, they camped out overnight. They killed game for food along the way. Charles Pressler owned his half of the 4,428 acres for the rest of his life. On his death, he left one half of his half to his son, Herman, and one half of his one half to his son, Rudolph. A map was prepared by Charles in 1889 for publication, and while the Legislature passed a bill authorizing its publication at State expense, the bill was vetoed by Governor Hogg. It still remains in manuscript form.

Charles also made a number of county maps that were issued by the State bearing his name. In fact, he made more than anyone else. He made 46 and the next highest person made 22. His son Herman made three of the county maps issued by the State. The county maps Charles prepared and their dates included the following:

1851 Collin 1853 Dewitt 1853 Goliad 1853 Gonzales 1853 Lavaca 1853 Leon 1856 Fannin
 1856 Hopkins 1858 Victoria 1859 Grayson 1859 Hunt 1862 Harris 1865 Fort Bend 1865 Jackson
 1866 Fannin 1868 Bee 1868 Jack 1871 Denton 1871 Ellis 1871 Montgomery 1872 Hopkins
 1872 Navarro 1873 Ellis 1873 Fort Bend 1873 Hunt 1893 Gregg 1894 Hunt 1895 Caldwell
 1897 Camp 1897 Franklin 1897 Orange 1898 Kent

Copies of the surveying plats and field notes of Charles Pressler are made with great precision in the beautiful script with which he wrote. He was the expert. His legacy lives on in the surveys and maps he made as well as in his descendants. He was a remarkable man who made the transition from one culture to another, dared to face the challenge of young Texas and succeeded there where a lesser man would have failed. He was man of great talent and ability as seen by his successful plans for the Dresden-Leipzig area and all the surveying that he did in Texas. He was proud of his work which he did accurately and with great precision, as shown by the fact that he was the one who corrected the surveys and map of others. Charles William Pressler was a remarkable man and appropriately one of the leaders of early Texas.

Submitted by Paul Pressler

Still “tough as nails” even at 102 years old

The Fayette County Record, September 29, 2017

By ELAINE THOMAS

Special to the Record

Hermine Weise, who recently celebrated her 102nd birthday, has vivid memories of family stories she heard as a child, as well as some colorful recollections of her own.

Hermine (pronounced Hermina) was born Feb. 21, 1915, a short distance from her comfortable farmhouse near Serbin, Texas. Her parents, Christian Herman Wagner and Hulda Pauline Senff, were poor sharecroppers, who lived on a farm they rented near Grassyville School. Back in those days, the settlement had a cotton gin, a small grocery store and a tiny Methodist Church.

Her Dad Died the Day She Was Born

"What happened, I was told, is that Mama was pregnant - as big as a house. Daddy came in and asked her if she felt like fixin' a duck for dinner. She said, 'Yeah, yeah,' so he got his gun and went to the pond. There were two ponds close to one another with a fence in-between them. There were no ducks on the first pond, so Daddy must have said, 'I'm going to the other pond.' When he went to cross the zigzag rails, he put his gun on the fence. When he went to climb over, I don't know whether a log broke, or the fencepost slid a little bit, but the



gun slid a little bit, but the gun discharged. The shell hit Daddy in the leg above the knee."

Hermine's father crawled a short distance, calling for help. Playing in the yard, her brothers, Gerhart and Eddie, aged four and two, heard their father's cries and ran to see what was wrong. Their father told the boys he was hurt and to hurry and get their mother. Mrs. Wagner came right away, but she couldn't lift him. Since they had no telephone, she couldn't phone for help either. "Mama must have told the boys, 'You stay with Daddy and I'm going to run to the neighbors.'"

So that's what she did. In no time, the whole community was there and everybody was trying to do something to help. "I don't know how many days later it was before Mama gave birth to me. She told me the women cleaned me up, dressed me, took me to Daddy and he held me. He said, 'Little Hulda' in German. Mama said; 'Okay, that's her name.'"

"Later in the evening, Daddy passed away. The funeral was at the house because Mama couldn't go anywhere. Right after Daddy's funeral service, I was baptized Hulda Hermine Wagner. Daddy was buried in the Serbin Cemetery. I think he was 28 when they got married, so he would have been in his mid-30s when he died."

Schoolyard Chatter forced Disclosure

For years, Hermine knew nothing about the sad circumstances surrounding her birth. She first heard about it from the other kids on the playground at the two-room Grassyville School.

"They were talking about my dad's death in German and I caught a few words of what they were saying. They said he had shot himself. I was shocked. When we got home from school that day, I told Mama what I had heard. She sat me down and told me the story of what had happened the day I was born.

Hermine has always harbored a sense of responsibility, for the tragedy. "All my life, if something happened to one of our kids Doris, Roy or Tim I felt like it was my fault. That feeling stems from the day Daddy died. Mama said she would cook a duck if she had one and, if she hadn't said that, he might not have gone hunting and shot himself accidentally. It was all on account of me. I always thought it was my fault."

After the death of her father, Hermine's mother remarried during World War I. "Mama didn't really want to get married, she told me. In fact, she told the man, 'I have three children.' 'Oh,' he said, 'I don't care even if you have six.' Mama thought it over and said, 'Maybe it would work.' "Mama had no way of



Seated beside her youngest child, Tim, 102-year-old Hermine Weise says she has been blessed throughout her life.

Photo by Elaine Thomas



Gilbert and Hermine were married on Thanksgiving Day, 1937, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin.

knowing then that he wouldn't want Gerhart and Eddie after the war.

He was mean to them. Mama couldn't take it anymore. She divorced him with the help of our pastor and the law. There weren't many divorces back then. I don't really know the details. Mama never talked about it."

Hermine liked school, especially learning to recite poetry. She also enjoyed playing games. "We sat two to a desk. My seatmate, Louis, who was a card, brought his pocketknife to school and taught me how to play mumble-peg. You balanced the knife off your fingers or your head or your shoulder and dropped it to see how far it would stick in the ground. Then you had to get down in the dirt and pick it back out with your teeth. He practiced, I know, because he beat me every time."

Hermine remembers her mother as a quiet, yet strict lady. "Mama tried to teach me manners. When I would sit with my legs apart, she would slap me. I'd say, 'What's that for?' She would tell me, 'Ladies don't sit like that. If you must cross your legs, cross them at the ankles.' I have pictures of her and in every one her legs were crossed at the ankles."

When short dresses (above the knee) came into fashion, Hermine wanted to dress in style. However, her mother said they were not lady-like.

A Cup of Mother's Love

"I wish I could have been like Mama. She was very happy most times. She played with us. She could sing. I could hear her singing from school. It was beautiful. Once when school was just about out, we got down to our gate on the way home, and there was Mr. Martin, the landowner, on horseback. 'When I came through here,' he told us, 'I heard your mother singing, so I stopped to listen.'"

One year when there was no crop or garden, Hermine's mother didn't know how she would feed her children. Mr. Lawrence, who operated the little store at Grassyville, gave her and several other neighbors credit. They all solemnly agreed to pay him back.

"I was already working in Austin. Then Eddie got a job at a filling station in San Marcos, so Mama quit the farm and came to Austin to work in the university's kitchen. She saved and saved until she had the money to repay Mr. Lawrence. When she sent her last payment, Mama wrote him a little note telling him the debt was cleared and thanking him for letting her have credit.

"Someone we knew who was in the grocery store when Mr. Lawrence read her note, said he got mad. He threw it on the floor and said, 'If I had known this, I would have given her a lot more credit and a whole lot less to those I've never heard from again.'"

Hermine loves to tell the story about a present she received from her mother more than 80 years ago.

"The Christmas before I was born, Daddy went to town (Giddings) and bought Mama a gift. That in itself was very unusual because they had so little money and bought only what they needed to get by. I was so surprised when she sat me down and said, this is yours. The cup is me and the saucer is your dad.' She wanted me to have it. "It was a beautiful cup. It still is. The saucer that came with the cup was broken, so I worked and worked to find a saucer to match the cup. I don't know how Mama had kept it hidden all those years in a suitcase with a key. She had her wedding dress in there, too, but I was too big ever to wear it."

Gilbert Was Something Else!

Hermine giggles like a schoolgirl at the memory of meeting her future husband, Gilbert, at a birthday party. She was 15 or 16 years old. "Oh, he was a card! There were four couples dancing in a ring. When he stood in front of me to be his partner, I kind of slapped his hand playfully. I was so shy. We started dancing and that was it. I think about those day.

Earnst Gilbert Weise, who went by Gilbert, was four years older than Hermine. Before long the two were smitten with one another.

He played the harmonica and some other boys played the fiddle and guitar. Hermine really appreciated the music they made.

* * * *

"Henry Kiesling Dies from Wound Inflicted by an Assassin"

"Excitement prevailed to a great extent Monday night when the news spread that someone, in the role of an assassin, had shot Henry Kiesling, as he was in the act of closing the front doors of the grocery store where he was employed as clerk by the owner, F. Mohrhussen. Officers and citizens responded rapidly and ere long a crowd was collected at the scene of the shooting, but the culprit that had fired the shot that laid low his victim, was gone. It was shortly after the shot was fired and the cry: "Help, I am shot!" rang out that the officers were notified and quickly responded. 'Squire Schleier, who resides on North LaFitte (sic) street one block from the Mohrhussen Grocery, heard the appeal of the wounded man, and acted accordingly, telephoning to the city proper and then hurrying to the grocery. When he reached there, he found the man in an unconscious condition, already made comfortable by those who had preceded him. As the unfortunate victim opened his eyes, the 'Squire addressed him as follows:

"Then Gilbert took me to church at Serbin. In those days, the men all went upstairs, and the ladies and kids sat downstairs. I was so afraid. He walked me down to the middle of the church aisle and sat down beside me." He was the only man seated downstairs in the church!

"Afterwards we went outside where a bunch of girls about Gilbert's age were standing. One came over and asked me how old I was. When I told her, she went straight over to Gilbert and said, 'You are robbing the cradle.'

"Gilbert looked at me and then back at her before he said, 'Oh yeah, she's my baby,' right in front of everybody. I think he liked to see me embarrassed. He was a card, I'll tell you for sure. He was really a lot of fun. He was really nice and had a lot of sense, too."

When Hermine would worry, Gilbert would say, "Don't worry." Then he would sing a few lines from the Doris Day son, Que Sera, Sera. "Whatever will be, will be..."

"We were married at Serbin on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 15, 1937, the same day they put up the church monument. I was 22. We had a good life together. My husband has been done since 1996. Yes, that's a long time. Gilbert was 87 when he died. He was something else!

"They tell me I am now the oldest person in our church. Imagine that! Ohh man. Do you know I still like to be by myself? I'm tough as nails. When I fall down, I bounce.

If you have comments on this story or ideas for future features, please contact Elaine at 979-263-5031. www.elainethomas-writer.com or www.facebook.com/ElaineThomasWriter

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

* * * *

"Henry, do you know me?" Receiving the answer that he was recognized, caused him to ask another: "Henry, who shot you?" The answer was in the negative, he did not know but stated that he was in the act of closing the front doors of the grocery, and stooping to adjust the floor bolt, received the bullet fired from a pistol in the hands of some-



Henry Kiesling

one, presumably concealed behind the telephone post near the door. The assassin immediately fled while his victim uttered the agonizing appeal above quoted. Wm Loessin, removing the cushions from his Ford car, placed them in the truck of J. T. Holman, and the two carried the wounded man to the La Grange

Hospital where he was given prompt aid and every attention by the surgeons and the nurses. Throughout the next day he labored, and when the curtains of night were lowered, he passed away. The bullet that ended the life of Henry Kiesling, passed through the body after entering near the left shoulder and ranging upward, penetrated the door of the building and lodged in a carton of Post Toasties on the shelf. From all gleaned accounts, the assassin must have ran to the rear of the store, thence up the Katy track East and disappeared. After being shot and issuing his appeal, Mr. Kiesling started out of the store and walked toward the ice plant, then turned and, it is presumed, was bent on reaching the turkey killery of the Peter Company where laborers were busy, a short distance East from the store. He had gone about sixty feet when he fell to the ground and was there found by those who arrived after the news came to the city square. Admonished to not talk if it excited or exhausted him, the unfortunate victim nevertheless spoke to "Squire Schleier and, among other things said: "If it be God's will that I go, I am ready." An illustration of the character of a man who was known as a good citizen. Funeral arrangements are being perfected as this is being written. Preparations are being made to place to rest the body of a man who was not known to have an enemy, a man who loved to be classed with the good citizenship of the city, never giving thought to injuring anyone, but on the contrary, living the life of a God-fearing man, believing in his church and the church work. The city mourns with the bereaved family and in so mourning, drapes its limits with the crepe of deepest sympathy, recognizing that in this hour, there is a darkness that is best understood by those who have had to bow to the visits of the death angel. From the family residence Thursday afternoon at one o'clock, the funeral will be held, and interment will take place at the Trinity Hill cemetery. Just a week previous to his untimely end, the twenty-fifth anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Hy. Kiesling was happily celebrated, and on last Thursday at high noon, their daughter became the happy bride of Frank Poston of Houston. It was apparent and so encouraged that the happiness of the family was complete. And then came this blow. The happy young couple, enjoying their honeymoon journey, were located at New Orleans, and left at once for Texas, reaching Schulenburg at three o'clock Wednesday morning and then by auto came home to see silent form of father. The widow, the daughter and one son, Freddie of Houston survive. We extend our hand and beg to express our sincerest sympathy. Of him, his pastor will have a suitable obituary."

The obituary delivered at Henry's funeral was also printed in the La Grange Journal:


La Grange Journal, Thursday, December 11, 1924

"**Obituary**" (Read at the Funeral by Rev. A. E. Moebus.) "It has pleased the Almighty, the Ruler of life and death, to call out of time to eternity our dear

brother of the faith Henry B. Kiesling. The deceased was a son of the well-known Andreas Kiesling and spouse Anna, nee Pietsch, both now departed. He first beheld the light of day on January 5, 1870, at Swiss Alp, and was baptized on the 16th day of the same month by the now sainted pastor, C. Chr. Rudi. His parents reared him in the fear and admonition of the Lord, planting early into the heart of young Henry the Christian

seeds of faith and virtue, harvesting bountifully in due season. He was confirmed by the Rev. M. Leimer. Twenty-five years ago, he found a faithful helpmate in Miss Ida Hoelter, the ceremony being performed by Rev. J. Buenger, November 23, 1899. This union was blessed with four children of which two, Walter and Mary, have preceded the father to eternity. The first few years of wedded life were spent on the farm near Cedar, later moving to Lincoln. In the year 1913 they decided to make La Grange their home. For many years he has been a trusted employee of F. Mohrhusen. His sole ambition was to be a "friend to man." No one has ever been known to be an enemy of Henry. The Trinity Lutheran church sustains a severe loss through his death. The deceased was a regular attendant in church, and communed frequently. His services as usher in our church are worthy of special mention, ever calling for our gratitude and admiration. In his official duties he was accurate, punctual and courteous. God in His wisdom, permitted the assassin's bullet to bring the useful career of this man to a sudden end. While in the act of closing the store doors he was shot on Monday night. While the murderer hastened away from the scene of this dastardly deed, hiding from men, yet, there is no hiding before God, others hastened to render help to the best of ability. The mortally wounded man was rushed to the La Grange Hospital where skilled doctors and trained nurses combined efforts in trying to save the precious life, however, without avail. Amid the prayers of his pastor and wife he fell asleep in Jesus, at peace with God and man. He is mourned by his widow, his son Fred, and daughter Laura Poston, son-in-law, F. W. Hoelter, his father-in-law, two brothers, August in St. Louis, Mo., Carl in Clara, Texas; five sisters, all of La Grange, Mrs. Carl Ritter, Mrs. Hy. Niemeyer, Mrs. M. Schleier, Mrs. Bertha Kaase, Mrs. Hy. Koepke, as well as many other relatives and untold host of friends. May he rest in peace unto the glorious day of resurrection."

FUNERAL NOTICE



DIED:—At La Grange, Texas, Tuesday, December 2, 1924.

MR. HENRY B. KIESLING

Aged 54 yrs., 10 mos., 27 days

The friends and acquaintances of the deceased are respectfully requested to attend the funeral from the family residence in this city tomorrow, Thursday afternoon at one o'clock.

Interment will take place at the Trinity Hill cemetery.

LaGrange, Texas, Dec. 3, 1924.

Another article was printed as a follow-up to the story on December 11th.

La Grange Journal, Thursday, December 11, 1924

“Wish of the Father was Remembered”

“Just one week prior to the cowardly assassination of Henry Kiesling, the victim was a pleasant caller at the Journal office and mentioned to the editor that he would return at a later date and bring some persimmons that were ripening on the tree, he had saved two for us. We appreciated his good will, and then the night visitor and destroyed his life. But before the victim had fallen prey to the assassin, he had mentioned the matter to the good wife and children, and on last Friday, Freddie Kiesling deposited two extra-large seedless persimmons on our desk. “These were intended for you by my father, and I am carrying out his wish.” Memory shall not fail us, nor will we permit time to efface. The fruit was the finest we have ever seen, and the fact that our departed friend should have remembered us is appreciated far more than we can state. The persimmon tree at the Kiesling home has had some extra-large fruit this season, one of the persimmons measuring over thirteen inches in circumference.”

Other newspapers also reported the incident and related information.

The Giddings News

December 5, 1924

“Martin and George Placke Jr. went to La Grange Thursday to attend the funeral of their cousin Henry Kiesling who was shot by an unknown party just as Mr. Kiesling was locking the door to the grocery store where he worked. The assailant had a handkerchief over his face and shot one time, the bullet entering the chest and passing through a lung. He lived for several hours. He was a man of family and about forty-five years of age, and was not known to have had an enemy and was a man of unquestioned character. He and wife celebrated their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary a week ago.”

This newspaper article gave an incorrect approximate age for Henry who was fifty-four years old and not forty-five as stated. Apparently errors in Henry’s story abound. Even the church record of Henry’s death was recorded incorrectly, although the reason for this error may be because it was a delayed entry by the pastor. Found on page 346 of the “*Todten-Register*” of the Trinity Hill Lutheran Church, Henry’s death is recorded as having occurred on November 29, 1924 and his burial on December 1, 1924. The other deaths recorded on the same page show dates (in order of appearance) as October 25, 1924, July 8, 1926, November 29, 1924 (Henry’s), a line is skipped, March 30, 1925, March 31, 1925, February 23, 46 years, 10 months, 5 days. The out-of-order deaths recorded and incorrect information given is not explained in the church record. Also in my possession are several funeral and



condolence cards concerning Henry’s death. The official funeral notice has the correct information, stating the death occurred on 2 December and Henry’s age was 54 years, 10 months and 27 days. A condolence, or remembrance card however, states he died on 5 December but has the correct age of 54 years.

Another item of interest in the newspaper coverage of the shooting is the comment that Henry was running east toward the Peter Company “turkey killer.” The Peter Poultry Company was located alongside the railroad tracks on the east side of town, some distance from where the shooting occurred. The newspaper reporter presumes Henry was running there because workers were present. It makes much more sense that Henry was running to his home on Monroe Street which was much closer. The intended destination was, of course, moot since Henry collapsed after running only a short distance. Henry was buried on 3 December 1924 in the cemetery of the Trinity Hill Lutheran Church of La Grange. The cemetery is today named the Mount Calvary Cemetery. Thus, the Mohrhusen Building of Main Street La Grange will always have a tragic meaning to me.

Submitted by Richard Gruetzner, Burnet

100- Year-Old Letter Provides Insight into The Fears and Daily Life Locally During WWI

The Fayette County Record, September 26, 2017

BY ANNE CITZIER

The impact of WWI was devastating for the entire country. A letter written 100 years ago reveals how German immigrants, who lived in a tiny community about three miles north of Rutersville, Texas, were equally as concerned about the war and how their lives were being affected, including my Citzler family.

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.

This letter, written in September 1917 by Clara Jaeschke Citzler, my great-grandmother, was written in German script, which I roughly translated.

She lived with her husband, Johann Emil, at the Citzler homeplace, along with their oldest son, Emil, his wife and two children, and the youngest son, Herman, who was 22 years old at the time the letter was written. Clara's letter was written to her middle son, Max, and daughter-in-law, Elsie, who lived with baby Arthur on a tenant farm owned by the Ehler family at Freyburg, about 15 miles south of La Grange. Clara (Koepke) and Laura (Tietjen), referred to in the letter, were two married daughters. My edits and notes appear in brackets ..

La Grange, 19th Sept. [1917]

Dear Children,

Now I wish to send you a few lines once again. We were so very happy that you, dear Max, were released from the military, and that the dear Lord grants that both of you can continue to live together a good life of love and peace. That you don't have to be separated from one another, as is the case with so many others now, for that we are also thankful to God. Here Alfred Bauer and Wessels in Rutersv. [Rutersville] must also go; Anna [Bauer] has already cried so much; Herman [Clara's youngest son] has also told him goodbye, and the parents [Alex and Anna Karges Bauer] are coming today to see him [Alfred] one more time.

It is really a sad and difficult time, and I am also glad that Herman is released [temporarily], although soon he will leave home, and it will be so bad for me, since all Papa's help is gone then, and will be missed so much; and we both will sit at the table alone; so it goes when one grows old. We received a nice letter from Clara [daughter] today. They had a nice rain there. On Sunday, Laura [daughter] was there with her little prince [Kurt Tietjen, born July 27, 1917], who now weighs 10 pounds.



The Citzler Family in Germany-Clara holding Martha; Emil holding little Clara; Elizabeth, center front; Emilie, right; courtesy of Annette Citzler

She wants to surprise you all soon too [with a visit]. How is your little prince [referring to Arthur, born to Max and Elise on July 8, 1917]? It is always too long until we can see you all again.

On Sunday we were in church, but there were so few people there! One really should wonder how the pastors have the courage to teach and preach to the people [referring to the war with Germany, and the fact that most pastors were German immigrants, who were often uncomfortable preaching in English, though preaching in German was frowned upon, if not illegal in some communities]. How glad one is to hear the word of God where one finds peace and rest! Dear Elsie, have you been busy in the garden again? I have cabbage and lettuce, cucumbers and kohlrabi, enough to make one fed up with it, but it's so beautiful to see! All of you, come for Papa's birthday, if the weather permits! [Emil's

birthday was September 30].

I would sure like to be at Clara's on Sunday for her birthday [September 23]. It's also our wedding day, 38 years married [she was one year off; family records say they were married in 1878, so it would have been 39 years]; we wish for a continued quiet life together blessed by God until we are called home to be with Him.

Have you seen [the article] in the newspaper, "What is a baby"? He is the father's rival for Mother's love. So be careful, Elsie, or you come too soon to the 10 commandments of Mother; it's nice to read, but still better to heed.

Emma Friedel is also here for a visit, staying one month; I visited her yesterday; she looks very well. It is really fortunate that you had your little prince, otherwise you too, dear Max, certainly would have had to go [to war] as expected. Now I must close and send you heartfelt greetings and for little Arthur a sweet kiss. In love, your Mother

Herman Citzler, who was drafted into the U.S. Army in the fall of 1917, was the only family member who served in World War I. He seems to have been temporarily released, however, possibly to complete the cotton, corn or peanut harvest, with the understanding that he would return to his military duties when the harvesting was done.

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

Herman Lehmann (1859–1932).

Herman Lehmann, was a child captive of the Apaches, son of Moritz (Maurice) and Augusta Johanna (Adams) Lehmann, German immigrants that had emigrated from Prussia, arriving on the *Louise* in Galveston, Texas in 1846. Herman was born on June 5, 1859, near Loyal Valley in southeastern Mason County. His parents were married in Texas in 1849; after his father died in 1864 his mother married Philipp Buchmeier (Buchmeyer) in 1866.

In May 1870, when he had never been to school and spoke only German, Herman, almost eleven, and a younger brother, Willie, were captured by raiding Apaches; two younger sisters who were with them were not taken. Willie escaped and returned home in about nine days. Herman was adopted by his Apache captor, Carnoviste, and initiated into the rigors of primitive Indian life. He underwent harsh tribal training and initiation, became a warrior, and took part in expeditions against the Texas Rangers, Comanches, Mexicans, and white settlers, ranging with the tribe from the Guadalupe Mountains in New Mexico down into the Mason County-San Saba region and into Mexico.

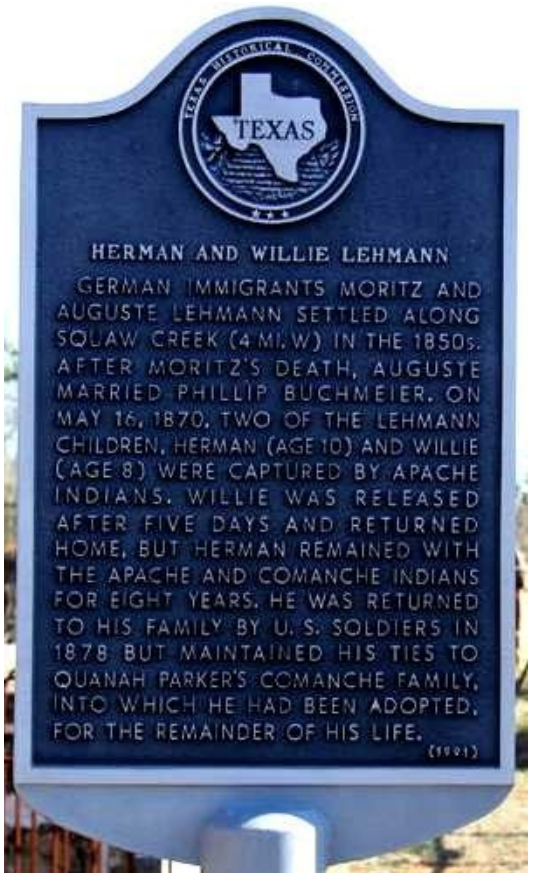
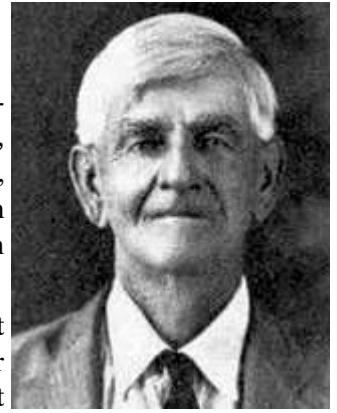
After Carnoviste was killed and Lehmann himself had killed an Apache medicine man, he spent a year alone on the plains of West Texas before joining the Comanches, to whom he was known as Montechena (Montechina); he had also been called at various times En Da and Alamán. With the Comanches he fought the Tonkawas and United States Cavalry, and he again took part in Indian raids. He was with the last Quahadi remnant that joined the reservation at Fort Sill.



Herman dressed as an indian in later life.

He was adopted by Quannah Parker but was ultimately recognized as a white captive and forced to return in May 1878 to his Texas family, who had thought him dead for the eight years he lived with the Indians. At home he refused to eat pork or sleep in a bed, and he embarrassed his family by sometimes appearing before his mother's hotel guests with his body painted, dressed only in leggings, breech clout, and feathers. He startled a revival meeting with an Indian dance, thinking the congregation was praying for rain. His brother Willie kept him from killing the neighbors' calves and hogs and from stealing horses from adjoining farms.

He relearned German, learned English, engaged in numerous odd jobs, tried for a single day to attend school, and worked as a trail driver. Although he never adjusted to white society fully, Herman did accept his role in the Loyal Valley community, and his easygoing nature and good humor seem to have made him many friends. After an unhappy earlier marriage ended in divorce, he married Miss Fannie Light in 1890, and the couple had two sons and three daughters. Later, as a Comanche, he was given Oklahoma lands by the United States government which he donated to the school, and he spent much of his time with his red brothers. He was a local celebrity throughout the Texas Hill Country, where he gave many public exhibitions of skill at riding, roping, and archery. In later years he met many of the Texas Rangers and soldiers he had fought against as an Indian. He died on February 2, 1932, and was buried in Loyal Valley



Submitted by Liz Hicks, Houston from *This Week in History*, Portal of Texas Online and research by editor from Jewish Museum of the American West.

Volksdeutsche by the Dozen, : Part 7

Surviving on an Austrian Farm (and Elsewhere) After World War II: Jakob & Katarina Webel Family, Hoping for a New Home

James J. S. Johnson



In this *seventh episode* of the “**Volksdeutsche by the Dozen**” family history series, the ethnic-German family of **Jakob and Katarina Webel**, after evacuating from their former home in (what is today) Croatia, and having traveled through Germany, as a refugee family, during the last months of World War II, – plus sojourning as farmers for ~5 years (AD1945-AD1950) in **Donnersdorf Au** (Austria), and thereafter in **Graz** (Austria), they hoped and planned (e.g., in Salzburg, Austria) for a new home in Ohio (America), near the sister of Mr. Jakob Webel.

During years on the **Donnersdorf Au** farm, the Webel family raise many vegetables, including pumpkins, watermelons, carrots, beans, parsley, etc., plus raising farm animals, e.g., pigs, chickens, and cows. Even after 60+ years, little Robert Webel is remembered for how he would hold onto a trusting cow's tail! Regarding little Robert Webel's fame in **Donnersdorf Au** (Austria), a local recalls his unique toddler personality – 61 years later! [See 14:46 (of 19.55) in the youtube posted at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSsZea7Vhww> .]

For a *youtube* mini-documentary of the Webel years in Donnersdorf Au, Austria, see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9sIo9_5tmEM, titled “**Jakob & Katharina Webel history – Donnersdorf Au, Austria # 1**”. This video footage features Elisabeth Webel Yovichin, her daughter Kristy Yovichin Steiner, her son David Yovichin, and David’s wife Sandy Folia Yovichin (i.e., Elisabeth Webel Yovichin’s daughter-in-law). This 17-minute-long video-recorded visit to Donnersdorf Au occurred in May of AD20110. (In the video Elisabeth Webel Yovichin mentioned that her father (**Jakob Webel**) dies in AD1989, and that her mother (**Katarina Webel**) dies in AD2002. This family history is continued in “**Jakob & Katharina Webel history – Donnersdorf Au, Austria # 2**”, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSsZea7Vhww>. See also “Bad Radkersburg [Austria] – Mom’s School”, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qa6Q-2QAFQE> and “**Jakob & Katharina Webel history – Graz, Austria**”, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YdghufYbLvU>.

A related video episode reports on the Webel family’s sojourning time in Germany, as refugees, titled “**Jakob & Katharina Webel history – Oberzell & Winzer, Germany**” [where a flour mill was located], at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EnTM3Sb1Ve8>.

For a quick slide-show overview of the Webel family’s refugee years in Europe, see David Yovichin’s “**Jakob & Katharina Webel history – Europe (with Mom [Elisabeth Webel] Yovichin) – Slideshow**”, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmXVzrMqC2A>. This 11-minute *youtube* mini-documentary (accompanied by music that aptly fits the providential history depicted by the video footage “slides”) provides highlights from the entire series of video episodes noted here, with helpful geography indicators from time to time.

More related video episodes (by David Yovichin) include: “**Jakob & Katharina Webel history – Vinkovci, Croatia**”, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGb176ODOAo>; “**Jakob & Katharina Webel history – Marinci, Croatia # 1**” at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GM9dHiE_URI – followed by <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5fzkEk5tvcA> “**Jakob & Katharina Webel history – Marinci, Croatia # 2**”, – followed by “**Jakob & Katharina Webel history – Marinci, Croatia # 3**”, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vlvlf7Ob20k> -- followed by “**Jakob & Katharina Webel history – Marinci, Croatia # 4**”, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GrQooRzHCQ> – followed by “**Jakob & Katharina Webel history – Marinci, Croatia # 5**”, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wVjvoBPbOug>.

[CHRONOLOGY CORRIGENDUM NOTE: In the interview excerpt quoted below, the interviewing daughter is identified as a Webel girl born during April of AD1949. However, in earlier episodes of this series,¹ I have reported the interviewing daughter as Rosie Webel, since she is the one who actually produced (i.e., authored) the interview as a family history. But the actual interview questions – at least those appearing on **page 163** cannot have been

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

(2) “*Volksdeutsche by the Dozen, Part Two: Volksdeutsche in Croatia, before World War II: Jakob and Katarina Webel are Merchants in Marinci (Taking Care of Business and the Business of Life)*”, *Journal of the German-Texan Heritage Society*, 36(3):154-170 (fall 2014);

(3) “*Volksdeutsche by the Dozen, Part Three: World War II Confronts Jakob and Katarina Webel (Swabians Face Nazi Invaders and Yugoslavia’s Break-up)*”, *Journal of the German-Texan Heritage Society*, 37(2):98-113 (summer 2015); and

(4) “*Volksdeutsche by the Dozen, Part Four: Surviving in Yugoslavia, Then Fleeing for the First Time – Jakob & Katarina Webel Escape from Marinci to Vinkovci*,” *Journal of the German-Texan Heritage Society*, 37(4):219-240 (winter 2015).

(5) “*Volksdeutsche by the Dozen, Part Five: Fleeing Yugoslavia, Escaping the Communist Takeover: Jakob & Katarina Webel Flee Toward Germany*,” *Journal of the German-Texan Heritage Society*, 38(3):110-124 (fall 2016).

(6) “*Volksdeutsche by the Dozen, Part Six: After Yugoslavia, Wandering Through Europe: Jakob & Katarina Webel, Fleeing To Germany*,” *Journal of the German-Texan Heritage Society*, 39(1):196-215 (spring 2017).

by Rosalie Webel, the ultimate author/producer of the Webel family record (“*FROM VINKOVCI TO MEDINA*”), because Rosie is reported as 6 years old (see newspaper photo and caption, above) during early AD1951, so she would have been born about 4 years before the daughter whose questions are recorded on page 163. However, Katherina (shown in Mr. Jakob Webel’s arms, in the above-shown newspaper photograph, is then reported as age “2”. Accordingly, although the arithmetic is not a precise fit (because a child born during April AD1949 would be almost-but-not-yet “2” years old, as of March 19th of AD1951), it appears that the interviewing daughter, who is referred to on page 163, must be Katherina (a/k/a “Katie” – see also pages 156, 162, 168-169), since she was born during early AD1949. This correction should be imputed to prior episodes that apparently err when indicating Rosie as the interviewing daughter.]



[Jakob & Katarina picture, AD1951]
From Vinkovci to Medina, by Rosalie Webel

How can the Webel family survive, as refugees, outside their native Yugoslavia? What about food, shelter, hygiene, and some kind of stable future for family living? For immediate survival, as refugees, what can they do, as they plan for a permanent solution to the problem of being forced to escape their homeland (and earlier life as merchants there)? What must the “new normal” be, until a permanent home can be established, somewhere? Where to live, now? Where to live, later? And how can a successful transition be made to eventually settle in a new homeland with a new home, where they can live according to their faith and values, as ethnic-German “Nazarene” Anabaptists? *None of this will be easy!*

[This interview quotes from **pages 116-172**, *From Vinkovci to Medina*.]

* * * * *

DAD: Now we are alone. We are alone. That other family left and we are alone. Very good, we go with 6 small children and waiting another to go. Where could we go? Here is the **Danube River**, beside the river is a road. Always in the mountains, between the mountains where the river is,

DAUGHTER: What for?

MOM: *The river is there. They fall down. This a kind of fence like here they build on the bridges.*

DAD: Just a post here and a post there, mark every half kilometer or whatsoever. So our ship, the Hungarian soldier, they bound it, they fasten it here and there on 2 posts in the front, in the back, so we are here anchored. Everybody is left, we are there, our everything(?). So I, with Reini, what do we do? We could not stay here. No houses, no neighbor, no people living there, so we went out looking for something. We found an old and new automobiles or trucks but nobody knows how to drive it and nobody had a key and we found a farmer, he had a horse and we bought the horse and a buggy.

DAUGHTER: **With the money originally from-**

DAD: Yeah, yeah.

MOM: *From all the stuff.*

DAD: We bought that for money, some money. Then we had-

DAUGHTER: **Where did you get that money?**

DAD: I told you. We had the money from before.

DAUGHTER: **That's what I wanted to know.**

DAD: We had the transfer from Yugoslav money, make German money. And beside that we had in a-, more than we had, I had to put in the bank and I got now received over half million in Germany money, that I got just a receipt, that's all. And money is not much.

DAUGHTER: **A receipt.**

DAD: Money is not much so we will give that farmer that bottle filled with margarine. And that-

MOM: *And the stove and all kinds of stuff.*

DAD: Food whatever we could not carry. And we loaded all the-

MOM: *The rice.*

DAD: Loaded all in that buggy and we had a small buggy made like a big buggy, little bit larger than that, like a big buggy, that we had from

DAD: Yugoslavia already.

MOM: *Four years.*

DAD: And we loaded that and hang on the big buggy.

DAUGHTER: **How big was this wagon?**

DAD: This wagon was little bit bigger than that.

DAUGHTER: **No, the big wagon.**

DAD: The big wagon. Oh, how big?

DAUGHTER: **Like for baling hay?**

MOM: *Three yards long and almost that, like that.*

DAD: Not like that, little bit shorter, but about that short.

DAUGHTER: **And as wide as-**

DAD: Like they are normally.

MOM: *10 feet by 5 feet.*

DAUGHTER: Was it covered?

MOM: *No, was open.*

DAUGHTER: Flat wagon?

MOM: *No, wagon with sides.*

DAUGHTER: Flat bed or just a shell inside?

DAD: No, not shell. That high the sides, just 2 feet high.

DAUGHTER: And how many horses?

DAD: One.

MOM: *One, one.*

DAD: And we want to go, how far? The first place where is a hospital or where are a nurse.

DAUGHTER: Yeah, when you were 9 months or 8 months pregnant, right?

DAD: Not farther but that much. First our intention was to get home before we got the baby.

MOM: *While this was taking weeks and weeks.*

DAD: But it takes time so, that all, so now is the time, we came in the first town, what was the name?

MOM: *Obersel.*

DAD: Then we get there, came in a city hall, you call it here a city hall. All we said was we need, but they have not. They are not obligated to give us something because we are now no more refugee. We are no more-, when we was in the Winsor, they are obligated to give us everything, now we are our own.

DAUGHTER: What made that determination?

DAD: Because we left, we left by our own free will.

MOM: *Free will to go home.*

DAD: We left our home. So, but they gave us ration card, every city when we came, our ration card, we got the food, we got that family....

MOM: *So far we had them and then we get food for them.*

DAD: And they have nothing but they have a barracks, army barracks, through that road on, that's uphill so far, and then the other part, they is plenty room, you could lodge there. So, what to do? Lets go, there nothing to do, nothing, so we go uphill and go, go, go, cannot farther pull the wagon.

MOM: *Horse cannot go farther.*

DAD: So what yet? Unload the half stuff, half children stay there, and wait, and we go up. When we get up there, horse, we unload that, and when the Hungarian people and other kind people in that filled up the barracks but you've got room. And the people say, 'you want to came over here? In that state is full with bed bugs.' If you know what bed bugs is.

MOM: *Want this. No. You cannot sleep in this house.*

DAD: But we passed a water mill, for food grounding flour, was a small more river, we pass that. That just one house, nothing, we pass it. No, we will not stay there, Mom goes to the children.

MOM: *I said, don't unload it, we go back. Let me go. I said, let's me go. Okay.*

DAD: So Mom went down with Else.

MOM: *Took Else, left them there.*

DAD: We stayed there.

MOM: *He's talking to this people, all kinds.*

DAD: We stay there not unloading and that's some children are there, I do not know which one but Reini probably know. So Mom came there to that mill on the way.

MOM: *Mill lady.*

DAD: She pass by the mill lady and stopped by her and talked with her and ask her for a place to live.

MOM: *To stay overnight.*

DAD: And that lady, she had not very good living with her husband, and the husband was the owner from that mill and her husband and her husband's brother, they work. They run the mill, the two men, and now was the husband sleeping and brother-in-law was working. So that woman has compassion with Mom, Mom promise her she give her that rice and give her that and that, and they had built a small cabin. There was 2 men sleeping there and baking bread for the soldier because that, not soldier, but for the civilian taken in the war defending, but this was a, was a small building for that purpose.

MOM: *Just for making bread.*

DAD: There was beds there, not a bed, just to sleep in, to make bread and tables and they taked their own. And if you are satisfied with that, I will [?].

MOM: *She show me this little room and she said, I can you give this overnight, my husband is now asleep, just you can have this little room, that's the only thing what I have. I said, I don't mind, just even the barn where your cows lay.*

DAD: She was satisfied with that.

MOM: *Then we agreed both, and I went up there.*

DAUGHTER: **How big was this little cabin?**

DAD: Cabin was about like our own kitchen.

DAUGHTER: **About the size of your kitchen?**

DAD: About.

MOM: *About 10x10.*

DAD: No, not like that. Was small and long.

MOM: *Small and long.*

DAD: It's okay. So Mom agreed and she get back to us and we, with the horse, go downhill, there is up there un-load our stuff and went there, bring the other stuff with the children. And we did have covered up our wagon.

DAUGHTER: **With a tarp.**

DAD: Yes.

MOM: *With some cover.*

DAD: And the bigger children slept there in the wagon. We make them sleep there. And so when in the morning or when the husband woke up, the owner, he was, when she told him, he was very upset and very mad.

MOM: *He almost throw her away, threw her out of the house.*

DAD: Very upset and very mad, loud because she did it. And why he was upset so much? It's, again, a reason.

When the German army fell apart, there was many horses, German horses everywhere and prisoner of war go, take that horse and that horse, we will go home, the prisoner of war, to Poland land or to Yugoslavia and take the horses along. So we need a horse and that horses eat this farmer's, that mill owner's and farmer what... his food here and there and he could do nothing about because-

DAUGHTER: His wheat. His wheat they eat.

DAD: His wheat and his hay, and everything and he could do nothing about because they are, they win the war. I have to be quiet, they could shoot me.

MOM: *They can shoot our whole family out of our house.*

DAD: What could I do, so he was quiet, but now she-, but these men, American, before we came, the American put them together, all of their prisoner of war in the big autos, took them home, no horses.

MOM: *No horses. Leave all those horses on the way.*

DAD: They thought they will take the horses along, but the American take the men home. You are from Poland, to Poland, Yugoslavian to Yugoslavia, wherever they belong. Now the men is get rid of the Polish horses, now we came with horse and he had nothing.

MOM: *He had nothing.*

DAUGHTER: He was jealous that you had a horse and he had nothing?

DAD: No, no. Our horse get to eat his stuff.

DAUGHTER: He didn't want your horse eating his stuff.

DAD: Was little bit what he had, was left. Not jealous of me.

MOM: *See, this is not like here a field, they had mountains where nothing grow, then it's a river, and then it's the road, and again the mountains.*

DAD: Just little bit here grow.

MOM: *Just a little bit in this corner and the other corner grow something beside the river or some.*

DAD: And I go then-

DAUGHTER: How did she soothe him.

DAD: When the morning came, I get up, out, the man was there. Waiting to see who's there. I went there, talk with him, like with a boss.

DAUGHTER: What language did he speak?

DAD: German. This is Germany. And so [I speak] the German language. I went to him, introduce myself, who am I and so on, and we thank him for accepting us. And I said, our horse will not eat your stuff. We will go with the children in the mountains pull grasses here and there to bring to feed the horse.

MOM: *Get far in the woods and we will bring it home.*

DAD: And with that small wagon we had, we will feed our horses not from your stuff. And I will help you to work just for that, for to be here. You will not feel sorry because we work and help.

MOM: *We want to go home to Yugoslavia, we are on the trip, just I cannot go farther, I had to get child born, then we will go riding.*

DAD: And when the people go there mowing grass for hay. but mowing grass, the hill, and some hill is so steep, some hill is not so steep, but when the hill is steep, then put a rope on the man here and somebody holds up stay, up, up, and then going downhill and cut the hay.

MOM: *And they hold them all the way(?).*

DAD: And not let a little bit by and when it not so steep, then there's no rope, then he mows, and when the hay is dry, they pull it just down.

MOM: *They roll from top to the bottom.*

DAUGHTER: **When the hay is dry.**

DAD: When hay is dry. There big rake, down, down, down, down, down.

MOM: *Big rolls.*

DAD: And when they do, I went with them always to work.

MOM: *Work every day.*

DAD: Whatever they did, I went to work. I was not afraid to work and Mom was not afraid either, as much as she could in that condition.

DAUGHTER: **Did you take the children with you, any of them?**

MOM: *No, no, no.*

DAD: The children have to take care for the horses. They go the mountain for grass, I said bring grasses to feed the horse.

MOM: *And bring blueberries home or raspberries home to eat, and all kinds of things. They are making bread. I went to help them making the big dough. Every day they had to bake bread and all kinds of things, and this old lady there.*

DAD: And they now get horses, was the soldier, German soldier left, and prisoner of war left. That horses will be sold by auction, whosoever buy, and we was there. And in that close there we lived, by that same he had under something, like I magazine or what underneath was a room for make a stall for the horse to be, but it was not built for that, it was so small, here was a pole, and here was a pole, and somehow the horse laid down and could not get up, they get entangled and then broke the neck and so we had to-

MOM: *Butcher.*

DAD: Not-, we did butcher but somebody else butchered that horse so we had.

MOM: *They butchered the horse we don't want it.*

DAD: And that horses was now, the German horses was auctioned and we bought 3 horses and that mill owner bought 2 horses. Up to then he was making his delivery, he had delivery the flour in the stores. He had to deliver that much, the government give that, he ground it and after that- (end of tape)

[interruption in interview due to changing audiotape]

DAUGHTER: **Was he grinding corn and wheat or just wheat?**

DAD: It was mostly wheat.

MOM: *Mostly wheat.*

DAD: And then when he bought the horses, he put them in the wagon but he could not drive them.

MOM: *He never had them.*

DAD: Not only that, in that part of the country, the horses are, the wagons are built that way like the plow. So one horse could go.

DAUGHTER: Oh, sure, they a center axle type thing.

DAD: And the center axle had but where they pull, and one pull ahead, and another goes back. And their horses what in Yugoslavia they could not saddle, one horse works, the horses could push back. The other horse could go without pulling anything so the horses were not used to that kind of travel, that kind of-

DAUGHTER: They were used to being ridden, not work horses.

DAD: Even work horses.

DAUGHTER: Oh, okay.

DAD: So when one of them pulls up, the other could push back so never, never could go. Then I go with them, I hold the horses tight, both horses tight on one hand, both horses here, and go by feet far away and leading the horses, you could not go one up forward and one back. All together so leading in the town and leading them back till their horses get acquainted. And so we was working.

MOM: *Passed weeks and Dad spent every day in the city walking.*

DAUGHTER: Pulling the horses.

MOM: *This horses carry and they would not go otherwise.*

DAD: So there their owner was very, very satisfied with us. And then the time came that Mom should deliver. We called how they call how you call?

MOM: *Midwife.*

DAD: Midwife and she want in the hospital. No, we want at home and the baby was delivered there.

DAUGHTER: In this little cabin?

MOM: *Yah [Ja], in cabin.*

DAD: Yeah, in little cabin. And when the Mrs. Rossinger saw in the morning we are up, she came right away, take all the dirty stuff, all the diapers, every dirty stuff, wash it, and she..

MOM: *She was so busy lady.*

DAD: And she was so good toward us, Mom was never, had never such a good time with the baby like she had then.

DAUGHTER: Because someone was there to help her.

DAD: Because someone takes her real good care. Two times, three times, cooked meal, good meal, not only for her, for the whole family.

DAUGHTER: Mrs. Rossinger did that?

DAD: Mrs. Rossinger did that.

MOM: *For them all and for me. For them all and for me.*

DAD: Yeah, and the washing, everything, she didn't let Mom wash, she didn't let me wash, she did it.

DAUGHTER: Why do you suppose she did that?

DAD: Why? Because she had never... she had three children or two and she had never a good time. She had not very good time with her husband at all and she had not good time. Why she do it? That's because she did it.

DAUGHTER: How long were you there?

DAD: We lived there-

MOM: *Just a month more than this.*

DAD: And when Rosie was born. After that and then their little Billy was a man.

MOM: *This was the big Billy.*

DAD: Yeah, boy or whatever, was a big boy now.

MOM: *Yeah, Billy-*

DAD: She got a girl and a boy.

MOM: *Yeah, Billy had something happen to him in his foot had something in his foot and she had to take him to the doctor. There's no doctor for them, they cannot go to a doctor, we can go to the-*

DAD: No doctor, German that is here, just American doctor, and the American doctor could not take care of the German people because they are enemies.

MOM: *And we are..*

DAD: But we are Yugoslav they will, now we are not German, we are Yugoslav, they will. So Mom should go with that boy-

MOM: *As my own.*

DAD: --- as my boy. That's my boy told him.

MOM: *And then they take care of him. I said, no, Mrs. Rossinger, I don't do this, I will not lie and say that's my boy if not my boy. I will not do this.*

DAD: But they see what is in the boy.

MOM: *I know now. He stepped in a strick needle, in a big needle.*

DAUGHTER: **Oh, in a crochet hook.**

MOM: *Not a crochet hook, just a long one was half out from the ground and he stepped. And then I said, Mrs. Rossinger, I will not do this, I make some medicine for him and we will put on the place what happened to him. And I will see, when I go I will explain that's not my child, just we are living in the same house.*

DAUGHTER: **Mom, how old was this Billy?**

MOM: *About 14 years old. And then I made this plaster, what's ever just make bread and soap and she had all things what I need and we put them on and he was getting better. He had no fever, only getting better and he jumped around the house and he was not like sick boy.*

DAD: So he got healed.

MOM: *And then her girl was 9 year old and she had a stick[i.e., puncture wound from a stinging insect] from when they went picking blueberries in the mountains and she had on her breast just way on the pimple that it have sting and on the head, they pull the head, the rest from the bug fell off and she had such a big breast this little child.*

DAD: Swollen.

MOM: *Swollen and she was so in fever, she don't tell me, Mrs. Rossinger. And one day I said, where is Mandy? (I didn't have good the name.) She said, Mandy's very sick, she had that thing so I want to ask you will go again to the doctor, just I know you would not do. I said, Mrs. Rossinger, you should tell me, I will mix the same, what I made on Billy's leg and this will be over in short time. We made it. She said for 3 nights she was not asleep and not.. with a high fever. We made this, Mandy fell asleep, about 2 hours after this popped open with all the*

DAUGHTER: **Pus and everything.**

MOM: *All that material, how you say it, pus, came out, Mandy was better, everything was good.*

DAD: They were very happy with us, father and mother, and-

MOM: *When they feed Robert, Robert was already trained without bottle or any, we don't have, and she had a little boy like the same age was Peterli. He has not his Dad made this...*

DAUGHTER: **There was a Billy and a Mickey and a Peter.**

MOM: *Mandali and a Peter. and the Peter don't, he don't want to drink the bottle. They had many milk, all time what he want, he can have, he would not drink. Our Robert has the same bottle, they had to be sitting them besides each other, and they drink their whole bottle. Otherwise he would not drink, this Peterli. So they spoiled even the Robert.*

DAD: And now when a week or two week was Rosie old, we got to go.

DAUGHTER: **Before we go too much further, have we already gone past the time when Robert would hang on a cow's tail?**

DAD: No.

MOM: *Oh, no, we have...this is way later..*

DAUGHTER: **I don't want you to forget that part. So let's go.**

DAD: There Robert was too small. And now we want to leave. Mr. Rossinger don't want to let us. He had, uphill on the same river-

MOM: *Sawmill.*

DAD: . . . sawmill, you know what is, to cut it.

DAUGHTER: **Sure. Yeah.**

DAD: And I should go there, work for him, and we could live there.

MOM: *The house there and everything is there. They will give us everything there.*

DAD: We want to go home. And that was very close to the Austrian border American was here has, and American was there but just German, during the war was it one. In 1939 German annexed it was it one German. But when the war was over, Austria is not part to Germany, we are separate. So we go to Austria and the Austria have to accept us, they have no power because there are American here, American there, they are the powers so we came there. If we would came from Yugoslavia, flying from the Communists, they had to accept us and put us in a camp, somewhere. But because we came from Germany, we go somewhere, nobody, you are on your own.

MOM: *See, we had to go, then they left this farmers, Brassinger, just one more little town and then is the border, just we had to go over that Danube [River] with the big ship again.*

DAD: Over the river.

MOM: *Yeah, even across river.*

DAUGHTER: **Like with a ferry.**

MOM: *Yeah, with a ferry. With the horses and with the children....*

DAD: Now we could not go back to Germany and we do not want to go back, we want to go there. But when we came, nobody wants us but we go.

MOM: *Nobody wants us anymore.*

DAD: But we came and here is a big camp, many Yugoslav people and here we meet people who were already back after war in Yugoslavia and Tito and the communists strip them naked and sent them back. And so we are afraid to go in Yugoslavia. So we don't go straight as the road. We go this way and that way we heard we are there, even the

Pfeiffer's are there. Go there. Just they are in a camp. The camp is full. think!. They have no power to say, 'Come with us.'

DAUGHTER: A refugee camp barracks.

DAD: Yeah, barracks.

MOM: *People and people.*

DAD: The army barracks transferred into refugee camp but filled up. And if I came from Yugoslavia, they have to give me room but if I came from Germany, nobody. So we went from here to there, from here to there.

MOM: *Three weeks on this or four we do.*

DAD: More. With a ration card. You get here, stop here, it's a little bit river, little bit water, take what we have to bring to water the horses, and little bit of grass to feed. Then here is a farmer, we go there, pick some hay, oh, I give you the ration card for tobacco, I will give you ration for that, I will give you little bit rice, I give you little bit rubber band with that.

MOM: *Rubber bands.*

DAD: That they deal with it. Yet we came close to a city called Bad Ishel. That's the place where Austrian king have summer vacation, a big city on the high mountain. And close to that and when the . . . about from the mountain up and down, Reini's job was to go behind the wagon, when we go downhill to put the brakes on.

MOM: *The horses could not hold the wagon.*

DAD: There was not a brake, with a pedal, so you go behind the wagon and you have to screw to hold it. So he again, now it's a little better so he let them go and go up. And was a little bit rainy, and he slip up and wagon went over his-.

MOM: *He jumped on the front where he get up.*

DAD: Yeah, but he slip down in there. Now he was sick, sick, sick [i.e., very injured].

MOM: *His legs was broken.*

DAUGHTER: It was the foot that he ran over?

MOM: *Oh, yeah.*

DAD: And then I take him in small wagon and pull him to the town.

DAUGHTER: How old was Reini now? More like 12, huh?

DAD: Reini was in '34-

DAUGHTER: Nine at this time?

DAD: No, no, no, bigger, bigger, 11. Well, this is 44, 45. What?

DAUGHTER: *When was Reini born?*

DAD: '34. Now it's 45, and so, take the first to the doctor, doctor take care of it and say, give us what he needs based on what he did, next town go to the doctor again. So, still not long after that we get-

MOM: *Cannot walk anymore. He have to lay in the wagon. Nobody can go on the wagon, all we had to walk. He had to lay in the wagon, big wagon.*

DAD: Yeah, and then we, when we get in that big city, they have a hospital, we had to there, but the big city built on the mountain, the streets are small, the houses are crowded, no place to park the horses together so we in this hospital, put them there, oh, he have to stay there in the hospital. So we had to put him in the hospital, we go out of the town, how far will we go? To first place where we could find, so was a railroad crossing, railroad there and a small river there and-

MOM: *A couple houses.*

DAD: A couple of houses, and beside the river was a little bit grass, that's the place we could stop. The horses can here, eat the grasses, but one thing we had, the main thing, we had water to wash the diapers and to

MOM: *And clothes, I wash all because we have to stay 3 days in this.*

DAD: And beside that, I had made from a heavy wire like that, just on 3 place feet, and put a thin sheet on it bind with wire, so to put fire here on and cook on that..

DAUGHTER: **Like a small tripod type thing.**

MOM: *Yeah, yeah.*

DAD: And that we put always under the wagon when we travel and fine, so-, and when we go somewhere, the children pick up that food, pick up that wood so we have-

MOM: *And we see a little branch, we send to get in the wagon.*

DAUGHTER: **Who paid for Reini's hospital stay?**

DAD: I did. When we get there, he was out of the hospital and we are there on that place, on that space, oh, here is a farmer, go up to the farmer and beg for some hay, pay for that, tomorrow, and we stay there for 3, 4, 5 days and every once in a while I walk to the hospital, he was not in the gypsum in the iron.

MOM: *Kind of boards, boards all with the....*

DAUGHTER: **Called a splint. They had his leg in a splint.**

MOM: *Yeah, yeah.*

DAD: The whole foot was very damaged.

MOM: *And all the fingers.*

DAUGHTER: **Little bones.**

DAD: And in that time, like before, we were of the faith and we never did steal, and we make our living so, but we could not go to farther and nobody will sell anymore.

MOM: *They sold us already couple times here give us some hay.*

DAD: The whole thing was-, important was food for the horses.

DAUGHTER: **You still had 3 horses?**

MOM: *Yeah, 3 horses.*

DAD: And one evening I went there with a rope and opened the barn. See, the hay is here, is the hayfield, not a farmers house, hayfield, and down on the bottom of the hill they had a barn, I would say, to put the hay in.

MOM: *No, no animals, just hay.*

DAD: Just hay, and in the winter, when they need it, they came with a wagon, took it home where the animals are. So nobody's there, I went there and opened and fill up my rope and on my back and take it to the horses where we are to feed them, once. When I did that, I know it's not right, I know it's stealing, but I justify myself. It is written when the-, you short the horse not bound mouth when they are threshing, and it is written when they are passed when Jesus went to the field, they passed and get hungry, they have pick it and even the corn and eat.² This was not their corn, but they need it, so I justify myself and I was not condemning myself but justification was not justified.

²See Matthew 12:1-4; Luke 6:1-5 in conjunction with Deuteronomy 23:24-25, Leviticus 19:9-10, & Deuteronomy 24:19.

DAUGHTER: You didn't feel good.

DAD: I was not justified but I try to justify myself. So when we get Reini out, we didn't have to pay nothing, this war time.. that was so...

DAUGHTER: Was his foot completely healed?

MOM: *Oh, no, we had to carry.*

DAD: We had take care again.

DAUGHTER: What did they do to him in the hospital, Mom?

MOM: *Put new bandages on him, everything new.*

DAD: First, they put in the gypsum, but not in the gypsum, they put an iron here, an iron here, to hold it.

DAUGHTER: Gypsum means cast.

MOM: *Cast. Don't make*

DAD: . . . cast, cast, but make an iron here and put them on maybe a right place and bandaged them and stay that long , 3, 4 days there.

MOM: *This no infection, this was everything they take...*

DAD: Then they say they will give us a paper, with that you go where you go, the first doctor, he will what now to do.

MOM: *The biggest city what we get towns and towns, and again a bigger city, in this city, this and this, a hospital or a doctor ...*

DAUGHTER: Was his foot broken open or was the skin all still intact?

DAD: No, was not intact.

MOM: *What is "intact"?* [i.e., what does "intact" mean, as used in the phrase "not intact"?]

DAUGHTER: His skin was all torn and everything.

MOM: *Torn.*

DAUGHTER: Where were you traveling to?

DAD: Back to Yugoslavia.

DAUGHTER: Were you still trying to go back to Yugoslavia?

MOM: *Oh, yes.*

DAD: We are trying to take time, to take time to stay there as if possible.

MOM: *If somebody wants us.*

DAD: We are afraid to go to Yugoslavia but we have no place to stay so we are traveling like gypsies..

DAUGHTER: You're looking for a home in Austria.

DAD: Here and there and always closer, closer to the Yugoslav border, and the mountains are that steep somewhere horses hold back the wagon. The 2 wheels are tight, could not roll, and the wagon runs before the horses.

MOM: *Cross the road, not like this.*

DAD: Like when you go with automobile and it cut out and it go that way.

DAUGHTER: That's how steep it was going downhill even though you had 3 of the wheels locked.

MOM: *Yah [Ja], 2 of the wheels were locked.*

DAD: Two of the wheels, yeah, yeah. And still it was very dangerous. And Rosie grew little by little older but as long as the wagon rolls, she was quiet. When we stop, ahhhhh, cries, cries, cries.

MOM: *She cries.*

DAD: And every people wherever we go, were aware we got the baby, and some were curious, some came-

MOM: *And never left the children in the wagon on the hill down, we had them out of the wagon and had them walk down and when the wagon was down, and everything is set, then we go back in the wagon and go again.*

DAD: So we go lots of time. Interesting things, sometime a horse could not walk in a whole day, ten miles. Two mile, 3 mile, it cannot walk.

MOM: *Can't walk, just so tired.*

DAD: A man could much more endure than a horse can.

DAUGHTER: Were the horses shod? Did they have shoes?

DAD: Yes, yes. They have shoes.

MOM: *They had shoes, they get so soft they cannot walk anymore.*

DAUGHTER: Okay, then what happened?

DAD: Then finally we came to Leipsik [i.e., **Leipzig, in Saxony, Germany** – formerly spelled “Leipsic”].

DAUGHTER: What happened to Rosie's crying?

DAD: I would just say, nothing, she cried, you have to stop them, but it was so.

MOM: *Everybody know we have a baby since as soon we stay on the road. But for a water or whatever.*

DAD: Telling about that.... one place we stopped is a railroad, beside the railroad, place we stop, we stop here. The horses put down on the wagon untied and give something food.

MOM: *Right here is the railroad and here is the road and this was a triangle so was just weeds and trucks and...*

DAD: And we stayed there, was a flatbed truck there standing beside it, and we take our stuff on the flatbed there, catch a little sleep there. Came-

DAUGHTER: On the flatbed truck, Mom.

MOM: *Yeah.*

DAD: A lady from the window calls, ‘we have no right to stay here, we should go away, this.’

MOM: *She was yelling at us all kinds of stuff.*

DAD: Cannot go farther, we stay here.

MOM: *And the other lady. Don't forget the other lady is looking through the window over the railroad and she see all the thing what I do. I wash the children one by one and make their beds ready and I wipe them with my apron. And she was kind of.. she had to take a towel over. It's not right, I wipe them, all their faces and hand, and they are clean on my apron.*

DAUGHTER: Brought this towel.

MOM: *Not right away, not right away. She was just looking everything was going on. And that lady was yelling over there so bad.*

DAD: And then so it's night, got dark, that lady was holler.

MOM: *Listen, listen, before this lady was a hollering, she was washing clothes in her wash kitchen down in the basement, not the basement, even floor, and then she had a other floor and a other. And the smoke came very bad out of this kitchen. And Dad was the first one there run over. All this paper what she had before the fire where she peddled. .*

DAUGHTER: **Yeah, where she was boiling the water.**

MOM: *Boiling the water.*

DAD: Caught fire, and so

MOM: *Catched fire, was on fire, the kitchen, and Dad went there and put the fire out and made everything ready, and he was the first there, and this lady stop hollering and everything was smooth.*

DAD: This was a -- she almost died when that happened. And so we lay all in the bed, came a storm, a big, rained hard, hard.

MOM: *And this lady came, and said they got a workshop beside their house with a wooden stuff all wood-work and we can come over there with the children and with the horses, put the children in the dry, this bad weather is now here.*

DAD: And they had a workshop and it had a flat, only a roof before that, so we get the horse under that roof and we get in workshop, just don't make a fire.

MOM: *Don't put a light on or anything.*

DAD: And then came thunder....

MOM: *The lightning.*

DAUGHTER: **Thunder and lightning.**

DAD: And I put the horses in the, on the wagon, they could not pull, they could not pull. I had forgotten I had my make it tied, the wheels.

MOM: *We tied the wheels. They cannot pull for nothing. Here comes the bad weather, rains and thunder and lightning.*

DAUGHTER: **Then did you remember?**

DAD: Probably.

MOM: *Finally he remember.*

DAD: Finally the horses get there and the horses are in dry place and we are in dry place, settled again, sleep till the morning. When the morning came up, sure enough, I cleaned up, take some broom, find somewhere, cleaned up what the horses make everything, make it clean, not leave that mess there, and-

MOM: *We was even good friends when we leave and this lady from across the street, she saw it, all these things, was I did before the storm come, and everything, she brought the towel over and she said she saw how I wash this children and she was kind a....*

DAUGHTER: **Was Reini's foot still bad?**

MOM: *Oh, yeah, still the same.*

DAD: One day.

MOM: *Better, was always a little bit better, healing, just not good.*

DAD: He could limp already. And so on till we finally, oh, the main experience was there in...

DAUGHTER: **Yeah, but didn't somebody ask about me? If I was your baby? Because I was dark?**

DAD: No.

MOM: *Well, maybe in some-, we went onto one place, was the same thing happen, was coming such a big storm, we did park was outside only, nowhere, just somewhere. Then an old man came over there and he saw this baby and he was so surprised and I was washing the diapers and making supper for us, was before night. And he went away, he give me 5 marc or 10 marc, money, for this little child, and then, okay, "thank you", and he was really a old man. He went home, then came more ladies there. He went home and say, over there is some so and so, and this people came there, they said, what! he give you the money? I said yes. He such a stingy man, he would not give even a straw hol-lum, you know how you say it, even nothing! They are refuge too.*

DAD: But you should know that we had our diapers, were all clothes, cloth diapers you know, but many was rags, but not dirty.

MOM: *No, I wash all the time.*

DAD: We had, our rags were clean, regardless how we were, which condition, our rags were clean. We didn't have a bathtub, we didn't have running water, we didn't have many thing, but we were clean, we didn't have soap, we didn't have detergent, but that makes no difference.

DAUGHTER: **Okay now, Jake and I were born in Donnersdorf [Au], Austria?**

MOM: *Yeah. That was much later. We coming now there. Then we was traveling, traveling, then the ---*

[interruption in interview due to changing audiotape]

DAUGHTER: **You mean Reini had to go in the hospital periodically for more medicine too?**

DAD: Yeah.

MOM: *Yeah. when they saw the dressings that the nurse give. They say you have to be in the hospital in big city.*

[missing some interview: someone is speaking too softly to be audible]

DAD: --- then we know it not good to express it.

DAUGHTER: **Curiosity.**

DAD: Curiosity, yeah.

MOM: *They come from so far like a-*

DAD: Yeah, and soon, we talk, Mom was talking now.

MOM: *You was not there even, you went in the mountains with Reini looking for a job or even if a farm there we can stay with somebody-*

DAD: A place who needs horses and workers, to stay there.

MOM: *And Dad was not there, then an old lady came there and she was talking all kinds of things. I told her was now Dad is looking for a job and this, all of this. Then she told me she know a farmer what he needs worker and he needs horses, her son goes there for work.*

DAD: He needs horses, not workers so much. And before, the first, when they divided Austria, there are four aliens, the Russian, French. That part was Russia occupied, but when they divided, then Russia had to go out from there, and came the English men there, England, and when the Russia went, they took all the horses from that farmer and that was a..-

MOM: *Acres of land but no horses.*

DAD: There's a rich farmer and no horses and no tractor so how can? So he need badly horses, and that old lady's children, went periodically there to work.

MOM: *They are working by for this farmer and they are coming home on the bike and so on, and she told me all kinds of things and I was quick writing down some things, address and other, and she said, I will send my son, okay, I will send my son. He comes over here only you will follow him. And when Dad comes back from this mountain, what's-, all afternoon something, who knows how much time, then I told him, let's go right away, tomorrow is Sunday, let's go right away. Okay, finished everything up and take the wagon and we go. We had Reini out from the hospital. When we wait, this old lady's son, maybe he never comes, better we go by ourselves. We know the name and we know the town, and let's go. Oh, we go, go, go, go, go, and getting dark, and no place like this.*

DAD: And we found a place, with that name-

MOM: *Dad stopped and no place like this.*

DAD: No, no, no, we found the place, but no farmer like that and even-

MOM: *Find the name.*

DAD: No farm, no big farmers, no small farmer. Then somebody remember, oh, there and there is a town the same name, that's are rich farmers, the farmers there.

MOM: *That's are the big farmers.*

DAD: And now it's all night.

DAUGHTER: **You mean 2 towns with the same name.**

DAD: Yes.

MOM: *Same name. And then, while we have to stay now overnight, it's too late, late at night. We ask them how far this is. You have the whole day traveling with these horses, so far is this from their same town. So we stopped over there and I ask can we have maybe skim milk for the children, they have no supper, and then they give them just a little bit something. She gave us skim milk and we stayed in their yard overnight and so in the morning early Sunday, we never traveled Sunday, just Sunday was no travel, ever, with the horses.*

DAD: I don't know when was that where they would not keep us because they still stole their horses.

MOM: *No, this was on other place, same time, the same time, same time before this. We came on a place, and was the same thing, they would not even let us-*

DAD: We stopped in the front of the farmer. Why? Because here is a well with we could have water, could give us was water and the farmer came out, and want to chase us out, no we could not stay here, but you could not chase us out, just stay, that's all.

MOM: *He didn't listen to us say anything, we don't say nothing, we was quiet, we stayed and, well, we was all kind of shy so anyhow, he was not just coming and, you know-*

DAD: Not physically but just hollering we should go away.

DAUGHTER: **Since you couldn't go to church any Sunday mornings or anything like that, what did you do? Did you have church with your family?**

DAD: No, we didn't have church. We didn't have church. First of all, the children were small, we had no church. We had only our service every day, our prayer before meal and after meal and before going to bed, but we had not never imitate a church service.

DAUGHTER: **What did you do on Sundays since you didn't travel?**

DAD: Same thing.

DAUGHTER: **Just rested?**

MOM: *Same thing. rested. Just cook just a simpler soup, I cook soup.*

DAUGHTER: **Nothing [else]?**

DAD: Some people does kind of have a devotion and have a... I never felt that way that we should.

MOM: *And then as he told us we should go. We don't.*

DAD: The next day we went.

MOM: *Next morning, when we get up, I can go there in the house and find the lady and I said, will you sell something to us for the children. Yeah, you can even cook them here, okay. I said that's not necessary, have to be cooked. Yes, then she said, that is skim milk or you cook for the children. I said, okay, I cook. I put rice in and make a good meal then. Cook rice in the milk and that was good for the children. And so I cook them over on her stove, the whole pan full and I give her a cup of rice. She was so glad and so happy. And the husband was already somewhere on the field or in the work somewhere, just she was very nice, very nice.*

DAUGHTER: **Okay, that Sunday you traveled. Did you make it to the other farm?**

DAD: Yes. Not the whole day, but afternoon, early in the afternoon we got there. The farmer was standing at the roads before his house, just close by there. It was farmer and a whole bunch of people there.

MOM: *Workers, his workers.*

DAD: We saw that. What should we do?

MOM: *This young boy went already with the bike, morning early, and he was there for long already, long before. And he told them all kinds of things and when we arrived, they was all sitting on the steps there, the 5 high steps, very big ones, and then he --*

DAD: Not very much we could not ... "What should I do with the bunch of children?" He was a single man.

MOM: *Never married.*

DAD: Never married, 40 years and his sister too was 52 and they run the farm. They were rich people but what can he do with that children. He don't need to feed 10 mouths.

DAUGHTER: **Before we go on any further, tell me the name of this town.**

DAD: That name really, **Au**. That means "valley".

MOM: *It just "Au".*

DAD: It is not official name. It's official name that belongs to Donnersdorf, but it Au.[i.e., Donnersdorf Au, in Austria]

DAUGHTER: **How large is Donnersdorf [i.e., Donnersdorf Au, in Austria]?**

DAD: Donnersdorf is here maybe 10 house, maybe 20, that's all, but the farmers are, here a farmer and there a farmer, had 100 or 200 or 500 acres field and every farmer-

[See youtube @ https://youtu.be/9sIo9_5tmEM?t=37]

DAUGHTER: **The main city or whatever is very small but it has the big sparse farms around.**

DAD: Yes, yes.

DAUGHTER: **And it's a very rich valley.**

MOM: *Rich valley, yah. -- The Au.*

DAD: Sure, very rich people live here, there's always the poor people because it could not exist rich without poor. And so then I again to explain to him we are anxious to get a roof, that's all, not to go to Yugoslavia. That's all. There, in Leibnich, we did met Bach's wife. Also a woman called Pfister, she was in Yugoslavia, she was in Austria and went back to Yugoslavia, and the Communists stripped her all and she is here with 2 young girls. She has nothing whatsoever [notice the King James English again], only what she had on her.

MOM: *No cover for the children, not even a blanket, not even anything.*

DAD: Blanket.

DAUGHTER: **“Poplum”, I used to know what that means. What does that mean, Dad? Is that like a quilt?**

DAD: Yes, like a quilt, like a quilt but wool inside and not a...

MOM: *We gave them a quilt for those 2 girls to cover at night.*

DAD: Yeah, to have something. And later on.

MOM: *We had enough.*

DAD: And later on the 2 girls, they came to America, one is Bach’s wife, one is Pfister’s wife, members here. The mother-

[At this point Mom suggests shutting off the recorder:
“Then we can eat a little; Dad should eat too.”]

DAD: Then we came there, I have to explain to that farmer again, our purpose, our aim, so I told him, we need only a place, the horses where to be, and food for the horses and a shelter where we could sleep and live, and for that, the horses will work for him and I. We did agree, I don’t ask to pay something for me. I don’t ask to feed the family, just that. And then he sold us, not far here is orchard maybe like to that house over there, is between orchard and-

DAUGHTER: **How many feet is that, Dad?**

MOM: *About 100 yards.*

DAD: But here is a way, is over there.

MOM: *Road where the wagons go.*

DAD: And over there we could stay, and there was before we came, there was the prisoner of war, German, the soldiers from Poland or from America, was prisoner of war there and they were there sleeping and there was the house were there, a bedroom, a kitchen, and a barn, and a basement.

MOM: *Not a “barn” -- a “stall”.*

DAUGHTER: **A stall.**

DAD: A stall, and so. And we could have that, and was in, fenced in with barbed wire, that high, like a ceiling, and so, in the night they was fenced in because they sleep there and they go to work, but now is nobody there, but here bed, beds- 2x2. No, no, no. From the woods cut up, trees, wood that high, and the 2x4 back so men could lay that way or that way, how he want to lay.

MOM: *Long was 2 yards. this way or this way.*

DAD: A bottom and on the top. So it had 2 layer.

MOM: *And just straw, nothing else, no blanket or nothing, just straw.*

DAD: So that is there. In the kitchen was a stove, wood stove, built. So we put the horses in and we are there at home now.

MOM: *Then we sit down and then they come with a bowl-full, like a farmer’s kit in, there’s almost nothing in, just good, made good though, we had for long time not so good food.*

DAD: They give us to eat, bring us to eat anyhow.

MOM: *Supper, for milk for the children to drink and so.*

DAD: The farmers, because they are far from a city, they do not have to deliver the milk to the state, just only the-

MOM: *Cream.*

DAD: The cream. Every morning they take the cream off, that farmer had to bring so and so much cream, that so and so much cream, and so, they have skim milk as much as they want.

MOM: *Skim milk they feed, the people, swine.*

DAD: And so the next morning I went to work.

DAUGHTER: **This farmer had what? He had cows?**

DAD: He had cows, he had pigs.

DAUGHTER: **He had chickens.**

MOM: *Oh, yeah, lots of chicken there.*

DAUGHTER: **He had an orchard which contained? Apples ?**

DAD: Oh, yeah, mostly apples.

MOM: *Apples and pears and plums.*

DAUGHTER: **What did he farm?**

DAD: Corn and everything.

DAUGHTER: **Wheat?**

DAD: Wheat.

DAUGHTER: **Vegetables?**

MOM: *Soy beans.*

DAD: Not vegetables for --- cucumbers, spinach and so...

MOM: *Cucumbers, lots of cucumbers. Wagons full.*

DAD: Like every farmer, whatever you could sell.

MOM: *Pumpkins, couple acres.*

DAD: At that time the people were hungry for everything, whatever you could sell good.

DAUGHTER: **Okay. Next morning you got up.**

DAD: Got up, whatever he said, plow, plow, disk , disk.

DAUGHTER: **What time of year was this when you came to this farmer? Towards the fall.**

DAD: This was almost the fall, the second hay was ready to be cut.

DAUGHTER: **So August. About August.**

MOM: *July or August, yes.*

DAUGHTER: **Well, Mom, Rosie was born the end of June.**

DAD: Yeah.

MOM: *Yes.*

DAD: And if Rosie was 2 months old, it was the end of August, could be, could be.

MOM: *It was 7 weeks she was old, I remember that. Seven weeks old.*

DAUGHTER: **Did you have to have her birth documented anyplace when she was born?**

DAD: When she was born, we get right away the document.

DAUGHTER: **That was down in town.**

MOM: *Over there, yeah.*

DAUGHTER: **Courthouse or something? Which courthouse?**

MOM: **Obersel.**

DAD: That is like a Magistrate.

DAUGHTER: **Magistrate, okay. You got up in the morning and did what the farmer wanted you to do. Why did he plow? Was it for a fall plow?**

DAD: Whatsoever³ was he telled me to do, I did with the horses. Hauling manure, and in the fall they had-, they farmers are a people that way, the whole water, not only the water, the stall is here, the cows, and the drainage goes down in a cistern, this is mixed with rain water that came, and that they had pumps that put it in tanks, horses pull them on the hill, and in fall just pull them down-

MOM: *Down the hill.*

DAD: Downhill.

MOM: *That's the only way.*

DAD: Only in the orchard everywhere.

DAUGHTER: **That's how they fertilize.**

DAD: Yeah, they fertilize that beside the manure. So if I could remember what's I did there for which day but whichever he did, and Mom, in the morning, every day went to the house lady, she was single, "What can I do?"

MOM: *What can I help? She had lots of workers.*

DAD: Then we had for years could buy no shirt, no material, no pants, no nothing. Everything was torn and the back was...

MOM: *Made from 3, 4 pieces.*

DAD: Yeah, so Mom could, Mom did sew for her?

MOM: *And make a garden.*

DAD: And go in the field.

MOM: *Afternoon, all of, all afternoon, every afternoon we went to the field, worked with the other people.*

³Notice that "whatsoever" is King James English --- **this is because Mr. and Mrs. Webel learned English, in America, from reading the King James Bible. By comparing a Scripture text in a Bible translation of an already-known language (such as a German Bible translation), to the same text in the King James Bible, the Webels could learn how to say the same thing in English. Thus, the King James English version of the Holy Bible provided a convenient source of English vocabulary (i.e., serving as a bilingual dictionary/lexicon) by which the Webels could enhance/expand their English vocabulary, as immigrants who came to America not knowing English.**

DAUGHTER: Who took care of Rosie? Elsa?

MOM: *Elsa. She bring her on the wagon to get-, then I give her-, in the afternoon later she bring her out walking on the road, in the field.*

DAD: Bring her to her..

DAUGHTER: Because you nursed her.

MOM: *Nurse her. That was the only [option].*

DAUGHTER: Did Elsa take care of all the children?

MOM: *And then Robert was small and the house lady, she loved this Robert so much in the house, even her own too, they do all kinds of things with him. He was very active and cute and listen to all kinds of-, she feed him. In evenings I came home and he's not hungry, not at all. And she feed him butter and bread and all kinds of things.*

DAUGHTER: This is where he'd hang on the cow's tail.

MOM: *On -- yeah, yeah.*

DAD: Yeah, the cows are outside in the field, not in the field, that are fenced in, but here, in the pastures and escape now, that caught on any other pasture, and when the time came, the cow know the time is to go home.

MOM: *They have kind of hollered to this cow, and then now the time they came all at of the gate.*

DAD: Somebody had to open the gate.

MOM: *This Robert, everything he knows, open this gate, pull this heavy thing to pull them out of the loops, put them down on the floor, and the cows, they step over, they are used to this.*

DAD: Yeah, and so, and was nothing new if he pulls the cow on the tail, and follows...

MOM: *Yeah, they had cows, very old cows, and very good cow, very slow, slow, just they had so much milk they cannot walk anymore in the evening. He hold them on tail 'til in the... and they like it, they like him.⁴*

DAD: And he was... everything.

MOM: *The farmer, all day long he had him on his horse, and he walks beside the wagon and Robert is riding the horse.*

DAUGHTER: No, Robert was almost 4 years old then. Three.

DAD: About 2½.

MOM: *Well, we lived there 4 years with the farmer.*

DAD: He was always there. When we came...-

MOM: *Then he came home and he said-*

DAD: First day, first day was not so. First day is everything shy, everything is strange, and little by little you are acquainted. When the fall came, there are many big pumpkins and they oh, they have to pick out the seed from the pumpkin. The seed is very good for making oil.

⁴This is one of the early signs that Robert Webel was a very remarkable young man – the magnificent destiny that God had in store, for young Robert (l/k/a “Bob”), would later be revealed in America – including his Biblical training at Moody Bible Institute, and his marriage to Marcia Alley, and their family, and Bob’s ministry in many places (including years of service as youth/college pastor at Montrose Baptist Church in Rockville, Maryland). Ironically, even these Austrian cows knew that Robert Webel was an extraordinary boy to be trusted. Bob’s ministry in many places (including years of service as youth/college pastor at Montrose Baptist Church in Rockville, Maryland). Ironically, even these Austrian cows knew that Robert Webel was an extraordinary boy to be trusted.

MOM: *And cannot eat them, they should not eat them, it is not good for them, they get sick.*

DAUGHTER: **But they can eat the rind.**

MOM: *Oh, yeah. That's the food. Cooking.*

DAD: And our children went there to clean that up.

MOM: *They have to pick out about 50 pumpkins every day for this feeding pig. See, they was feeding pigs for selling and raising the young ones for themselves every year. Just like a mound, big mound. They had 60 fat pigs and then they had small.*

DAUGHTER: **Sow. Little baby pigs.**

MOM: *Yeah, baby pigs with 3, 4 mothers with the little ones.*

DAD: And interesting is that, by that farmer, the man eat all on the same table but all on the same bowl. Every man had his own spoon, and the table is round, you go round and eat from the same bowl, everyone, and then your own spoon, you wipe off on the tablecloth and put in the drawer and tomorrow you take your own spoon. You know which spoon is. So if you clean it up good yesterday, it is clean. If you don't clean it so good, it is not clean. You will clean off with towel.

MOM: *Put their marks on the spoon and this is your spoon. They know it.*

DAD: And the dishes when the..., here is the kitchen, here we have a kitchen, we eat, and behind the kitchen is another kitchen for the pigs kitchen they call it. There are here big kettles, they cook here in that big kettles, the pumpkin or the riva (turnips).⁵

DAUGHTER: **Tell me what you're talking about. Give me information.**

MOM: *Like red beets, just white beets.*

DAD: Beets, big beets.

MOM: *Not sugar beets, but they were beets for the cooking.*

DAD: They cook for the pigs.

MOM: *They cook them and smash them.*

DAD: And when that is hot, they go with that bowl we are eating put them

MOM: *In this cooking.*

DAD: . . . because all that wet stuff goes there and that's just clean and the water pump..

MOM: *Then they had in there, corner, a water pump, right away a pump and we get a hand pump and is a big cement bowl, not a bowl even-*

DAD: Yeah, like, yeah.

MOM: *You know....*

DAD: That's their washing .

MOM: *That's their....*

DAD: But the . . .

⁵The German word for "turnip" is Steckrübe.

MOM: . . . *rinse in place and put them there on the shelf.*

DAD: But they feed the pigs for selling. Every pig have different, his own cage, where they are. And every pig had his own bowl that they eat. They never eat together. That pig has that much and then there, that pig has that, cannot eat here.

MOM: *And they get very good food. They get milk and corn mixed, grounded corn, the mill came and ground the corn for them.*

DAD: But they are that small, their cage, they could hardly turn around. When they got fat and big, they could not anymore turn around. They could just eat there and lay down.

MOM: *They had cement and this is always clean. This cement, they just pull them out, the dirt is never dirty, always clean there.*

DAD: I mean, the men eat all of the same bowl, the pigs!

MOM: *The pigs have their own.*

DAUGHTER: **Separate bowls. (LAUGHTER)**

DAD: That I worked as every time.

MOM: *And they milk lots of cows there. Everyone had milk-*

DAUGHTER: **How many cows, approximately?**

MOM: *Oh, 20, 25, and 30, some so they leave the cream.*

DAD: And we were there, we came very good out, everywhere we go. We didn't demand much and but we do work good and the people was everywhere good with us. They gave us freely. So later on they gave us even a whole pig for butcher without agreement.

MOM: *Without any thing. They said Mrs. Webel was coming, all, all afternoon, every afternoon she came over and she give the free pig.*

DAD: For a while I did eat with them on the table, and then I stop, no, I would not eat.

MOM: *Dad cannot eat with them.*

DAD: Then they [ask] why? They come and kind of upset why?

MOM: *They were very upset.*

DAD: And Mom explained that I am not used to that eat off one bowl and all together, I get, I stay hungry. I came home and cook anyhow. You don't have to give anything more. Just we will eat. And I went with, we did eat at home and went to work there.

MOM: *I told her, Hannah, is she called. He satisfied with your food what you are cooking. He is not able to eat so to carry his food so far.*

DAD: They have now here in a bowl full with at this, say sour kraut, and then they cut a piece of meat on top here.

MOM: *Thin sliced, eat like a spoon with peas.*

DAD: Thin sliced. With a spoon, I see him take it and put in food in the mouth. You need no knife. No knife, no fork just a spoon.

MOM: *No fork on the table.*

DAD: You eat from yours, this side and that man eat from you his side, that man eats from his side.

MOM: *Some is more fortunate, some get more meat.*

DAD: And some take care, just from top, the meat, first, and take 1, 2, 3 piece of meat, till you get 1. And so on.

MOM: *I then I told her, when you want, you can give me. I cook every day for my whole family and then I can cook for him too. You can give me once in a while when you want. A few eggs or a piece of butter or ..a chicken.*

DAD: And you could not live without money, you need always something, and our money did run out.

DAUGHTER: **How much money did you take with you? Any idea?**

DAD: Our money run out.

MOM: *We had ...*

DAD: Now we need some money. We got ration card for milk, so and so much milk. And there are people, they pay us so much for the ration card and we give it, sell the ration card.

MOM: *We sell the ration card for money.*

DAD: We sell the ration card for the tobacco. Then for Christmas or for Easter or some, we sell the ration card for the small children-- nothing special, chocolate or coffee or something.

MOM: *--- conserva.*

DAUGHTER: **That's like jam and jelly and stuff like that..**

DAD: Yeah. Just meat, fish or so..

MOM: *Yeah, only is like is now, tuna fish or something in this.*

DAUGHTER: **Sardines or something.**

MOM: *There was chocolate and all kinds of things for little children.*

DAD: But we could not afford that and we are not used to that kind of stuff even when we was in Yugoslavia so we sell that and we get money for that for a few groceries. And again we run out from money. Then Mom gave, also, you got to ? 3 spoons spool of thread, goes to the farmer house, and offer the children, Elsie or Reini or 2, 3 together and sell that for how much they get for it.

MOM: *Not for money.*

DAD: Not money. Eggs, we need eggs or we need now butter, or we need that or we need that. Not sugar.

MOM: *We get butter on the ration card, just we sell this ration cards.*

DAUGHTER: **This was after you left the farm.**

DAD: No, [we're] still on the farm.

MOM: *We on the farm.*

DAD: And so we got that.

MOM: *Dad made a big garden. We can make garden how big we want it.*

DAD: That fence what we had around this, I cut them in the middle and that fence, I made a garden and orchard was just orchard in there, wild, and put garden in like we would use-

[interruption in interview due to changing audiotape]

MOM: *The children...*

DAD: From the horses, the manure, not straw, just the fresh manure, filled up the garden, between the plants. And the children all day long pump, you know, up and down, up and down, fill up, fill up.

MOM: *They had to stay home or they had to work, they had to all day long just pump on this hand pump.*

DAUGHTER: **The water.**

DAD: Yeah, the water, in the garden and the tomatoes grow that high and everything grows that high.

MOM: *Peppers was so big, a whole pound meat you can put in one pepper, so big a pepper. We never had them and never will have them.*

DAD: It was before and ever after. *You cannot even believe it.*

DAUGHTER: **For a stuffed pepper, you could put a whole pound of meat in one pepper.**

DAD: You could, yes.

MOM: *Could, you could not even use them, we sell them.*

DAD: We had the pepper since that time from Yugoslavia.

MOM: *And the people came from the big cities on this farmers and get the tomatoes and the peppers in bags.*

DAUGHTER: **How big were your tomatoes? No, no, no.**

MOM: *Tomatoes, yeah, all [were big].*

DAUGHTER: **Make huge?**

MOM: *Oh, like a softball.*

DAUGHTER: **Larger.**

DAD: Not all, not all, some are small. But they big, you couldn't put in [a small] shopping bag.

MOM: *The vines were so big with so many on, you cannot believe.*

DAUGHTER: **Did you stake your tomatoes?**

DAD: Oh yes.

MOM: *Yeah, stake them with this was tunnel. You had to crawl under there or under there, there was tunnel here and tunnel over there.*

DAUGHTER: **So you had peppers and tomatoes in your garden. What else?**

MOM: *All kinds of stuff.*

DAUGHTER: **And you sold most everything that you didn't use?**

MOM: *Yah, then we had the parsley, and we had carrots and we had all kinds of things. And I can go on her farm and help her. Not help, picking for her, and later they was so used to me, they let me even plant everything, whatever.*

DAD: When the time came to plant the *Kürbis*, how you say...?

MOM: *Pumpkin.* [The German word for "pumpkin" is *Kürbis*.]

DAUGHTER: **Pumpkin. –**

DAD: They plant a pumpkins or maybe a big wheel barrow full good manure-

MOM: *On one pile. –*

DAD: . . .on one pile, and then dirt from every side of-, that is a flatbed that high and that big at least in the girth.

MOM: *Far apart, far apart.*

DAD: But Mom put the seed on them.

MOM: *They let never nobody put the seed in, just I, they wait for me. Everything is ready, all the men and all are working on this hills of acres of-, then I had to go put the seeds in for the cucumbers and they said, we never had, that's the best thing, they all grow what I put in, never failed once.*

DAD: We had melons, they had never seen melons before, grown.

DAUGHTER: Watermelons, Dad?

DAD: Maybe they see in city.

MOM: *Watermelons and the muskmelons.*

DAUGHTER: Watermelons.

MOM: *Watermelons and muskmelons.*

DAD: It's just a clod [?], I could work this.

MOM: *And then they was very nice, very nice, big watermelons, the whole field was full. If somebody went out from the workers, cut them a square in and turn them over. The next thing was when I came out, I said, somebody was in our melon field and turned all the melons upside-down. Where everyone was I was looking, had a hole in it, in 4 square. Cut in four, was not waiting, I told them, you wait, - - - They [say that they] "never saw it"⁶. They saw it just from us. They tasted how they looks from our garden, just I planted them in the field where they let us.*

DAD: How many, we plant them for us.

DAUGHTER: Did he ruin them then?

MOM: *Yes.*

DAD: We planted for us and we had enough and we gave it to taste [as a sample]⁷ and they like it. Then they said, we got plenty fields, why not plant for us?

MOM: *For all the people.*

DAD: So we did. But they were anxious to eat them, they are big and they don't know when it's ripe so they go, cut a hole, that's not ripe, turn over so no one can see.

MOM: *Yeah, on the yellow part, spot is on the top. You can see it... So I don't have to plant any more green beans in our garden. I had enough on the field how many I want. I planted for them, they had bushels and bushels.*

DAUGHTER: Did you preserve any of these for winter?

MOM: *No, we don't have bottles.*

⁶Mom is talking about how some of the greedy men would be impatient to eat some of the watermelons that were still growing; those men would sneakily cut a square out of the top of a growing watermelon, remove the slice to eat, then hide their theft by turning the watermelon upside down (so that the cut part was on the ground, unseen by someone walking by. Mom told the men: "you wait!" (but the men claimed that they never saw any such theft occur.) Mom was right, of course -- with patience there would be bigger watermelons for eating.

⁷Jakob and Katarina Webel never lost their marketing skills, as **merchants**, even when working on a farm in Austria.

DAD: Over there was born Jacob.

DAUGHTER: In this place.

DAD: In this place.

MOM: *Katie.*

DAD: And Katie.

DAUGHTER: Then you were there longer than 4 years.

DAD: We were there from 45 to 50.

DAUGHTER: Yeah.

MOM: *Longer, we was long there. This was a-*

DAUGHTER: When did you leave [Donnersdorf Au, Austria] then in 1950 and why did you leave?

[to be continued, D.v.]

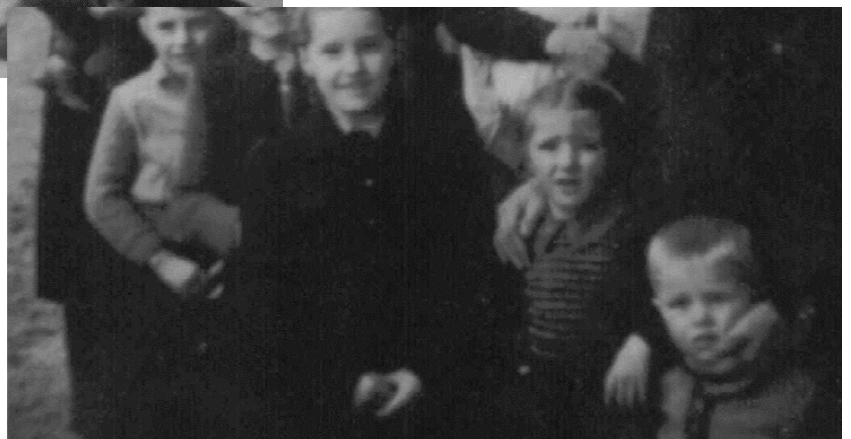
The next report (D.v.) resumes the chronicle of the Webel family exodus, with further perils and adventures as refugees (“displaced persons”) as they leave the farm at Donnersdorf Au, in Austria, and seek a new temporary home in Austria – all the while hoping and planning to emigrate to America, to settle there, near the family of Jakob Webel’s sister in Ohio.

In God’s providence, that migration would occur, successfully, with some of their future offspring, descended from young **Robert Webel** (who was just a baby when the Webel family left Yugoslavia for Germany, and who guided Austrian cows as a toddler!), to eventually arrive on Earth as native Texans.

That same **Robert Webel** (who emigrated from Yugoslavia, as a baby, with his family fleeing Communism) is the father of **Stephen Webel**, who is father (by his wife Erica) of brothers **Nate and Luke Webel**, the two native Texans mentioned in the earlier episodes of this series. (Thus Robert Webel, born during WWII, is the paternal grandfather of Nate, Luke, and their sisters.)



Jakob & Katarina Webel
family in Austria
(“*Volksdeutsche by the Dozen*”)





Jakob & Katarina Webel

So, this “chapter” rests with an appreciation that 2 native-Texan boys, **Nate Webel** (born in AD2007) and **Luke Webel** (born in AD2012), and their sisters, descend from ethnic-German immigrant stock (“*Volksdeutsche*”) who trace one ancestral line back to paternal grandfather **Robert Webel**, whose parents were **Jakob Webel & Katarina Schleicher**. Below is Chaplain Robert Webel (who was 8 when his family came as refugees to America) with his wife, Marcia, residents of Florida. Chaplain Bob Webel supplemented and clarified his sister’s interview of their parents (titled *From Vinkovci to Medina*) quoted hereinabove.

The Steve and Erica Webel family, during AD2014. Included in this family photograph are the 2 native-Texan boys, **Nate Webel** (born in AD2007) and **Luke Webel** (born in AD2012), who thus represent the ethnic-German-descended Webel immigrant family heritage, as they rightly claim their own status as “*German-Texans*”.

><> JJSJ profjjsj@aol.com


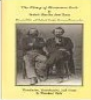

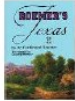







ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Dr. James J. S. Johnson is a member of the **German-Texas Heritage Society**, and an occasional contributor to its Journal pages. A lover and teacher of Providential history and geography, Jim has taught at 4 different Christian colleges (LeTourneau University, Dallas Christian College,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

OPERATIONS

GTHS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, November 5, 2017
not available at publication time

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. Sörge'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
The Cabin Book		ISBN 0-89015-525-9, 296 pp, 6 x 9, hardback. Illustrations. By Charles Sealsfield. Sealsfield's hopes about America focused on Texas when he wrote this in 1841. This novel, in part about Texas life in the 1830s, became a best-seller.	\$20.00
Texas in 1848		ISBN 1-57168-242-2, 240 pp, 6 x 9, hardback. Bibliography, index. By Victor Bracht. Originally published in German in 1849, this book has been described as a "treasure of German-Texan history." Filled with early Texas observations.	\$30.00

The GTHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. By law, we do not collect tax on books we publish. To purchase books, please fill out the order form below and return it with your payment to: GTHS, PO Box 684171, Austin, TX 78768-4171. We accept checks, MC, Visa, Dis. Contact us with questions 512-467-4569, or send an email to info@GermanTexans.org. Visit our website at www.GermanTexans.org.

BOOK TITLE	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
	\$		\$
	\$		\$
	\$		\$
ADD MEDIA RATE SHIPPING/HANDLING Contact us for expedited shipping prices.		SUBTOTAL	\$
\$ 0.00 - \$24.99: \$4.50 ; \$25.00 - \$49.99: \$7.50		SHIPPING	\$
\$50.00 - \$74.99: \$9.50 ; \$75.00 - \$99.99: \$12.50		TOTAL	\$
MasterCard/Visa/Discover	CARD #		
	EXP DATE:	* 3 DIGIT 'v code':	
NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD			
SHIPPING ADDRESS			
CITY / STATE / ZIP			
TELEPHONE NUMBER ()			
EMAIL			

* last three digits on signature strip on back of card

ADVISORY BOARD

TEDDY BOEHM, Brenham

CHARLES KALTEYER, Austin

RODNEY KOENIG, Houston

DR. HANS BOAS, Austin

HELGARD SUHR-HOLLIS, New Braunfels

CHARLES THOMPSON, Houston

HELGA VON SCHWEINITZ, Austin

VAN MASSIRER, Crawford - liaison to GTHS Board

GTHS LIBRARIAN

GENEALOGY EDITOR

LIZ HICKS, Houston

JOURNAL EDITOR

MARY WHIGHAM, Ft. Worth

WHERE DO YOU SEND THINGS FOR THE JOURNAL?

Send materials for the Journal (announcements, articles, news of reunions, clippings, and other information) to GTHS Journal, c/o Mary Whigham, 7529 Eagle Ridge Circle, Fort Worth, Texas 76179 or email to mjwhig@gmail.com

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING MATERIALS TO THE JOURNAL?

NEXT ISSUE

Spring 2018

Summer 2018

Fall 2018

Winter 2018

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

February 2018

May 1, 2018

August 1, 2018

November 1, 2018

POLICY STATEMENT

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

German-Texan Heritage Society
P.O. Box 684171
Austin, TX 78768-4171
www.GermanTexans.org

**NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTIN, TX
PERMIT NUMBER
02681**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

In This Edition:

Page

- 336 President's Notes
- 337 Operations Director's Report
- 338 Operations Update
- 343 Leave your German Mark
- 344 Genealogy Inquiries
- 346 Ralph Bickler Papers
- 347 Helga's Corner
- 348 Bulletin Board
- 355 Ceremony to celebrate completion
of individual's home
- 360 The German Community of New
Ulm and Others in Surrounding
Counties
- 368 Mohrhusen Building Ad
- 369 German Choirs Gave S.A. Cultur-
al Boost
- 371 Meat Clubs of Fayette County
- 371 LGHS Students inducted into
National German Society
- 372 Carl Wilhelm Pressler
- 382 Still Tough as Nails
- 384 Henry Kiesling Dies from Wound
- 387 100 year old Letter Provides Insite
- 388 Hermann Lehman
- 389 Volksdeutsch by the Dozen, Part 7

Time to Renew Your Membership

Grand *Christmas* Raffle

Two drawings for 1 round trip TICKET to Germany

valid June 27th - September 1st.

Condor

Single — \$5
5 Tickets — \$20
10 Tickets — \$40

Tickets \$5 each

Win a German book
A membership to GTHS
A Christmas Stollen
A Christmas Ornament

Drawing held at Christmas Market December 2 —10-6

*Promoting awareness and preservation of the
German cultural heritage of Texas*