

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

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**Vielen Dank to these contributors**

**Rodney Koenig, Houston  
Teresa Gold, San Antonio  
Flora von Roeder, Houston  
Dan Bode, Dayton**

**Carl Luckenbach, Fredericksburg  
Kenn Kopp, Fredericksburg  
Jim Johnson, Lewisville  
Mary Whigham, Washington**

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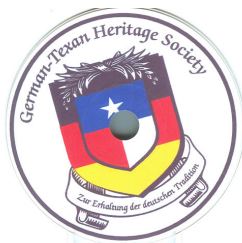
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**REMINDERS**



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der from Mary Whigham, 16100  
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## *In Memoriam*



SUE BRANDT MCBEE, beloved wife, mother and grandmother, journalist and poet, humorist and civic leader, quietly passed away at her home at Westminster Manor in Austin, Texas, on January 3, 2011. Oh, what a wonderful life she lived!

Born September 23, 1923, to Robert Hubert Brandt and Bertha Wilhemina Frieda Maria Augusta Lamps Brandt, in Hamburg, Germany, Sue presciently was confirmed as Regina (the Queen). A mathematician might calculate her age at 87, but if ever asked she always insisted she was 19. And seeing her flawless complexion, jet black hair and the twinkle in her eyes, who would dare to argue with Sue McBee?

Sue's father and her uncle spent a number of years before and just after her birth traveling to and from the United States as crewmen on freighters out of the port of Hamburg. On many of these trips, Robert would return home with Hershey and Baby Ruth chocolate bars for his daughter hidden in rolled newspapers, perhaps explaining Sue's insatiable affection for anything chocolate. The brothers were finally able to open a small business in New York City and the Brandt family immigrated to the United States through the portal of Ellis Island. Sue's pride in having joined so many other hopeful immigrants in their journey to America served as a constant motivation for her lifetime of achievement and her empathy for those still seeking fulfillment of their own American Dream.

Sue discovered her love for writing and poetry in middle school. At Austin High, she, along with an amazing group of young writers including Cactus Pryor, Liz Carpenter, Dean Finley Herbst, Jimmy Banks, Windy Winn and Wray Weddell, all of whom remained BFF's, worked on the Austin Maroon newspaper and, with the guidance of J.W. Markham and her beloved English teacher, Mary Nell Granger, learned the art of journalism. She often spoke of how lucky she was to have discovered at so early an age exactly what she wanted to be and how sad it must be for others who never really know that feeling. She also spoke often of how lucky she was to live in Austin, Texas, home of such literary giants as J. Frank Dobie, Walter Cronkite, Dean DeWitt Reddick, Liz Smith, John Henry Faulk and Bill Wittliff, not to mention The Headliners Club and the fabulous Texas Book Festival, initiated by then Texas First Lady Laura Bush and Mary Margaret Farabee, where she was fascinated to meet such writers as John Graves and Elmer Kelton, and as thrilled as a schoolgirl to mingle with celebs like Robert Duval. In 1999, Sue was herself an honoree at the Book Festival for the publication of her poems in "Lines for a Texas Town".

Graduating from Austin High at the age of 16, Sue moved directly to then-Professor Reddick's Journalism School at the University of Texas where she became editor of the Daily Texan. Sue graduated at 19 and took her enthusiasm for doing what she thought right to the wider world and Austin specifically. In 1943 young Sue married her Austin High beau and fellow UT student, Frank McBee. In 1964, she and Frank acquired their new, but very old, home at 705 San Antonio Street. The house, built in 1872 by the Walter Bremond family, inspired a tireless effort to preserve historic homes and buildings all around Austin. Sue became vice president of public relations, then president and finally chair of the foundation of the Heritage Society of Austin. Subsequently, she was the founding president of the newly established Austin History Center.

Sue and Frank were participants in many, many different aspects of life in Austin. In addition to her work on behalf of historical preservation, Sue also was the first woman chairperson for the (1978) United Way/Capital Area Annual Drive, and contributed significantly to St. Edwards University in a number of ways. Sue appreciated art in many forms and Laguna Gloria Art Museum also received her focus, both for its historical significance and for its contribution to Austin's art community.

She was rewarded with too many citations, plaques and acknowledgements to list, including being named an

Outstanding Alumnus of the College of Communications of the University of Texas, recipient of an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from St. Edwards University and being the namesake of the annual Sue and Frank McBee Vision Award of the Heritage Society of Austin. But perhaps the award she was most proud of was the establishment of the Sue and Frank McBee Elementary School, home of the Fighting Bumblebees. Sue never failed to laugh at the school's signature fight song: "BUZZZZZZZZZZ!!!"

In 1980's, Sue wrote a second column for the Austin American-Statesman, this time called "Reflections", in which she wrote, sometimes whimsically and more often poignantly, about many of these people, rich and poor, immense successes or Olympian failures, old and young, liberal and conservative, that she met doing the many different parts of her life. A compilation of these columns, together with some from "Hereabouts", were republished in 2007 by her good and supportive friend, Dwain Kelley of Starbird Press, in "Remembering Austin".

Sue McBee loved life; and life loved Sue McBee. And just as America was a gift to Sue, she was a gift to America, and to Austin, and to all of us who knew her. She will be dearly missed.

Sue is survived by her daughter, Marilyn McBee Moore, of Austin; her son, Robert Frank McBee, of Houston; and one grandchild, Michael Brett Moore, of New York City; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Sincere appreciation is owed to Ms. Toni Hollingsworth, Sue's secretary, for her longtime support and to Ms. Joyce Hopes, Ms. Debbie Craft and Ms. Maria Elena Guevara, who have provided devoted health care for a number of years. Special appreciation is extended also to all of her neighbors and friends, including the wonderful staff, at Westminster Manor. Thanks, too, to Sister Gertrude and the always attentive caregivers of Seton Hospital.

Additional kind thanks to JoAnne Midwikis and the staff of Midwikis & Granger, as well as Laree Perez and Michael Madison, for their support and dedicated attention to Sue's welfare for the last decade. The family wishes to thank Sue Meller and the many loyal friends at The Headliners Club, all the kind folks at the Four Seasons Hotel who treated Sue so thoughtfully, and all of her associates at the Heritage Society of Austin and the Austin History Center.

The family is honored to have as pallbearers, in addition to Robert McBee and Brett Moore, Ron Dipprey, Randy Neu, Dwain Kelley, Jim Smith, Tom Granger, Hugh Daniel, Tom Kozlowski and Pete Ball.

Honorary Pallbearers are Margaret Berry, Paul Daigle, Mary Margaret Farabee, Elaine Frederick, George S. Gotrocks (we know you're watching), Charlotte Gres, Coleen Hardin, Dean Roderick Hart, Pat Hayes, Shirley James, Adolph Kremel, Sylvia Lester, Dr. George Martin, Sue Meller, JoAnne Midwikis, Judy Newby, Elmer Pramb, Cactus Pryor, Tom Segesta, Bud Shivers, Sharon Watkins, Alton White and Bill Wittliff.

There will be a private service and interment at the Texas State Cemetery on Monday, January 10, 2011. Also on Monday, January 10, a celebration of Sue's wonderful and full life will be held at 4:30 p.m. at The Headliners Club, 221 West 6th Street, Suite 2100, Austin, Texas, at which it is hoped Sue's many friends and other Uppity Women will Unite for Broadway tunes, storytelling and chocolate.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers donations be made to the Heritage Society of Austin, P.O. Box 2113, Austin, Texas 78768; Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas 78701; The St. Edwards Fund, 3001 South Congress Avenue; The Seton Fund of Seton Hospital, 1201 West 38th Street, Austin, Texas 78705; The United Way/Capital Area, 2000 East MLK Jr. Blvd, Austin, Texas 78702-1340; The College of Communications of the University of Texas at Austin, 1 University Station, A0900, Austin, Texas 78712, or the charity of your choice. Or, the next time you're standing on a corner next to a stranger, just ask them how they are doing and offer a smile. That's what Sue would have done. Who knows, you might meet a new friend.

## *In Memoriam*

### **MARJORIE KALTEYER HUNT**



Marjorie ('Margie') Kalteyer Hunt passed away on December 8, 2010, at the age of 95, of complications from pneumonia. She was born in San Antonio, Texas on June 14, 1915, to Walter William Kalteyer, Sr. and Louise Clara Pressler Kalteyer. Marjorie has been a member of GTHS since the founding of the German Free School Guild in 1994.

Marjorie married Hulen Hunt, of Waco, Texas, in 1939 and they moved to Corpus Christi that same year. Hulen was a long-time home builder and land developer in the Corpus Christi area. Marjorie was primarily a homemaker, known for her gourmet cooking, loved to paint, sew and work with flowers in her yard. She also enjoyed traveling extensively around the world. Her favorite pastime was playing bridge and over the years was in numerous bridge clubs, including duplicate bridge. In fact, she played bridge twice a week up until right before her death. She was honored by the City of Corpus Christi and former Mayor Henry Garrett with the proclamation of 'Margie Hunt Day' on May 18, 2009, for her contributions and dedication to the city. Marjorie loved to be with and do things for her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Her home was the center of all the family gatherings. We thank God for the blessing of her long life and know she is with God now.

Marjorie was a member of the Corpus Christi Country Club, the Jeanette Hammer Guild at the Church of the Good Shepherd, the Corpus Christi Country Club Women's Association, a charter member of the Monday Forum Club (formed in 1952) and organized the ongoing Second Sunday Night Supper Club about thirty years ago. She was a member of the Church of the Good Shepherd (Episcopal) for over forty-five years.

Marjorie is preceded in death by her husband Hulen Hunt, brothers Walter Kalteyer, Jr. formerly of Corpus Christi and Don Kalteyer of San Antonio and son-in-law Joe Coerver of Dallas. Survivors include brother Chuck (Alicean) Kalteyer of Austin, sister-in-law Sue Kalteyer formerly of Corpus Christi, daughter Holly Coerver of Dallas, Texas, two sons: Howard (Marilyn) Hunt of Del Rio, Texas and Hilton (Sheri) Hunt of Corpus Christi, six grandchildren: Elizabeth Coerver and Christina Coerver both of Dallas, Heather (Miles) Gibbs and Dr. Howard (Loral) Hunt, Jr. all of Del Rio, Texas, Hilton Hunt, Jr. and Harrison Hunt both of Corpus Christi and two great grandchildren: Pasch Gibbs and Reed Hunt both of Del Rio, Texas and special friend Mary Thompson of Sugar Land, Texas.

## President's Notes

Technology is a wonderful thing when it works....your *Journal* is late because it didn't...Ah, well...there is always the next edition.

This *Journal* was a delight to do after getting all the glitches out of my computer as there were responses from queries posted in the previous *Journal*. I am beginning to feel very connected to many of you. Teresa Gold responded to my query about Fritz Goldbeck which prompted me to google him and led me to more information and a new contact! Seems there may be someone in the process of translating all his poems...Be aware that I am a stickler for getting permission to print what you send me so if you don't see an article you sent, I probably couldn't get permission or the writer wanted too much money! But keep those cards and letters coming in. I know there are lots more stories out there.



And a response by Kenn Kopp to clarify the naming of Fredericksburg...(he had an issue with information in a previous *Journal*!) This means to me that you out there are really reading what I print. And all the great book reviews ... so much to learn/read ... so little time!

I was intrigued by the Sack Family Reunion article sent in by Flora von Roeder - seems they can track their family back to Holy Elizabeth of Marburg (I hear that my family lines go back to her also...hmm).

I will assign another task to someone out there. Great article about the sketcher, Emil Habecker on page 41. Anyone out there know his kin? Would love to print some of his sketches in one of our *Journals*.

And for our members in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area, since our annual meeting will be in your backyard, how about some articles about the Germans in your area. I know several years back there were several.

I continue to enjoy producing our *Journal*. It seems to me to be one of the best ways to continue our German heritage. I never tire of reading about the Germans that came to Texas and know that our culture of hard work lay the foundation for the great state we now enjoy. We just celebrated the 175th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence from Mexico and while not many German names appear as defenders of the Alamo or writers of the Constitution, our forefathers were out there doing what had to be done...and that was tending to their crops and animals and making a better life for their children. They did distinguish themselves in service to the newly formed republic/state by serving in many different positions (reread Terry Smart's article in the Fall 2010 *Journal*). Certainly the statement from the Sack Family Reunion, "Hilf dir selbst, so hilft dir Gott (Help thyself that God helps thee)" states beautifully what I believe must have been the mindset of those Germans who came to America.

Mary

## LEAVE YOUR GERMAN MARK

By Rodney C. Koenig (past President of GTHS)



We are fortunate to have the many positive aspects of our German-Texan heritage. We can leave our mark on our community if we choose to do so. A number of creative ways exist for all of us to support German-Texan causes. The items below are designed to be a checklist for ways in which Texas Germans can help in leaving their German mark.

1. Preserve old family books and letters. Collect and record old letters and stories of your family. Make tape recordings of your mother, father and grandparents.
2. Search out old diaries and account books. Have them rebound to keep or to be placed in local museums.
3. Prepare and record your family history, both in words and in pictures.
4. Help organize and publicize the German aspects of your family reunion. Be certain that someone publicizes this in all of the local newspapers. Identify the towns and communities in Germany from whence your ancestors came.
5. Refurbish the grave marker of an ancestor. Help clean an old German cemetery.
6. Join and be active in German-Texan singing groups. Organize a German singing group in your locality. Attend the State Saengerfest in Dallas on May 14 and 15, 2011.
7. Submit articles on German-Texans, including your ancestors, to the Handbook of Texas and to German-Texan Heritage Society Journal. Join the Sons (Daughters) of the Republic of Texas if eligible.
8. Create a scholarship fund to support your favorite university which has a German department.
9. Create a German-Texan Heritage Society professorship at your favorite school in honor of your spouse, parents, grandparents or other ancestor.
10. Create a lectureship to encourage significant writing and an annual lecture on GermanTexan heritage.
11. Underwrite publishing the history of various local German-Texan organizations throughout the state, such as the brief history of the Houston Saengerbund underwritten by Asta Grona.
12. Underwrite the maintenance of our headquarters, the German Free School in Austin and search out and find other important German-Texan buildings and work toward their preservation.
13. Provide funds to assist in German genealogical research.
14. Provide funds to microfilm old German-Texan newspapers.
15. Provide funds to assist in the support of exchange students to and from Germany.
16. Add your favorite German-Texan charity, university, local museum or similar organization as a beneficiary under your Will and as life insurance beneficiary.
17. Add your favorite German charity as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy.
18. Create a cash award to the top German language student in your local high school. Attend awards day. Provide scholarships to local students who will major or minor in German at a local university.

The previous list is not meant to be all inclusive. Your own ingenuity can think of other ways in which you could creatively help leave your German mark. If you are interested in any of these matters, please contact any of the state officers, any board member or Rodney Koenig for more information. In particular, you should consider amending your Will or changing your life insurance beneficiary designation to provide for funds for one or more of the above purposes. A format (which should be reviewed by your own lawyer) which could be used for an amendment (Codicil) to your Will, which should be completely in your handwriting and witnessed by two disinterested persons, could be done as follows:

## Version 1

This is a codicil to my will. In addition to other gifts in my will, I give 10% of my residuary estate to German-Texas Heritage Society in memory of my grandparents. This gift is to support the GTHS Journal Board for outreach in obtaining new members. My German grandparents' names are to be recognized with this gift. Signed on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2011.  
 Witnesses: Francis Halbert Heinrich Austin  
Ludwig Bauer

## Version 2

This is a Codicil to my will. I give \$10,000 to the German Dept. at the University of Texas, Austin and \$10,000 to the German Dept. at Texas A&M College Station to be used to fund German scholarships for deserving students from Mason, Fredericksburg, Schulenburg, Anhalt or other German areas of Texas. I ask those colleges to seek other funds to help as well. Signed on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2011.  
 Witnesses: Francis Halbert Hilda Hasalot  
Ludwig Bauer



## Genealogy Inquiries: Liz Hicks, Genealogy Editor

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

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



### AINICK – AINCK – LOKAS/LOKAAS

Linda Lokaas Mikalsen Ainick of Bodo, Norway, email: [art-pintura@hotmail.com](mailto:art-pintura@hotmail.com). Would like to find information on her grandfather, Arthur Ainick/Ainck, German WWII soldier, born 1910 Magdeburg, who served in Norway. Arthur is believed to have lived in Houston, TX area at one time. Linda's grandmother and her grandfather did not marry.

**Reply:** A search of Social Security Death Records, passenger lists, and Houston City Directories have not turned up anyone by any surname close to Ainick/Ainck. There was an Arthur Einig born May 17, 1919 and died January, 1985 in Jacinto City, TX (suburb of Houston). The 1919 date of birth does not match the 1910 date of birth given for Linda's grandfather. The microfilm of the 1936 inhabitants of Magdeburg, Germany is available from the LDS/Mormans. At least you could see if Arthur was there and who with in 1936. Any living relatives you can question? Use [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) or <http://beta.familysearch.org> for film number.

### BUSSMANN – OELZE - SEERIG

Arnim Bussmann, Bülstingerstrasse 50, 39340 Haldensleben, Germany would like to know what happened to his father, Adolf Alfred Bussmann. The last word Mrs. Erna Oelze Bussmann had on her husband was in 1943. She and Alfred married April 2, 1932 in Haldensleben. Alfred left shortly thereafter on the ship "Lützow" Bremen to NY arriving July 4, 1932. He had previously worked in San Antonio, Texas as an electrician or art fitter there about 1928-1932. Mr. Bussmann sent a copy of Alfred Bussmann's Emigrant ID Card issued by the US Dept. of Labor which has Alfred born March 5, 1907, to Galveston, TX arriving March 25, 1928. Alfred Bussmann had contact with the families of Frenzel Tam, Seerig, Kühn, Heidensohn and an uncle Emil in St. Louis, MO.

**Reply:** I was able to find Alfred Bussmann was living with Obbott T. Seerig age 66, and wife, Mary age 60 on the 1930 San Antonio, Bexar County census. According to this census Alfred had filed his "PA" (papers/declaration of intent). His occupation is given as Laborer in a power plant. Also, verified Alfred arrived on the "Lützow", April 20, 1932, birth 1907 Neuenhofe, Germany, electrician, alien, last permanent address, San Antonio, TX. Alfred arrived on the same ship April 28, 1932, destination Houston, Texas. However, I have not been able to find him anywhere after that date. I checked social security death indexes, cemeteries for San Antonio, and tried to find his uncle, Emil Bussmann without success. The 1940 US Census will not be released until 2012. Perhaps, Houston, San Antonio or St. Louis City Directories might provide additional information.

### MAROWSKI – JUNGE - BATES – KING - ROEMMELE

Burkhard Marowski, Alte Bruecker Strasse 31a, 41470 Neuss, Germany, email: [b-marowski@arcor.de](mailto:b-marowski@arcor.de) would like family information and stories of the descendants of Ludwig Wilhelm(William) and wife, Auguste Wilhelmina Junge. Their daughters: Aurora, Louisa, Pauline, and Henriette Marowski. Aurora was born March 14, 1850 in Germany. The family settled in Texas. Burkhard would like to contact "cousins" as he has information on the family and relatives in Germany to share.

**Reply:** L.W. Marousky age 30, merchant, Caroline age 33, and Aurora age 6 months from Berlin, arrived on the ship "Ocean" from Bremen to Baltimore, Maryland June 1, 1850. I have not found this family on the 1860 census, probably due to the variation of the spelling of Marowski. Minnie (Wilhelmina) Maroskey age 44 born Prussia is found on the 1870 census of McKinney, Collin County, Texas. She is living in the household of an Amalia Roemmelia (Roemmele) age 35 born Prussia, her son, Charles

Roemmelia age 12 born Texas, and a William Bellebaum age 31, clerk. The Inventory Appraisement for the estate of William **Maroski** was filed April 9, 1866 (he died some time before that date) in Collin County, TX. Aurora married A.C. (Amos) Bates Aug. 11, 1869; Paulina married Nov. 26, 1879 J.T. King, and Retta (Henriette) married Dec. 18, 1879 W.S. King. Aurora Bates' obituary appeared in the July 18, 1938 McKinney Daily Courier Gazette. Her survivors were sons, Henry Bates of Princeton, Tx, John Bates, Jim, Joe, Jesse, Melvin and Earl Bates all of McKinney, TX; one daughter, Mrs. Minnie King of Oklahoma; grandsons: Ben King, W.H., Ray, Dowell, and Fred Bates.

### **DOUTHIT – PARKER – HALL**

Mrs. Warden Mayes, 1910 Yellowstone Dr., Lampasas, TX 76550 needs any information regarding the parents/1843 birth of Parthena Douthit(t), wife of William Preston. Hall of Anderson and Limestone Counties Texas. According to family story, Parthena was adopted as a baby after being found by a river near Fort Parker.

**Reply:** Parthena Douthitt married W.P. Hale (should be Hall) Jan. 8, 1861 in Anderson County, TX. Parthena Douthit age 9 is living with a Benjamin Parker age 31 born Illinois, wife, Irena Douthit Parker and other Parker children on the 1850 Anderson Co. census. Parthena gives different places of birth Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri on various censuses. She may not have known in what state she was born. However, I suspect Irena Douthit Parker was her possible mother. The death certificates of Irena's other children state Irena's maiden name was Douthit. Irena was born June 7, 1829 Shelby County, Illinois, died July 2, 1900, Anderson County, TX. Her parents: Jonathan Douthit and Rebecca Childers. There are several possibilities as to the connection of Parthena to Irena Douthit Parker. There are Douthit(s) still living in Anderson Co., TX.

Interesting note: Cynthia Ann Parker was kidnapped by Indians near Fort Parker which is in Limestone County, TX. However, Cynthia Ann Parker is living in Anderson Co., TX by the 1870 census. Wonder if there is a connection between Cynthia Ann Parker and your Parker family?

### **KLATT**

Gail Ferguson, 532 C.R. 420A, Comanche, TX 76442, email: [txfarmboy35@yahoo.com](mailto:txfarmboy35@yahoo.com) Is researching the Klatts of Washington County, TX. Her F. Wilhelm/William Klatt born Feb. 8, 1837, emigrated Sept. 1, 1858 per his application for citizenship. Wilhelm died April 23, 1850 in Washington County, TX. Gail has determined his place of origin as Margonin, Posen/Poznan. Gail cannot find baptism records.

**Reply:** You will need to determine if Wilhelm Klatt was Catholic or Evangelical, or you will have to look at church records for both. If Margonin church records have not been microfilm by LDS/Mormans ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)), you will need to determine the churches there by writing to the Catholic or Evangelical (Lutheran) Archives. The book "Ancestors in German Archives, A Guide to Family History Sources", by Raymond S. Wright III, Nathan S. Rives, Mirjam J. Kirkham and Saskia Schier Bunting, published by the Genealogical Publishing Company is a good source for this type of information. Once possible church/parish is determined, you will need to write to the church requesting the information you seek.

### **FRISKE**

Michael Friske 970 FM 2377, Red Oak, TX 75154-7400, email: [mfriske@aircanopy.net](mailto:mfriske@aircanopy.net) Seeks year his Julius Friske and family emigrated to US and name of the ship. Family tradition has Julius Friske, wife, Appolonia, children, Mathilda, Anton, August, Rosalia, Bernhard, Josephine and Lorenz emigrating from Deutsch Krone in West Prussia to Paige, Texas in 1885.

**Reply:** A search in "Germans To America" for years 1881-1890 did not turn up your Friskes. I did find Julius and 3 others on the 1883 Bastrop County, TX tax list, with No land but paying tax on wagon/carriage buggy, horses/mules, and cows. It is possible The passenger list does not survive. Perhaps church records in Bastrop Co. will narrow Their date of arrival? The Index to Naturalization and Declaration of Intent for Bastrop Co. has: Julius Friske, native of Germany, age 50 (as of date of proceedings) July 27, 1887, filed Declaration of Intent, Naturalization granted Oct. 31, 1891. Other Friskes, Johan age 23, native Germany, Aug. 1, 1887; John age 34, July 26, 1887; Ben age 22, July 21, 1887 all of these dates were for filing of Declaration of Intent. I would also check for obituary for Julius, his wife, and kids born in Germany as may tell when they emigrated. It is possible I have not thought of the correct variation of spelling of Friske to find Julius and family on a passenger list. My guess would be New Orleans, Galveston, or Indianola as possible port of entry.

## OUR LIZ ON THE GO!!

**Tuesday, March 29th**, 7 pm, downtown Ft. Worth Public Library, Liz Hicks, GTHS Genealogy Editor, will present "Researching Your German-Texan Ancestor" for the Fort Worth Genealogical Society. The public is invited to attend. The presentation is free.

**Thursday, April 7**, "Disturbing the Death and Irritating the Living" presentation to the Galveston Genealogical Society at the Oppe Elementary School, 2915 81st Street, Galveston, TX 77554. The meeting starts at 6:45pm, is free, and the public is invited to attend.

## Meet Your Board Members



**Bob Flocke** currently serves as Mayor of Wimberley, a small Hill Country community near Austin, San Marcos and New Braunfels. Before being elected as mayor in May 2010, Bob served two terms on the Wimberley city council. Bob and his wife Jenelle, have lived in Wimberley for 11 years and own a gift shop on the Square that specializes in items from the Erzgebirge, Lauscha, and other places German. Their daughter Cathy lives in New Braunfels.

A veteran of both Vietnam and the Persian Gulf wars, Bob spent 24 years as an Army officer. Following his retirement, he worked for the Air Line Pilots Association in Washington, D.C., and most recently, for the City of Austin, retiring in 2006.

Bob's mother was born and raised in LaGrange and his father was a Schulenburg native. His German ancestry includes immigrant great-grandparents from Prussia, Saxony, Silesia, and Austria with the surnames Flocke, Skarcke, Schulze and Rose. His mother's side includes several Moravian branches.

Bob was born in Houston, graduated from High School in Rapid City, South Dakota and attended Texas A&M University, the University of Missouri and Oklahoma University. He holds a bachelor's degree in History and a master's degree in Journalism with honors.

**Michael Krause** is a German Texan. His family came from Germany in 1844 and settled in and around New Braunfels. He currently operates his family's ranch and lives in a historic ranch home, both of which have been in his family since the 1860's, and have the Texas Dept. of Agriculture's Family Land Heritage Designation. He hopes to have the homestead designated in the National Register of Historic Places in the near future. He learned to speak German before English and strongly believes in the preservation of our German heritage, its culture and traditions.



In addition to operating the family ranch, he has a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin with a specialty in Nuclear Engineering and is employed as the Manager of Operations / Reactor Supervisor at the University of Texas Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory. He is a registered Professional Engineer and a Nuclear Regulatory Commission Licensed Senior Nuclear Research Reactor Operator at the UT TRIGA Research Reactor.

When not ranching or splitting atoms, Michael can be found 'witchin' graves' or playing St. Nikolas at Christmas parties.

**Welcome to the board, Bob and Michael!**

**Many thanks to outgoing board members, Connie Krause, John Siemssen, and Charles Frederick.**

## ***Book Review: We Were Not the Enemy***

Heidi Gurcke Donald

iUniverse, 2006

Paperback, 104 pages with photos

Available: \$12.95 at Amazon.com

ISBN-13 978-0-595-39333-6

by Kevin Mitchell

The uncomfortable history of the forced internment of Japanese-Americans on the West Coast during World War II is well known. But how many Americans know that about 1 percent of the 300,000 German-Americans and legal German residents living in the United States during the second World War were arrested and either swept into internment camps or deported to wartime Germany? Or that about 4,000 German residents living in Latin American countries friendly to the U.S. were also rounded up?

Heidi Gurcke Donald knows. She lived as a small child in one of those camps in the barren west Texas town of Crystal City. Her moving chronicle of her family's gut-wrenching exodus from life in Costa Rica to imprisonment in Texas is drawn from archival research as well as interviews with her elderly mother, the late Starr Gurcke. "Her memories were so painful," writes the author, "that it took over a month of visits to record her recollections, offered in fragments through tears."

Her father, Werner Gurcke, left Hamburg in the 1920s to join some relatives in Costa Rica and start a successful export-import business. California native Starr – a Germanic Languages postgraduate student – met Werner on a trip to Germany while he was visiting relatives. She moved to San Jose, Costa Rica, in 1936 to marry him. One chapter explores Starr's struggles to adapt to a new husband, a different culture, a lack of modern conveniences and even a lengthy visit by Werner's overbearing mother. The young family soon expanded when Heidi and her younger sister, Ingrid, were born.

Although the Gurckes opposed the rise of Hitler's Nazi party, Werner turned up on a business blacklist in the early 40s and had to abandon his business in lieu of subsistence farming. Werner was on a walk one day in 1942 when Costa Rican authorities arrested him. The frantic letter from Starr to her brother and sister-in-law in California expressed her family's predicament:

"Since day before yesterday, Werner has been in the local penitentiary. . . We haven't the remotest idea why they arrested him or what's going to happen to him and the many others there. And they won't let me see anyone to find out the charges against him or to do any explaining. Heidi wakes up at nite screaming, "Papi, Papi," and today is Ingrid's first birthday. . ."

After six months of being held without charges, Werner and his family were put on a ship and sent to an internment camp in a remote community in West Texas. It was all part of a program run by the U.S. State Department with the stated objective of "hemispheric security" and preventing alleged Nazi sympathizers from undermining Latin American allies of the United States.

The Werners spent more than a year-and-a-half at the Crystal City camp, which was a former migrant-labor camp that housed more than 4,700 German and Japanese internees over its three-year history. The Werners tried to make their two-bedroom triplex as comfortable as possible, hanging curtains and building a porch. But they could never ignore the barbed wire or the watchful gazes of armed guards in towers. Classes were established to teach children in their own native languages – Heidi and Ingrid spoke primarily German at the time – and they were allowed occasional visitors. Werner worked in an on-site manufacturing facility and helped managed the maintenance crew.

## ***Book Review: Arms of God***

Tom Meinecke, Author

Gail Folkins, Reviewer

### *Arms of God Comes to Life Through a Texas Settler's Perspective*

In this work of historical fiction, author Tom Meinecke recreates, in gripping style, the life of his ancestor Johann Friedrich Meinecke Jr., who immigrated to Texas and just over 10 years later perished in the Brazos River. The book begins with this harrowing event, the river linking individuals and events past and present.

"Perhaps life is a continuum like the flow of a river," Tom writes, "and all of life runs continuously with both the past and the present in existence at the same time." Demonstrating this link, the author describes his own [actual] experience following heart surgery. Tom's story flows, river-like, from his first-person account to Johann Friedrich's.

Both in the narrative and in real-life, the author researches the Meinecke family in Central Texas, detailing their origins in Prussia and their move to Austin County, Texas in 1847. The reader learns about the family journey to America, the story of many emigrants during this time. Aided by general research as well as research from family stories, the author reveals fascinating insights about the trip, such as selling oxen in the port of Bremen at far less than their worth because so many others are doing the same. The author relates a similar level of detail about life at sea, from the confined spaces in steerage to dramatic storms, along with the equally dangerous dead calm that strains both food supplies and settlers' hopes.

After a journey of several months, the Meinecke family arrives in Galveston, sails to Indianola, and strikes out for the community of Kenney in Austin County. Due to the cost of the journey, the family works as tenant farmers until they are able, after several successful seasons, to buy acreage. Through Johann's perspective, the author again presents compelling details of daily life, from roles of family members, to crops grown, to social events. As the family acquires more acreage over the years, they settle into the community fully.

As the eldest Meinecke siblings gradually marry and pursue lives of their own, 23-year-old Johann Friedrich and his 14-year-old brother, Wilhelm, ease their father's workload on the farm. As part of their duties, the pair offer to transport a cotton crop to Houston in 1858, a journey their father is reluctant to let Wilhelm make.

The two brothers manage to guide the oxen overland without incident, only to encounter a turbulent Brazos River during stormy weather. The author describes their perilous crossing well, from the rope strung across the bucking waters to the nervous oxen and the brothers on either side of the team. Even knowing the outcome does little to change the reader's hope that this time, things will be different.

From this pivotal moment of the past, the author transitions from Johann back to his own first-person account of a research trip to the Brazos, visions of Johann Friedrich and Wilhelm close as the distant shore.

*Arms of God: From Prussia to Texas to Death in the Brazos River* is available from AuthorHouse and Amazon, along with Barnes & Noble and Borders bookstores. GTHS members can also order a signed book at the discounted price of \$19 (includes shipping) from author Tom Meinecke at [tmeinecketom@aol.com](mailto:tmeinecketom@aol.com)

Gail Folkins reviewer

***Book Review: The German Research Companion***

Third Edition, Revised, Updated and Expanded

By Shirley J. Riemer, Roger P. Minert, and Jennifer A. Anderson, ISBN: 0-9656761-6-1,  
published 2010 by Lorelei Press

Although this is not a “how to” book for German genealogical research, it is one of my favorite reference books for sources and helpful information for anyone (beginner to expert) doing genealogical research. I own a previous edition, and was interested to see the updates and additional information included in the new 705 page edition. I was not disappointed. The following comes directly from the Table of Contents: (Section titles)

German Land, Past and Present  
The Tools, Contacts and Resources  
Emigration and Immigration  
United States Resources  
Language and Vocabularies  
German Resources  
Archives (German Federal, State, County, Ecclesiastical)  
Life in Our Ancestor’s Times (Names and naming patterns, Religions, nobility, etc.)  
Newspapers, Libraries, Museums and Other Information  
Appendix and Index

I strongly recommend this book to anyone doing genealogical research on their German ancestors. *The German Research Companion*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, can be ordered from Lorelei Press, P.O. Box 221356, Sacramento, CA 95822, for \$34.95 (includes shipping and handling). Their e-mail: [www.loreleipress.com](http://www.loreleipress.com).

Reviewed by: Liz Hicks, genealogy editor, GTHS

***Book Review: The Reluctant Immigrant***

A Novel by Naomi Mitchum

Oak Tara Publishers, November 7, 2008

Available: \$15.95 paperback and \$12.95 for Kindle, at Amazon.com

Available: \$9.99 for Nook at Barnes and Noble

ISBN: 978-1602900868

**Immigration to Texas,  
A Young Girl's Struggles**

Reviewed by Elmer Mooring

This novel traces the struggles of a German family coming to Texas in the 1840s. It is told from the perspective of a young girl, Fredericka (Rika), who, along with her mother, brother, and little sister are coming to join her father who had preceded them to New Braunfels. The family has left their comfortable home in Germany to come to the new world. The young girl has to give up her music studies and dancing to endure hardships that she had not imagined.

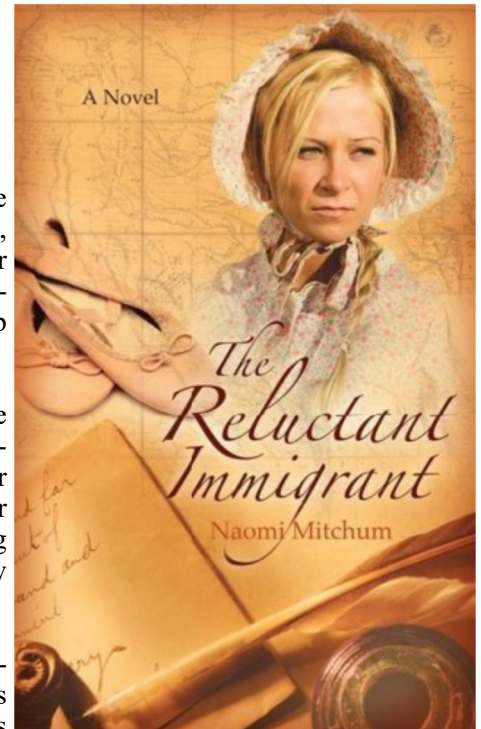
After their ship lands in Indian Point, Texas, she finds herself thrust into the role of leadership as her family makes their way through the harsh new environment by wagon train. She must become the leader and decision maker when she is forced to leave her ill mother in a small town along the way for medical care. Leading her oxen team, riding a stubborn horse, and walking many miles, she is faced with many adult decisions as they trudge to New Braunfels.

The reader watches Rika mature from the inept little girl to a stout and resourceful young woman along the way. We see the awakening of her feelings of romance for two young men as they travel, and the emotional growth of this young lady.

The author lives in Texas and has done extensive research of the immigration trail to New Braunfels and the conditions at the time of this journey. She captures the conditions of mosquito hordes, storms, and floods that these immigrants faced in this wonderful adventure story. She also introduces the German culture and experiences with which Rika grew up and now brings with her on this difficult journey.

You will find adventure, danger, and courage in this exciting tale of this *Reluctant Immigrant*. I recommend that you wait for a free weekend to start this book, as you won't want to lay it down once you start reading it.

[Note: Don't confuse this book with another one entitled *The Reluctant Immigrant*, by Bridget Hauser, which describes immigration into New York.]



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*Volunteers publish our Journal and the Schulhaus Reporter. Our office volunteers help the staff keep up with all the administrative work. Volunteers run the Annual Meeting, Maifest, Oktoberfest and the Christmas Market. They manage our library, our speaker series, our weekly Open House & Stammtisch and our potlucks. They represent GTHS at functions across the state. Our GTHS Board, Advisory Board and German Free School Guild Board consist of volunteers who give their time and expertise to set a course for this fine organization. We are extremely grateful to each and every one of you for your participation in the Society and your dedication to our mission. Thank You!*

*If we have inadvertently omitted your name, please accept our apologies and let us know so we can correct the error in a future edition of the Journal.*

# Community Events



Timothy C. Baker

*Houston Chronicle*, December 5, 2010

## As Texas as the two-step

**A dance hall, said Patrick Sparks, "is about the most Texas thing there**



**is." Sparks is the president of the nonprofit group Texas Dance Hall Preservation Inc.**

And in his bawling-calf Texas accent, he explained that dance halls bring together pretty much everything that's important about Texas culture: barbecue, beer, two-steps, waltzes and polkas; and our state's abiding frontier personality, that odd combination of friendliness and stubborn independence.

At one point, Texas had a thousand dance halls. Now only about half are still standing, and

most of those are in sad shape. (Many are used to store hay.) But a handful still regularly book live bands. Those real-deal survivors are places every Texan should experience.

The best way to save a dance hall, Sparks likes to say, is to dance in it. To that end, the preservation society keeps up a performance calendar for dance halls across the state at [www.texasdancehall.org](http://www.texasdancehall.org). It also offers information about halls that once existed, or need saving.



Shaminder Dulai

### Dancing on the frontier:

Texas historians joke that in the late 800s, if you had two German immigrants, they formed an association; if you had two Czechs, they started a band.

Either way, those Texas immigrants built a hall. Dance halls were often the first buildings in those brand-new flyspeck communities - the first step in settling the wide-open, empty, often dangerous frontier. The halls weren't just for dancing, There were cultural

halls, gymnasiums, singing halls; there were halls to teach farming, to practice shooting, to bury the dead. Some included

bowling alleys, barbecue stands, beer gardens. Some held city offices; some sold insurance. But almost always, they included a big open space with a smooth wood floor. The new Texans danced.

Germans and Czechs farmed the Midwest, too. But there, maybe because they weren't as isolated, dancing didn't take root. They didn't need it as much.

On weekends, those early Texas dance halls reliably offered beer and a band playing late into the night - but it was beer and a band in a wholesome, family atmosphere. Babies slept on tables. Grandparents taught kids to polka. Dance halls were where boys met girls, where men talked about farming, where the whole town traded gossip.

Honky tonks, which came later than dance halls, were far less whole some. "A dance hall is where you go to dance with your wife," Sparks explains. "A honky-tonk is where you go to dance with somebody else's wife.")

Eventually, like barbecued brisket, dance halls weren't just Czech or German; they were Texan. There were Tejano dance halls, Polish dance halls, African-American dance halls. The buildings usually didn't look like much - most resembled barns - but they were the wood floored, boot-scooting centers of their communities. By the 1920s, almost every flyspeck town had one.

Musicians traveled the circuit. And obviously, to play dance halls, they had to play dance music - waltzes, two-steps, polkas. Those dance beats became Texas music's DNA. You hear them in Bob Wills, in conjunto and cowboy music, in Hank Williams and Freddy Fender, George Strait, and Cory Morrow.

Texas has two kinds of iconic buildings," says architect David



## Gray: Beer and a band drew families to halls

Bucek, who worked on the restoration of Sengelmann Hall in Schulenburg. "There are courthouses, where justice was made. And there are dance halls ... " Sparks finishes Bucek's sentence: Where fun was made." [lisa.graJ@chron.com](mailto:lisa.graJ@chron.com)

### DANCE HALL DAYS

Texas Dance Hall Preservation Inc. posts information about and schedules for 512 dance halls at [www.texasdancehall.org](http://www.texasdancehall.org). Here are a few worth checking out:

#### Swiss Alp

**What:** You can't beat the 110-year-old Swiss Alp for Texas atmosphere: It looks like a barn, and its windows look out onto a pasture of longhorns. And since Steve Dean took over the bookings earlier this year, the hall has undergone a revival: Country, Western swing and Americana acts often draw a young crowd, but the older generation shows up in force for polka.

• **Typical acts:** Amber Digby; Bobby Flores; Aaron Watson; Gary P. Nunn  
 • **Where:** 6940 N. Highway 77, Swiss Alp, TX 78956. (In Fayette County, between La Grange and Schulenburg, it's about an hour and 45 minutes from downtown

• **Information and reservations:**

[swissalphall.com](http://swissalphall.com), 512-567-7570

#### Schroeder Hall

• **What:** The dance floor is smooth, the longnecks are cheap and cold, and the bands are twangy Texas country or the Oklahoma variant,



Red Dirt Country. Owners Sharon and Jack Kleinecke note that nearby hotels are cheap - you can usually score one on Priceline for \$45 - but they'll also let you park your RV next to the hall overnight.

• **Typical acts:** Clay Crockett and the Shotgun Riders; Flashback; Stoney LaRue and the Arsenal.

• **Big-deal:** George Strait's Ace in the Hole Band (New Year's Eve).

• **Cover charges:** Free to \$25. Usually \$8-\$12. Cheaper if you buy online.

#### Sengelmann Hall

**What:** Lovingly restored dance hall, restaurant, saloon and biergarten. Dana Harper, a Houston artist whose grandmother was from Schulenburg, brought back this time capsule of Texas History.

• **Big Deal:** New Year's Eve with the Telstars. The dance hall is no longer open to the public weekly, just for special events, and private parties. The restaurant and biergarten are usually open Fridays and Saturdays, but call ahead in case a party is booked.

• **Where:** 531 N. Main St., Schulenburg, TX. 78956; an hour-and-a-half drive out 1-10 West from Houston.

• **Information and reservations**

(suggested): [www.sengelmannhall.com](http://www.sengelmannhall.com); 979-743-2300

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

# Bazaar aided German citizens

San Antonio Express News, Dec. 19, 2010

*I'm enclosing a copy of a postcard a friend of mine purchased for me knowing of my 22-year membership in the Beethoven Damenchor. The left banner translates to "Hearts open, pockets wide. Don't forget you are still German." The right banner translates as "The army of Austria and Germany also fights for you and your honor." The bottom translates as "German-Texan Bazaar for those distressed by war in Germany, Austria and their allies - organized from 11 until 15 October, 1916, in San Antonio, Texas." Wondering if you know anything more about this event? - Christine B. Saalbach*



Since the first World War began in 1914, the United States had remained neutral, led by President Woodrow Wilson, whose 1916 reelection slogan was, "He kept us out of war." However, by the time of the German-Texan Bazaar, Wilson had issued a statement to the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria) condemning submarine warfare and threatening to sever diplomatic ties with those nations. After a military buildup through 1916, the U.S. entered the war April 6, 1917, on the side of the Allied Powers, then including Great Britain, Belgium, France and Russia.

San Antonio's support of the German-Texan Bazaar demonstrates the pervasiveness and power of German American immigrants who had settled here during the mid-1800s. Most of the bazaar organizers had been born in this country, and many were second-generation Americans. Their names include those of prominent families - Dielmann, Finck, Guenther, Groos, Herff, Hertzberg, Landa, Seeligson, Steves and Wurzbach.

The four-day bazaar in Beethoven Hall, "equal(ed) in variety the diversions of a county fair," says the

*Light*, Oct. 11, 1916. An extravaganza of food, cabaret, merchandise, door prizes and \$2,500 worth of "electric lights of every color," it was just too big to ignore.

Nearly 3,000 people attended the opening, despite heavy rain, says the *Light*, Oct. 12, 1916. At least one was a representative of the federal government - U.S. Rep. James Luther Slayden, a longtime member of the House Committee on Military Affairs whose wife kept a diary, published as "Washington Wife: Journal of Ellen Maury Slayden from 1897-1919." As Mrs. Slayden records, "Last week the whole town gave itself to promoting international good will and the calm neutrality our president advises by helping with the Central Powers Red Cross bazaar at Beethoven Hall."

The Slaydens dined there every evening, she writes, "and can speak with authority about the effect on the American internal economy of sauerkraut and bratwurst, kalter Aufschnitt (cold cuts) and pumperknickle, goulash and honey kuchen all washed down with beer to the tune of 'Die Wacht am

Rhein.'" "

From there, it just got more German. The Liederkranz men's singing group, the Hermann Sons mixed chorus and the Mozart Society ladies' chorus sang songs such as "Deutschland tiber Alles," with "nearly everybody joining in," says the *Light*, Oct. 12, 1916. Former German army nurse Elizabeth von Schmidt-Pauli "spoke of the great confidence the German people feel in Kaiser Wilhelm and of the present strength of Germany (and) praised the bravery of the men on the submarines that have recently crossed the Atlantic." Three packages sent by the German ambassador, Austrian consul and "Bulgarian minister" were auctioned off, only months before the U.S. broke off diplomatic relations with Germany on Feb. 3, 1917.

The main floor of Beethoven Hall was filled with decorated booths representing clubs such as the German Literary Society and the German American communities of Boerne, Comfort, Fredericksburg and New Braunfels. Exhibits included a captured German submarine spectators could enter and "look out the portholes through which he



will see New York harbor" and a replica of a German Texan settler's log cabin.

The bazaar raised more than \$9,000 for the benefit of "war sufferers of Germany and its allies" and was not the first to raise funds for that cause locally. Shortly after the start of World War I, on Oct. 1, 1914, Beethoven Hall was the scene of a concert by the Beethoven Maennerchor (men's choir) on behalf of the German and Austrian Red Cross, says Theresa Gold, a former officer of the German Texan Society who has researched the rise and decline of German culture in Texas.

The U.S. declaration of war on Germany would prove difficult, Gold says. The German Texans' "attachment to the fatherland was one of sentimentality rather than politics," she says. "In an effort to create and sustain a unified war effort, suddenly everything German fell from esteem."

**Submitted by Teresa Gold,  
San Antonio**

## **St. Paul's United Church of Christ - Gerald, McLennan County, Texas**

**By Dan Bode, Dayton**

St. Paul's United Church of Christ of Gerald, Texas, marked its 110th anniversary on October 28, 2010. The Gerald Community is located northeast of Waco between the towns of Elm Mott and Leroy, Texas. St. Paul's United Church of Christ is located at the corner of FM 308 and Gerald Lane. The church still stands as the nucleus of Gerald. This old church is very special to me as my grandmother, Elfriede Blankenstein Bode, was confirmed in this church in 1911 and my father, Orvel Bode, was baptized in this church in 1937. My grandparents,



**The first St. Paul's Evangelical Church of Gerald. This building was constructed on land donated by Mr. Chris Schuetz. This church building was dedicated on June 21, 1903, and served the St. Paul's congregation until 1937.**

Henry and Elfriede Bode, were married by the pastor of St. Paul's Church in 1922, and my great-grand-parents, Fritz and Anna (Haferkamp) Bode and Gottfried and Marie (Friedrichs) Blankenstein were all members of St. Paul's and their funerals were performed here, or as in the case of the Blankensteins, were held at home by the pastor of St. Paul's conducting the funeral. Lastly one of my grandmother's nieces, Hedwig Lehmann Leuschner, served as a piano player of St. Paul's for over 50 years.

In the late 1800's, Gerald was a bustling farming community made up mainly of German farmers who had only recently arrived in America. Cotton and corn were the main crops of these farmers. In 1888, a post office was opened in Gerald, and by 1900, the town had a blacksmith shop, two general stores, cotton gin, and a drugstore. The nearest Protestant place of worship was the St. Peter's Evangelical Church, about seven miles from Gerald, near the town of West. St. Peter's Church had been organized in 1884. Of course during bad weather, the roads became impassable, and so for certain times of the year, the Gerald people did not

attend church because of the weather and distance. On October 28, 1900, fifteen men from Gerald met at the home of Henry and Lina Schroeder in Waco for the purpose of organizing a church. Those men present were:

George Kramer, A. G. Janke, R. Hoherz, Herman Stuebner, John Schiemenz, A. A. Grussendorf, August Altus, H. Kemme, Paul Hoeldtke, Ernst Kreder, Ed Lehmann, Julius

Leuschner, H. J. Janke, Ed Hoffmeyer and Carl Arnold. A second meeting was held at the home of

Pastor C. Warber of St. Peter's Church near West on Nov. 25, 1900. Twenty more farmers were in attendance at this meeting. These men's names were added to the list of charter members: Martin Schiemenz, Ed Otto, Ed Boettger, F. Christman, Carl Fricke, Wm. Boettger, Fred Landfried, John Damm, Herman Hennig, Christ Schmidt, Gustav Drews, John Schult, John Hoffmeyer, Christoph Schuetz, Charles Weissinger, Gus Kelinske, Wm. Koos, Conrad Nahrgang, Herman Leuschner and August Hottmann. Thus, the men present at these first two meetings became the charter members of St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed Church of Gerald. The Charter of St. Paul's Church was signed on April 20, 1901, at the McLennan County Courthouse in Waco.

Those men empowered by the congregation to sign the charter were August Altus, Herman Stuebner, Heinrich Kemme, John Damm and August Hortmann. The official name of the church adopted by the congregation was "*The Evangelical Paul's Congregation*". Christoph Schuetz donated two acres for a church building. The first St. Paul's Church building was completed in 1903 and dedicated on June 21, 1903. Also, in 1903, the St. Paul's congregation made an appli-

cation for membership to the Texas District of the Evangelical Synod in Burton, Tx. The application was accepted.

The church soon became the center of life in Gerald as the Gerald township began to decline. In 1901, the International and Great Northern Railroad bypassed Gerald. A mile away, the town of Leroy began to thrive. The Gerald Post Office closed in 1904; however the Gerald School remained open until 1948 at which point it was consolidated with the West Independent School District.

In 1905, a 1200 pound bell was purchased by the congregation of St. Paul's and this bell is still in the belltower of the church today. The bell was dedicated on Dec. 31, 1905. In 1909, a Bible scripture in the German language was placed above the chancel. The scripture, Matthew 6:33 is in gold lettering and it says: "*Trachtet am Ersten nach dem Reiche Gottes*"--*Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness*. This beautiful piece of work still stands above the altar of the church today. Also, in 1909, the congregation purchased an organ for St. Paul's at a cost of \$75.00.

In 1913, the congregation built a parsonage and dug a cistern. Rev. John Link became the first resident pastor of Gerald.

The first women's organization



"*Trachtet am Ersten nach dem Reiche Gottes*"--*Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, Matthew 6:33*. This beautiful verse in gold lettering was hung in the original St. Paul's Church in 1909, and it is still above the altar of St. Paul's. It is one of the first things you notice when you enter this beautiful sanctuary.

at St. Paul's, the *Frauenverein*, was organized on October 19, 1922. Today, this group is known as the Women's Guild and is a very active and vital part of St. Paul's. One of the first accomplishments of the *Frauenverein* was the raising of funds to build the church's first parish house, or Community House. The men of the church began building the parish house in January of 1932 and completed the project in March 1932.

The original church building built in 1903 was replaced by the present church building in 1937. The new St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed Church was dedicated on March 21, 1937. In 1956, Sunday School rooms were added to the parish hall, and in 1957, the name of the church was changed from St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed Church to St. Paul's United Church of Christ.

Tragedy struck St. Paul's when fire destroyed the church's annex and parish hall in 1978. A new parish hall was built and dedicated in 1979. Also, in August 1979, a Texas State Historical Marker was placed at St. Paul's.

The last surviving charter member of St. Paul's Church was Mrs. Karoline Schmidt Nahrgang. Mrs. Nahrgang was born in Germany on June 6, 1881. She came to Texas at the age of 18 years and settled in Fort Bend County until moving to McLennan County, where she married Konrad Nahrgang, and they became the parents of two sons and one daughter. Mrs. Nahrgang died at the age of 107 years on January 19, 1989.

St. Paul's Church celebrated its 100th anniversary with a special



**St. Paul's United Church of Christ of Gerald as it appears today. This building has served the St. Paul's congregation since 1937 when the building was dedicated on March 21 of that year. My father, Orvel Bode, was baptized here on April 11, 1937**

service on October 29, 2000, and I had the privilege of attending the service and 100 year celebration with my parents, my aunts and uncle, and several of my dad's cousins. I had a great time listening to several of the old folks telling stories of my grandparents and great-grandparents. Sadly, ten years later, most of those wonderful people are now gone. The Centennial Worship service began at 10:30 that morning with the worship and sermon brought by St. Paul's pastor, Rev. Gene Kotrla, and special music was provided by the Banik Family Singers. After the morning service, a catered bar-be-cue lunch was provided followed by an afternoon service where hymns were sung and scriptures were read in both the German and English languages. I'll always remember 90-year-old Miss Selma Nahrgang leading the congregation in *The Lord's Prayer* in German. Afterwards, some of the former pastors of St. Paul's stood and gave a few words. It was a day not to be forgotten!

Mention needs to be made of the pastors who have served St. Paul's. The pastors had the double-duty of serving both the St. Paul's congregation at Gerald and the St. Peter's congregation near West. St. Peter's Evangelical Church merged with the First Presbyterian Church of West in 1966 to become the First United Church of West. The old St. Peter's Church Building was sold and moved away in 1977. The Closner

Cemetery is located on the former St. Peter's Church property and many of the German families who were part of that congregation are buried in this cemetery. Today, a Texas State Historical Marker marks the site where the St. Peter's Church once stood. The pastors who have served St. Paul's Church of Gerald were: **Rev. C. Warber** (1900-1901); **Rev. H. Grosse** (1902-1905); **Rev. C. Wolff** (1905-1913); **Rev. J. Link** (1913-1925); **Rev. J. Meiller** (1925-1928); **Rev. Gottschlich** (1928-1929); **Rev. A. Greeb** (1930-1935); **Rev. A. Dettmann** (1935-1943); **Rev. R. Mueller** (1946-1950); **Rev. J. G. Mueller** (1951-1954); **Rev. Wuerz** (1955-1962); **Rev. B. Schroeder** (1962-1966); **Rev. L. Welch** (1966-1968); **Rev. O. F. Marshall** (1969-1973); **Rev. R. J. Burgess** (1974-1979); **Rev. D. Gibbard** (1980-1985); **Rev. O. Tucker** (1986-1989); **Rev. J. Watson** (1990-1995); **Rev. J. McKinney** (1995-1998); **Rev. Jane Lovett** (1998-1999); **Rev. Eugene Kotrla** (1999-2005); **Rev. Stephanie Spitzer** (2005-2008); and the present pastor is **Rev. Frances Sidenblad**, who has been serving St. Paul's since 2008. About half a mile southwest from St. Paul's, at the corner of FM 308 and Bode Road, is the Gerald Cemetery. The cemetery sits on a hill overlooking St. Paul's. Several of the families who were founders of St. Paul's Church are buried in the Gerald Cemetery.

Here is some information on the founding families of St. Paul's:

**John Henry Schroeder** born April 25, 1850, in Amsterdam, Holland. Henry Schroeder was a broker and land developer. He married a widow, **Lina Blankenstein Schmaltz**, on July 18, 1900, in Waco, Tx. Lina was born in Barby, Germany, on May 2, 1859. Lina was widowed in 1896 with four children. Lina and Henry Schroeder had no children of their own. Henry Schroeder died in Waco on Sept. 21, 1925, and Lina died in Waco on Jan. 23, 1941. Henry and Lina are buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Waco. Lina's son, **Oscar Schmaltz** (1885-1971) and his wife, **Johanna (nee Meinscher) Schmaltz** (1891-1982) were active members of St. Paul's, as were their two sons, **William** (1913-1997) and **Oscar, Jr.** (1915-1986). Henry and Lina Schroeder were members of the Zion Evangelical & Reformed Church in Waco. but Henry was very instrumental in the early years of St. Paul's Church by giving support and encouragement to those who had the faith and vision to establish St. Paul's.

**Johann August Altus** (born Aug. 20. 1853. in Helbersdorf, Germany) and his wife, **Marie Augusta (nee Schoenherr) Altus** (born July 20, 1855, in Germany). They were married in Germany in 1876, and the family immigrated to Texas in 1883. Their children were **Selma** (b. Jan. 23, 1877; d. Jan. 11, 1970) married Ed Hoffmeyer in 1899; **Frieda** (b. Sept. 4, 1880; d. April 26, 1974) married Ed Boettger (b. 1876;d. 1961) in 1901; **Willie** (b. March 15, 1882; d. Dec. 13, 1958) married Mary Schaeper (b. 1885; d. 1972); **Helen** (b. March 1885) married Wilhelm Carl Froehlich in 1905; **Elisabeth** (b. Jan. 1889); **Theodor** (b. May 20, 1890; d. Feb. 1981); **Bertha** (b. May 23, 1892; d. March 28, 1982) married Willie Jantz (b. 1886; d. 1965) in 1910; **Walter** (b. Nov. 11, 1894; d. Jan. 10, 1984) and **Charlotte** (b. April 26, 1898). August Altus died May 10, 1935. His wife, Marie, preceded him in death on Nov. 12, 1920. They are both buried in the Closner Cemetery near West.

**John Damm** (born May 26. 1861, at Ruhr, near Essen. Germany) and his wife, **Augusta Marie Leuschner** (born March 12, 1872, in Germany). They married Dec. 26, 1889, at St. Peter's Evangelical Church near West, and they were the parents of 11 children: **Marie Elisabeth** (b. Feb. 16. 1891; d. March 1, 1901); **Julius Ernst** (b. 1892; d. 1976) married Frances Klumb (b. 1896; d. 1973) in 1919; **Emilie Maria** (b. 1894; d. 1964) married Willam J. Richter (b. 1890; d. 1972); **Anna** (b. 1896; d. 1975) married Harry Spicer; **Hugo** (b. Jan. 17, 1898; d. March 25, 1902); **Christian** (b. 1901; d. 1972) married Kathleen Smith; **Henry** (b. 1903; d. 1993) married Esther Groseclose; **Magdalena** (b. 1905; d. 2002) married Roy Goodin; **Fritz Reinhold** (b. 1907; d. 1993) married Florence Wrenn (b. 1911; d. 2009); **Edwin** (b. 1909; d. 1944) married Dolly (?), and **John** (b. 1911; d. 1968) married May Snell. John Damm died of typhoid fever at the age of 49 years on Dec. 22, 1910. His wife, Marie, died Sept. 9, 1952, at the age of 80. John and Marie Damm are buried in the Closner Cemetery near West. One of their sons, Henry Damm, became a minister, and he was ordained at St. Paul's on July 3, 1927. John and Marie Damm's granddaughter, Ruth Damm Lehmann, is still a member of St. Paul's and also served many years as a piano player for the church

**Gustav H. Drews** (born Sept. 21, 1868, in Posen, Germany) and his wife, **Martha Elisabeth nee Leuschner** (born April 23, 1875) in Germany. Gustav and Elisabeth were married April 23, 1895, at St. Peter's Evangelical Church near West. They were the parents of 11 children; nine sons and two daughters. The three oldest sons died within a few days of each other in July 1913 of typhoid fever. Gustav H. Drews died at his home in Gerald on Dec. 23. 1949. His wife, Elisabeth nee Leuschner, died Feb. 21, 1961. Gustav and Elisabeth Drews, and all of their family, are buried in the Gerald Cemetery in Gerald, Tx. Their children were: **Erich Herman** (b. Feb. 22, 1896; d. July 2, 1913); **Richard Ernst** (b. Sept. 30, 1897; d. July 25, 1913); **Bertha Emilie Anna** (b. Jan. 29, 1900; d. March 5, 1932) married **August Kunkel** in 1930; **Ernst**

**Johann** (b. April 23, 1902; d. July 17, 1913); **Herman August** (b. Feb. 5, 1904; d. Oct. 21, 1975) married Marie Lehmann (b. 1908; d. 1997) in 1927; **Gustav Christian** (b. Oct. 6, 1906; d. March 11, 1965) married Gertrude "Gertie" Lehmann (b. 1911; d. 1997) in 1929; **Alexander "Alex" Julius** (b. Oct. 23, 1909; d. April 25, 1999) married his brother's widow, Gertrude Lehmann in 1970; **Walter Carl** (b. Oct. 20, 1911; d. Aug. 31, 1967) married Katherine "Katie" Lander (b. 1917; d. 2003) in 1946; **Eva** (b. Aug. 13, 1914; d. Aug. 15, 1914); **William Gottfried** (b. Oct. 1, 1917; d. Aug. 3, 1989) married Julia Frances Jones (b. 1927; d. 1987) in 1956; and **John** (b. Dec. 4, 1919; d. Sept. 11, 1995) married Loretta Sumerlin (b. 1926; d. 1983) in 1955, and after her death, Irene Otto Wendt (b. 1919) in 1986.

**August Adolf Grussendorf** (born Feb. 1870, in Industry, Austin Co., Texas) and his wife, **Clementine nee Ernst** (born 4 March 1866, in the Alsace-Lorraine region of France. August and Clementine were married at Perry, in Falls Co., Texas, in 1890. The Grussendorf children were: **Emma, Annie, Mary, Lizzie, Marguerite, and Katie**. Sometime after the establishment of St. Paul's Church, the Grussendorf Family moved to Haskell County, and later they returned to Perry, in Falls Co., where August A. Grussendorf died Oct. 13, 1914. His wife, Clementine, died in Denton, Texas, on Nov. 16, 1934. The Grussendorfs are buried in the Perry United Methodist Church Cemetery in Perry, Falls Co., Texas.

**Augustav Herman Hennig** (born July 22, 1871, in Oberkunwald, Germany) and his wife, **Albertina nee Buth** (born Nov. 25, 1877, in Bavaria). Herman and Albertina were married Aug. 21, 1896. They were the parents of: **Hedwig; Otto; Herbert; Paul; Elsie; Hilma; Ernest; Bertie; Henry; Minnie; Mary and Raymond "Jack"**. Herman and Albertina Hennig's son, Herbert, was the first baby to be baptized at St. Paul's Church. Shortly, thereafter, the Hennig Family moved to McGregor, Texas, in western McLennan County. Herman Hennig died at Hubbard, in Hill Co., Texas, on Oct. 25, 1951. His wife, Albertina, died at Hubbard, Texas, on Aug. 28, 1966. The Hennigs are buried at the St. John Lutheran Cemetery at Coryell City, in Coryell Co., Texas.

**Paul Hoeldtke** (born in Germany on Sept. 13, 1866) and his wife, **Dorothea nee Hausser** (born in Germany on Dec. 15, 1873). Paul and Dorothea met and married at Corpus Christi, Texas, where they began their married life until moving to McLennan County. They were the parents of seven children: **Ruth** (b. July 16, 1896, d. March 23, 1989) married William Kemme in 1915; **Richard** (b. Jan. 7, 1898) married Minnie Keller; **Paul** (b. Oct. 6, 1899) married Mary Kubitz; **Karl** (b. Nov. 14, 1901; d. Aug. 29, 1903); **Ervin** (b. June 11, 1903; d. Dec. 31, 1985) married Lydia Groppe (b. 1906; d. 1999) in 1931; **Kurt** (b. March 2, 1905; d. July 12, 1983) married Paula Groppe (b. 1911; d. 1997) in 1931; and **Dora** (b. Feb. 23, 1907) married Arnold Wakefield. Paul Hoeldtke died at Axtell, McLennan Co., Texas, on July 3, 1945. His wife, Dorothea, died in Waco, Texas, on Nov. 1, 1968. Paul and Dorothea Hoeldtke are buried in the Rosemound Cemetery in Waco.

**Carl Frederick Edward (Ed) Hoffmeyer** (born Nov. 9, 1874, in Alabama) and his wife, **Selma Augusta nee Altus** (born Jan. 23, 1877, in Germany). Ed and Selma were married in the St. Peter's Evangelical Church near West, and they were the parents of **Dora Helen** (b. Jan. 14, 1902; d. April 10, 1991) married Durmond Alexander Davis; **Alfred Herman** (b. June 22, 1904; d. Oct. 22, 1976) married Willie B. Hill; **August Ar-**

**thur** (b. June 21, 1907) married Katherine Schuetz in 1933, **Arnold Heinrich** (b. July 16, 1911; d. Nov. 19, 1995) married Irene Thrasher, and **Norma Charlotte** (b. Oct. 27, 1916; d. Feb. 18, 2007) married Tho-

mas Clark Morrow. Ed Hoffmeyer died Oct. 19, 1958. His wife, Selma, died Jan. 11, 1970. Ed and Selma Hoffmeyer are buried in the Closner Cemetery near West.

**John Gottlieb Hoffmeyer** (born March 13, 1872, in Alabama). John married **Minnie Krollage** (born Dec. 18, 1878) in McLennan County, Texas. John and Minnie did not have any children. John and Minnie later moved to Robinson, Texas (near Waco). John Hoffmeyer died in Waco on Aug. 20, 1955. His wife, Minnie Minnie preceded him in death on Jan. 9, 1949.

**August Hottmann** (born March 17, 1868, in Germany) and his wife, **Mary Heitmiller** (born Oct. 27, 1881, in Alabama). August and Mary married in McLennan County, Texas, and they were the parents of three daughters: **Bertha** (b. 1904; d. 1981); **Helen** (b. 1906; d. 1994) married Carmon Thomas; and **Marie** (b. 1915; d. 1962). August Hottmann died in Waco, Texas on March 14, 1955. His wife, Mary, died Jan. 21, 1962. August and Mary Hottmann are buried in the Closner Cemetery near West, Texas.

**Adolph Gustav Janke** (born June 2, 1876, in Bartlett, Bell Co., Texas) and his wife, **Hulda Caroline Friedrich** (born Jan. 5, 1876) were married Dec. 8, 1898, in Bartlett, Texas. They moved to McLennan County soon after their marriage. They were the parents of nine children: An **Infant Son** (born & died Jan. 13, 1901); **Roy Edward** (b. May 16, 1902; d. Oct. 23, 1986); **Loyd Adolph** (b. Jan. 9, 1905; d. Jan. 14, 1974); **Louis Walter** (b. July 17, 1908; d. Oct. 25, 1982) married Irene; **Herbert Carl** (b. March 18,

1911; d. Nov. 16, 1981); **Agnes Minnie** (b. Dec. 11, 1913; d. April 7, 1999) married Franklin Leroy Harris (b. 1912; d. 1982); **Monroe William** (b. Aug. 22, 1916; d. June 7, 1984) married Wilma Uptmor and #2 Gertrude Lemann Drews in 1967, but they soon divorced; **Oden Martha** (b. June 27, 1918; d. Feb. 6, 2008) married John Henry Erwin (b. 1912; d. 1996) and **Frances Mae** (b. May 18, 1920; Jan. 19, 2006) married Emmitt Wilshire. Adolph G. Janke died March 19, 1930. His wife, Hulda, died July 19, 1957. Adolph and Hulda Janke and several of their children are buried in the Gerald Cemetery in Gerald, Texas.

**Gustav Kelinske** (born Nov. 17, 1853, in Germany). Gustav married **Emilie Krueger** (born 1862) in 1882 in New Ulm, Texas. They moved to Perry, Texas, in Falls County, and after seven years there they moved to a farm in McLennan County near Elm Mott. Gustav and Emilie were the parents of eight children: **Edmond** (b. June 10, 1880; d. June 7, 1918), **Otilie** (b. March 1882); **Gustav Carl, Jr.** (b. Nov. 29, 1883, d. March 2, 1957) married Minna Willig (b. 1888; d. 1949) (d. 1953), **Agathon Louis** (b. March 16, 1889; d. June 24, 1980) married Karoline Weissinger (b. 1896; d. 1984) in 1914; **Elsie** (b. July 1893) married Max Mueller in 1911; **Albert Otto (b. June 28 1894)**; **Emil Heinrich** (b. Nov. 16, 1894; d. Sept. 30, 1953), and **Louis Gottfried** (b. Jan. 5, 1897, d. Aug 1962). Gustav Kelinske, Sr. died April 7, 1938. His wife, Emilie, had preceded him in death in 1898. Gustav and Emilie Kelinske are buried in the Closner Cemetery near West. After Emilie's death, Gustav married **Margarite Rothe** (born Jan. 14. 1854, in Germany; died June 6. 1945, in Waco).

**William Koos** (born in Baden, Wurttemberg, Germany) married **Frederika Benkendorfer** on Dec. 27. 1892. at St. Peter's Evangelical Church near West, Texas. William and Frederika Koos were the parents of eight children. The Koos children were: **William** (b. Jan. 1894); **Charlie** (b. June 1895); **Anna** (b. March 1898); **Liesa** (b. May 1899); **Laura** (b. 1901); **Augusta** (b. 1903); **Bertha** (b. 1906) and **Albert** (b. 1908). The Koos family moved to Custer Co., Oklahoma, between the births of Bertha and Albert. Later the family moved to Chicago, Illinois, where Wiliam Koos died on July 21, 1918.

**George Kramer** born Aug. 24, 1852, in Erbach, Germany. He came to America at the age of 14 with his father. He moved to Waco in 1877, and in 1886, he moved to the Gerald area where he invested in a 207-acre farm, and later bought 1000 more acres. George Kramer could be known as the "Father of German Immigration to McLennan County" because he helped some 157 families arriving from Germany to be established in their new homeland, and some of these families were charter members of St. Paul's Church. George Kramer first married Lizzie Wisemiler (born Dec. 22, 1852; died July 5, 1888). They had one son, **George H.** (b. Sept. 26, 1885; d. Feb. 9, 1890). Lizzie was buried in the Closner Cemetery near West. After Lizzie's death, George married a widow, Mrs. Ida Foster Leuschner on March 28, 1889. They were the parents of: **Lena** (b. March 19, 1890); **Adolf** (b. Nov 1891); **Fritz** (b. March 1893); **Robert** (b. May 2, 1894, d. June 25, 1894); **Olga** (b. Dec. 1895); **Charlotte** (b. July 1897) and **George F.** (born 1902). George Kramer also had two stepsons from his wife Ida's former marriages: **Carl Gross** (b. Sept. 3, 1884; d. Dec. 6, 1964) and **Kurt Leuschner** (b. Sept. 19, 1886; d. June 12, 1967). Mr. Kramer moved his family to Vancouver, Washington by 1910 where he died-date unknown.

**Ernst Hermann Kreder** born Feb. 19, 1873, in Stuttgart, Germany and his wife, Martha Minnie Hessel born Jan. 20, 1877, in Baden, Germany. Hermann Kreder and Minnie Hessel were married March 27, 1894, in St. Peter's Evangelical Church near West. Hermann and Minnie Kreder farmed in Gerald, and they were the parents of six children. Hermann Kreder died Feb. 19, 1920, at the age of 47 years. Minnie was a widow 45 years before her death on Jan. 2, 1965. Hermann and Minnie Kreder are buried in the Gerald Cemetery in Gerald, Tx. Hermann and Minnie Kreder's children were: **Friedrich Hermann** (b. Dec. 27, 1894; d. July 29, 1995, age 100 years); **Anna Karolina** (b. May 19, 1896; d. Aug. 24, 1981) married Paul J. Blankenstein (b. 1890; d. 1976) in 1915; **Marie Emma "Mary"** (b. May 4, 1899; d. Aug. 31, 1973) married Ernest Heitmuller, or Heitmiller (b. 1896; d. 1977) in 1916; **Elsie** (b. Aug. 7, 1919; d. Oct. 26, 1919) married John Bartol in April 1919; **George Wilhelm** (b. Nov. 22, 1902; d. Jan. 19, 1992) married Dorothea Halve (b. 1908; d. 1996) in 1927; and **Alvin Reinhold** (b. Sept. 9, 1911; d. Oct. 22, 2008) married Ethel Orvel Parker (b. 1919; d. 1999) in 1941.

**Ernst Wilhelm Ehr Gott "Ed" Lehmann** born Nov. 15, 1853, in Neukirch, Saxony, Germany and his wife, **Christiane Caroline "Christine" Hultsch** born Oct. 6, 1854 in Neukirch, Saxony, Germany. Ernst and Christine were married Jan. 6, 1878, in Neukirch, Saxony, Germany. Ernst left his family in the fall of 1881 to come to America. Ernst received the name "Ed" after his ship docked in New York. The registrar looked at his long name and told him, "You look like Ed to me." Thus, he was known afterwards as Ed Lehmann. Ed worked for the railroad and Christine held a job in Germany. Finally, after nine long years, the family

was reunited in Falls County, Texas, in 1890. In 1893, the Lehmann Family moved to McLennan County to Ross, where they purchased a 75-acre farm. Christine Lehmann died March 29, 1921, and Ed Lehmann died March 8, 1931. Ed and Christine Lehmann are buried in the Gerald Cemetery in Gerald, Texas, along with their two sons and several grandchildren. Ed and Christine Lehmann were the parents of three children:

**Bertha Paulina** (b. Sept. 20, 1879; d. Aug. 9, 1952) married Charlie Brustrom (b. 1878; d. 1937) in 1903;

**Paul Albert** (b. May 23, 1881; d. May 31, 1962) married Marie "Mamie" Blankenstein (b. 1885; d. 1968) in 1906; and **Walter Martin** (b. Feb. 29, 1892; d. Jan. 5, 1967) married Jennie Ernst (b. 1894; d. 1972) in 1911. Paul and Mamie Blankenstein Lehmann were the parents of six daughters and one son. All seven children were baptized at St. Paul's Church and the six daughters were all confirmed at St. Paul's. The son, Paul, Jr., was confirmed at St. Peter's Church near West. Paul and Mamie Lehmann's children were: **Marie Christine** (b. 1908; d. 1997) married Herman Drews (b. 1904; d. 1975) in 1927, and #2. Fred Brady (b. 1908; d. 1991) in 1979; **Hedwig Helen "Hattie"** (b. 1909; d. 2005) married Albert Leuschner (b. 1905; d. 1979) in 1928; **Gertrude Pauline "Gertie"** (b. 1911; d. 1997) married Gustav Drews (b. 1906; d. 1965) in 1929; #2. Monroe Janke (b. 1916; d. 1984) in 1967, and #3. Alex Drews (b. 1909; d. 1999) in 1970: **Bertha Alma** (b. 1913; d. 2002) married Herbert H. Vahrenkamp (b. 1911; d. 1977) in 1936, and #2. Billy Dawson (b. 1916; d. 2006) in 1984; **Clara Elfriede Wilhelmine** (b. 1916; d. 2001) married Henry Wedeking (b. 1912; d. 1986) in 1934; **Minnie Anna** (b. 1918; d. 2006) married James Spurgeon (b. 1919; d. 1999) in 1942, and **Paul Albert, Jr.** (b. 1921; d. 2009) married Ruth Marie Damm in 1947.

**Karl Fricke** born March 3, 1859, in Germany, and died Nov. 12, 1913. Mr. Fricke is buried in the Gerald Cemetery in Gerald, Texas. Karl married Marie Sophie Knause in 1885. Marie nee Knause was born Dec. 3, 1865, in Germany and she died Jan. 1, 1919, in Waco, Texas. Mrs. Fricke is buried in the Holy Cross Cemetery in Waco. The Fricke Family left Germany in 1889 and immigrated to Texas where they farmed. They were the parents of 13 children; the first two were born in Germany. The children were: **Henry** (b. Nov. 25, 1886; d. May 16, 1958) married Hilda Rehmus (b. 1889; d. 1911) in 1910, and Ida Jahnke in 1912; **Marie Lucy** (b. Feb. 9, 1888; d. Feb. 1, 1962) married Oscar Redden (d. 1959); **Friedrich Adolf** (b. Jan. 1, 1891); **Ella Louise** (b. Jan. 21, 1892) married John Debbendener in 1910; Herman (b. Feb. 21, 1893); **Friedrich Carl Erich** (b. June 26, 1894; d. Aug. 11, 1965); **Emil Johann Friedrich** (b. June 4, 1898; d. Dec. 15, 1989); **Johanna Pauline Olga** (b. June 28, 1900); **Johann Friedrich Otto** (b. Aug. 10, 1901); **Henriette Emilie Ida** (b. Nov. 7, 1902); **Elsie Emilie Mathilda** (b. Jan. 25, 1904); **Ida Amanda** (b. Feb. 13, 1905; d. Aug. 1, 1905); and **Paul Carl Willie** (b. Jan. 12, 1907; d. April 10, 1999).

**Boettger Family.** In the Gerald Cemetery, rests Mrs. Minnie Boettger nee Schneir (born Feb. 20, 1847 in Germany; died Dec. 14, 1918 in Leroy, Tex.) Minnie was the wife of Julius Boettger. The 1900 census shows Minnie as a widow with the following children: **Henry Edward "Ed"** (b. May 25, 1876); William (b. Oct. 27, 1878); **Herman** (b. May 1881); **Charlie** (b. Sept. 29, 1883; d. Sept. 30, 1948); **Anna** (b. March 1887) married William Meinzer in 1915; and **George** (b. July 19, 1889; Aug. 6, 1951). Two of the Boettger sons: **Ed and William** were charter members of St. Paul's Church. The 1910 census shows Ed Boettger as a merchant in Leroy, Tx., Ed married Frieda Altus on Aug. 7, 1901, and they had five children: Flora (b. Aug. 28, 1902; d. Sept. 10, 1976) married Winkel; **Corine** (b. Oct. 4, 1903; d. July 2, 1991) married Cotten; **Nora** (b. July 18, 1905); **Erwin** (b. Nov. 19, 1908; d. Nov. 1993); and **Julius Edward Carl** (b. Sept. 3, 1911; d. July 3, 1997). Ed Boettger died in Waco, Tx. on April 21, 1961, and he is buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Waco. Ed's wife, Frieda nee Altus, was born Sept. 4, 1880, in Germany, and she died April 26, 1974, in Corpus Christi, Tx. Frieda is buried in the Memory Gardens of Corpus Christi. Ed's brother, William Boettger, was shown as still living in his mother's home in the 1910 census and being her main support. William Boettger died in Waco on Dec. 3, 1956, and he and his wife, **Mary nee Meinzer** (b. July 17, 1888; d. May 29, 1974) are both buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Waco.

**Julius K. Leuschner** born April 22, 1828, in Saxony, Germany. Julius was twice married. His first wife was **Ernestine Emilie Keil** born Aug. 24, 1837, in Saxony, Germany. They were the parents of **Henriette Emilie** (b. Jan. 30, 1859; d. Dec. 10, 1866); **Julius Ernst** (b. Apr. 19, 1860; d. June 5, 1888) married Ida Foster Gross in 1885; and **Karl** (b. March 2, 1862; d. Dec. 11, 1879). After the death of his first wife, Julius married **Emilie Merker** born Oct. 24, 1841, in Saxony. They were the parents of seven children. They were: **Heinrich** (born March 2, 1864; died April 16, 1864); **Heinrich** (born Sept. 23, 1866; died Dec. 27, 1868); **Ernst** (b. July 13, 1868; d. Oct. 19, 1944) married Karoline Krenz (b. 1875; d. 1955) in 1895; **Herman** (b. March 6, 1870; d. Jan. 15, 1948) married #1. Anna Fritze (b. 1879; d. 1926) in 1897, and #2. Martha Moroski Beyer (b. 1878; d. 1963) in 1930; **Augusta Marie** (b. March 12, 1872; d. Sept. 9, 1952) married John Damm (b. 1861; d. 1910) in 1889; **Martha Elisabeth** (b. Apl. 23, 1875; d. Feb. 21, 1961) married Gustav

(b. 1875; d. 1961) in 1900; **Ernestine Emilie Keil** (b. 1837; d. 1918) in 1859; **Julius Ernst** (b. 1860; d. 1888) in 1885; and **Karl** (b. 1862; d. 1879) in 1879. After the death of his first wife, Julius married **Emilie Merker** (b. 1841; d. 1911) in 1862. They were the parents of seven children. They were: **Heinrich** (b. 1864; d. 1864); **Heinrich** (b. 1866; d. 1868); **Ernst** (b. 1868; d. 1944) in 1895; **Herman** (b. 1870; d. 1948) in 1897; **Augusta Marie** (b. 1872; d. 1952) in 1930; and **Martha Elisabeth** (b. 1875; d. 1961) in 1900.

**Boettger Family.** In the Gerald Cemetery, rests Mrs. Minnie Boettger nee Schneir (born Feb. 20, 1847 in Germany; died Dec. 14, 1918 in Leroy, Tex.) Minnie was the wife of Julius Boettger. The 1900 census shows Minnie as a widow with the following children: **Henry Edward "Ed"** (b. May 25, 1876); William (b. Oct. 27, 1878); **Herman** (b. May 1881); **Charlie** (b. Sept. 29, 1883; d. Sept. 30, 1948); **Anna** (b. March 1887) married William Meinzer in 1915; and **George** (b. July 19, 1889; Aug. 6, 1951). Two of the Boettger sons: **Ed and William** were charter members of St. Paul's Church. The 1910 census shows Ed Boettger as a merchant in Leroy, Tx., Ed married Frieda Altus on Aug. 7, 1901, and they had five children: Flora (b. Aug. 28, 1902; d. Sept. 10, 1976) married Winkel; **Corine** (b. Oct. 4, 1903; d. July 2, 1991) married Cotten; **Nora** (b. July 18, 1905); **Erwin** (b. Nov. 19, 1908; d. Nov. 1993); and **Julius Edward Carl** (b. Sept. 3, 1911; d. July 3, 1997). Ed Boettger died in Waco, Tx. on April 21, 1961, and he is buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Waco. Ed's wife, Frieda nee Altus, was born Sept. 4, 1880, in Germany, and she died April 26, 1974, in Corpus Christi, Tx. Frieda is buried in the Memory Gardens of Corpus Christi. Ed's brother, William Boettger, was shown as still living in his mother's home in the 1910 census and being her main support. William Boettger died in Waco on Dec. 3, 1956, and he and his wife, **Mary nee Meinzer** (b. July 17, 1888; d. May 29, 1974) are both buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Waco.

**Julius K. Leuschner** born April 22, 1828, in Saxony, Germany. Julius was twice married. His first wife was **Ernestine Emilie Keil** born Aug. 24, 1837, in Saxony, Germany. They were the parents of **Henriette Emilie** (b. Jan. 30, 1859; d. Dec. 10, 1866); **Julius Ernst** (b. Apr. 19, 1860; d. June 5, 1888) married Ida Foster Gross in 1885; and **Karl** (b. March 2, 1862; d. Dec. 11, 1879). After the death of his first wife, Julius married **Emilie Merker** born Oct. 24, 1841, in Saxony. They were the parents of seven children. They were: **Heinrich** (born March 2, 1864; died April 16, 1864); **Heinrich** (born Sept. 23, 1866; died Dec. 27, 1868); **Ernst** (b. July 13, 1868; d. Oct. 19, 1944) married Karoline Krenz (b. 1875; d. 1955) in 1895; **Herman** (b. March 6, 1870; d. Jan. 15, 1948) married #1. Anna Fritze (b. 1879; d. 1926) in 1897, and #2. Martha Moroski Beyer (b. 1878; d. 1963) in 1930; **Augusta Marie** (b. March 12, 1872; d. Sept. 9, 1952) married John Damm (b. 1861; d. 1910) in 1889; **Martha Elisabeth** (b. Apl. 23, 1875; d. Feb. 21, 1961) married Gustav

H. Drews (b. 1868; d. 1949) in 1895; **Martha Magdalena "Lena"** (b. June 20, 1877; d. May 13, 1949) married Christoph Schuetz (b. 1871; d. 1965) in 1897; **Lina Anna** (b. Aug. 29, 1879; d. June 3, 1956) married #1. Carl H. Schuetze (b. 1875; d. 1913) in 1900, and after his death, Anna married Henry Landfried (b. 1872; d. 1929); **Johanna** (born Aug. 2, 1882; died Aug. 3, 1885) and **Christian** (b. June 10, 1885; d. Sept. 13, 1954) married Katherine Lander (b. 1886; d. 1965) in 1906. The Leuschner Family left Germany in 1882 and their ship docked in Galveston, Texas. Julius Leuschner brought his family to McLennan County. Julius was a charter member of both St. Peter's Evangelical Church near West, and of St. Paul's Church of Gerald. Julius K. Leuschner died Aug. 16, 1905, at the age of 77. His wife, Emilie Leuschner nee Merker, died Sept. 26, 1916. Julius and Emilie Leuschner are buried in the Closner Cemetery near West, Texas.

**Herman Leuschner** born March 6, 1870, in Saxony, Germany. Herman came to Texas with his parents in 1882. Herman married **Anna Fritze** (born Feb. 3, 1879) on Nov. 29, 1897, at St. Peter's Evangelical Church near West. Herman and Anna had one son, **Julius Ernest** (b. Apr. 19, 1912; d. Jan. 14, 1954) married Lucille Radke (b. 1921; d. 2008) in 1941. Anna Leuschner nee Fritze died Dec. 16, 1926. After her death, Herman married **Mrs. Martha Moroski Beyer** (born July 9, 1878) on July 17, 1930, in Gerald. Like his father, Herman Leuschner was also a charter member of St. Paul's Church of Gerald. Herman died Jan. 15, 1948, at the age of 77. His second wife, Martha, died June 12, 1963. Herman, his two wives, and his son, Julius, are all buried in the Gerald Cemetery in Gerald, Texas. After Julius's death, his widow, Lucille married Leeland Swank (b. 1924; d. 2008). Lucille and Leeland are buried in the Waco Memorial Park in Waco, Texas.

**Konrad Nahrgang** born Nov. 20, 1872, in Austria and his wife, Karoline nee Schmidt born June 6, 1881, in Germany. Konrad and Karoline were married in the Zion Evangelical & Reformed Church in Waco, Texas, on March 2, 1905. They were the parents of three children: **George Daniel** (b. Feb. 9, 1906; d. Dec. 11, 1922); **Henry Carl** (b. April 9, 1907; d. Aug. 13, 1988) married Alma Lander (b. 1908; d. 2002); and **Selma Louise Victoria** (b. Oct. 20, 1910; d. June 15, 2003). Konrad Nahrgang died August 6, 1958. Karoline died January 19, 1989, at the age of 107 years. Konrad and Karoline Nahrgang, and all their family, are buried in the Gerald Cemetery in Gerald, Texas.

**Edward "Ed" Otto** born July 11, 1869, in Posen, Germany, and his wife, Otilie nee Luecht born Oct. 4, 1868, in Posen, Germany. Ed Otto and Otilie Luecht were married May 12, 1891, in Zion Evangelical Church in Waco, Texas. They were the parents of seven children. Ed Otto died at his home in Gerald on April 18, 1947. Otilie died in Gerald on March 6, 1960. Ed and Otilie Otto are buried in the Gerald Cemetery, as are all their children except Martha and Lena. Ed and Otilie's children were: **Hugo Daniel** (b. Sept. 7, 1893; d. Apr. 29, 1976) married Emma Bode (b. 1899; d. 1988) in 1930; **Wilhelm August Gustav "Willie"** (b. Dec. 7, 1894; d. June 12, 1977) married Katie Kramer (b. 1899; d. 1972) in 1917; **Annie Augusta** (b. May 3, 1898; d. Nov. 17, 1967) married Henry Lander (b. 1896; d. 1977) in 1917; **Martha Charlotte** (b. Nov. 30, 1901; d. Oct. 11, 1927) married Louis Knipstein (b. 1891; d. 1958) in 1924; **Gustav Ernst Carl** (b. May 9, 1903; d. March 6, 1905); **Edward Herman August "Ed, Jr"** (b. Nov. 10, 1904; d. Jan. 7, 1977) married #1. Erna Knipstein in 1926, and #2. Bertha Havemann (b. 1912; d. 2008) in 1932; and **Lena Emilie Henriette** (b. June 1, 1907; d. Sept. 21, 2003) married Rudolph Staas (b. 1900; d. 1993) in 1924.

**John Schiemenz** born May 18, 1861, in Merzdorf, near Cottbus, Germany. John came to Texas as a young man. The story told is that John had heard of the German settlers at Brenham, Texas, in Washington County, and that was his destination, but once in Texas with his limited ability to speak and understand English, he ended up on a train to Bremond, Texas, in Robertson County instead. John eventually made his way to McLennan County and ended up in Gerald. He worked on the farm of George Kramer. On Nov. 8, 1888, John married George Kramer's half-sister, **Henriette Eleonore "Lore" Volk** (born Sept. 16, 1860, in Erbach, Germany). John and Lore Schiemenz farmed in Gerald and their six children were: **George Wilhelm Willi** (born Aug. 11, 1889; d. Feb. 8, 1970) married Selma Keller (b. 1892; d. 1976); **Caroline "Lena"** (born Nov. 3, 1891; d. Jan. 6, 1986) married Jacob Keller (b. 1885; d. 1970); **Albert Martin** (b. Jan. 22, 1894; d. Sept. 12, 1958) married Erna Louise Grimm (b. 1895; d. 1969); **Heinrich Richard "Henry"** (b. Sept. 15, 1896; d. Dec. 6, 1976); John Edward Herman (b. March 14, 1901; d. Nov. 4, 1982) married Louise Lawson and Anna Margaretha (b. March 26, 1905). Lore Volk Schiemenz died of cancer on Nov. 17, 1920, at the age of 60. John Schiemenz made two trips back to Germany to visit relatives and friends after Lore's death. On the second trip, he met a young widow 30 years his junior. Her name was **Louise Egbert** (born Aug. 5, 1891, in Onasbruck, Germany), Louise's husband served in the German army in World War I and died in the war. John and Louise were married in Germany, and John brought Louise back to Texas to his farm in

Gerald. John Schiemenz died Oct. 27, 1955, at the age of 94 years. He was buried beside his first wife, Lore, in the Gerald Cemetery. His second wife, Louise, died at the age of 77 years on May 13, 1969. Louise was also buried in the Gerald Cemetery.

**Martin Schiemenz** born Jan. 4, 1867, in Merzdorf, near Cottbus, Germany. Martin came to Texas to visit his older brother, John, in 1892, and decided to stay. Martin married **Emma Emilie Marie Euckert** (born July 15, 1878) on Dec. 29, 1897, at St. Peter's Evangelical Church in West. They were the parents of six children: **Florentine Anna "Flora"** (b. Dec. 3, 1898; died Feb. 7, 1982) married Miller; **Friedrich Heinrich "Fritz"** (born Sept. 29, 1900; d. Dec. 17, 1980) married Dera nee? (born 1891; died 1980); **Margaret** (b. March 16, 1902; d. May 5, 1902); **George** (b. Feb. 22, 1904; d. May 17, 1987); **Olga Margaret Katherine** (b. March 14, 1907; d. Nov. 12, 1981) married Charles Mack Garretson (b. 1909; d. 1973); **Herbert Ernest** (b. Sept. 20, 1909; d. Nov. 22, 1947), and **Johanna Magdalena** (b. March 8, 1915). In their later years, Martin and Emma Schiemenz moved from their farm in Gerald Community to the town of Leroy where they lived out their days. Martin Schiemenz died Sept. 29, 1953, at the age of 86. His wife, Emma, died May 5, 1962, at the age of 84. Martin and Emma Schiemenz are buried in the Gerald Cemetery.

**Christoph "Chris" Schuetz** born Dec. 21, 1871, in Germany. Chris came to Texas with his parents in 1885. Chris married **Martha Magdalena "Lena" Leuschner** (born June 20, 1877, in Saxony, Germany) on Dec. 2, 1897, at St. Peter's Evangelical Church near West, Texas. Chris and Lena moved to Gerald in 1901. Chris Schuetz donated two acres of land for St. Paul's Church to be constructed on, and the church stands today on this land. Chris and Lena were the parents of one daughter, **Martha** (b. Oct. 5, 1898; d. Nov. 21, 1992) married Rudolph Bernhausen (b. Dec. 21, 1901; d. Nov. 18, 1974). Chris Schuetz died April 17, 1965, at the age of 93. His wife, Lena, preceded him in death nearly 16 years earlier on May 13, 1949. Chris and Lena Schuetz and their family are buried in the Gerald Cemetery.

**Herman Fredrich Stoebner** born May 22, 1862, in Wongowitz, or Wagrowicz, Posen, Germany, and his wife, **Emilie Pauline Hohertz** born March 10, 1869, in Germany. Herman Stoebner came to America with his family in 1880. Their ship docked in New Orleans and the family settled near Manor, in Travis County, Texas. Herman married Emilie Hohertz in Manor, Texas. The Stoebners lived the first years of their marriage in Manor before moving to McLennan County to the Gerald Community. Herman and Emilie Stoebner were the parents of eight children. The first three children were born in Manor and the other children were born in Gerald. The Stoebner children were: **John** (b. Feb. 23, 1886; d. April 12, 1947) married #1. Martha Fricke (b. 1892; d. 1924) in 1909 and #2. Frances nee? (b. 1888; d. 1982); **Herman Walter** (b. 1889; d. Feb. 27, 1921) married Minnie Freier in 1913; **Louisa Marie** (b. Oct. 29, 1890), **Friedrich Wilhelm** (b. Sept. 18, 1892; d. July 30, 1972) married Tonnie nee? (b. 1894; d. 1983); **Adolph George** (b. Jan. 22, 1894; d. Sept. 3, 1979) married Martha nee? (b. 1895; d. 1995); **Elsie Emilie** (b. April 15, 1897; d. Nov. 6, 1989) married Robert Lange (b. 1893; d. 1987); **William** (b. Sept. 19, 1899; d. Apr. 4, 1979) married Erna Olenbusch (b. 1895; d. 1990), and **Hedwig Hulda** (b. June 24, 1901; d. July 23, 1982) married Walter Senkel (b. 1900; d. 1975). Several years after the establishment of St. Paul's Church, the Stoebner Family moved from McLennan County to Burlington, in Milam County, where they settled. Herman F. Stoebner died in Cameron, Milam County, Texas, on June 1, 1943. His wife, Emilie, died in Cameron, Texas, on Feb. 20, 1952. Herman and Emilie Stoebner are buried in the St. Michael's Cemetery (a.k.a. Burlington Cemetery) in Milam County, Texas.

**Carl Gottfried "Charlie" Weissinger** born Jan. 10, 1863, in Heitingsheim, Wurtenberg, Germany. Charlie came to America in 1878. He married **Rosina Weber** on Jan. 22, 1888, and they were the parents of seven children: **Fred Carl** (b. April 26, 1888; d. Nov. 1, 1974) married Emilie Keller (b. 1890; d. 1990) in 1910, **Alfred** (b. Aug. 15, 1889; d. Aug. 13, 1901); **Louise Anna** (b. Jan. 29, 1891) married Julius Heine in 1912; **Carl Gottfried, Jr.;** (b. Dec. 4, 1893; d. Aug. 31, 1989) married Thekla Kramer (b. 1897; d. 1976); **Karoline Alwine** (b. July 5, 1896; d. May 13, 1984) married Agathon Kelinski (b. 1889; d. 1980) in 1914; **Anna Caro-** **line** (b. July 7, 1898; d. March 26, 1988) married Furhmann, **William Jacob** (b. Dec. 14, 1899; d. Aug. 10, 1968); **Mary Lydia** (b. Nov. 19, 1901; d. Jan. 19, 1995) married Gustav Richter (b. 1892; d. 1971) in 1919; and **Paul** (b. Jan. 19, 1904; d. July 4, 1904). Carl "Charlie" Weissinger, Sr., died at the age of 89 years on July 5, 1952, in Gerald. Mr. Weissinger is buried in the Gerald Cemetery. His wife, Rosina, was born Feb. 9, 1861, in Germany, and she died April 26, 1929, in Terrell, Kaufman Co., Texas, at the age of 68 years. Rosina had been institutionalized in Terrell since 1923. Rosina is buried in the Oakland Cemetery in Terrell, Tx..

**Frederick Landfried** born in Austria on Jan. 6, 1870. Fred immigrated to Texas in 1896, and he worked on the farm of George Kramer. Fred Landfried married **Anna Lander** on Dec. 29, 1903. Anna was born in Austria on Jan. 20, 1884. The Landfried children were: **Alfred Wilhelm Carl** (b. Dec. 24, 1905; d. Sept. 29, 1906);



**John Daniel Christian** (b. Oct. 15, 1907; d. July 6, 1990) married Frieda Schmidt (b. 1912; d. 1992); **Gertrude Frieda Elisabeth** (b. Dec. 25, 1909); **Nola Emma Adelheid** (b. Feb. 14, 1912; d. July 28, 1971) married Henry Geltmeier (b. 1910; d. 2000) in 1932; **Roy Otto** (b. Apr. 26, 1914; d. Nov. 11, 1985) married Lorene Jones; and **Friedrich Edward Heinrich** (b. Feb. 10, 1918; d. July 23, 1976). Fred Landfried died at his home in Gerald, Texas on Jan. 10, 1946. His wife, Anna, died in Mart, Tex. on Aug. 22, 1973. Fred and Anna Landfried are buried in the Gerald Cemetery in Gerald, Tex

**Carl Arnold** born August 7, 1833 in Bavaria. He married **Caroline Burger** (born Feb. 3. 1853) in 1874 in Bavaria, and they immigrated to Texas in 1885. They were the parents of four sons: **John** (b. Jan. 1875); **Herman** (b. Dec. 1877); **Louis** (b. June 1884; married Karolina Krueger); and **Fred** (b. Jan. 1889). Carl Arnold died Sept. 13, 1903. The 1910 census shows Caroline Arnold living in Leroy with her sons, Fred and John. The 1920 census shows the family living in Hill County, Texas. Caroline Arnold died at Malone, Tex. on Dec. 12, 1931. Carl and Caroline Arnold are buried in the Closner Cemetery near West, Tex.

**John Schult** born in Germany in April 1864. John and his wife, Karoline nee Jacobs, were married in 1887, and they immigrated to Texas in 1893. Karoline was born in Germany in Sept. 1863. The Schult children were: **George Carl** (b. Dec. 31, 1891; d. Sept. 17, 1971); **Clara** (b. Oct. 1895); **Otto** (b. Jan. 17, 1898; d. April 9, 1968); **Ida** (b. Feb. 8, 1900; d. Feb. 4, 1976) married Teeters; **Hulda Julia Otilie** (b. March 7, 1902); and **Elsie** (b. Sept. 29, 1905; d. Dec. 27, 1982) married Jensen. The 1910 census shows this family living in Deerfield, in Steele Co., Minnesota. John Schult died in Steele Co., Minnesota, on Jan. 23, 1939.

**Henry Kemme** born in Germany in 1859. Henry immigrated to Texas in 1881. He and his wife, **Katie**, were married in 1886. Katie was born in Germany in 1862, and she immigrated to Texas in 1882. Henry and Katie had four children; one of which died as an infant. Their three children to survive infancy were: **Amy** (b. Dec. 1887); **William** (b. Aug. 1889) and **Meta** (b. May 1896).

**Richard Hoherz** born in Texas on Jan. 13, 1872. Richard and his wife, **Frieda nee Dabelgott**, were married in 1894. Frieda was born in Texas on Feb. 9, 1876. The Hoherz children were: **Hilda Dora** (b. Sept. 14, 1894; d. Sept. 16, 1972) married Karl Frederick Kreder; **Edward** (b. Dec. 1895; d. July 7, 1982); **Ernest Herman August** (b. Oct. 21, 1897; d. Nov. 24, 1963) married Erna Emma Meissner in 1926; **Richard Adolf Karl** (b. April 1, 1899; d. July 26, 1979); **Elfrieda Anna Auguste** (b. Dec. 27, 1900; d. Sept. 26, 1975) married Alex Krueger in 1923; **Edna Hulda Otilie** (b. March 28, 1903; d. Aug. 2, 1984) married Herbert Limmer; **Nora Ernestine** (b. Jan. 21, 1905; d. July 17, 1905); **Wilhelm Louis** (b. June 30, 1906; died 21 Dec. 1993); **Robert Daniel** (b. Nov. 19, 1907; d. June 8, 1908); **Nola Magdalena** (b. April 10, 1909); **Ludwig Heinrich** (b. Dec. 15, 1911; d. Feb. 21, 1991) and **Walter Friedrich** (b. Aug. 21, 1913; d. June 9, 1977). Richard Hoherz died in Temple, Tex. on Oct. 5, 1933. Richard is buried in the Restland Cemetery in Gatesville, Tex. Frieda Dabelgott Hoherz died in Hamilton, Texas, on June 27, 1956. Frieda is buried in the Bethel Cemetery in Hamilton County, Texas.

**Friedrich Christmann** born June 5, 1874. Fred Christmann married **Julia Massier** on Dec. 29, 1897. Fred died January 24, 1902, in Gerald, Texas. Friedrich Christmann is buried in the Gerald Cemetery.

**Herman J. Janke** born Sept. 9, 1867, in Germany. Herman married **Dora C. Koemel** on April 17, 1895. The 1900 census shows this couple with two sons: **Willie** (b. Jan. 1898) and **Herman F.** (b. June 1900). Herman J. Janke was the first of the founding fathers of St. Paul's to pass away. He died on Dec. 9, 1900, less than two months after St. Paul's Church was organized. Herman Janke is buried in the Closner Cemetery near West.

**Christian Schmidt** born Sept. 17, 1845, in Germany, and he died Aug. 12, 1916, in Waco, Tx. Christian Schmidt is buried in an unmarked grave in the Friedens Evangelical Cemetery at Riesel, Texas. No information known of his family.

SOURCES: Mrs. Ruth Damm Lehmann, of West, Texas, who provided additional information on the Damm and Leuschner Families

*The First Hundred Years: A History of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Gerald, Texas* by R. W. Schiemenz

The baptism, confirmation, marriage, and burial records of St. Paul's United Church of Christ of Gerald. Cemetery inscriptions from the Gerald and Closner Cemeteries in McLennan County, Texas. Index to Texas Deaths provided by ancestry.com and Family Search.org. Social Security Death Index on ancestry.com

*Submitted by Daniel Bode of Dayton, Texas; GTHS Board Member.*

## Feedback - Love It! - How Fredericksburg (Friedrichsburg) was named

January 6, 2011, Ms. Mary Whigham, Editor, The Journal,

Dear Mary, Wishing you smooth sledding this New Year! Thank you for the great improvement you have made to *The Journal*, in every respect.

I am not quite sure which edition it was, but we have noticed that it stated that the Fredericksburg, Texas, as named after Frederick, the King of Prussia; or Frederick the Great. I have been asked to send information to correct that. The acknowledged founder and the namer of Fredericksburg was John O. Meusebach who succeeded Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels as director of the Adelsverein activities in Texas in 1845. Meusebach named the town after Prince Friedrich Wilhelm Ludwig von Hohenzollern von Preussen {1794-1863}. Prince Friedrich was the nephew of the king. The prince's castle, Burg Rheinstein ueber Rhein, was not far from Mainz, the headquarters of the Adelsverein. When Meusebach was named to succeed Prince Solms, his final meeting before heading to Texas was with Prince Friedrich, who gave Meusebach his blessing. Prince Friedrich was the largest stockholder in the Adelsverein as well as the highest ranking German royal.

I am enclosing the research surrounding the naming of Friedrichsburg. By the way, the official spelling of the town was Friedrichsburg until the mid 1880's when the US Post Office complained of confusion about the usage of both the German and the English spellings. The postmaster on his own changed it to the English spelling without a plebiscite.

Again, we thank you for the wonderful efforts you and the GTHS are making in preserving and making known the history of the Germans of Texas. Kenn Knopp, Secretary, German Foundation, 407 Cora St., Fredericksburg Texas 78624 [www.germanheritagefoundation.com](http://www.germanheritagefoundation.com)



### 1. MS II. GERMANY, LOVE IT, OR LEAVE IT!

#### Part 2. The German Monarchy's Final Solution: The Adelsverein Scheme Ein cleverer Ausbuergerungs Plan: 1842-1847

Who the person was who concocted the idea of organizing the Adelsverein, the Society of Noblemen, is not known exactly. Probably a number of royals were attending a wedding or celebration of some sort. Or perhaps it was an especially called meeting. One of them, such as a count or duke may have asked his friend, a prince, "This drought is wrecking our economy. Our customs and tax collections have dropped drastically. What can we do about all those who are without work?" Then a prince might have replied, "Forget about the jobless, our biggest problem are those rich 'sons of plutocrats' at the universities who are just itching to riot to do away with our God-given monarchy. They want to do away with us and set up their so-called democracy which they will then run themselves! Look what has happened in Italy with Garibaldi and that republic stuff in France that keeps on festering. "

Research has resulted in far too little "Noblese Oblige" or, the obligation of those in power such as the nobles or royals of Germany to tend to their flocks, with compassion, care, and fairness. Even the theocratic churches of that time were despotic in order to retain their flatulence, power, and spheres of dominance. It is a concept, biblically based, that asks of those who "have" not only give the "have nots" fish for survival, but the equipment, location, and opportunity to fish for their own fish.

Then a duke, who was perhaps hosting the event, might have responded with a way to come up with an answer to their mounting dilemma: "You know, I was reading where the new Republic of Texas is looking for more settlers. They've been having a terrible time with Mexico wanting their northern-most territory back. Texas needs many more men to defend their boundaries. Texas is a vast place with many unsettled places where the Spanish found gold and valuable ore, even coal; but the Indians wore them out. We ought to find some way to end our troublemakers and "adventurers" there. Some Germans have already gone there on their own and have been growing lots of cotton which we and our friends in England have been buying from them for some time now."

Knowing that they had many thousands of possible candidates who could be "persuaded" to go to Texas or who would be interested in the free land and opportunity of colonizing, the idea of a German dependency or even a new Teutonic nation created a spark. Hopefully if enough Germans would settle in Texas they might even be able to break off from Texas and have their own German republic or nation. Central and West Texas was hardly populated were ideally suited for such a colonization plan. (1. MS II. 2-a)

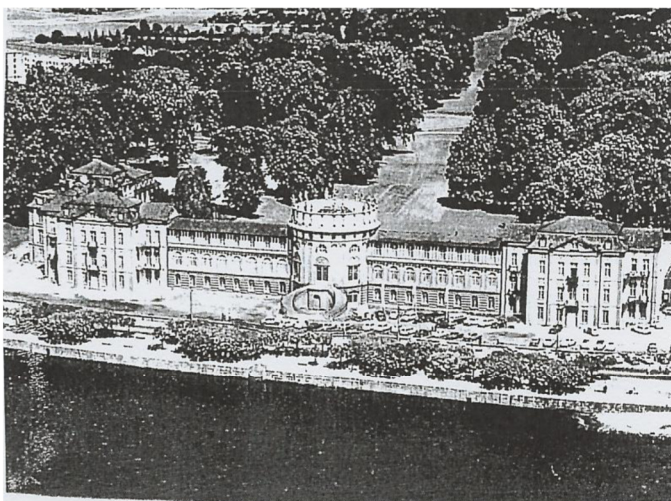
These ideas, and others, created a spark. A meeting was called and more than thirty members of royalty gathered from many parts of Germany. They organized what was called the *Adelsverein* on April 20, 1842, which they publicly advertised as *The Society for the Protection of German Immigrants to Texas*. Their modus operandi was to

form a stock company to raise sufficient funds in support of their goal: "Die Koenigstreuen koennen die Unruhigsten entfernen." (A way for those true or loyal to the kings to get rid of their troublemakers.) Just as importantly, the project might well provide them with great profits, probably why they organized a stockholding company open only to themselves. More than thirty nobility bought into the stockholding scheme at the castle residence of Herzog or Duke Adolph von Nassau in Biebrich am Rhein near Wiesbaden and across the Rhein River from Mainz. From his Schloss Biebrich this lone duke ruled over 400,000 subjects with many of them fitting into the "unruhigsten" category, (literally, the most restless or troublesome) who were so threatening to these ruling oligarchs.

### (1. MS II. 2-b)

Archduke Adolph van Nassau was selected as the Adelsverein's "protector". He would defend the Adelsverein before any royalty who might ask about the Adelsverein's goings-on. Among them was Count Carl von Castell who agreed to serve as the treasurer of the Adelsverein. Count Christian van Neu-Leiningen-Westerburg served as presiding officer. Other esteemed members were Prince Emerich Karl van Leiningen, president of the German Imperial Ministry, and also mentioned in some history books, Prince Victor von Leiningen. Count Joseph von Boos-Waldeck invested in the stock and was so eager to see Texas for himself he volunteered to be the one to make the initial inspection trip in 1843, bought Nassau Hoff cotton plantation near LaGrange, and returned to Germany to recommend immediate immigration to Texas.

Prince Friedrich Wilhelm Ludwig von Preussen, residing in his Duesseldorf castle at that time, also became a stockholder representing the imperial House of Hohenzollern and was the most influential member of the Adelsverein. Prince Friedrich (1794-1863) was the son of Prince Ludwig von Preussen, the nephew of Frederick the Great. His mother was Princess Fredericke van Mecklenburg-Strelitz who later became the Queen of the Kingdom of Hannover.



BIEBRICH CASTLE on the Rhein was the official residence of Duke Adolph von Nassau. Biebrich is today a suburb of Wiesbaden. In this castle in 1842 the duke hosted the organizational meeting of the Adelsverein, the Society of Noblemen, to sponsor the migration or "Entfernung" (riddance) of citizens not happy in Germany or those the monarchy was not happy with. Some 12,000 persons went to Texas under the sponsorship of the Adelsverein. Many more thousands went to Texas on their own. Today the Biebrich train station has a stop from Mainz to Frankfurt am Main on the opposite end of the castle's beautiful park. The restored castle is now used as a film, research, and conference center. Photo courtesy of Johanna Hinkel Verlag, Badenheim bei Mainz

The even higher ranking Hochheit or "highness" category such as Friedrich Wilhelm IV the ruling King of Prussia from 1840 to 1861 had no objection to the purposes of the Adelsverein or Texas Verein but preferred to let the "Koenigstreuen" or those below him in the aristocracy take all the initiative--and the chances. It is said that if everything went well he would see to it that the efforts would be properly supported and rewarded. The name of the king in this regard was not to be used precipitously, if at all. His non-objections were interpreted as his tacit approval and signal to "try it."

The Hohenzollern line of aristocracy also had such castles as Rheinhartshausen outside of Erbach am Rhein not far at all from Biebrich, and in Berlin and Potsdam, not to mention summer, hunting, and foreign get-a-ways for all seasons and reasons. Prince Friedrich had bought the Schloss Rheinstein up the road from Bingen in 1825, eventually making his permanent home there. He and his wife and only son are entombed there to this day in the royal crypt the beautiful Gothic chapel of the castle which is open to the public by its present owners, the retired opera singer, Hermann Hecher and his family.

The Adelsverein then began to refer to itself in a number of ways, such as the Mainzer Verein, since its offices were there and people could present their applications if not sending their applications to emigrate to Texas by mail. Mainz was only a short distance from Biebrich. Gradually the royals even started referring to their organization as the Texas Verein or Texas Society as they slowly began to use smoke and mirrors to deflect any potentiality that might go wrong or bring embarrassment to them. The name Adelsverein was not a plus as far as the general public was concerned or those inclined to support the growing unification and or the growing democracy and the communist movements.

**PRESENT DAY DESCENDANT OF ADELSVEREIN FOUNDER PROPOSES A UNIQUE THEORY** On February 21, 2003, Prince Johannes van Sachs en-



Prinz Friedrich von Preussen

PRINZ FRIEDRICH WILHELM LUDWIG VON HOHENZOLLERN VON PREUSSEN (1794-1863)  
The City of Friedrichsburg, Texas, founded in 1846, was named in honor of this highest ranking member of the German monarchy joining the Adelsverein (Society of Noblemen) founded in 1842 in Biebrich. The prince and his wife and two sons lived in Schloss Burg Rheinstein on the Rhein River not far from Biebrich Castle on the other side of the Rhein River. The Prince and his family are buried within a vault of the beautiful Gothic chapel on the castle grounds.

Photo of the Burg Rheinstein and sketch of Prince Friedrich provided with the compliments of retired opera singer, Hermann Hecher, present owner and restorer of Schloss Burg Rheinstein located between Bingen and Traralbach.

Altenburg and his wife, Princess Nana, were the guests of Helgard Suhr-Hollis and the German Society of New Braunfels. Prince Johannes, who lives in Hannover and in the Dallas area, is researching the history of the Adelsverein and its Texas scheme. At the gathering in New Braunfels he maintained from papers he said he uncovered in Russia, England, and in East Germany after the Wall came down, that the settlers from Germany, at least on the part of the Adelsverein leaders, intended to form their own independent nation once in Texas. After settling their string of cities: New Braunfels (founded in 1845 when Texas was a nation), Friedrichsburg (1846 when Texas was a state in the USA), Bettina, Leiningen, Meerholz, Schoenburg, Castell (these five settlements on the Llano river 25 miles North of Friedrichsburg were founded in 1847) and other intended communities planned in the Fisher-Miller Land Grant above the Llano River to the Colorado River, they would break away from the Republic of Texas and rule their own German nation, a colony of Germany.

"Contingents of Hessian soldiers, caches of guns and even canons made the trip to Texas in preparation for the revolt," maintained Prince Johannes during his presentation in New Braunfels. He added that the Commissioner General of the Adelsverein in Texas, Prince Solms-Braunfels, did not get disillusioned or abort his mission (after barely a year in Texas) but successfully carried out his mission to set up "a defensible line of settlements that would form the border of the new German colony (nation)." Prince Johannes also maintains that the first 26 names on the roster of the Adelsverein were of the aristocratic class which proves that the economically disadvantaged, those persecuted for religious reasons, or other reasons for dissatisfaction were not the main reasons for leaving Germany. Many of the Adelsverein investors were within one or two degrees of relationship to Queen Victoria of England, who was from a German family, or her husband Albert. **(1 MS II. 2-c)**

Of those 26 names of German aristocrats who bought stock and set up the Adelsverein at Schloss Biebrich, none of them came to Texas with the intention of staying or living in Texas. The goal of creating an independent nation or German colony was certainly probable or hoped for on the part of the Adelsverein "investors." But even before Texas became a state and when New Braunfels was founded on Good Friday of 1845, there were a great and balanced mix of German settlers of all classes, poor, middle class, and wealthy. "Freedom and Opportunity" was their motto and goal, for sure. Once they were away from the police of the German monarchy, as they were when they landed on Texas soil, even Prince Solms with his contingent of Hessian soldiers (they were only a handful) could not really contain them. These so-called Hessian soldiers were there to protect Prince Solms from bodily harm and particularly from the Indians. In less than a year most of these guards returned to Germany with Prince Solms to the comfort zones of their feudal system. Solms never returned to Texas again. Prince Johannes shared his interesting theories, papers and findings with enthusiastic listeners at Texas Tech University at Fredericksburg sponsored by the German Heritage Foundation of Fredericksburg.

#### THE ADELVEREIN BEGINS TO RECRUIT FOR THE GERMAN COLONY IN TEXAS

The first task of the members was go into the universities and wherever "liberals" gathered to recruit "volunteers" who would go to Texas to organize or be a part of the initial German settlements there. One of the members of the Adelsverein, Prince Carl von Solms-Braunfels, went to speak at the hotbed of radical liberals at the Technical School of Darmstadt. He read glowing reports about Texas from those who had returned from Texas or were presently there. He touted the idea of establishing a German colony there, an opportunity of a lifetime since each would receive free land. The speech was coupled with a strong hint ... any future outbreaks or demonstrations aimed at changing the German monarchy system would be dealt with by the royal troops much more severely. To avoid a confrontation, he explained, the Adelsverein was even offering financial incentives for "certain leaders" (intellectuals from plutocratic families) who would sign up to go to Texas.

Prince Solm's report to the Adelsverein was received with jubilation. Forty young liberals from the Darmstadt Technical School and other professionals had signed up. It was important that the Adelsverein hire the ships and make all the final arrangements for getting the "Darmstaedter Vierzig" --the Darmstadt Forty-- and the ever-growing number of applicants off to Texas just as soon as possible before they changed their minds!

Meantime, still in 1842, Prince Leiningen (other researchers name this royal as Viktor von Alt-Leining) and Count. Joseph von Boos-Waldeck sailed to Texas to meet with Republic of Texas officials, particularly with President Sam Houston, to secure the initial land. The land they bought for \$3,321.75 was a working cotton plantation, including Negro slave-workers, near the present city of LaGrange between Austin and Houston. It was given the name Nassau Hof, or Nassau Farm, named in honor of the Adelsverein's protector, Archduke Adolph of Nassau. They returned to Germany recommending that the arriving immigrants come there from Galveston before going on to the land grant areas of the West Texas frontier.

As definite arrangements were being made for the first group of immigrants to prepare to leave Germany, two members of the leadership were dispatched to Texas to prepare to receive the new colonists as they landed. They were Prince Solms-Braunfels, designated as Commissioner-General, and Bourgeois d'Orvanne, Director of colonization. They arrived at the port of Galveston on July 1, 1844, going immediately to the Nassau Hof cotton plantation with its indentured slaves.

Prince Solms then contracted with German expatriots, Henry Fisher (sic: Heinrich Fischer) and Burchard Miller

(sic: Mueller), who controlled a large area of land between the Colorado and Llano Rivers. The prince bought the rights to the area which then became known as the Fisher-Miller Land Grant. After traveling the area the prince decided to shorten the trek into the land grant by setting up a port on Matagorda Bay between Corpus Christi and Galveston. The use of Nassau Hof as the first way station was abandoned.

Prince Solms arranged to receive the German immigrants first at Galveston and then transfer them to smaller vessels to sail the two hundred miles down the Gulf Coast to what was first called Carlshaven, which he named after himself. Later, the name of the port was changed to Indian Point, and finally Indianola.

The site of Indianola was chosen because the newly arriving immigrants would be on a vessel from Galveston. The trek by wagon and walking to the Fisher-Miller Land Grant area would save about 250 miles, if they landed at Indianola. Then Prince Solms bought a location half way between Indianola and the Llano River where the Fisher-Miller Land Grant started. He called the new way station and rest spot New Braunfels, in honor of Braunfels, Germany, his hometown and the location of his castle-residence. The logistics to receive the first immigrants were now in place. Even before Prince Solms completed these arrangements a number of ships contracted by the Adelsverein had already set sail. The first immigrants stepped ashore at Indianola in December of 1844.

The trip inland was delayed by growing hostilities between Mexico and the United States. On Good Friday of 1845 the first German settlers arrived in New Braunfels. Learning that there were thousands of Indians encamped above the Llano River, inside the Fisher Miller Land Grant area, it was only natural that they decided to stay put in New Braunfels. The voyage to Texas and the trek to New Braunfels in the foothills of the Hill Country was costly, sapping health, creating disease such as scurvy, and causing hundreds of deaths. Large numbers of additional immigrants were arriving constantly.

Prince Solms felt he had done his part after developing a fright of being scalped as well as finding "his subjects" had absolutely no fear of his authority any more. He sent in his resignation as Commissioner-General of the Texas Verein to his associates in Germany. The Adelsverein then chose a successor, Baron Otfried Hans von Meusebach of Dillenburg, Hessen.

#### FROM THE HALLS OF HALLE TO THE HILL COUNTRY OF TEXAS

For centuries, Halle, Niedersachsen, Germany, had the reputation of being the most ugly and putrid city in Germany. Its citizens repeatedly rejected every attempt by their environmentalist-friendly leaders to install even the most basic sewage, drainage, and trash-collecting systems. The city fathers, however, welcomed the factories which gave off noxious odors and polluted the ditches, creeks, and rivers. The factories brought them great wealth; they were secure inside stately mansions hidden deeply on their estates. The workers and other citizens who lived in the row apartments near the factories be damned! They ought to be thankful for the work!

In 1694 the Hohenzollern Prussian rulers established in Halle a "new" university where they sent the professors of the more "established" universities who tended to cause trouble, such as those daring to suggest the ridiculous idea that the classes be taught in the vernacular instead of the traditional Latin. The University of Halle was the receptacle for those whose ideas lifted the eyebrows or enraged the Lutheran Bishops; or whose experiments in science and philosophy tended to upset, question, or pose a threat to the regime or the more entrenched or tenured academic leaders.

The Elector of Prussia, controlled by the royal house of the Hohenzollerns, began appointing to the University of Halle teachers who had been persecuted and ostracized for their "ideas" at other universities. The noted philosopher and lawyer, Christian Thomasius, was one of these. He was the first professor in a German university who dared to lecture in the vernacular, the German language.

The University of Halle, similar to other such academia dumping grounds, became the very cradle of German Enlightenment. It celebrated its 300th birthday in 1994, not old at all according to German standards. Its lack of academic history became its advantage. It became breeding ground for new or unconventional ideas, such as allowing Dorothea Erxleben of Quedlinburg to become Germany's first woman medical doctor in 1754. Much scorned then, she is much heralded now!

In this rather schizophrenic milieu in 1837, Halle city councilmember, Arnold Ruge, proposed a city beautification commission. He wrote in his petition: "This is a twisted, dirty, stinking city. The stench from the coal peat and the water from the starch factories, flowing in open gullies through the streets, pollutes the atmosphere."(1 MS II. 2-d)

The citizens remained indifferent to his plan. It is said that the city, generally, has remained so to this day, especially reinforced during its rape by the East German communists and their Russian occupiers. Halle has yet to become a popular tourist destination. Its university took the dross, at first taking the dross and unconventional teachers, but gradually turned into a premier school of distinction.

Halle, Germany, became involved in the history of Friedrichsburg, Texas, because Baron Otfried Hans von Meusebach of Dillenburg, Hessen, founder of Friedrichsburg, was one of its graduates in finance and jurisprudence. Most of classes were conducted in the Latin language. His affinity for Latin would serve him well in the Texas Hill Country where hundreds of kindred German intellectuals, similarly taught in Latin, resettled in Texas after being paid or pressured to leave Germany because of their "liberal" ideas such as democracy.

Baron von Meusebach was fascinated with the reports of the botanic and geological wonders of Texas he had heard and read so much about, particularly the huge granite batholith Enchanted Rock. Perhaps he read the writings by the famed naturalist, Duke Paul Wilhelm von Wuerttemberg, and eagerly accepted the offer of the Adelsverein to take over the reigns of its massive immigration project in Texas. The noblemen's Texas organization, the Texas Verein, was getting itself all tangled up in financial intrigues and indebtedness.

Meusebach, also known for his financial expertise as well as being a lawyer, was asked to take over the reigns of the Texas Verein from Prince Solms who wanted to return to Germany immediately. To receive the final blessing of the Adelsverein officers, Meusebach, having already gotten an affirmative nod from the Adelsverein's Hauptbeschuetzer" (royal protector) Archduke Adolph von Nassau, needed only the final blessing of the very highest ranking member of the Adelsverein, Prince Friedrich Wilhelm Ludwig von Hohenzollern.

#### FRIEDRICHSBURG'S NAMESAKE ... PRINCE FRIEDRICH WILHELM LUDWIG VON PREUSSEN

Baron Meusebach met with the prince at the official headquarters of the Hohenzollern Prussians in Berlin. Prince Friedrich Wilhelm Ludwig (1794-1863) was a general of the Prussian cavalry with his official residence in Duesseldorf. But he had a special attraction to the decaying castle, Burg Rheinstein, above the town of Trechtingshausen overlooking the Rhein River between Bingen and Bacharach. He bought it in 1823 and finally moved in completely in 1842, the year the Adelsverein was set up. Visitors found the castle an exciting adventure--or challenge--in just reaching it. They were visited by Queen Victoria of England, The Czarina of Russia, Alexandra Feodorowna, and other notables.

In addition, another line of the Hohenzollern family had its Rheingau castle, Schloss Reinhartshausen, on the other side of the Rhein on the outskirts of Erbach-Eltville. Today Schloss Reinhartshausen is an exclusive resort and conference center under the direction of the Hohenzollern secretariat of Berlin and Potsdam. Burg Rheinstein began to be built about 900 A.D. as a customs station. About 990 A.D. Emperor Otto III gave it to the Archbishop of Mainz. It is noted for Emperor Rudolf van Habsburg holding court sessions there involving the infamous robber barons of the nearby towns of Reichenstein and Sooneck. By the time the invading Swedes conquered it in 1632 it had begun to ruin.

In 1825 Prince Friedrich Wilhelm Ludwig of Prussia bought the ruin and had the Rheinstein completely restored to castle dignity. The prince spent much time there with his family and sons Alexander (1820-1896) and Georg (1826-1902). For years the prince and princess filled the castle with precious antiques and art treasures. The prince, his wife, Princess Louise Wilhelmine von Anhalt-Bernburg, and one of the sons, Prince Georg Wilhelm Ernst are buried in the castle crypts underneath the beautiful gothic chapel on the castle grounds.

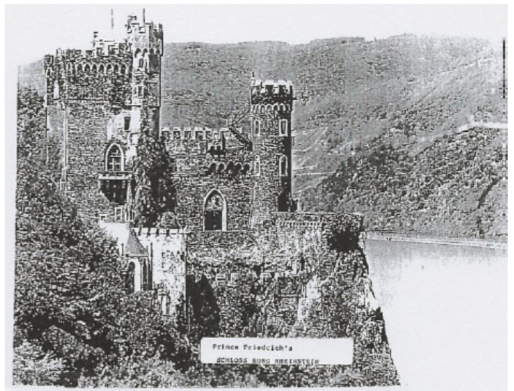
Prince Friedrich Wilhelm's father was Prince Ludwig (1773-1796); his grandparents: King Friedrich Wilhelm II (1744-1797) and Queen Louise von Mecklenburg-Strelitz. Burg Rheinstein Castle is frequently visited by Fredericksburg and Texas travelers to Germany, most welcomed there by the Hermann Hecher family, the present owners, who offer guided tours daily. (1.MS II.2-e) Most of what is known in Fredericksburg about Prince Friedrich Wilhelm of Prussia and the Hohenzollern castles comes from the years of travel and painstaking research on the part of Fredericksburg local historians Dorothy and John Cotter. They thoughtfully donated their expert and carefully prepared documentations to the Vereinskirche Archives.

The Fredericksburg German Heritage Commission on one of its tours to Germany held a banquet in the Reinhartshausen Castle rather than the preferred castle belonging to its city's namesake. The reason was that many on the tour were hesitant since the only way to get up to the Burg Rheinstein castle was to walk up the zigzagging steep trail of many more feet than many thought they could reasonably handle. There is no road for a car or four-wheeler--at least that the general public knows about. A number of individuals did decide to take the trek and reported that the decision of the majority showed the wisdom of the democratic vote.

Today Burg Rheinstein is being visited by more and more Fredericksburgers and friends. They come back with glowing reports about the excellent tour and refreshments which the amiable present owner and retired opera singer, Hermann Hecher, provides. It is a venture well worth the effort, since the only way from the street up to the castle is a long, winding walkway. No vehicles are allowed. Burg Rheinstein is becoming an Olympian pilgrimage on the part of Fredericksburgers to honor and learn more about the namesake of their city who helped make their city a reality.

#### MEUSEBACH RECEIVES THE BLESSING OF THE PRUSSIAN PRINCE

Perhaps in his heart of hearts Meusebach was not necessarily all that much a Prussian being from Hessen; but, his family's credentials were impeccable. He earned top grades in law, geology and finance at various institutions of higher learning he attended including the Prussian University of Halle which, since it was created by the Hohenzollerns, did not hurt his chances to secure the appointment.



Baron von Meusebach and Prince Friedrich got along famously. His granddaughter, Irene Marschall King would report that a major reason for her grandfather's coming to the Texas Hill Country was his great curiosity about Enchanted Rock and its eerie "noises." Newspaper articles and booklets about Texas and its geology were very popular in the mid 1830's, especially with those who dreamt of far away Utopias and warmer climates in exotic, undeveloped places.

Meusebach reported back to the Adelsverein Secretariat with a sincere liking and respect for Prince Friedrich. Meusebach left the presence of Prince Friedrich Wilhelm Ludwig von Hohenzollern assured that he would be assuming the leadership of the Texas Verein and receiving the Adelsverein's thousands of immigrants who were signing up in great numbers to go to Texas.

What had happened was, only a few months after the first commissioner-general of the Texas Verein, Prince Solms, had founded New Braunfels during Easter Week of 1845, Solms sent word to Germany that he wanted to return to Germany immediately and that the Adelsverein should select another commissioner for Texas at once. Solms wanted out of unruly and bizarre Texas!

Meusebach was a respected geologist and barrister. He too had read the intriguing reports circulating throughout Germany of the giant batholiths such as Enchanted Rock and the vast array of wonders of the Texas Hill Country flora and fauna. In his wildest dreams he probably never imagined that he would not only see these awesome products of nature for himself but also make his permanent home in that granite country, raise his family there, and even have that beautiful, native granite tombstone on his grave!

Born in Dillenburg, Hessen, into a distinguished family of learned individualists, Baron Otfried Hans von Meusebach had just about had his fill of German stodginess. Now, thanks to Prince Friedrich Wilhelm Ludwig von Hohenzollern, Meusebach had an opportunity to actually put into practice the University of Halle's famous, or infamous to smile, motto: "Libertas philosophandi!" or in generous paraphrase, "Freedom of Everything!"

Meusebach proceeded to Texas as the second Commissioner General of the Texas Verein, replacing Prince Solms. While Prince Solms was disgusted with the town hall meetings, or Marktplatz gatherings, and the practice of Americans "voting" on everything, Baron von Meusebach found it all amazing-- and refreshing. It took the onus off of him. Most importantly, he felt democracy's invigorating power which delighted his soul and gave him a new lease on life. He may even have thought that if his leadership in Texas was successful in implementing democratic and entrepreneurial principles the people of Germany would be all the more open to do the same. It would take Germany scores of years and struggle to expunge its system of royal dictatorships and to allow its people to vote, to organize trade unions, and to write a true peoples' constitution.

Meusebach first had to confront the typical German mindset, "That's not the way we did it in Germany"; "Such is not possible"; "That is out of the question!; We've never done that before! "--the most often used phrases in the German language ... "Das gibt's nicht--Ich habe nie von sowas gehoert." ... "Geht nicht! Unmoeglich!" His leadership brought the German settlers through one travail after another. Gradually they learned to appreciate their new freedoms in America which included getting to hold on to any customs they wanted to hold on to. With each step, braving it through each challenge, and learning how to implement American rights and justice, Meusebach and his pioneers began to breathe in and exhale out as proud German Texans.

Early on, Meusebach coined a new motto, "Texas Forever!" The family motto "Tenax propositi" means "Persist in Purpose!" which he instructed to be inscribed on his tombstone in the Marschall-Meusebach Family Cemetery in Cherry Springs, about 15 miles northwest of Friedrichsburg near his retirement home in the Loyal Valley Community.

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**(1 MS II. 2-a)** Olmstead, Frederick Law; *A Journey through Texas*, University of Texas Press, Austin, 1815, 1989 reprint, p. 173. Army journalist, in 1853 Olmstead visits Friedrichsburg and meets Dr. Knopp and August Siemering in Sisterdale where he engages in matter-of-fact discussions about how German immigration to Texas took place. Only after John O. Meusebach took the place of Prince Solms-Braunfels in 1844 was the idea of a German speaking nation, dependent upon Germany, carved out of Central-West Texas discarded. But even before the Civil War Germans in the Hill Country and in San Antonio toyed with the idea of a slave-free state of West Texas that would be independent of the Anglos of East Texas. Siemering's writings also confirm that the Germans felt the social security of Bismarck was needed and that many other progressive programs would always be held back by the "regressive" East Texans who lacked proper education and social understanding.

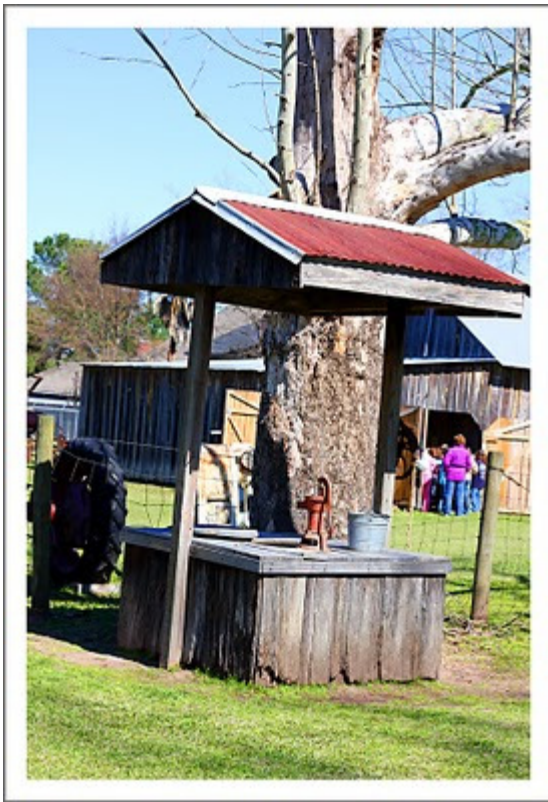
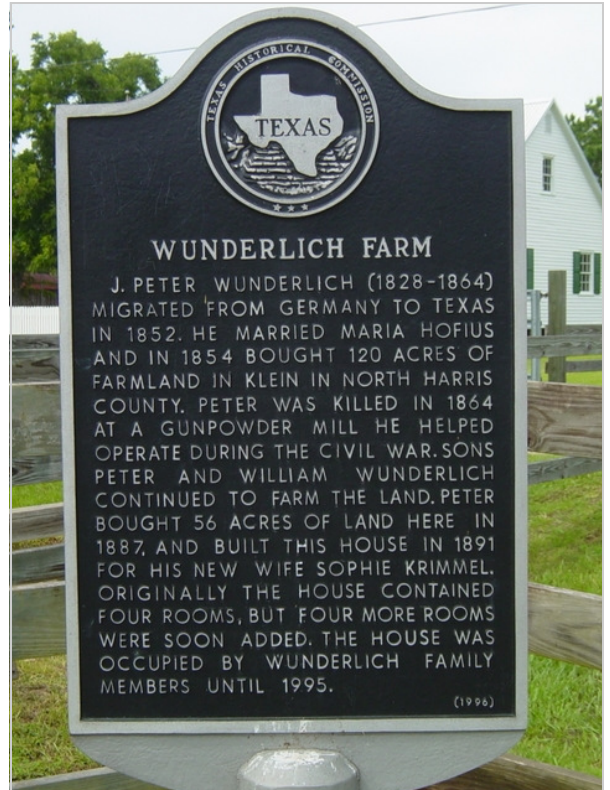
**(1 MS II. 2-b)** Kunz, Manfred; *Flucht aus der Not in die Neue Welt, (Fleeing From the Plights to the New World)*, Bad Camberg Area Emigration in the 1800's; Der Magistrat der Stadt Bad Camberg Stadtarchiv, Bad Camberg, Germany, ISSN: 0937-9282, 1991, p. 4. Copies of this important resource book can be obtained from Mr. Kunz, Bahnhofstrasse 51, D-65520 Bad Camberg, Germany. **(1 MS II. 2-c)** Croteau, Roger; "Scholar Says Texas Germans Had Dark Plan"; *San Antonio Express-News*. Feb. 23, 2003, p. 5B. Email: [rcroteau@express-news.net](mailto:rcroteau@express-news.net)

**(1 MS II. 2-d)** Babin, Liselotte; editor-publisher, *Deutsche Welt-USA*, P.O.Box 35831, Houston, Texas, now extinct, from a syndicated article of no byline or syndication credit entitled "Halle, 300 Years", quarterly edition, Winter 1994. **(1 MS II. 2-e)** Cotter, John & Dorothea; *Prince Frederick of Prussia: Rheinsteintal*, photographic-manuscript with family tree of Prince Friedrich's direct lineage, 1983, located at the Gillespie County Historical Society, Fredericksburg, Texas. The Cotters are the key 20th Century local historians and genealogists of Fredericksburg immigrant and pioneer families. No others have made so many trips to Europe and generously compiled and documented valuable information about the history of those important to the founding and development of Fredericksburg, Texas.

## Wunderlich Farm - a possible field trip for you in Houston and surrounding areas:

Wunderlich Farm - J. Peter Wunderlich (1828-1864) migrated from Germany to Texas in 1852. He married Maria Hofius and in 1854 bought 120 acres of farmland in Klein in north Harris County. Peter was killed in 1864 at a gunpowder mill he helped operate during the Civil War. Sons Peter and William Wunderlich continued to farm the land. Peter bought 56 acres of land here in 1887, and built this house in 1891 for his new wife Sophie Krimmel. Originally the house contained four rooms, but four more rooms were soon added. The house was occupied by Wunderlich family members until 1995. 18202 Theiss Mail Rd. at Doerre Intermediate School, Klein, Texas.

The Klein, TX Historical Foundation maintains the Klein, TX Museum and Wunderlich Farm. The museum complex consists of three furnished homes from the late 1800's, a two room schoolhouse, a barn and numerous farm buildings. Free tours are offered to the public the last Saturday of most months and hands-on tours are provided to fourth graders of Klein ISD during the school week.



Submitted by Carl Luckenbach,  
Fredericksburg





# People

## Something about Fritz Goldbeck from Teresa Gold, San Antonio:

Regarding the item on page 261 of the Winter 2010 issue of *The Journal*, here are some comments and information on "Fritz" Goldbeck. Some members/readers must be familiar with the monumental work, *Die Bremerverwandtschaft in Deutschland und in Texas (The Bremers and their Kin in Germany and in Texas)*, two volumes, 1977, by the late Robert Robinson-Zwahr, who was (undoubtedly) a charter member of GTHS and sometime-member of the board.

In Volume I, Chapter IV, is a summary of the wives, children and step-children of Heinrich Bremer. Three (possibly four) Goldbeck children were stepchildren of Heinrich. Chapter V covers Otto Goldbeck; Chapter VI, Theodor Georg Ludwig Goldbeck; and Chapter VII Friedrich William Ferdinand ("Fritz") Goldbeck. The famed panoramic photographer, E.O. Goldbeck, was from the Theodor Georg Ludwig Goldbeck line.

Now, for Friedrich Wilhelm Ferdinand Goldbeck, Chapter VII, pages 165-180, a brief summary, omitting many details and sidetracks.

He immigrated with the Bremer family in 1844. He was in the first confirmation class, 1846, First Protestant Church, New Braunfels. That same year, the Bremer family moved to Buffalo Springs, west of New Braunfels. His poems tell of hunting, horseback riding and exploring in that area. In 1849, the family moved to Guadalupe County, about four miles west of Seguin. After the family was settled there, Fritz and his brother, Theodor, returned to New Braunfels. No specific occupation or professional skills are mentioned for Fritz, but it seems he generally assisted family members with land clearing and building construction.

During July and August 1854, Fritz was among the group of surveyors and assistants who accompanied Ernst Hermann Altgelt into the region where the town of Comfort was founded later that same year by Altgelt. (It seems this was Altgelt's second trip to the Comfort area.) Fritz was joined by his brother Theodor and wife after he had assisted in the official founding of Comfort on September 3, 1854.

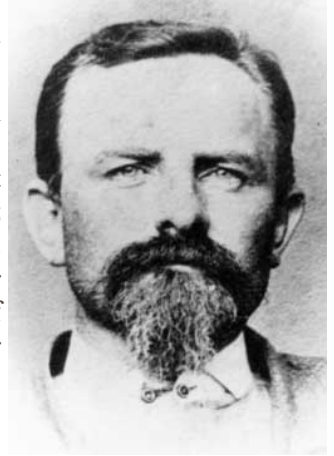
The two brothers started a combined mercantile-saloon business, which also included the post office. In 1856, they sold the store to August Faltin. Theodor moved to San Antonio and became associated with H. Meyer & Company. Fritz traveled to Arizona, Baja California, and northern Mexico. His experiences are highlighted in his poems. He returned to Texas in 1858 and

the next February he married and moved to New Braunfels for a short stay. Fritz and Theodor both went to Mexico during the War Between the States. At the end of the war, Fritz returned to New Braunfels and was appointed mayor by the military governor of Texas. He served as mayor May 12, 1867, to November 2, 1872. Before that, he was tax collector and justice of the peace. He was

also appointed Comal County Judge. While mayor, he advocated bringing a flour mill to New Braunfels and to further the cause wrote an (untitled) poem which was published in the newspaper. His efforts were successful as this was the start of the mill later known as Dittlinger Roller Mills. After leaving office in 1874, Fritz and his family moved near Spring Branch, where he engaged in ranching for almost a decade before moving to San Antonio. In his older years, he developed cataracts which may have blinded him completely. It is possible that this vision problem may have been the reason for his move to San Antonio. At that time, he began to actively pursue his writing.

In 1895 and 1896, he had published two volumes of poetry, containing some 140 poems, entitled *Seit Fünfzig Jaren (Since Fifty Years)*. They were printed by John Schott, in an edition of not more than 500 copies. Most of the volumes were in soft cover, with only a few in a later hardback edition. Robinson-Zwahr quotes several evaluations of his works, both favorable and critical.

Fritz Goldberg died at his residence at 822 Avenue B in San Antonio on April 11, 1899, at age 67. He was buried in the Hermann Sons Cemetery. His wife Emilie (Natalie Eugenia Angelina Emilie Muller) died on July 3, 1924, and was buried in the same cemetery. They had nine children: Hermann (died young), Robert, Alfred (unmarried), Adolph, Fritz (died young), Ernest, Lizzie (married Rudolph Specht), unnamed infant son, and Gustav.



**Editor's Note: I googled Fritz and found the following information from a newsletter previously published by the Friends of Honey Creek (2009) and have asked permission to reprint the following poem written by Fritz.**

### The Sufferings of the First Emigrants

*In the dark shadows of the forest,  
In the swamps, in green fields,  
Everywhere in the wide country  
Find the signs of their graves.*

*The sunrays were glowing,  
The air was heavy and oppressive,  
While a small wagon was making  
It's way through the heavy dust.*

*A small mule was pulling it  
Through the deep sand.  
The little conveyance reminded  
One of the German fatherland.*

*A man, his wife, four children  
Followed eagerly,  
While the wagon held all  
Their earthly possessions*

*The good people moved  
Toward the town of Braunfels.  
Two more days and they  
Would reach their destination.*

*There were dear springs,  
There the air was pure,  
And there they would find  
Their new home forever.*

*Unfortunately the wagon broke  
Before they made there.  
Leaving them helplessly stranded  
At the edge of the woods.*

*Dull the thunder rumbled.  
A storm was coming fast.  
The poor people without protection  
Felt their hearts grow heavy.*

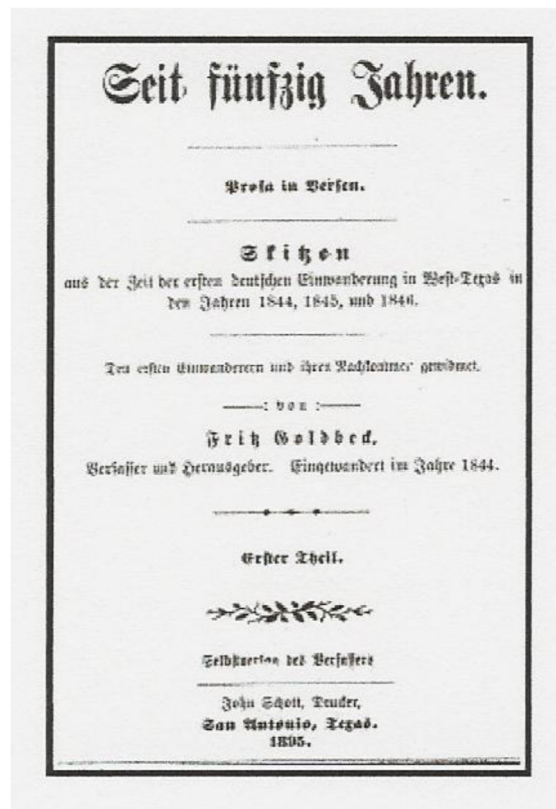
*The bad storms were raging  
With unbroken fury.  
The rain came down in sheets.  
The poor ones lost their courage.*

*They were hardly protected  
By the trees.  
And soon all of them were shaking  
With fever and with cold.*

*A farmer found them later:  
But most of them were dead.  
Only one little boy  
Could be saved from this disaster.*

*Do you know the big nut tree  
Growing in Dor's prairie?  
That is where you find their grave,  
If the wind did not blow it away.*

*Many are happy to enjoy the  
The fruits of the present  
Without remembering that  
They sprout out of graves.*



This poem was included in an old 5" X 7" book that was found nestled with other books in the garage. While some of the books were in very poor condition and others were intact, this one had only lost its cover. Copy-righted in 1895, its title in German: Since Fifty Years by Fritz Goldbeck.

## Emil Habecker embraced his Texas experiences

German immigrant Emil Habecker had a fine eye for detail, and his artistic skills kept him busy for many years sketching whatever he saw -- everyday people and grand monuments - from Europe to Texas, and beyond. This Renaissance man arrived in Texas pursuing and embracing everything he experienced.

Eventually, his family established connections in the Hill Country that extended to early settlers such as the Reals, Neunhoffers, Burneys and McBrydes.

Barely out of school, at age 19, Emil landed in Texas in 1876. Traveling by ox-cart from Indianola to San Antonio, he had already filled in several pages of the sketch book that his grandson, Emil III, still owns and treasures.

A newly-bought horse took Emil the rest of the way to the Hill Country, eventually stopping in Comfort. There, he lived with friends, earlier immigrants, and began studying his new country - its language, its people, land and wildlife.

According to a story featured in an early issue of the Kerrville Mountain Sun, the first pages of his sketchbook included portraits of "Papa Rusche of Crabapple Creek" and "the California Man," done in pencil. Later, his works of art were used in the newspaper periodically.

Other works in his collection were drawn in colored inks - Havana Harbor in Cuba, Moro Castle and the waterfront.

Emil purportedly carried the book in his saddle bags wherever he roamed. As he traveled, hunting buffalo in Fort Concho, he filled more pages, even focusing on leaves, mosses and rushes along the bayou.

City drawings include scenes of San Antonio such as a view of the city's main street as a mule train passed down, the Alamo and other missions, and the Menger Hotel in 1885.

His studies of Mexican barracks and villages apparently were done while he lived in Chihuahua, Mexico with his family, where he taught at the U.S. school.

Emil Sr. visited the 1885 World's Fair in New Orleans, and there he

drew the U.S. Mint, life on the levee, the Spanish fort at Lake Ponchartrain, and fair exhibits.

When he was 22, he joined Capt. Henry Schwethelm, Charles Schreiner and a Capt. Scott (possibly Jonathan) to bring in the first flock of Merino sheep from Ohio to Texas.

Of course, the sheep were also depicted in the sketchbook, grouped near a campfire at dusk with a wagon and live oak in the background.

In 1888, he married Gertrude Koch, who was born in Leipzig, Germany. Her mother, Helene, was from the Below family.

The Belows had lived in Germany, but their history - and their name - actually go back to Poland, according to a prominent area historian writing decades ago.

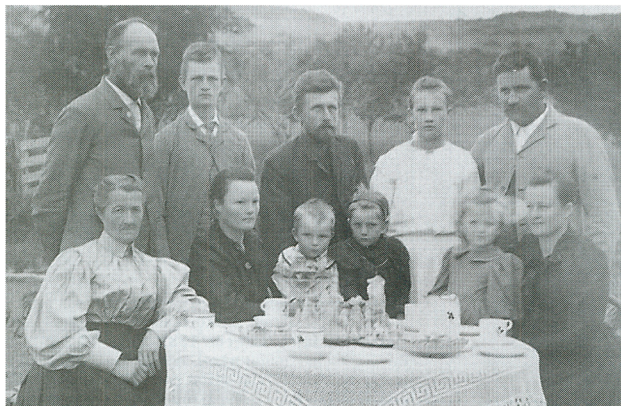
In 1936, former Kerr County Judge Julius Neunhoffer, Sr. wrote a story about the Below family. The roots and branches are complex and intertwining, with a large number of descendants, especially once they settled in Texas.

Neunhoffer's account said that originally the family was named von Belowsky, and lived in Warsaw. They were believed to have been of high-ranking nobility.

Carl Edward von Belowsky was the owner of large shops in Warsaw, where he manufactured optic and jewelers supplies, such as scales for weighing metals.

Unfortunately, a revolution rendered the family destitute, so Carl, his wife Emilie Mathilde, and their six children moved around Germany and then Austria. One of those children, Edward, grew up to marry Emilie Quindt.

Neunhoffer said, of Emilie, "whose mother had been the personal lady in waiting of the queen of Prussia and her husband, Frederick II, also known as Frederick



In this photo owned by Emil Habecker III, he identified various members of his family in the late 1800s, to the best of his recollection. Seated, from left, are matriarch Helene (nee Below) Koch Schmidt, Gertrude Koch Habecker, Emil II and Edward Habecker, Hilda Real and Gretchen Schmidt Real. Standing are Edward Schmidt, Sr., Edward Schmidt, Jr., Emil Habecker, Sr.,

the Great. Emelie's mother, also named Emelie, was a great favorite of the king and he gave her the cup from which he drank his breakfast coca (sic), as a remembrance and is today still in the family."

Edward and Emelie eventually had 11 children, and a number of them emigrated to the New World.

Later in the narrative, Neunhoffer wrote that one daughter, "Helene, married Wilhelm Koch, came to Texas, and married Edward Schmidt."

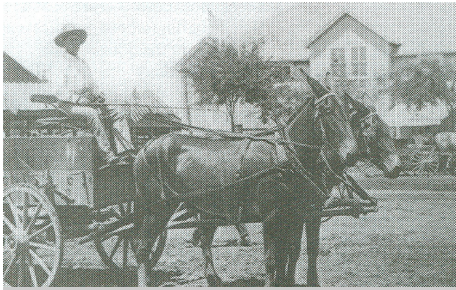
Emil Habecker met and married Helene's daughter, Gertrude Koch, who had come to Texas in 1906 at the age of two.

Neunhoffer went on to describe later generations descended from all those 11 children - names like Faltin, Holekamp, Flach, Kott and Real.

Emil started on a teaching career, working for 10 years in Comfort and Fredericksburg.

He also was a taxidermist, and a landscape architect, even winning a prize for designing the San Antonio Mission Cemetery. He also worked on designing the grounds of Roselawn and San Fernando cemeteries.

After his death in 1934, his wife, Gertrude, continued living alone on the Fall Creek ranch. Eventually, she fell ill and became despondent. She shot herself at home, and died at the age of 77.



Emil Habecker sits on a mule team cart in the early days of Kerr County near Turtle Creek.

Emil II, whose siblings were Frieda and Edward, served with the Texas Border patrol out of McAllen, as well as a state game warden and police chief of Kerrville.

He married Archie Lee McBryde, a sister of George Holekamp's mother, whom Emil III said he always called "Aunt Jenks."

Archie Lee's father, John Alden McBryde, lived to 67 years of age, and was a member of the Center Point Masonic Lodge.

In McBryde's obituary, his biography said that the native of Alabama had settled in Kerr County at 16 years of age, living in the Verde Creek area where he farmed fruits and vegetables. His wife was Ida Burney McBryde (daughter of DeWitt and Martha Talinn Burney).

John and Ida had a total of seven children - their sons were listed with initials, as W.A. of Center Point, and T.A., of Ingram. The daughters were all listed by their husband's names, with the prefix "Mrs.": Moritz Holekamp, Price, Cantwell and Alfred Burluson.

John also had a sister, Julia Ridgeway, listed as a survivor, who lived in Kerrville. There was a brother, Charles, living in Mississippi, and A.D., of Camp Verde. By then, John's family had mushroomed to 16 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Born in Kerrville, Emil III grew up in Comfort.

As the second child, he had several siblings: the oldest, Gertrude, is deceased; also, Franklin, Max and Madeline, who are still alive.

Growing up running about as a child in the country, Emil said he enjoyed life, and "didn't know what shoes were."

Close to his grandparents, he said he spent time with them whenever

possible. He said his grandfather learned to speak English and Spanish.

His grandmother, he said, "was a very caring woman. One thing she really stressed was how I learned to speak German - tell them your grandmother taught you."

Family members also visited, and Emil remembered a famous relative who later became a Texas state senator, as well as county judge.

"Julius Real would ride horseback to see us. He would grab my ear and shake it hard so my head would go back and forth. He thought he was being sociable, I guess."

Frustrated with being dyslexic, Emil said he quit school and in 1948 joined the Navy. It would be many years before he came back to the Hill Country of Texas.

"While the others played acey-deucey," Emil said he applied himself, studying hard and attending four schools during his career in machinery repair.

Eventually, his labors paid off, and he ascended the ladder from being a student, to instructor, to instruction supervisor. He served on repair ships, aircraft carriers and destroyer tenders, spending time near Korea and in the Philippines.

He summed up his career as "10 years on shore and 10 years at sea."

Emil said that often, if they needed something, the mechanics built what they could not acquire. He said he made his own diving face masks and snorkels before they were mass-produced.

Finally retiring from the Navy in 1967 as a Master Chief, he went to work for Westinghouse Ocean Research Lab in San Diego.

"I helped build and design the Deep Star 2000," as well as being its pilot.

The tubular constructed craft was a three-man deep-submersible, which he termed "a dry pilot and a wet boat."

The craft was used for research, everything from fish to rocks.

After two years there, he and his wife and family moved to

Annapolis, which he said was "east of Comfort."

After sending out only one resume, he eventually received and accepted an offer from an Ocean Mining Lab at Kennecott, in San Diego. "The company developed a system for mining manganese nodules - dredging the ocean floor at 20,000 feet, near the equator in the East Pacific off the coast of Panama."

One system he used employed a 60-h.p. motor for mining black chunks of manganese, from small ones the size of ping-pong balls to the size of softballs. He still has some collected in his "show and tell" box.

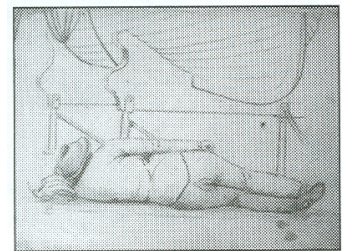
Amidst the sand dollars, coral and other specimens, Emil also has sharks' teeth more than a million years old - blackened from their proximity to the manganese.

A high point for Emil was when he got to meet the world-famous oceanographer Jacques Cousteau at an Underwater Film Festival in the 1970s.

At 77 years of age, Emil enjoys going through his collections from when he was an avid hunter (taught by his father), and taking photographs. Nowadays, however, he takes them from above sea level.

He has also been a big supporter of local 4-H youth projects, stock shows and sports, as his wall plaques attest. With his wife, Marcia (Anderson), he moved to his ranch outside Comfort in 1982, where he planted 100 trees and created a pecan grove.

**Courtesy of Irene Van Winkle**



*This sketch by Emil Habecker on one of his many journeys shows everyday life, in which he showed his diverse artistic abilities and interests. He always carried a sketchbook in his saddle bag, ready to draw anything that captured his attention.*

# Another Requiem for Benedict

On Saturday evening, October 16, Pope Benedict attended a moving performance of Giuseppe Verdi's *Messa da Requiem*. But it is not the only Requiem Mass Benedict has listened to recently...

## INSIDE THE VATICAN

November 2010 by Robert Moynihan

A prominent German conductor, choir and orchestra gave a moving performance of Giuseppe Verdi's powerful, somber *Messa da Requiem* at the Vatican two days ago.

There were three striking things about the performance. First, its artistic quality, Second, the political overtones of the event. And third, the oddness of the fact that this Pope, himself an old man, was listening to his second *Requiem* in two months.

The artistic quality of the performance was stunning. The conductor, Enoch zu Guttenberg, was magnificent, at times leaping about on the podium as if he could infuse the orchestra and choir with his own volcanic energy. In their turn, the orchestra and choir made the difficult acoustics of the cavernous Paul VI Hall seem almost easy, as the space filled with waves of sound and emotion, culminating in the final plea of Verdi's piece: "Lord, deliver me!"

And the audience - notably the Pope himself, who applauded steadily for several minutes with quiet clapping - was deeply appreciative.

The concert had perhaps unintentional political overtones because the son of the conductor, right now Germany's Minister of Defense, Karl Theodor Freiherr von und zu Guttenberg, 38, has just become, according to polls, the single most popular politician in Germany. This means the younger Guttenberg may have a real chance, and soon, to become the next chancellor of Germany after Angela Merkel.

There was no explicit mention of this political reality at the concert, of course. But the fact is that this concert for the German Pope was conducted by the father of a man who may soon head the German government. This at least suggests



Above, a moment of the performance by the Community Choir of Neubeuern and the Orchestra of the Klang Verwaltung led by renowned German conductor, Enoch zu Guttenberg. Opposite,

a strengthened connection between Berlin and Rome, or between the two men, should they come into contact in the future as world leaders.

Karl Theodor is a member of the Christian Social Union of Bavaria (CSU). He has served for just a year as minister of defense in the second Merkel cabinet (since October 28, 2009). He holds a doctorate of law and has worked as a journalist for the conservative daily *Die Welt*. In the tradition of his grandfather, he is a strong proponent of German-American friendship and Atlantic cooperation.

He was elected to the *Bundestag* in 2002 as the representative of Kulmbach. Guttenberg was reelected in the 2005 election, and won his constituency with 60.0% of the votes. In 2009 he was again reelected with 68.1% in his district, achieving the highest percentage vote of all direct representatives in Germany. In the summer of 2009, he surpassed Chancellor Angela Merkel as the most popular politician in Germany.

Guttenberg is a member of the prominent Franconian noble house of Guttenberg, known since 1158 and imperial barons since 1700.

(The preposition *van* means "of" and historically denotes a family's place of origin, while the preposition *zu* (literally, "to") historically denotes a family's current possession and place of residence; "*van und zu*" thus marks a noble family still resident at, and in control of, their original habitation.)

His grandfather, the father of the conductor of this concert, Karl Theodor Freiherr von und zu Guttenberg (1921-1972), was a CSU politician and hardline conservative during the Cold War, noted for his opposition to the Ostpolitik.

Both his grandfather and his great-great uncle, the Catholic monarchist Karl Ludwig Freiherr von und zu Guttenberg, took part in the military resistance to the Nazi regime; the latter was executed after the July 20 plot to assassinate Hitler.

Karl-Theodor's mother, Christiane, divorced his father in 1977 and married Adolf von Ribbentrop, the son of Hitler's Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop, in 1985.

In February 2000, Karl-Theodor married Stephanie Graf von Bismarck-Schonhausen (born 1976), the great-great-granddaughter of Chancellor Otto von Bismarck, known as the "Iron Chancellor." They have two daughters. Gutten-

berg is Catholic, while his wife is Protestant (Lutheran).

### **"A CRY TO THE ETERNAL FATHER:"**

The third striking thing about this concert was that it is the second *Requiem* in two months that the Pope has listened to. Prior to this Verdi *Requiem*, he listened to Mozart's *Requiem* performed at Castel Gandolfo in September.

Normally, a *Requiem* is performed at someone's funeral. It seemed slightly odd that, for the second time in two months, this 83-year-old Pope should have chosen to listen to a concert dealing with the final moments of life and the meaning of death.

Benedict went to the stage and spoke briefly after listening to the concert, and his words gave considerable insight into his state of mind.

He described the performance of this *Requiem* as a "moment of true beauty able to lift the spirit."

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901), he noted, finished the *Requiem* Mass in 1873 as a tribute to the greatest Italian writer, Alessandro Manzoni. (Verdi only met Manzoni once, but he had admired him all his life.)

"It was not only a tribute to a great writer," Benedict explained, "but also the response to an interior and spiritual artistic need that confrontation with the human and Christian stature of Manzoni aroused in him."

Benedict XVI said that Verdi's *Requiem* expresses with the words of Catholic liturgy and music "the gamut of human sentiments in the face of the end of life, man's anguish before his natural frailty, the feeling of rebellion in the face of death, disconcert on the threshold of eternity."

Though Verdi described himself as "somewhat of an atheist," the Pope recalled, this *Requiem* Mass is like "a great cry to the Father, in an attempt to overcome the cry of despair in the face of death, to rediscover the aspiration to life which becomes a silent, heartfelt prayer: *Libera me Domine*" ("Free me,

Lord," "Liberate me." "Deliver me.")

### **A BRIEF REFLECTION ON MORTALITY AND BENEDICT'S LOVE OF MUSIC**

When Isaiah wrote "all flesh is grass," he meant that all human beings must die. Human beings are mortals.

And to be a "mortal" is to be intrinsically, inescapably "subject to death" (*mort* means *death*, so our very name- "mortals" - has "death" in it).

This mortality is common, universal. We all share in it. And this could and should be a motive for profound compassion. ("Compassion" means, literally, "suffering with," from *cum* (with) and *passio*, a form of the Latin verb *patior*, to suffer.)

Each of us is, in fact, "suffering with" all other human beings, insofar as each of us shares a common, innate, intrinsic destiny: to grow old and die. This means that each of us is quite literally always in a condition of "compassion," "suffering with." We are literally "compassionate" by nature. But often we do not sense this, or understand its profound meaning. Sometimes philosophical reflection helps us to understand it better. And sometimes music does.

Pope Benedict loves music, and it is partly for this reason: that it enables human beings to sense and understand some things about our nature and our reality with greater clarity - with more truth.

Benedict sees music as a way for man to perceive reality more deeply, and so to understand his own nature and the nature of others more deeply, and so to grow more profoundly "compassionate."

Music, in his view, can have an effect on the human intellect, and on the human soul.

After listening to a performance of Mozart's *Requiem* in the courtyard of the papal residence of Castel Gandolfo on September 8, the Pope said: "It is a gift of the grace of God, but it is also the fruit of Mozart's lively faith that, especially in sacred music, is able to reflect the luminous response of divine love, which gives hope, even when human life is lacerated by suffering and death."

He continued: "Every time I listen to his music I cannot help but return in memory to my parish church, where on feast days, when I was a boy, one of his Masses resounded. I felt that a ray of beauty from heaven reached my heart, and I continue to experience this sensation also today every time I listen to this great, dramatic and serene meditation on death."

In April, after a concert given by a youth orchestra to commemorate the completion of his fifth year as pontiff, the Pope said music "can open hearts and minds to the spiritual dimension" and contribute to a better future for mankind.

The Holy Father added that in general the study of music has great value in the education of the person because it "produces positive effects on the development of the individual, favoring harmonious human and spiritual growth."

In fact, the Holy Father pointed out that "music can open hearts and minds to the spiritual dimension, and leads people to raise up their eyes to Heaven, to open themselves up to the absolute Good and Beauty, which have their ultimate origin in God." The joy related through song and music, concluded the Pope, is a "constant invitation for believers, and for all men and women of good will, to work so that humankind has a future rich in hope." But not all



music conveys this joy, Benedict believes. In September 2006, he abruptly cancelled the Vatican's traditional Christmas concert scheduled for the end of that year because he did not like the pop music on the program. Acts including *Simply Red* and *Ronan Keating* were due to appear at the fundraising event in mid-December. But the Pope has deemed the event unsuitable for the surroundings, and the concert was held in Monte Carlo instead. A source said, "The official reason is that it has run its course, but (the real reason is that) the Pope is not a fan of popular music."

**Submitted by Theresa Gold,  
San Antonio - Printed w/permission  
from Robert Moynihan**

## Sack family descending on New Braunfels

By Betty Taylor, *The Herald-Zeitung*  
Sunday, October 24, 2010

While some families struggle to keep their family reunions going from year to year, one family has reached out across the ocean and across decades to make sure family ties continue to bind.

Just as organizers of backyard-style reunions strive to keep traditions alive, their homeland language alive and connections open, descendants of the Sack family are doing the same - but on a much more global scale. The Sack Family Foundation, headquartered in Buckeburg (near Hanover), Germany, has an estimated 7,000 descendants of Simon Heinrich Sack worldwide, and is the oldest family foundation in Germany that is not noble.

"He had 12 siblings and established this foundation in his will in 1791," said Regina Peter, a Sack family descendant.

Regina, of Bonn, Germany, traveled to New Braunfels, along with Sack Family Foundation Chairman Peter Pflaum and his wife, Marianne, of Giesenhausen near the Rhine River, Germany, for the first time to attend the reunion.

They also met their cousin, Charles Hill of New Braunfels, and his wife, Charlotte, for the first time.

Of those 7,000 Sack family descendants, an estimated 2,500 live in the United States, according to Regina.

For the second year in a row, the Sack family will celebrate a reunion in the United States. They will meet at T Bar M on Oct. 30.

The event will conclude with the planting of two olive trees, part of the Sack family crest, and the celebration of a commemorative marker at Conservation Plaza. That event takes place at 1:30 p.m. Oct. 31, and is open to the public.

"We are honored that the Sack family chose such a significant location to honor the friendship and heritage between Germany and New Braunfels," said Martha Rehler, New Braunfels Conservation Society executive director.

Peter planned the olive tree planting to commemorate the first visit of a Foundation chairman to the New Braunfels area.

The marker includes part of the Sack family crest - a dove and olive branch - as well as the German saying "Hilf dir selbst, so hilft dir Gott (Help thyself that God helps thee)."

"Some of the first settlers of Texas are descendants of the Sack family," Peter said. "I started thinking about what they left behind to come here for political and religious reasons. It was a hard time for the settlers."

"It is very moving when you think about it," Regina added. "They left behind family they would never see again. I wonder what they would think if they knew we were coming here to meet their descendants." It is Peter's hope and goal of the Founda-



Peter Pflaum, second from right, holds the Sack family crest while standing beside wife, Marianne, right, Charles and Charlotte Hill and Regina Peter on Oct. 14.

tion to connect with the more than 7,000 descendants of the Sack family all over the world - beginning with the reunions in Germany - which are the largest gatherings of the Sack family descendants - and the reunion in Texas.

"This past year we had 40 attend the reunion," said Charlotte, reunion organizer. "This year, we are expecting more than 115." Regina said the Foundation's overall goal is to bring people together.

"Although I had just met Charles for the first time when I came to New Braunfels, I felt a bond as if we had known each other all our lives," she said. "You feel this closeness."

Charles agreed.

"It is family taking care of family," he said. As the Foundation grows, plans for the future include the possibility of hosting a student exchange.

"We would like to raise money to support the exchange with scholarships, like the Rotary Club," Peter said.

There are still many who may not even realize they are Sack family descendants, Regina said. For those wishing to do some sleuth work, a list of family names who are possible Sack family descendants are provided on the Sack Family Foundation Web site, [www.sacks.cc](http://www.sacks.cc)

## Oak Tree Planting



A dedication ceremony for the planting of two olive trees at Conservation Plaza was held Sunday, Oct. 31, by descendants of the Sack Family. The purpose of the tree planting was to commemorate the first visit of a Chairman of the Simon Heinrich Sack Foundation (established 1791-Germany) to New Braunfels. Peter Pflaum, chairman, and his wife, Marianne, attended the 2010 Sack Family Reunion - USA along with more than 115 Sack Family cousins and their spouses from 13 states in the U.S., as well as Germany, on the weekend of Oct. 29 -31 at T-Bar-M Resort. Charlotte Hill of New Braunfels, spouse of Sack descendant Charles Hill, served as reunion coordinator for the event.

## Sack Family Reunion 2010

Laughter rang out; smiles of wonder lit up faces; gasps of astonishment filled the air; tears of joy flowed; and hugs by the dozen were experienced by approximately 120 persons who traveled from not only Texas, but 12 other U.S. states and Germany to New Braunfels the week end of October 29-31 for the second ever reunion held in the United States of the descendants of the 219-year-old Sack Family Foundation.

Begun on a limited basis a year earlier, the event was so well received that a three-day event at the T Bar M Resort and Conference Center was planned for 2010. The interest shown by the Americans in

recent years after many years of separation caused by two world wars, distance, language, and culture created enough excitement in Germany to bring the newly elected chairman of the Sack Foundation, his wife, two council members, another wife and a young son to the event this year.

A get-acquainted dinner on Friday evening for those who wished to attend was held at a local Bar BQ restaurant to give the non Texans a taste of what real barbeque is. Saturday's activities began with registration, coffee and visiting before the formal program got under way.

Reunion Coordinator and Committee Chairperson, Charlotte Hill of New Braunfels welcomed the group and introduced officials of the Foundation-Chairman, Peter Pflaum and wife, Marianne, of Giesenhausen; Council Member, Regina Peter of Bonn; Council Member, Stephen Engelking of Tuningen and wife, Sandra (Sandy), and son, Joel. Chairperson Hill also introduced Reunion Committee members--Sylvia Copeland of Houston, Forrest Clark of Houston, Carol Griffin of Conway, Arkansas, J.T. Koenig, who also serves as the American Liaison to the Sack Foundation, of Poulso, Washington, Rebeca Koenig of Katy, Flora von Roeder of Houston, Earlene Skarpa of Dayton, and Warren Wundt of Se-  
guin.

Chairman Pflaum then gave the opening remarks, giving the history of the Foundation from its inception in 1791; its purpose; its activities; and hopes for the future. The Foundation has been able to identify approximately 7,000 known, possibly as many as 20,000 living descendants around the globe.

The Foundation's founder, Simon Heinrich Sack, was the Royal Attorney stationed in Glogau, Silesia, in the services of Frederick the Great of Prussia. One of 13 children of a clergyman from Hecklingen, Anhalt, Sack and his brothers all became highly educated professionals. His purpose in leaving his vast fortune in the form of a trust fund for the progeny of

his nieces and nephews was for educating the nephews and giving dowries to his nieces who married professional men.

Although the fund suffered almost a total loss in the years of the Great Depression, enough remained for limited operation. The goal of the Foundation currently is to raise money to promote exchange students, so that it will continue the founder's emphasis on education.

Council Member, Stephen Engelking, British-born and 30-year German resident with paternal American roots in Austin County, Texas, presented a sequence of important events beginning in 1924 when administration of the Foundation passed from the Glogau government to the family. Business thenceforth was conducted from Berlin with a Council made up of family members holding annual regional meetings. Calls for funds confiscated by the State as far back as 1805 were finally somewhat successful in 1942.

There were some unattractive years between 1935 and 1945 as a resolution was passed stating that persons who married non-Aryans would lose membership for themselves and their descendants. Also, the archives which had been moved to Berlin were placed in salt mines in Merseburg during the war for safe keeping only to be unavailable again until 1990 after the fall of Communism in the eastern states.

However, in the West, various family members held together and purchased a house to save various archival materials collected and to continue publishing the family newsletter, *die Taube* and the 1980 edition of the *Silver Book*. Gradually, things moved forward again as contact was made by immigrants in foreign countries. And it appears that American descendants are now ready to move forward with gusto as they re-connect with their European roots.

Warren Wundt gave a presentation on the Sack Family Chart, whereby the family traces its lineage to such historical figures as the Count of Waldek, St. Elizabeth of Marburg, the Duchess of Thuringen, and beyond them back through other royal European houses to Charle-



magne. He was able to show likenesses from portraits and statues of many of the ancestors. The views were breathtaking and carried viewers back through the centuries.

Flora von Roeder of Houston spent 45 minutes acknowledging how various people present connected together. There are 36 Sack ancestral lines who have descendants to the present. Of those lines 10, 22, 23, 24, 27, 29, and 30 were represented, only one of which, 10, was not of the Philipp Wilhelm Sack branch. The latter was the youngest brother of the founder.

Flora introduced members of those lines not directly descended from immigrants to Texas. Line 10 was represented by Chairman Pflaum and line 22 by Council Member Peter. Line 23 was represented by Marylin Nistler of Saratoga, California, and daughter, Shana, of San Jose, California. Marylin's father traveled on an old sailing ship and went around the world a couple of times before coming to San Francisco in 1917 just before the U.S. got into World War I. He was threatened with being deported back to Germany, but he hid out in the city and found work on a local ship there and never went home again. He moved to Washington where he married and raised a family. He lived to be 102. As far as Marylin knows, there are no other members of the line in the U.S. other than her siblings, her children and their children. Many of her father's family members in Germany died in World War II.

Two descendants of Line 27, Christa Habboushe of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Greta Iskandrian of Birmingham, Alabama, and their siblings were born in Mosul, Iraq. Both physicians married to physicians, they have been in the United States for nearly 40 years. Their grandmother, daughter of a clergyman in Lerbeck, Germany, met and married a visiting clergyman born in Kurdistan. The couple lived in Lebanon; however, the mother of the two sisters was born in Lerbeck but married their father in Beirut and then lived in Mosul before immigrating to the U.S.

Flora pointed out that of the more than 100 registrants, 83 were

Sack descendants and 65 of those were descended from Caroline Luise Sack von Roeder, Branch 24, who immigrated to Texas in 1834 with her large brood. And she also noted that Wilhelmine Sack von Flotow, Line 23, mentioned earlier, was the elder sister of Caroline and the second wife of Friedrich von Flotow, a widower. Von Flotow's first wife was the elder sister of Caroline's husband, Anton Ludwig Sigismund von Roeder.

Eight of Caroline's children have descendants to the present; seven lines were represented—Louise von Roeder (Louis Kleberg), Rudolf von Roeder (Antoinette von Donop), Louis von Roeder (Caroline Ernst), Otto von Roeder (Pauline von Donop and Theodore Ploeger Sack), Albrecht von Roeder (Caroline Ernst von Roeder), Rosa von Roeder (Robert Justus Kleberg), Caroline "Lena" von Roeder (Ferdinand Engelking). She introduced every descendant of each line and related how some of them from the same line did not know each other or that they even existed.

For example: Warren Wundt of Seguin and Tim Vaughn of El Paso are third cousins. They share the same great great grandmother, Louise von Roeder Wundt, only child of Louis von Roeder who fought in the Battle of San Jacinto. Warren and Tim had never heard of each other.

Another example of not knowing the other existed was Lavonne Bradfield of San Antonio and Hubert "Corky" Ballard of Punta Gorda, Florida, second cousins. Hubert's grandfather, Ervin von Roeder, moved his large family from Texas to California in about 1920. Corky was born and raised there. Lavonne's grandmother married Ervin's youngest brother, John, in Texas; they divorced, and he also went to California.

Lavonne's mother was raised in Beeville, Texas. These two share the same great grandfather, Ludwig von Roeder, born in a corncrib during the Runaway Scrape during the Texas Revolution in April 1836. Ludwig was the son of Otto von Roeder of Nassau Plantation notoriety.

An example of knowing they were second cousins but never having met each other was Dick Raney of Elm Grove Wisconsin, and two sisters, Ray Madison and Tisha Robinson of Goliad. Their grandmothers were sisters who grew up in Cuero, Texas. One married and moved to Gary, Indiana; the other married a Goliad rancher whose descendants are still ranchers there. Dick's first cousin, Cathy Ralston, of Hendersonville, Tennessee, had met the two Texas sisters when she was a little girl. Their great great great grandmother was Rosa von Roeder Kleberg.

Before ending her talk, Flora recognized four known descendants of this branch who passed away in the past year—Eugene von Rader of Austin, Otto vR descendant; Carroll von Roeder of Austin (he and wife, Tommye, attended the reunion in 2009), and Elton Roeder of Houston, both Albrecht vR descendants; and Lawrence Cornelius, of Alice, a Caroline vR Engelking descendant.

Forrest Clark of Branch 27 introduced his ancestor, Adolphine Sack Clark, whose father, Philipp Sack and mother, Theodore Ploeger, were first cousins married in Germany and immigrated immediately to Texas in 1840. Philipp died of yellow fever at Cat Spring a few years later leaving three young children. Two of the children died before reaching maturity. The mother married another first cousin, the widowed Otto von Roeder, and had five more children by him. The family lived at Nassau, then in Victoria's Mission Valley where their close friends and neighbors were the Archie Clark Family, and finally at Banquete in Nueces County.

Adolphine married the boy next door, Thomas Hines Clark, and raised a large family of ranchers and bankers, although one son moved away to New Orleans where he was in the cattle buying business. The Clarks have for the most part remained Texans. Forrest gave a power point presentation of the various members of Adolphine's large family.

Carol Griffin of Branch 29, gave a power point presentation of Adolphine Sack Ploeger and her six children, five of whom immigrated

to Texas between 1840 and 1853. The widow of a prominent judge in Paderborn, Westphalia, Adolphine paid a visit to Texas in 1850 to see what attraction Texas held for four of her children who had immigrated. Only her oldest daughter showed no interest in leaving her wealthy titled life for the American frontier. Adolphine returned to her comfortable life in Europe, living with her oldest daughter in Essen. In 1852, her youngest daughter, newly widowed, chose to immigrate. Mrs. Ploeger, who could not get along with her oldest daughter, moved to Hausberge where her youngest sister lived, but she was restless and missed her children. So in 1855, at age sixty-four, she boarded the ship, *Mississippi*, and returned to Texas where she lived with various of her children. She died at age 87, and is buried in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Cemetery in Round Top.

The various children in Texas all left descendants-Theodore "Dora" whose daughter married Thomas Hines Clark plus the five children by Otto von Roeder; Ferdinand married to his first cousin, Otilie Sack; Auguste married to Joseph Sarrazin of Ross Prairie in Fayette County and the ancestor of actor, Rip Torn; Dr. Carl Ploeger of Bastrop; and Emilie, who met Bruno Schumann aboard ship, an Austin jeweler.

The latter was the immediate ancestor of the presenter. Emilie and Bruno first lived at Round Top until making their home in Austin. Her story paralleled so many of those early settlers who struggled to survive during the early years into and through the Civil War after which she lived in Austin until her death. Her story was featured in a book entitled *Women in Early Texas*. Like the example of cousins knowing of each other's existence but never having met in Flora's presentation earlier, in this situation was another set of second cousins.

Brothers, Victor and Phil Sterzing of Austin, and brother and sister, Ellen Houston Mitchell of Jonesboro, Arkansas, and Bob Houston of Cincinnati, Ohio, second cousins, met when they were children. But Ellen's daughters, Susan Vernon of Tucson, Arizona, Leslie Minick of

Tyler, and the presenter, had never met them.

Jon Todd" J. T." Koenig of Branch 30 presented a power point on his ancestor, Theodore "Dorchen" Sack von Roeder von Rosenberg, daughter of Eduard Wilhelm Hieronymus Maximilian Sack of Dusseldorf.

One of 21 children born to Sack by two wives, Dorchen arrived in Texas with her brother-in-law, Franz Jaentschke, only to learn that her brother, Ernst Sack of Houston, had died. So she came to Round Top where her twin sisters, Elise Jaentschke and Otilie Ploeger, lived, and here she met her cousin, Wilhelm von Roeder whom she married. The young couple returned to Germany where they had a daughter. However, Wilhelm became ill, and they returned to Texas where he died a short time later.

Dorchen and her daughter returned to Fayette County and there she eventually married Eugen von Rosenberg, son of Peter Carl who had bought Nassau Plantation from Otto von Roeder. The couple raised five children of their own in addition to her oldest daughter at their home in Round Top. The oldest son, Herman, a merchant in Round Top, married Lucy Levien; Alexander, a land speculator and entrepreneur of La Grange, married Emma Weyand; Anna married George Vogelsang, farmer and rancher of Shelby; Eugenia married Elisha Quincy Adams, farmer in Lake Victor, Texas; and Clara married Adolf Kopsisch, a businessman in Bellville.

The couple lived to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Following her marriage to von Rosenberg, Dorchen, who had been educated in music in Dusseldorf, organized and directed a choir that became known for its quality in various surrounding communities. She was also a talented artist. She was so popular, her funeral drew the largest attendance Fayette County had ever seen. She and her husband are buried in the Florida Chapel Cemetery near Round Top.

Concluding the presentations, a short discussion was held regard-

ing further gatherings. Also a possible tour of various Sack sites in Germany was suggested including a visit to Glogau where Simon Sack established the Foundation. Located in southwest Poland, it is one of the country's oldest towns. It is in the former Prussian province of Silesia and belonged to the Austrian House of Habsburg until 1741 when it was captured by the Prussian Army and, like the majority of Silesia, became part of Prussia and ruled by King Frederick II or Frederick the Great.

Winners of a silent auction were announced. The bids on various Sack items brought in a tidy sum to help underwrite the cost of a future reunion. Everyone was encouraged to keep up with the website, pass information on to all of their relatives, and update their vital records for the next printing of *The Silver Book*, the latter of which sold out for 2010.

A banquet dinner was served in the evening, followed by entertainment at an outdoor firepit with guitar music provided by Joe Ben Clark and a fellow musician.

On Sunday morning, those who stayed over all met at the Red Rooster in downtown for brunch. Some said farewell; others remained for an afternoon event at Conservation Plaza. This was the planting of two olive trees and the dedication of a marker commemorating the first visit to Texas by a chairman of the Sack Foundation. The olive trees are symbolic of the family crest which is a Dove of Peace perched on an olive branch. The family motto: "Hilf dir selbst, so hilft dir Gott" (Help Thyself that God helps Thee).

**Note:** The Sack Family Website is private and can only be entered by password by a family member. If you think you may be connected to the Sack Family and want to obtain a password, please be prepared to enter sufficient information showing your connection, i.e. names of parents, grandparents or great grandparents, where from, etc. The webmaster and/or her assistants have access to enough information to verify your connection.

**Submitted by Flora von Roeder,  
Houston**

# A Journey Through Texas, 1853

by Elaine Robbins

Texas Co-op Power, December 2010

IN 1853, five years before Frederick Law Olmsted became famous as the landscape architect who designed New York City's Central Park, he created another reason to be remembered. Traveling through Texas on assignment for The New York Daily Times, the Connecticut Yankee set off with his brother John, a mare named Fanny, "a gay little roan creole pony," and a pleasant pack mule named Mr. Brown. For six months, they rode down rough dirt roads, camped or slept in log cabins or guest inns, and talked to the people they met along the way. The resulting travel narrative, which Frederick wrote as a series of articles and John edited into the book *A Journey through Texas*, is a highly enjoyable romp through Texas in the early settlement days before the Civil War.

In his few short months in Texas, Olmsted left us with a timeless legacy: a snapshot of a people and a place before the Civil War changed everything. Anglos were pouring in to pursue the promise of cheap land. The mostly Southern immigrants brought their culture with them, and slavery was soaring. A large segment of the population-including Olmsted-packed Colt Navy revolvers.

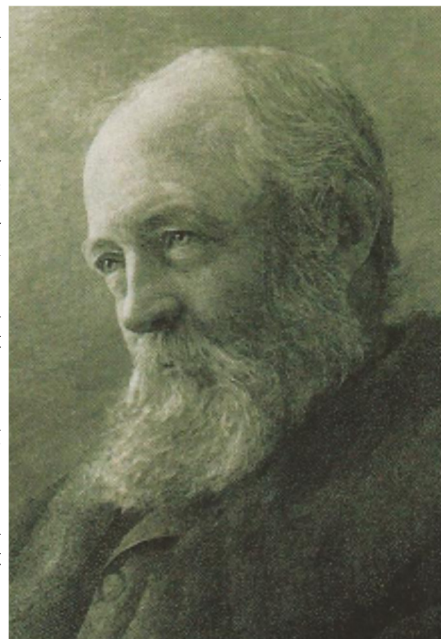
Olmsted began his journey in East Texas, where he spent the night in settlers' drafty cabins and complained about the lack of basic provisions and the unvarying diet of pork and corncakes. Traveling along the Old San Antonio Road, he met wagon trains of immigrants arriving from the Southern states to make a new start in Texas:

"Before you come upon them you hear ringing through the woods the fierce cries and blows with which they urge on their jagged cattle. Then the stragglers appear, lean dogs or fainting negroes, ragged and spiritless. An old granny hauling on by the hand a weak boy-too old to ride and too young to keep up. An old man, heavily loaded with rifle. Then the white covers of the wagons jerking up and down as they mount over a root or plunge into a rut, disappearing one after another where the road descends."

Visiting the German settlements in the Hill Country, he was impressed by the social organizations and schools he found there. Olmsted was fervently against slavery, and he cites the Germans' productive farms and civilized society as proof that voluntary labor was both morally and economically superior to slavery. "That such a community-generally industrious, active-minded, and progressively intelligent can never exist in intimate connection with enslaved labor, I am well-convinced," he wrote in a newspaper article.

The book, meanwhile, is enlivened by Olmsted's conversations with ordinary people-cotton farmers and innkeepers, runaway slaves and new immigrants,

Anglos and Mexicans-which he transcribed with dialect intact. He met a runaway slave working as a mechanic in Mexico, who told Olmsted that in the past three months, he'd counted 40 slaves escaping Texas into Mexico. Near Gonzales, he passed Tejano cart drivers, and outside San Antonio he visited an



encampment of resettled Lipan. Upon meeting the Lipan chief Castro, Olmsted broke a tense silence by telling the chief about the Indians he'd seen in San Fernando, Mexico.

"What kind?" asked the chief.

"Lipans, Mescaleros, Kickapoos, Comanches, Tonkaws, Seminoles.-All drunk.-All fools."

Olmsted continues, writing, "This seems to excite a great hilarity in the chief. He wished me to say it again and again, repeating, 'so they were all drunk, were they,' and making his friends enjoy it with a sort of sparkling chuckle."

Infused with Mark Twain-like humor, the book is filled with Olmsted's excellent descriptions of the natural landscape. Of the wildflowers on the coastal prairies, he writes, "The beauty of the spring-prairies has never been and never will be expressed. It is inexpressible." He remarks on a gorgeous night sky in which "the sky seems nearer in Texas."

And his description of San Antonio's San Pedro Springs will ring familiar to anyone who has been dazzled by a Texas spring: "The whole river gushes up in one sparkling burst from the earth. It has all the beautiful accompaniments of a smaller spring, moss, pebbles, seclusion, sparkling sunbeams, and dense overhanging luxuriant foliage. The effect is overpowering. It is beyond your possible conceptions of a spring. You cannot believe your eyes, and almost shrink from sudden metamorphosis by invaded nymphdom,"

Submitted by Theresa Gold, San Antonio

## **From Hohenstaufen to Texas, a Long Journey !**

*From German Roots, through Many "Begats", now into the Lone Star State*

by James J. S. Johnson

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Germans, and folks with German ancestors, have been coming to Texas for more than a century. However, some of us gladly claim our German ancestral lineages, yet must do a bit more documentation to prove we are genuine "German Texans", — and I resemble that remark.

Yet part of my German heritage (which includes Swabian and Bavarian elements) is now "fulfilled" in becoming a "carpetbagger" Texan, so I now join the high percentage of Germans (and German-Americans) who have settled in Texas during the past 200 years. So, get comfortable, because my *from-Germany-to-Texas* family heritage trek is a bit convoluted!



And, when you have reached the end of this family history, you may ask: if someone stretches that far back to claim his German ancestral lineage, *how German is that?* To which the obvious answer is: it is the providential difference between life and non-life! --- because without *each* of my German ancestors, I would *not* be who I am; in fact, I would not even *exist!* (Obviously, God alone should get the glory for all who have been procreated from German ancestors, -- and that fact should never be minimized!<sup>1</sup> Yet, also, it should not be overlooked that God chose to providentially use human ancestors, like some of my German forefathers and foremothers, to do the procreating needed. The providential process of generation-after-generation procreation is *critical*; otherwise you would not be reading this!)

## 1. NOBLE GERMAN ROOTS FROM SWABIA (AND BAVARIA)

One of my ancestral lines (on my mother's side, the relevant lineage of which will be very briefly outlined below) reaches all the way back to a Swabian duke named **Frederick I von Hohenstaufen, Duke of Swabia** (born ~1050; died April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1105), remembered as the "first duke of the Hohenstaufen dynasty" (with the *House of Hohenstaufen* also being called by the shorter name *Staufer*), and as the builder of **Hohenstaufen Castle** in Swabia (*see below*). Duke Frederick was the son of **Frederick van Büren**, who had married **Hildegade** of Swabia. Duke Frederick, in AD1089, married **Agnes of Franconia** (born 1074; died September 24<sup>th</sup>, 1143), daughter of Emperor **Heinrich (Henry) IV** of Germany, who was himself son of Germany's king **Heinrich (Henry) III**. Providentially (and thankfully, or else I would not be at all, much less be me), Duke Frederick and Duchess Agnes had children, one being *Frederick II of Swabia*.



This article traces a lineage from Swabia's **Frederick I** and Franconia's **Agnes**, so they are designated as the primary seminal ancestors, and all posterior generations will be shown in generational ("filial") sequence, i.e., as **F1** (child), **F2** (grandchild), **F3** (great-grandchild), etc.

<sup>1</sup> Consider **Romans chapter 1** (especially, Romans 1:18-21, which emphasizes the moral obligation of glorifying God as Creator, and the related moral obligation to be grateful for our creaturely lives). See also **Acts 14:17** (explaining how creation itself is proof of our Creator).

**F1. Frederick II Hoehnstaufen**, Duke of Swabia, was born ~1090, and would live till he died on April 4<sup>th</sup> of 1147. During his life (perhaps around 1121) he married **Judith of Bavaria** (born ~1100; died February 22<sup>nd</sup>, during 1130/1135), daughter of a Bavarian duke named **Heinrich I** (Henry “the Black”).<sup>2</sup> Frederick II and Judith had a son, *Frederick Barbarossa*.

**F2. Frederick Barbarossa** (meaning “Redbeard”). Barbarossa was born 1122; he died June 10<sup>th</sup>, 1190, when he drowned crossing the River Calycandus in Cilicia. As a duke, Barabarossa was *Frederick III of Swabia*, but he is also remembered as *Frederick I*, because he was the first member of the Hohenstaufen dynasty to become “Emperor of the West”, i.e., emperor of the “Holy Roman Empire”, acceding March 4<sup>th</sup> of 1152. (Barbarossa was also “King of Germany”). Three years after a divorce (in 1153, a year after becoming emperor), on June 10<sup>th</sup> of 1156, Barbarossa married his second wife, **Beatrix of Burgundy** (born 1145; died November 15<sup>th</sup> 1184), daughter of **Rainald II**, Count of Burgundy and Macon. During their marriage Barbarossa and Beatrix parented two royal sons, the second of which was *Philip*. After Philip’s older brother (Henry VI of Sicily, who died 9-28-1197), Philip succeeded as emperor.



<sup>2</sup> **Judith’s** mother was **Ulfhild of Saxony**. Ulfhild was daughter of Saxon duke **Magnus** (via his wife, **Sophia**, daughter of Hungary’s king **Bela I**). Magnus was son of **Ulfhild Olafsdottir** of Norway by her second husband, **Ordulf**, duke of Saxony. Ulfhild’s royal father was **Olaf II Haraldsson** (“Olaf the holy”), king of Norway. Norway’s Olaf II was son of **Harald Grenske**, son of **Gudrod Bjornsson**, son of **Bjorn “the Merchant” Haraldsson**, son of **Harald I “Fairhair”**, first true king of Norway (via Harald’s wife **Schwanhild**).

Judith’s father was Bavarian duke **Henry I**. Henry was son of **Welf IV**, Crusader duke of Bavaria, via (his 3<sup>rd</sup> wife) **Judith of Flanders**, widow of Earl Tostig of Northumberland (who fought his royal brother **Harald Hardrada**, king of Norway, at Stamford Bridge in AD1066). Judith was daughter of **Baldwin IV de Lille**, Count of Flanders, via his wife **Judith Elena** of Normandy, who was daughter of Normandy’s duke **Richard II** (and his wife **Judith of Brittany**). Normandy’s Robert II was son of **Richard I** (duke of Normandy), son of **William I “Long-sword”** (duke of Normandy), son of **Hrolf (“Rollo” of Rouen, a/k/a “the Ganger” Rognvaldsson**, son of Earl **Rognvald “the Wise”** of Møre.

**F3. Philip of Swabia** became Emperor (of the “Holy Roman Empire”) on March 8<sup>th</sup> of 1198. Philip was born around 1176, eventually served as “Emperor of the West” for a decade, and was assassinated on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1208. During his noble career he was Baron of Würzburg (1191), Duke of Spoleto (1195), Duke of Swabia (1196), King of Germany (1198),<sup>3</sup> and Emperor of the West (1198). On May 25<sup>th</sup> of 1197 Duke Philip had married **Irene of Byzantium**. Irene’s time of birth is unknown; she died August 27<sup>th</sup>, 1208, only a couple months after her husband was murdered. Irene was the daughter of an emperor, **Isaac II “Angelus” of Byzantium** (i.e., the Byzantine Greek Empire), “Emperor of the East”. Philip and Irene parented a daughter named *Maria*; she was baptized as an infant during 1201.



**F4. Maria Hohenstaufen.** Maria was born in or shortly before 1201; she died in 1235. Maria married **Henry II**, Duke of Brabant (a duchy involving lands now located in Belgium and Netherlands). Duke Henry was born in 1207; he died on February 1<sup>st</sup> of 1248. Henry and Maria parented *Matilde*.

**F5. Matilde de Brabant** was born after 1243 (since she was born after her sister Elizabeth, who was born in 1243), and died on September 29<sup>th</sup> of 1288. On June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1237 Matilde married Robert Capet I, Count of Artois. Robert was a son of **Louis VIII “the Lion” Capet** (born September 5<sup>th</sup>, 1186; died November 8<sup>th</sup>, 1226), king of France.<sup>4</sup> Robert and Matilde parented a daughter *Blanche*.

<sup>3</sup> It was Philip who, when elected to Germany’s kingship in 1198, changed the Hohenstaufen coat of arms from the original (ducal) design of a single black lion upon a solid gold background.

<sup>4</sup> King Louis VIII, of the France’s **Capet** dynasty, had ancestry connecting to the Russian **Rurikid** dynasty, as follows: King Louis VIII was son of King Philip II (Capet), who as son of King Louis VII (Capet), son of King Louis VI (Capet), son of King Philip I (Capet), son of King Henry I (Capet) by his marriage to Queen Anna Yaroslavna of Kiev, daughter of Russian emperor/king Jaroslav “the wise”, son of Russian emperor/king Vladimir I “the holy”.

**F6.** Blanche of Artois was born about 1247, dying in Paris on May 2<sup>nd</sup> of 1302. Blanche married Henry I “the Fat”, king of Navarre (a *Basque*-dominated kingdom then sandwiched by France and Spain; Navarre, which centuries later would become an officially Huguenot-Calvinist country, was ultimately annexed by France, as a result of assassination-related political intrigue (due to the Counter-reformation). Navarre’s King Henry was born in 1270; he died July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1274. King Henry and Blanche parented a royal daughter *Jeanne* (also anglicized as *Joan*).

**F7.** Jeanne of Navarre was born in 1271; she died in 1305. Joan was Countess of Champagne and became queen by her marriage (in 1284) unto France’s king Philip IV “the Fair” Capet (born 1268; died November 29<sup>th</sup>, 1314). King Philip and Queen Joan parented a royal daughter *Isabella*.

**F8.** Isabella was born a princess, during 1292, in Paris, France. Isabella died a queen, on August 27<sup>th</sup> of 1357, in Norfolk, England, and appears to have been interred<sup>5</sup> in London during 1358. On January 25<sup>th</sup> of 1308 (at about age 16!), in Boulogne Cathedral (in Pas-de-Calais, France), Isabella married Edward II, who had just recently become King of England. Edward II was born in Wales on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1284, beginning British tradition of the crown prince being “prince of Wales” (Edward being so invested in 1301). Edward II was violently murdered in Berkeley Castle on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 1327 (having been deposed about a month earlier). During 1312 King Edward II and Queen Isabella parented a royal son who would become *Edward III*.

**F9.** Edward III was born in Windsor Castle (Berkshire, England) on November 13<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1312. When he was almost 15 years old, Edward III became England’s king when his royal father was murdered (September 21<sup>st</sup>, 1327). Edward III ruled from then until he died on June 12<sup>st</sup> of A.D. 1377, a few months shy of half a century! On January 24<sup>th</sup> of 1328, in York, he married Philippa of Hainault. Philippa was born in Hainault (Belgium) on June 24<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1311; she died August 15<sup>th</sup> of 1369, in Windsor Castle. In or about 1335 the “Hundred Years War” began (some of which ran contemporaneously with the *Bohemian Hussite Wars*), due to Edward’s claim to the French throne, based on the dynastic lineage of his royal mother (Isabella of France). Of critical consequence to this lineage, many centuries after dynasty conflicts, is the progeny produced by King Edward III and Queen Philippa, one child of which was a son named *John of Gaunt*, born in Ghent (Belgium). *John of Gaunt* has one of the best-researched and documented family histories, as to both ancestry and descent, of anyone in Europe.<sup>6</sup>

**F10.** John of Gaunt [i.e., of Ghent, his birthplace in the Belgian province of East Flanders] was the “titular” ruler of Spain’s Castille and Leon (i.e., mostly “king” in name, yet he very

<sup>5</sup> Brian Tompsett, an expert in European royalty genealogy data, gives Queen Isabella’s death as August 22<sup>nd</sup> of 1358, and recognizes that sources conflict regarding the details of her death. Perhaps Isabella died in 1357 and was interred in 1358.

<sup>6</sup> See Roderick W. Stuart’s *ROYALTY FOR COMMONERS*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2002). See also Mike Ashley, *MAMMOTH BOOK OF BRITISH KINGS AND QUEENS: THE COMPLETE BIOGRAPHICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE KINGS AND QUEENS OF BRITAIN* (New York: Carroll & Graf Publishers, 1998). (This is the same John of Gaunt who politically protected the English Bible translator, *Dr. John Wycliffe*.)



much defended that right militarily for a number of years), as well as Prince of England, 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Lancaster (his most prominent title), Earl of Richmond, and Knight of the Garter. John of Gaunt (born March 6<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1340; died February 3<sup>rd</sup> of A.D. 1399) was quite prolific, procreatively speaking, having begotten children of his successive wives, plus also having begotten children of mistresses (while married). While married to someone else, John had children by a widow named **Katherine Roët** [a/k/a “Roelt”], who had been married to Sir Hugh Swynford. John’s second wife died in A.D. 1394; in A.D. 1396 John married Katherine (who was born about A.D. 1350; died in A.D. 1403). One of John’s pre-wedlock children by Katherine Roët (who later he wed as his 3<sup>rd</sup> wife) was a daughter *Joan of Beaufort*, better known as “Joan Beaufort”.



**F11.** **Joan Beaufort** was born about A.D. 1379, at the “Château of Beaufort” in Champagne, France; she died during A.D. 1440. On February 3<sup>rd</sup> of A.D. 1397, Joan married **Ralph de Neville**, Earl of Westmoreland (born about A.D. 1364; died October 21<sup>st</sup> of A.D. 1425), and they begat a son *George de Neville*, who became the 1<sup>st</sup> Lord (or 1<sup>st</sup> Baron) Latimer.

**F12.** **George de Neville**, 1<sup>st</sup> Lord (or Baron) Latimer, was born in Raby, about A.D. 1414; he died on December 30<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1469, about a half-year after his son Henry died (at war). During A.D. 1437 George married **Elizabeth Beauchamp** (who was herself the descendant of England’s king *Alfred the Great* and also of Scotland’s king *Malcolm III*). Elizabeth Beauchamp was born

September 16<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1415; she died June 18<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1448. George and Elizabeth parented a son *Henry de Neville*.

**F13.** Sir Henry de Neville was born in Raby (like his father), about or soon after A.D. 1437; he died July 26<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1469, at the Battle of Edgecote in Oxfordshire, England. Around A.D. 1462 Henry married Joanna Bourchier (who was born about A.D. 1442, died October 7<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1470, and was buried in Warwick, England). Among other children Henry and Joanna parented a son *Richard Neville*.

**F14.** Richard de Neville, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Latimer,<sup>7</sup> was born in A.D. 1468, and died in December of A.D. 1530. Richard married Anne Stafford during A.D. 1490 in Grafton (Worcestershire, England). Anne was born about A.D. 1471 in Grafton; she died sometime after A.D. 1513, and was buried in Yorkshire, England. Richard and Anne (also spelled “Ann”) parented many children (apparently 16), one of which was a daughter *Susanna Neville*, a/k/a Susan.

**F15.** Susanna Neville was born April 28<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1501, in Snape Hall (in Yorkshire, England). In A.D. 1525 Susanna married Richard Norton (who served as Reeve [i.e., sheriff] of Yorkshire), who is also remembered as Richard Norton Conyers or Richard Conyers Norton (i.e., his family lived in Norton, within the area of Conyers, England). Richard Norton was born in A.D. 1502, lived in York (England), and died on April 9<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1588 (the same year that the Spanish Armada tried to attack England’s eastern coastland). Susanna died sometime after A.D. 1528, --- perhaps of exhaustion, having given birth to 18 children! One of those many children was a daughter *Clara Norton*, a/ka Clare (and sometimes known as “Clare Norton Conyers” or as “Clare Conyers Norton”).

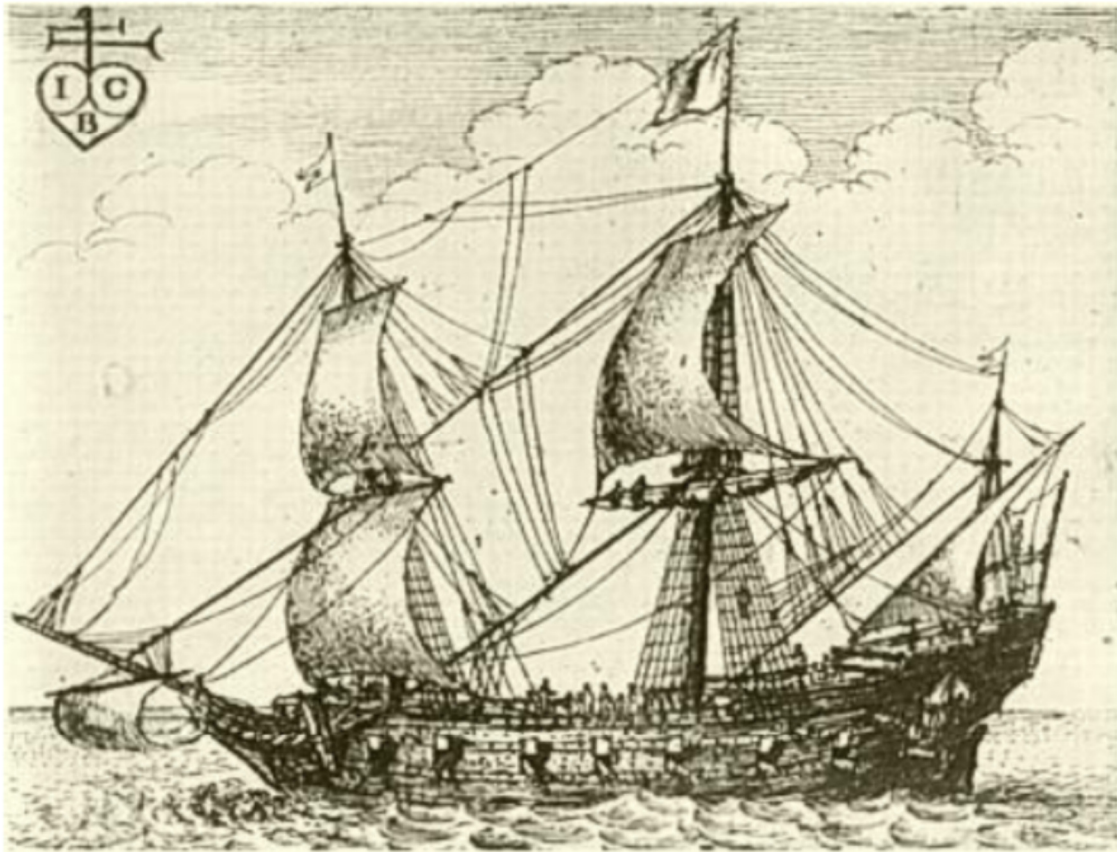
**F16.** Clara Norton was born during A.D. 1528 in Norton (Conyers, England); her time of death is unavailable. Clara Norton married Richard Goodrich, Sr. (a/k/a “Goodricke”), who was born in A.D. 1524, and died about the beginning of A.D. 1582 (some records suggest New Year’s Day), and was buried in Ribston of Yorkshire. Richard and Clara parented a daughter *Margaret Goodrich* (also spelled “Goodricke”).

**F17.** Margaret Goodrich (whose time of birth is unavailable; she was buried on September 22<sup>nd</sup> of A.D. 1589) married Sir Francis Bayldon (born in A.D. 1560, died June 20<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1622; also spelled “Beldon” and “Baildon”). Francis and Margaret parented a son Richard Bayldon (or “Beldon”) who was christened on May 26<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1591. Years later, Francis was knighted on the day that England’s King James I was coronated (July 25<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1603). Sir Francis Bayldon eventually died August 22<sup>nd</sup> of A.D. 1655 in Wethersfield (Hartford area, Connecticut), having led his family, including his son *Richard Beldon* [F18 below], to a **new life in America**.

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<sup>7</sup> The 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Latimer [or “Baron Latimer”] was Richard’s paternal grandfather, George de Neville [F12 above]; but Richard’s father, Sir Henry de Neville [F13 above], died at the Battle of Edgecote, on 7-26-AD1469, about a half-year before George died, so when the 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Latimer died his grandson, Richard Neville [F14 above], succeeded to be the “2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Latimer”.

Research appears to show that *Sir Francis Beldon* “crossed the Pond” (from England to Connecticut) after Margaret’s death, so his death occurred in America, but not hers.<sup>8</sup>



## 2. TRANSPLANTS “ACROSS THE POND”

**F18.** Richard Belden (a/k/a “Baildon”, “Bayldon”, “Beldon”, and even “Belding”) before migrating to America, married Mary Ackrenden (a/k/a “Ackronden”) on December 9<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1622, in Heptonshall (Yorkshire, England). Richard and Mary parented a son *Samuel Belden*. Samuel was born during A.D. 1632 in Kippax (Yorkshire, England); baby Samuel was christened in on September 16<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1632. At some time after Samuel Belden was born (in A.D. 1632), yet after his mother died in England (A.D. 1630s), Richard Belden and his sons migrated to America, as is indicated by land Richard Belden owned in Wethersfield, **Connecticut** (in early A.D. 1641); Richard died near Hartford, Connecticut, in A.D. 1655.

<sup>8</sup> The *Sir Francis Bayldon* family’s history has been extensively studied, with some disputation, but much of the confusion is resolved by simply recognizing that it was common (in those days) for people to dictate their names to record-makers, and then the record-makers would spell the names phonetically, so that available records of family names contain a variety of spellings that produce similar sounds (e.g., *Beldon*, *Belden*, *Bayldon*, *Baildon*) when spoken. (This obviously complicates research by computers and those accustomed to uniform spelling practices!)

**F19.** Samuel Belden (who died January 3<sup>rd</sup> of A.D. 1713) was married around A.D. 1654, to his first of four wives (the later three being local widows), a woman named Mary whose maiden name may have been Hastings (who was killed in a massacre by Indians on September 19<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1677, in Hatfield, Massachusetts). One of the several children of their marriage was a son John Beldon (also spelled "Belden"). *John* was born on November 16<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1669 in Hatfield, Massachusetts.

**F20.** Sometime around A.D. 1693 John Belden married Sarah Waite (who was born during A.D. 1675 in Hatfield, Massachusetts). Before John died (on October 18<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1725 in Hatfield, Massachusetts), John and Sarah parented a son *Joseph Belden*, who was born (on August 9<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1696) in Hatfield, Massachusetts.

**F21.** Joseph Belden (who died during October of A.D. 1788 in Whately, Massachusetts) married Esther Bardwell. Esther [sometimes rendered "Hesther"] was born on August 8<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1693; she died sometime before A.D. 1727. Joseph and Esther parented a daughter *Mary Belden*, who was born sometime during A.D. 1723.

**F22.** During A.D. 1742, Mary Belden (who died on July 31<sup>st</sup> of A.D. 1801) married a Thomas Hastings, the 4<sup>th</sup> in America by that name (Thomas Hastings IV was son of Dr. Thomas Hastings III, who was son of Dr. Thomas Hastings II, who was son of the Thomas Hastings who emigrated from England during April of A.D. 1634, leaving Ipswich aboard the good ship 'Elizabeth', --- as has been recently documented by the highly esteemed English historian, Laird Dr. William ["Bill" or "Nandad"] Cooper. Thomas Hastings IV served as a Lieutenant in Captain Eli Parker's company of the Amherst [Massachusetts] county militia, during the War for American Independence, including duty at Lexington [in Massachusetts] during A.D. 1775. Lt. Thomas Hastings and his wife Mary parented a son, also named Thomas Hasting (obviously named after his father), who thus became Amherst's *Thomas Hastings the 5<sup>th</sup>*.

**F23.** Thomas Hastings (the 5<sup>th</sup> by that name in America) married Hannah Billings. This Thomas Hastings was born May 20<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1746 in Amherst, Massachusetts; he died January 22<sup>nd</sup> of A.D. 1827 in Amherst. Hannah, his wife, was born February 20<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1749 in Amherst; she died October 5<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1823. Thomas and Hannah married during A.D. 1769; they parented a daughter (born January 15<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1780, in Amherst; died May 4<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1871) named *Hannah Hastings* (obviously named after her mother).

**F24.** Sometime in A.D. 1799 Hannah Hastings married Martin Kellogg III of Amherst. Martin was born around A.D. 1777; he died during A.D. 1856 in Hadley, Massachusetts. Martin and Hannah parented a daughter *Mary Kellogg*.

**F25.** Mary Kellogg (born August 18<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1818; died February 22<sup>nd</sup> of A.D. 1911), on October 3<sup>rd</sup> of A.D. 1839, was married to James Coffran (born July 14<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1817; died March 3<sup>rd</sup> of A.D. 1881). James and Mary parented a daughter *Mary Ellen Coffran*.

**F26.** Mary Ellen Coffran (born February 7<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1841 in Amherst, Massachusetts; died May 10<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1921 in Webster Groves [St. Louis area], Missouri). On May 6<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1863, in Springfield, Massachusetts, Mary Ellen Coffran married William Kennedy Richards (born

September 26<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1839 in Jordan, New York; died September 18<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1930 in Webster Groves, Missouri). William and Mary Ellen parented a daughter *Mary Louise Richards*.

**F27. Mary Louise Richards** (born June 12<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1864 in Springfield, Massachusetts; died February 1<sup>st</sup> of A.D. 1951 in Arlington, Virginia), on November 12<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1890 in St. Louis, was married to **Oliver W. Connet** (born October 8<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1860 near Solsberry, Indiana; died December 16<sup>th</sup> of A.D. 1934 in Baltimore, Maryland). Oliver and Mary Louise parented 5 daughters (Ruth, Helene, Miriam, Dorothy, and Edith Faith), with one *Miriam* (i.e., *Miriam Connet*) being my maternal grandmother.

**F28. Miriam Connet** married **Dr. Carville Dickinson Benson, Jr.**, a 3<sup>rd</sup>-generation lawyer (who practiced law with his father, and later taught law at George Washington University Law School, his doctorate being a *J.S.D.*); they parented 3 daughters (Mary Louise, Harriette, and Katharine, a/k/a “Kate”), with the 2<sup>nd</sup>-born daughter *Harriette* (i.e., *Harriette Miller Benson*) being my mother.

**F29. Harriette Benson** married **Richard Carl Johnson, Esq.** (who studied law under Dean Benson, and eventually became Dean Benson’s son-in-law; his career included service as a federal government lawyer); Richard and Harriette parented 6 children (Thomas, James, Barbara, Carolyn, Daniel, and William, --- the 4 boys being known as Tom, Jim, Dan, and Bill).<sup>9</sup>

**F30.** As you have guessed by now, I am that 2<sup>nd</sup>-born son (**Jim Johnson**) of Richard and Harriette Johnson. With all of this documented family history, is it any wonder that I eventually obtained a post-doctoral certification in documenting and establishing paternity?!<sup>10</sup>



<sup>9</sup> Detailed timeframes involving family members still living are minimized, to protect privacy.

<sup>10</sup> “*Certified Paternity Establishment Entity*”, a post-*J.D.* certification of the Texas Attorney General’s Office.

Meanwhile, during the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, in the Piney Woods of East Texas, a little girl named **Sherry Hall** (shown below, when traveling in Alaska) was growing up. And, in God's providential timing, she would become my wife --- and through her I am both a father and a grandfather (*details on our progeny to follow in later articles, God willing*).



### 3. MIGRATING TO THE LONE STAR STATE

This multi-generational migration journey, from Hohenstaufen ancestors in **Germany**, to the **Lone Star State**, is almost at its (present) endpoint.

After completing my undergraduate education, I entered law school, to prepare to become a fifth-generation lawyer. *Being married to a native Texan, you can guess the rest.* Even during law school, I kept an eye on Texas. (But also I planned, with high hopes, to visit Germany.) After law school I studied for *and passed* the Texas Bar Exam (by God's grace and mercy), becoming a Texas attorney in A.D.1985. In A.D.1986, my family relocated to the Dallas area, where Sherry and I have been ever since, although we do try to travel to places (like **Germany**, which I visited all-too-briefly, during A.D.2003), where our ancestors lived. Thus, genetically speaking (and providentially speaking), *I finally got my German genes into Texas.*

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**James J. S. Johnson**, *M.S.Hist., M.S.Geog., J.D., Th.D., C.P.E.E.*, serves as Master Faculty at LeTourneau University, as adjunct faculty for Dallas Christian College and Concordia University Texas, and has served as official lecturer on history and geography topics aboard cruise ships (on 8 cruise ships belonging to 3 different cruise lines), with itineraries including visits to eastern and western Germany, as well as countries neighboring Germany (Denmark, Netherlands, and France), and countries of the Baltic (Estonia, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Norway), among others. Also, Dr. Johnson writes for various educational journals and publications, on varied topics ranging from Germanic languages, Viking history, Reformation history, family histories, and how (in the providence of God) many supposedly "little" people, "little" places, and "little" decisions have ultimately produced "*big*" footprints. >< JJSJ

[ For further information, contact the author at [profjjsj@tx.rr.com](mailto:profjjsj@tx.rr.com) ]

# OPERATIONS

[unapproved] **MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2011 MEETING**  
**GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

**Minutes of the November 14, 2010 Board Meeting**

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

**Treasurer's Report**

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

**Executive Director's Report**

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

**Program Director's Report**

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

**Executive Committee Report**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Budget & Finance Committee Report**

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

### **Publications Committee Report**

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

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

### **Development Committee Report**

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

### **German Free School Committee Report**

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

### **Unfinished Business**

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

G. West reported that the last donations to the 150<sup>th</sup> Club fund are being collected. J. Warneke is completing certificates to be presented to outgoing board members to thank them for their work.

### **New Business**

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

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

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

Submitted by Martha Liehse, Secretary

Information attachment:

### **Committees for 2011**

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

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

Development: all board members

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

Membership: Liz Hicks (Chair), Wing Evans



**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 14, 2010 MEETING  
GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The November 14, 2010 meeting of the German-Texan Heritage Society Board of Directors was called to order at 10:10 a.m. in the German Free School in Austin with GTHS President Mary Whigham presiding. Board members present were Connie Krause, Martha Liehse, Carl Luckenbach, Christopher Markley, Bob Flocke, Mary Whigham, Charles Locklin, Wing Evans and Gerri West. Board members absent were John Siemssen, Charles Frederick, Christina Gilliland, and Daniel Bode.

Also present were GTHS Executive Director Jean Warneke, Michael Krause and Liz Hicks.

**Minutes of the July 11, 2010 Board Meeting**

C. Luckenbach moved acceptance of the minutes of the board meeting of July 11, 2010 as scribed by Secretary M. Liehse. **MOTION APPROVED**

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer G. West distributed copies of the Morgan Stanley Investment Report (through October 31), the Profit & Loss, Budget vs. Actual Report (through November 14), the 2010 Annual Meeting Report and the 2010 Oktoberfest Final Report, all of which she reviewed with the board. The reports for the Annual Meeting and the Oktoberfest showed both events to have been highly successful. The attendance at the Oktoberfest is estimated to have been 1,000.

W. Evans moved that a debit card be issued to Executive Director J. Warneke. After being seconded, the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**.

**Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director J. Warneke reviewed her narrative report with the board. She reported that GTHS had received a grant from the Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau/Historic Landmark Commission to repaint the ironwork on the building. She also reported that the City of Austin had proclaimed October as German Texan Heritage Month and that the Mayor came to the Oktoberfest to tap the first keg of beer. The Preserve America plaque was officially presented to GTHS at the Oktoberfest by our Congressman.

The board received a synopsis of the survey results from the Annual Meeting.

GTHS has received a request from Alton Rahe for permission to reprint a small quote from the GTHS-published *The Diary of Hermann Seele*, with proper credit given. W. Evans moved that President M. Whigham give him written permission to do so. After being seconded, the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**.

The request from Arcadia Publishing for GTHS to put together a book on German Texans will be discussed at a future board meeting.

J. Warneke requested that the board decide whether GTHS should start a scholarship program for college students studying German abroad and whether we should continue presenting awards to high school essay contest winners at the state level.

For awards for the high school students, W. Evans moved that we present awards of \$750, \$500 and \$250 to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners respectively. The motion was seconded, but discussion was tabled till after the Budget Report later in the meeting.

Program Director M. Schmidt-Dumont's report was presented, with an update on the fall and winter semester GTHS language classes in Austin, Brenham, Bryan and Round Rock.

**Executive Committee Report**

President M. Whigham introduced new board member Bob Flocke.

**Activities Committee Report**

Chair C. Luckenbach reviewed the Annual Meeting in Fredericksburg and thanked everyone for helping make it a great success. It was reported that possible sites for the October 2011 Annual Meeting in Dallas are being investigated.

### **Budget & Finance Committee Report**

Chair G. West gave a review of investments and the draft budget for 2011. We are still awaiting the results of the Annual Fund Drive as well as this year's contributions to the 150<sup>th</sup> Club fund. She will refine the budget for the January 2011 board meeting.

The board resumed discussion of the earlier motion to present \$750, \$500 and \$250 awards to high school essay contest winners. When put to vote, only three were in favor; thus the motion did not pass.

C. Locklin made a motion not to present any such awards in 2011. It was seconded but did not pass. G. West made a motion to lower the award amounts to \$500, \$250 and \$125 for 2011. After being seconded, the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**.

C. Locklin made a motion for GTHS to present a \$500 college-level scholarship next year to a student for the study of German overseas. After being seconded, the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**. Executive Director J. Warnke will present the criteria for the scholarship to the board for approval.

### **Development Committee Report**

No action was taken by the board on the proposed Gift Acceptance Policy. The question was raised as to whether a separate policy/agreement document should be developed for gifts of real estate.

### **Membership Committee Report**

There will be no increase in membership dues amounts for 2011.

C. Luckenbach moved to lower the student membership rate from \$30 to \$20, with the stipulation that that membership would include no "snail mail" publications, that is, there would be no quarterly *Journal* included, and the *Schulhaus Reporter* would have to be received by e-mail. After being seconded, the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**.

### **German Free School Committee Report**

Chair C. Locklin expressed his gratitude for the Free School volunteers and their donations of time and money and also said that younger "understudies" are needed for the leadership roles in order to provide continuity.

Work on the Business Plan continues, as well as on ideas for GTHS to collaborate with other public events. The idea of moving the front entrance gate from the top to the bottom of the steps is being looked at for security reasons. Recommendations are being worked on for the preservation of the Free School's historical collections.

### **Publications Committee Report**

An active committee is needed and a Publications Policy needs to be developed.

GTHS members are being encouraged to accept the e-mailed edition of the *Schulhaus Reporter* to save money on postage costs.

Submissions to *The Journal* and the *Schulhaus Reporter* are accepted from members and non-members, subject to individual item acceptance.

### **Unfinished Business**

Board Position #8 is still open. C. Krause reported that Dorothy Oelkers, who was elected at the Annual Meeting to fill Position #1, is now unable to fulfill the board member duties. Position #1 will now need to be filled as well.

### **New Business**

It was proposed that we solicit submissions to the *Schulhaus Reporter* that describe the work of individuals all over the state (whether GTHS members or not) who contribute to preserving German-Texan heritage. GTHS could present an award to an individual for German-Texan community service.

Committee appointments were made for 2011:

Activities -- M. Krause, C. Luckenbach, C. Gilliland

Budget & Finance -- G. West

Development -- all board members  
German Free School -- C. Markley, C. Locklin  
Membership -- L. Hicks, W. Evans  
Publications -- B. Flocke, M. Liehse

A review of the Investment Policy by J. Siemssen will be sent to the Executive Committee.

G. West requested that for the January board meeting Executive Director J. Warneke should review her experience with the "experimental" Executive Director job description that was developed at the end of 2009. The board will also evaluate the accomplishments of the Executive Director in January.

C. Krause reminded the board that the books loaned to GTHS by Glen Treibs in 2007(?) need to be located and returned to him.

The election of officers for 2011 was held, with the following results:

President -- Mary Whigham  
Vice President -- Michael Krause  
Treasurer -- Gerri West  
Secretary -- Martha Liehse

Dates were set for the 2011 board meetings: Jan. 9, March 6, May 8, July 10, Sept. 11, Nov. 13.

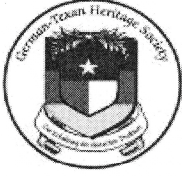
C. Krause suggested that recognition certificates be presented to outgoing board members at each Annual Meeting.

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

Submitted by Martha Liehse, Secretary

Minutes approved January 9, 2011

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Founded in 1978

# Sponsor Space Agreement

## German-Texan Heritage Society

P.O. Box 684171  
Austin, TX 78768-4171  
info@germantexans.org

www.germantexans.org

Telephone: 512-482-0927  
Toll Free: 866-482-GTHS  
Fax: 512-482-0636

**Journal:** Check  desired issues  All 4 Issues **OR**  
Issue:  Spring  Summer  Fall  Winter  
Deadline: Feb 1 May 1 Aug 1 Oct 1

**Schulhaus Reporter:** Check  desired issues  All 6 Issues **OR**  
Issue:  Jan-Feb  Mar-Apr  May-June  Jul-Aug  Sept-Oct  Nov-Dec  
Deadline: Dec 10 Feb 15 Apr 15 June 15 Aug 15 Oct 15

Copy will be black & white in printed SR and in color for digital version of the SR. Journal copy is in B/W.  
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Mail to: **GTHS, Post Office Box 684171, Austin, TX 78768-4171**

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# German-Texan Heritage Society

Promoting Awareness and Preservation of the  
German Cultural Heritage of Texas Since 1978  
**2011 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Renewal   
New

If New, how did you find us?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Salutation:  Mr.  Mrs.  Ms.  Other: (list) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone (H): (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (C) (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

How do you wish to receive the bi-monthly newsletter, *Schulhaus Reporter*?  Email Only OR  USPS Mail Only

### TELL US ABOUT *YOUR* GERMAN-TEXAN INTERESTS

- Culture  Genealogy  History  Preservation  Writing & Research  Language Classes  
 German Interest Tours  Festivals  Social Activities  German Films  Lecture Programs  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  I can be a contact person in my area

German Language Ability:  None  Beginning  Intermediate  Advanced  Fluent

### Yes, I want to Join/Renew!

Establish my membership in the category checked below:

CATEGORY	ANNUAL DUES: Jan—Dec (July-Dec—1/2 Price - New Members Only)
Life Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 (one time pmt; 1/2 price not applicable)
Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100
International (includes international shipping)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 65
Family (2 or more at same address)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50
Library/Society	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 40
Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student (w/ valid ID)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 20 (no printed material; e-mail only)
<b>TOTAL DUES PAID</b>	<b>\$</b> _____

### Please Donate!

Member dues account for only a small portion of our income. Donations and other fundraising efforts must account for the remaining needs.

Annual Operating Fund	\$ _____
German Free School Preservation Fund (Lot 507)	\$ _____
Development Fund for Lot 507 (Festival Performance Area)	\$ _____
Trenckmann Library Fund	\$ _____
Statewide Outreach Fund	\$ _____
Student Scholarship Fund	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT DONATED</b>	<b>\$</b> _____

Please make my donation *in honor of* or *in memory of*  
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GTHS is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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Rev. 11/10

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## BOOKS PUBLISHED BY THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

<b>The Journal</b>		ISSN 0730-3106, 4x per year, 8½ x 11, paperback. Since 1978. Each issue of this member publication contains over 100 pp of German-Texan genealogy, history and related info in English, with occasional German articles translated.	<b>\$5</b> members <b>\$6</b> non-GTHS members
<b>A Sojourn in Texas, 1846-47</b>		ISBN 1-57168-237-6, 400 pp, 6 x 9, hardback. Illustrations, maps, index. Edited by W.M. Von-Maszewski. A. Sörgel's Texas Writings. This dual-language edition is filled with observations, advice, and warnings for those who chose to come to Texas.	<b>sale price</b> <b>\$15.00</b> <b>(list \$21.00)</b>
<b>Church Records of the Pioneer Families of Berlin, Texas</b>		ISBN 1-57168-241-4, 292 pp, 8½ x 11, hardback. Index. By Breitenkamp and Dabbs. Records of births, deaths, marriages, baptisms and more.	<b>sale price</b> <b>\$12.50</b> <b>(list \$35.00)</b>
<b>Diary of Hermann Seele</b>		ISBN 1-57168-238-4, 504 pp, 6 x 9, hardback. Illustrations, bibliography, index. Translated and edited by Theodore Gish. Gives a revealing and intimate picture of 19th century Texas. Includes Seele's Sketches from Texas.	<b>sale price</b> <b>\$15.00</b> <b>(list \$27.50)</b>
<b>GTHS German Immigrant Ancestors</b>		ISBN 1-57168-240-6, 292 pp, 8½ x 11, paperback. Index and maps. Edited by Christa Prewitt. Genealogical records.	<b>sale price</b> <b>\$12</b> <b>(list \$15)</b>
<b>Handbook and Registry of German-Texan Heritage</b>		ISBN 1-57168-239-2, 192 pp, 8½ x 11, paperback. Index. Edited by W.M. Maszewski. Contains information on early German-Texan businesses, churches, cemeteries, schools, etc.	<b>\$9.00</b>
<b>History of the German Settlements in Texas, 1831-1861</b>		ISBN 1-57168-236-8, 280 pp, 6 x 9, NEW edition, paperback. Maps, illustrations, appendix, index. By Rudolf Biesele. Covers the actual founding and history of many German settlements and towns in Texas prior to the American Civil War.	<b>\$28.95</b>
<b>The Cabin Book</b>		ISBN 0-89015-525-9, 296 pp, 6 x 9, hardback. Illustrations. By Charles Sealsfield. Sealsfield's hopes about America focused on Texas when he wrote this in 1841. This novel, in part about Texas life in the 1830s, became a best-seller.	<b>\$9.00</b>
<b>Texas in 1848</b>		ISBN 1-57168-242-2, 240 pp, 6 x 9, hardback. Bibliography, index. By Victor Bracht. Originally published in German in 1849, this book has been described as a "treasure of German-Texan history." Filled with early Texas observations.	<b>sale price</b> <b>\$15.00</b> <b>(list \$21.00)</b>

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, MasterCard or Visa. Contact us toll-free with questions: (866) 482-GTHS (4847), or send an email to [info@GermanTexans.org](mailto:info@GermanTexans.org). Visit our website at [www.GermanTexans.org](http://www.GermanTexans.org).

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