



Founded 1978

German-Texan Heritage Society

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

Tel: 512-482-0927 · Fax: 512-482-0636 · Toll Free: 866-482-GTHS

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June 2012

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German Free School
507 East 10th Street
Austin, TX

MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 684171



Dear GTHS Members and Friends,

You are cordially invited to attend the 34th Annual Meeting of the German-Texan Heritage Society, which will be held in New Braunfels on the 27th and 28th of July 2012. We will also be celebrating with New Braunfels residents the 200th birthday of Prinz Carl of Solms-Braunfels, for whom the town of New Braunfels was named in 1845.

We are focusing these two days on Prinz Carl and the *Adelsverein*. Our Genealogy Sessions will begin with the *Adelsverein* and the Fisher-Miller Grant. The Texas General Land Office and the Sophienburg Archives will introduce us to their holdings pertaining to the *Adelsverein* and our German Ancestors.

Saturday morning, our speakers will talk more about the *Adelsverein*, the men that helped Prinz Carl here in Texas, the First Protestant Church, and what happened to those First Founders of New Braunfels. Our afternoon tours will include stops that were a very important part of the early years of those First Founders.

Please find enclosed the registration forms, maps, and schedule, as well as a special invitation to attend the 200th birthday celebration of Prinz Carl. We hope you will join us as we share with you not only our hometown but the history, culture and *Gemütlichkeit* that we are known for here in Comal County.

Until July,

Connie Krause
Chair, Annual Meeting Committee

Michael Krause
GTHS BOD and
Activities Committee Chair

Promoting awareness and preservation of the German cultural heritage of Texas



Founded 1978

German-Texan Heritage Society

2012 Annual Meeting
New Braunfels, TX
July 27-28, 2012



Program

Friday, July 27, 2012

Genealogy Seminar at Forcke Store

NB Conservation Plaza, 1300 Church Hill Dr.

2:00 pm	Connie Krause	<i>The Adelsverein and the Fischer - Miller Grant</i>
2:30 pm	James Harkins	<i>Texas GLO Archives Researching your German Ancestors</i>
3:00 pm	Break	
3:15 pm	Beverly Wigley	<i>Sophienburg Archives The Solms-Braunfels Archives and its other Collections</i>
4:00 pm	Genealogy Seminar ends & Annual Meeting Registration Table opens	
4:30 pm	Light Supper at Forcke Store	<i>You may select either this or the supper celebrating Carl's birthday with other New Braunfels residents</i>
6:00 pm	Leave for Dedication of Prinz Solms Statue	NB Civic Center, 300 block of Seguin St.
6:30 pm	Program for Statue unveiling begins	
7:00 pm	Dinner to Celebrate Prinz Carl's Birthday	<i>See enclosed invitation for registration</i> Schumann Hall, First Protestant Family Life Center, 172 West Coll Street

Saturday, July 28, 2012

Annual Meeting begins at Schumann Hall

First Protestant Family Life Center, 172 West Coll Street

8:00 am	Registration, GTHS Gift Shop, Vendors, Exhibitors and Breakfast table	
8:30 am	Welcome & Introductions	
9:00 am	Wolfram Von-Maszewski	<i>The Adelsverein - Its members, Its destiny</i>
9:30 am	Dr. James Kearney	<i>Friedrich von Wrede, Sr.- Veteran of Waterloo in the Service of Prince Solms-Braunfels</i>
10:00 am	Break	
10:20 am	Dr. James Kearney	<i>Louis Cachand Ervendberg: New Perspectives on the First German Protestant Pastor in Texas</i>
10:50 am	Myra Lee Adams Goff	<i>Journey in Faith - The History of First Protestant Church</i>
11:20 am	Connie Krause	<i>First Founders of New Braunfels - What became of them?</i>
11:50 am	Lunch	<i>Please make your carpooling decisions at this time</i>
12:45 pm	GTHS Business Meeting	<i>Gift Shop will close before the meeting begins</i>
1:25 pm	Registrants will prepare to leave on tours - see itinerary and map issued at meeting	
1:45 pm	All cars should leave for first stop on assigned tour	
2:00 pm	Tours will begin	
4:00 pm	Tour 2 at Sophienburg Museum and Archives ends	
4:35 pm	Tour 1 ends at Rev. Ervendberg's home and the Orphanage.	

Have a nice evening in New Braunfels or a safe trip home!

GTHS 2012 Annual Meeting: A Handy Guide

The GTHS 2012 Annual Meeting will be in New Braunfels, Texas. Various events are planned at different locations, and a map has been prepared for you on the back page.



Friday, July 27 – Event Highlights:

A. 2:00 pm Genealogy Seminar at Forcke Store

New Braunfels Conservation Society - 1300 Church Hill Drive

Free parking is available and prior registration is encouraged, but seating is limited to 100 due to fire code restrictions.

4:30 to 6:00 pm Light Supper at Forcke Store

A light supper of assorted breads, cold-cut meats and cheeses will be served with the famous Naegelin's struedel for dessert. Tea and water will be available; feel free to BYOB. Free parking is available and prior registration is encouraged. *(Please note: you should not register for this if you plan to attend the later birthday dinner coordinated by the local museums.)*

B. 6:30 pm Dedication of Prinz Carl von Solms-Braunfels statue

New Braunfels Civic Center - 300 block of South Seguin Ave

The 200th Birthday of Prinz Carl will be acknowledged by the unveiling of his statue created by sculptor Paul Tadlock. The New Braunfels Village Brass Band will perform before the ceremony. Free parking is available in the surrounding area.

C. 7:00 pm Dinner to Celebrate Prinz Carl's Birthday

Schumann Hall at the First Protestant Family Life Center - 172 West Coll Street

An invitation to attend this event is included in this registration packet. This is a very special event to the people of New Braunfels and GTHS has been extended the invitation as many of our members have ancestors that came with Prinz Carl or the *Adelsverein* to Texas. *(Please note: this is not an exclusive GTHS event.)*

Saturday, July 28 – Event Highlights:

8:00 am GTHS Annual Meeting

Schumann Hall at the First Protestant Family Life Center - 172 West Coll Street

Our Annual Meeting will begin with the registration table opening and Bear Claws from Naegelin's being served. Free parking is available in the lot across the street from the church and Family Life Center.

Afternoon Tours will begin after the GTHS Business Meeting. A separate itinerary and map will be given to you with your registration packet. Tours begin at 2:00 p.m.

Tour 1 will visit:

- 1. New Braunfels Cemetery** – the first New Braunfels cemetery and location of the mass grave of 1845-1846
- 2. First Protestant Church** – first church established and arranged by Prinz Carl
- 3. Landa Park** – location of Comal Springs and numerous historic markers commemorating the founding of the city
- 4. Ferdinand Lindheimer's home** – located on the property given to him by the *Adelsverein* on the Comal River
- 5. Rev. Ervenberg's home and the Orphanage** – home to his family as well as the 19 orphans that his family were given to raise.

Tour 1 is limited to the first 100 registrants! Each of these locations will be reached by carpooling and riding together is strongly advised for this tour.

Tour 2 will visit:

Sophienburg Museum and Archives. Currently there are special exhibits on the Civil War and the artist Carl Iwonski. This tour includes an overview of the Archives Collections.

Please note: there will be no one available to help with research during the tour.

This Tour will only be available to those with limited walking capabilities, other health-related issues or when the other Tour has reached capacity.

LODGING:

The Faust Hotel and Brewery Co.
240 South Seguin Ave. Tel: 830-625-7791
New Braunfels, Texas 78130
Fax: 830-620-1530
www.fausthotel.com
reservations@fausthotel.com



The Faust Hotel has a block of rooms reserved for GTHS for the nights of Friday, July 27 and Saturday, July 28, for the reduced rate of:

- Double - \$69 + taxes**
- Queen - \$99 + taxes**
- King or 2 Double beds - \$109 + taxes**

Continental Breakfast is included with your stay!

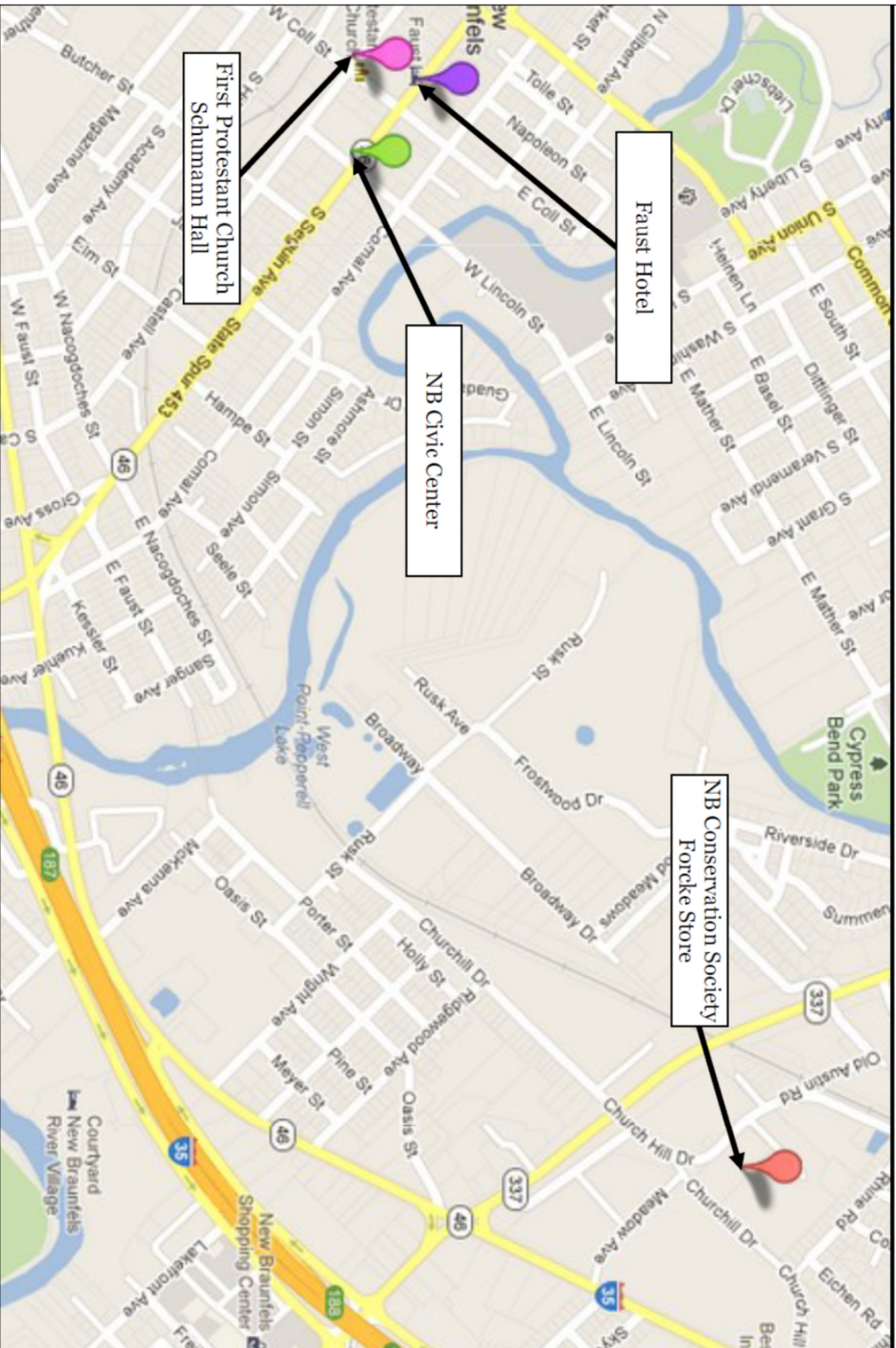
A minimum two-night stay is required. No charge for cancellation if notified 48 hours in advance.

Please make your reservations as soon as possible. This is HIGH tourist season in New Braunfels and these are EXCEPTIONAL rates. Call the hotel directly at 830-625-7791 and say you are with the German-Texan Heritage Society.

Information on other accommodations can be found at: www.nbjumpin.com or by calling 1-800-572-2626.



GTHS 2012 Annual Meeting Event Map



About our Speakers...

James Harkins is the Director of Public Services for the Texas General Land Office Archives and Records Program. James graduated from Texas State University – San Marcos in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in communications and a double minor in history and business. James also received a master's degree in public administration from Texas State in December of 2010. He has worked for the Texas General Land Office since May of 2005. Some of his work can be found in the most recent Texas GLO A&R newsletter, "*Loving Texas History*" and can be found at www.glo.texas.gov. James' presentation covers the historical and genealogical resources of the Texas General Land Office Archives, along with a step-by-step guide on how to access those resources.

Beverly Wigley is Archives Coordinator at the Sophienburg Museum and Archives in New Braunfels, one of the largest repositories of information that chronicles the German immigration movement to Texas. At the Sophienburg, Beverly's work centers around the heritage of German Texans from Comal County. She is especially enthusiastic about the Reflections oral history program and documenting the service of the veterans of Comal County. She was born in Central Pennsylvania's "Dutch" country and developed an interest early in Germany and Central Europe. As a military spouse, Beverly was able to pursue those interests while living in Germany, Iceland, Belgium and the Netherlands, as well as eight American states. Her work in archives began in Fargo, North Dakota, with the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection at the North Dakota State Libraries.

Wolfram M. Von-Maszewski, born and raised in Europe, has a Bachelor and Master of Arts degree in anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin. He did additional work in American Studies at the University of Colorado and in genealogy through Brigham Young University. He has produced several publications: *The German Volksfest in Brenham*, and did translations accompanied with annotations of accounts by early German travelers in Texas: Alwin Sörgel's *A Sojourn in Texas, 1846-47*, Victor Bracht's *Sketches of Texas*, and Prince Carl of Solms's Texas diary *Voyage to North America, 1844-45*. An on-going project is the translation of German-Texan records, such as church minutes, church registers, and private letters, from the old German script into English. Professionally, Von-Maszewski retired in 2008 as manager of the Genealogy and Local History Department at George Memorial Library in Richmond, Texas. He is a former GTHS Board president and has served on the GTHS Advisory Board.

James C. Kearney was born in Columbus, TX, in 1946 and grew up on a historic Colorado County ranch where he still resides with his wife. Kearney attended the University of Texas and graduated with a double major in History and German in 1969. In December 2010, Kearney was awarded a Ph.D. in Germanic Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Kearney sits on the board of directors of the GTHS.

In 2009, Kearney published a book with the University of North Texas Press, entitled *Nassau Plantation: the Evolution of a Texas Slave Plantation*. His second book was released in May 2012, entitled *Fredericksburg: The Colony of the German Fuerstenerverein*. This book is an annotated and illustrated translation of a novel by Friedrich Armand Strubberg which uses the foundation years of the German town of Fredericksburg (1846-1847) as the historical backdrop for an old-fashioned melodrama.

Myra Lee Adams Goff is a fifth generation New Braunfelser. Her earliest ancestor is Johann Georg Moeller who arrived at Galveston on the brig, *Weser*, in 1844. After growing up and going to school in New Braunfels, she earned her degree from Texas Christian University with a major in history and minors in English, German, and journalism. She began her writing career in high school with a column in the *Town and Country News* and was special correspondent for the *San Antonio Light* in New Braunfels.

After teaching school for 31 years, she once again took up her writing career. She has co-authored three books about New Braunfels history, *Kindermaskenball, Past and Present, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas, a Pictorial History*, and *Journey in Faith, the History of First Protestant Church*. Recently she wrote *It's Fair Time, the history of the Comal County Fair*. For the last six years she has written a bi-weekly column for the Sophienburg Museum and Archives and published in the *New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung*. These columns can be accessed at www.sophienburg.com.

Connie Schneider Krause was born in Seguin, grew up in New Braunfels, and spent many a day visiting both Omas and Opas on their farms, located near Bracken in Comal County, and near Zorn in Guadalupe County. She speaks, reads, and writes German and is a sixth generation descendant of many of the Germans that settled in the Comal and Guadalupe County area.

After graduating from the University of Texas, she married Michael Krause in a German service on his family ranch, founded in 1865. She currently manages the ranch with her faithful companions, Nikolas and Fritzie (German Shorthaired Pointers). When not tending the cattle or doing genealogy research, Connie is an active volunteer in many organizations. She serves as President and Editor for the Comal County Genealogy Society and is a member of the City of New Braunfels Cemetery Committee. In 2010, she was awarded the "City of a Prince Volunteer Service Award" for her hard work with the Comal Cemetery. She and Michael are members of the GTHS Guild, Hermann Sons, The New Braunfels Conservation Society, and Life members of the Sophienburg Museum and Archives as well as GTHS. Connie served many years on the GTHS board of directors. She compiled *Omas Cookie Buch* in 2000.

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Froehlicher 200. Geburtstag zum



Prinz Carl von Solms-

Braunfels

The Historic Museums Association (New Braunfels Conservation Society, New Braunfels Heritage Society, New Braunfels Railroad Museum and the Sophienburg Museum and Archives) along with the New Braunfels Historic Outdoor Art Museum, cordially invite you to celebrate the 200th Birthday of Prinz Carl von Solms-Braunfels at the unveiling of his statue followed by a dinner in his honor.

The ceremony for the statue unveiling will begin at 6:30 pm on July 27, 2012 at the New Braunfels Civic Center on Seguin Avenue. Entertainment will be provided by The New Braunfels Village Brass Band. Immediately after the Ceremony, a dinner will be served at the Schumann Hall at First Protestant Family Life Center. The menu for the dinner will be:

**Tossed Garden Green Salad with Vegetable Topanod
Smoked Beef Tenderloin and Southwest Stuffed Chicken with Ancho Cream Sauce
Loaded Twice Baked Mashed Potatoes, Heir Covert Green Beans
Homemade Yeast Rolls, Peach Cobbler
Ice Tea or Water**

If you would like to join Prinz Carl for dinner, please complete the form below and send it with an enclosed check to the New Braunfels Conservation Society ASAP. Seating is limited to the first 300 attendees.

Please enclose a check made out to the Historic Museums Assn.

Enclosed #	# of attendees _____ x \$45.00 = _____ or	with check
	Reserved Seating – Table for 8 # of tables _____ x \$400.00 = _____	

Name: _____
Additional Attendee(s): _____
Street: _____ City: _____
State: _____ Zip + 4 _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
E-Mail _____

**Send form and check to:
New Braunfels Conservation Soc., 1300 Church Hill Dr., New Braunfels, Tx 78130**

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Founded

German - Texan Heritage Society

2012 Annual Meeting

July 27-28, 2012 New Braunfels, Texas

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME (1st registrant) _____
 NAME (2nd registrant) _____
 MAILING ADDRESS _____
 CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
 TELEPHONE _____
 E-MAIL _____

- Please print or write legibly. Your name tag will be made from this information.
- Use one sheet for registrants at the same address.
- Make copies of this sheet for registrants at different addresses
- Membership in GTHS is **not** required.

- **Are You a Current GTHS Member?** Yes No
- **Are you vegetarian or vegan?**
- **Volunteering:** Yes I will volunteer at the meeting. What would you like to do? _____
- **Carpooling:** I need a ride. I can offer a ride to _____ people from my area.

REGISTRATION: Please make your selections by telling us how many will attend EACH event and placing dollar amounts in the appropriate blanks. Events with N/C (no charge) should be filled in, so that we may have a good head count and prepare. To avoid a late registration surcharge, your payment and completed form must be post-marked no later than July 13, 2012. Call 866-482-4847 with questions. Don't forget your hotel reservations.

VENDORS/EXHIBITORS: Indicate below the number of vendor or exhibitor tables you would need. You are considered a vendor if you plan to sell merchandise or services. **All vendors and exhibitors must also pay the main registration fee.**

Event with approximate times - GTHS Member

			cost per person	how many?	Total per event
FRIDAY	Genealogy Seminar Forcke Store 2:00pm		\$10	_____	\$_____
July 27	Supper Option 1	Early Supper 4:30 pm (for those not going to Prinz Carl dinner later - local German market meats, cheeses, breads, strudel dessert)	\$10	_____	\$_____
		Statue Unveiling 6:30 pm	N/C*	_____	
	Supper Option 2	Prinz Carl Birthday Dinner ~7:00 (not an official GTHS meeting event; includes dinner and entertainment)	Use Separate Registration	_____	Limited to first 300 registrants
SATURDAY	GTHS Meeting with lunch, First Protestant Church 8 am		\$35	_____	\$_____
July 28	Afternoon Field Trip Selection →	#1 _____ OR #2 _____	N/C*	_____	
		Field Trip #1 - Limited to max of first 100 Persons Field Trip #2 - For mobility limited and excess above limit from Trip 1	TOTAL		\$_____
		Late Registration Fee (after July 13)	\$5	_____	\$_____
		Non-Member + \$10 per person	\$10	_____	\$_____
		TOTAL			\$_____
		Exhibitor Table (one 6'x2' table)	Free	_____	
		Vendor Table (one 6'x2' table) Extra table +\$5	\$20/\$25	_____	\$_____
		TOTAL ENCLOSED			\$_____

* Although these events are free of cost, we do need a head count. Thank you.

____ Check enclosed payable to GTHS. Mail to: GTHS, PO Box 684171, Austin, TX 78768-4171
 ____ Charge to my MasterCard / Visa _____ exp _____
 Signature _____ V-code _____ (3 digit # on back of card)

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Ehrenstern Nomination Guidelines



As a member of GTHS, you have the opportunity to nominate particularly talented, dedicated, active fellow members to be considered for the Ehrenstern Award in recognition of his or her dedication to furthering the goals of the Society. We believe that when such excellence is demonstrated, it is appropriate that it be recognized. We are depending on your knowledge and good judgment to help us honor deserving recipients. **Please get involved!**

Guidelines for Nomination

1. The candidate must be a current member of GTHS and must have been an actively involved member of the Society for a minimum of five years.
2. Evidence of leadership in other German heritage, cultural or preservation organizations at the local, state or national level will also be considered an asset.
3. The candidate must have demonstrated some combination of personal commitment, innovation, talent, leadership and other qualities that contribute to the preservation of his or her community's German-Texan heritage and culture.

Nomination Procedures

1. Nominations* should include the name of the nominee, contact information and, in 500 words or less, a description as to why this person deserves the Ehrenstern Award. The nominator must also include his or her *own* name and contact information.
2. Nominees will be notified prior to the Annual Meeting and asked to fill out an application detailing their service to GTHS and other organizations. Only after receipt of this application will a nominee be considered for the award.

The GTHS Board will normally choose no more than two recipients each year. Recipients will be awarded a certificate at the Annual Meeting and recognized for outstanding contributions to GTHS and local community.

Selection Criteria

Recipients will be selected based on active participation in GTHS, membership in other German heritage, cultural or preservation organizations, and participation in the local preservation of his or her community's German-Texan heritage and culture.

Please send your nominations and the required information by **July 1, 2012** to
Mary Whigham, 16100 McCraven School Rd, Washington, TX 77880-5008
Or mjwhig@texasbb.com or (936) 878-2892

**Nominations must be received by July 1, 2012. GTHS is not responsible for any late nominations.*

Past Ehrenstern Award Recipients



1984

Daphne Garrett*
Gilbert Jordan*
Leola Tiedt*

1985

Theresa Gold
Irma Guenther*
Dona Reeves-Marquardt
Anna Thompson

1988

Mary El-Beheri*

1990

Elizabeth Lehmann*

1991

Lisa Kahn
Miriam York*

1994

Dora "Dat" Morrow*

1995

Frances Heimer Copeland*
Patsy Hand
Rodney Koenig
W. M. Von-Maszewski

1996

Ann Lindemann
Helga von Schweinitz

1997

Helgard Suhr-Hollis

1998

Charles Kalteyer

1999

Arlene Burges
Ted Gish*
Anita Killen*

2000

Teresa Schwaus Chavez
Ewing "Wing" Evans
Christa Prewitt

2002

Connie Schneider Krause
Michael G. Krause

2003

Christine Mills
Robert Neely
Muriel Vaughn

2004

Mimi Parris
Rev. Robert Pfennig
Annette Stachowitz
Philip L. Sterzing

2005

Theodora Vanderwerth
Boehm
Barbara Evans

2006

Van Massirer
Rolf Stachowitz*

2008

Siegi Keimling
Julia Mellenbruch
Christa Rabago

2009

Terry Smart

2010

Glen Treibs
Gerri Gehman West

* *Deceased*

Application for the Ehrenstern

The Ehrenstern award is presented to GTHS members who have been actively involved in the Society for at least five years and who have volunteered their time and shown their dedication through active participation in furthering the goals of the Society.

Please type or print – use black ink! DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS July 13th...

1. Applicant's contact information.

Name: _____ Address: _____

City / State / ZIP: _____ Phone: _____

Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

2. Description of involvement in GTHS, including volunteer positions held.

3. Membership and participation in other German heritage, cultural or preservation organizations.

<u>Years</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Leadership/volunteer role & # of years</u>
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4. Previous honors received from the above-mentioned organizations.

5. Description of contributions to preserving German-Texan heritage and culture in your local community.

6. Any additional information, further documentation and/or letters of support may be attached.
(Please note section number to be continued, if additional pages are attached.)

7. Nomination originally submitted by: _____

=====

Signature of applicant: _____ **Date:** _____

Send to Mary Whigham, 16100 McCraven School Road, Washington, Texas 77880, 936 878-2892
Email: mjwhig@texasbb.com

THE JOURNAL OF
THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
VOLUME XXXIV, NUMBER 2, SUMMER 2012

“Zur Erhaltung der deutschen Tradition”

- 074 In Memoriam—Mary El-Beheri**
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- 078 In Memoriam—William (Bill) Peter Koppelman**
- 079 Early Days of GTHS - Donna Reeves Marquardt**
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- 088 Uncovering Family History in the Records of Travis County - Liz Hicks**
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- 106 Freyburn to celebrate German Heritage September 25, submitted by Rodney Koenig**
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OPERATIONS

- 140 Minutes of the April Board Meeting (Unapproved)**
- Membership Application (for you to give to a friend)**
- Listing of books for sale**

Vielen Dank to these contributors

Rodney Koenig, Houston
Angelina Kretzschmar, San Antonio
Carl Luckenbach, Fredericksburg
Jean Warneke, Austin
Liz Hicks, Houston
Julia Kleinheider, Houston
Jean Heide, San Antonio

Scott Baird, San Antonio
Donna Reeves Marquardt, Austin
Anna Thompson, Dublin
Dan Bode, Dayton
Janice Thompson, Houston
Wendel Voigt, Pflugerville
Mel Rosenbaum, Houston

In Memoriam



GTHS LOSES ONE OF ITS FOUNDERS

MARY EL-BEHERI lost her battle with Parkinson's February 21, 2012, leaving her German Mark on many. She was born in North Little Rock, Arkansas, graduated from Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas, and earned a master's in German from the University of Arkansas. She spent two years teaching English in Germany early in her career. She was the first German teacher in Washington, Missouri since World War II. Mary moved to San Antonio and MacArthur High School where altogether, she taught for 42 years. From the retirement letter she wrote in 2005: "It has been great fun spending nearly half my lifetime at MacArthur High School. I was blessed with a situation which encouraged creativity and let me do the unusual." From this vantage point at Mac, the Sprachfest area contest (1976) and the State (1982) German Contest were founded, as well as the 1200 member German Texas Heritage Society now housed in Austin. Remembered as never doing anything halfway, her lifetime partner, Rhoda Auerbach said, "She was in it to win it, and she expected the same from her students." "You didn't let go of Mary," she said. "If Mary was your teacher, it didn't end with graduation."

Remembered as never doing anything halfway, her lifetime partner, Rhoda Auerbach said, "She was in it to win it, and she expected the same from her students." "You didn't let go of Mary," she said. "If Mary was your teacher, it didn't end with graduation."



El-Beheri established a local German contest called Sprachfest in 1976, and a few years later the Texas State German Contest. She was proud that her students won first place 10 years in a row. She was honored by the American Association of Teachers of German, receiving its Goethe-Institut Certificate of Merit in 1982. That same year she was named Texas Language Teacher and German Teacher of the Year.

In 2004, when she was awarded the Friedrich Gerstaecker Travel Grant, El-Beheri was characterized "as a legend, a dynamic individual, a Texas phenomenon and the 'grande dame' of Texas German teachers."

GTHS:

Memories from Donna Reeves-Marquardt:

In 1978, Mary El-Beheri brought a group of her high school students to Texas State University at San Marcos to present their research at a symposium on German-Texas that Glen Lich and I had organized. They joined distinguished scholars from Germany and from all over the United States to explore the topic and the symposium was a great success. It was typical of Mary to entice her students to do important, original research and to present it cooperatively. Her students were experienced and seasoned. We included their research in a volume of conference proceedings. Mary wrote there of the subject of their research, Julius Berends of her beloved San Antonio. In her essay, she avowed, "Interest and talent have no boundaries. Any warm body who wants to, can. We are a team....The knowledge of German adds new dimensions to each area." Such was the lodestar that guided Mary El-Beheri throughout her professional career: we are a team and we can do it. The event in San Marcos became the nucleus of the German-Texan Heritage Society. We gathered a team: Glen Lich, Anna Thompson, Minetta Goyne, Gilbert Jordan, and Susan Clayton among others. We explored the direction that such a society should take and we incorporated that same year. Mary protectively led it as President and Editor for the next twelve years, publishing the journal and several books as well as holding an annual conference.

Mary came to Texas and MacArthur High School of San Antonio in 1973, just after teaching a year in Germany. I became acquainted with her right away, for she assumed a leadership role in German and language

teacher associations immediately. We became friends and mutual assistants, as high school and university faculty ideally should be but rarely are. She adopted leadership responsibilities as naturally as she encountered her students, as she started projects and as she approached the problems of the world. An enduring enterprise which she established and enjoyed since the 1970s was the Texas State German Contest for high school students of German because language contests had been ignored by the UIL. She was never soft and cuddly but she was nourishing, collaborative and supportive. She never accepted complacency, mediocrity or injustice. She gave willingly of her self, her many talents, and her expertise while fiercely defending those values she deemed precious. And the German-Texan Heritage Society with its members was precious to her.

At one time in the 1980s, Mary rose up to defend GTHS from the threat of a less-than- friendly radical political group that wished to force our organization under their "umbrella." Repeated onslaughts were parried by the three of us, Mary, Anna and I, until their representatives showed up at our annual meeting unannounced, wishing to address the membership. Mary tossed her red hair, eyes flashing; she became a Molly Pitcher image as she barred their entry. They retreated—and their group eventually dissolved. Others might not have recognized the danger; others might not have responded so decisively. GTHS was saved. It prospers with a foundation built by volunteers rallying to a need eloquently expressed by Mary El-Beheri.

A dynamo whom her students lovingly call "Frau," Mary nearly exploded with ideas and opinions. She remained strong, wise, decisive and yes, sometimes abrasive throughout her too-short years. At times, the world seemed too limiting for her—its dimensions too confining. She needed new fields to explore and new campaigns to wage. Her energy and initiatives brought her honors: Foreign Language Teacher of the Year from the Texas Foreign Language Association, study grants from the Fulbright Commission, the Goethe Institute, and the American Association of Teachers of German, a Rockefeller Foundation Fellow, a leader in state and local history and language organizations, writer, speaker, and champion in women's issue groups. The honors so numerous fell easily to her. Mary El-Beheri has earned our accolades. Having contributed so much in such a brief time, she will be deeply missed by an assemblage of countless friends, students, associates and admirers, both in Texas and throughout the world, including this writer.



Picture taken the night we three (Mary, Glen Lich and I) signed the articles of incorporation of GTHS, Nov 10, 1978. It was at my home in Buda, and we celebrated with a bottle of German wine.

Dona Reeves-Marquardt

Memories from Anna Thompson: Our first annual meeting was in 1979 at the Hilton at Highland Mall. I did the logistics and Mary E. did the program. When we met in 1978 to found the GTHS, we met at Mary's apartment. The people there were the official founders (not founding members - there is a difference!). They were those on the certificate framed and hanging in the GFS hallway. The next time we met was in San Marcos at the University. Mary had invited some of the well-known German professors and told them about our activity. We wanted some input how to proceed with a publication, such as a journal or newsletter. I still remember how ticked off Mary was, when these people gave us the thumbs down, predicting failure because we didn't have any money. Mary decided that we didn't need them. With the solid support of Dona Reeves Marquardt, who dedicated her university our headquarters for the IRS and Texas non-profit paperwork, we forged ahead, talked up our project everywhere we went, charged \$5 for a year, and by the time we had our first Annual Meeting in 1979, we signed up our 500th member. This year we will have our 34th.

Anna Thompson

In Memoriam

LOUIS MARTIN ROSSNER

Louis Martin Rossner was born in San Antonio, TX on November 26, 1930 and passed away on March 18, 2012. Louis attended Brackenridge High School, was a veteran of the Korean Conflict, serving in the U. S. Army and was employed by CPS for 37 years. He was a member of St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, where he did volunteer work weekly for 20 years. He loved to square dance, going camping, loved automobile racing and visiting with other car buffs and was very proud of his German heritage. Preceding him in death were his parents, John Martin & Emily (Bierschwale) Rossner and sister, Ann Rossner Shelton. Surviving are his wife of 50 years, Willowdeen; brother-in-law, Walden Shelton; nephew, Judge Walden Shelton, Jr. and wife, Michelle and their daughter, Nicole; 2 nieces, Barbara & Brenda Shelton of San Diego, CA.; as well as many relatives and friends. The family will receive friends on Thursday, March 22, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, March 23, 2012 at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, 722 Robinhood Place, 78209. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Andrew's United Methodist Church or the German/Texas Heritage Society, 507 E. 10th St. Austin, TX 78701. To leave condolences for the family, go to www.sunsetfuneralhomesa.com.

In Memoriam

Oliver Ray Lehman

Oliver Ray Lehman, age 83, passed away Sunday, April 10, 2011 at Texoma Medical Center. Mr. Lehman is survived by his loving family. Private graveside services will be held at 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at Calvary Cemetery with Deacon Gary Vogel officiating. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made in his name to the charity of donors' choice. Condolences may be registered online at www.fisherfh.com Arrangements are under the direction of Fisher Funeral Home in Denison.

In Memoriam

William (Bill) Peter Koppelman



William (Bill) Peter Koppelman, 86, of Austin, TX passed away on May 14, 2012. He was born March 16, 1926 to Peter Wilhelm Koppelman and Bertha Stelter Koppelman in Galveston, TX. A loving father, brother, uncle, and grandfather, Bill is survived by his wife of 54 years, Elinor Ruth Koppelman, his daughter Lisa Ann Statham, his grandson Robert William Statham, his son Stephen William Koppelman, his daughter Carol Beth Koppelman and her husband Brian Ledford. Bill was baptized and confirmed in St. John's Lutheran Church in Galveston. He was a 1943 graduate of Ball High School in Galveston, finishing 10th in his class. A gifted student in science and mathematics, Bill joined the US ARMY on June 17, 1943 and was selected for the Army Specialized training program. He began a 9 month civil engineering course at Oklahoma State at age 17, took his basic training at age 18, and then completed the engineering course at Oregon State. Bill served in the 656th Engineer Topographical Battalion until receiving an honorable discharge on May 6, 1946. After his discharge Bill attended UT Austin, graduating in 1949 with a degree in civil engineering. After graduation he worked as a civil engineer with the US Bureau of Reclamation, and then the Texas Water Commission, retiring in 1984. Bill was a member of St. Martin's Lutheran Church since 1955, where he met his future wife Elinor Wilde. He was also a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the German Texan Heritage Society. In spite of a difficult childhood growing up in a broken family during the great depression, Bill lived a long, full life, and served his country honorably. He was a wonderful provider, and will be missed by his friends and extended family. Graveside services at 10:30 a.m. Friday, May 18, 2012 in Oakwood Annex Cemetery. Mr. Koppelman will lie in state from Noon until 5:00 p.m. Thursday, May 17, 2012 at Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home, 3125 N. Lamar Blvd. In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate donations to the charity of your choice. Obituary and memorial guestbook available online at www.wcfish.com.

Remembrances from Margaret Hitzfeld: Bill was an early member of GTHS and worked in the office with Theresa Chevez, Ex. Director, helping her with many different tasks. He was also a willing worker at our Maifests and Christmas Market along with his wife, Ellie. He served as Registrar for the annual meeting of 1998 held at the Marriot Hotel in Austin. Failing health prevented his active participation in the past few years. Our sympathies go to his wife and family.



The late Della Mullens who served as the Treasurer for the German Free School Guild working with Bill at the Registrar's table at the Marriot Hotel in Austin, 1998.

Early Days of GTHS

Dona Reeves-Marquardt

“German Studies” echoed with a broad resonance in the 1970s. The theme encompassed more than just literature and language—it sought to explore the wider horizons of cultural lines and geographical spaces as well. Glen Lich and I thought that the study included the topic of Texas German, not a new idea by any means, but an idea that dwelled on the margins of most academic institutions. We knew the risks of forging into new areas, but we were also buoyed by moderate successes of ethnic studies in other places. Glen knew the topic by background and upbringing. I knew enough by study to support Glen in his wild endeavor of establishing “Multicultures of the Southwest,” a forum in the School of Liberal Arts at what is now Texas State University in San Marcos where we were both teaching, he in the English Department and I in the Modern Language Department. Our first symposium in what we envisioned as an irregular series would be dedicated to the Texas Germans.

We invited scholars, experts and the public to present papers at the Symposium, held March 31-April 1, 1978, at the university. We knew the program would be attractive. It included presentations by Mack Walker (John Hopkins University), James Patrick McGuire (Institute of Texan Cultures), Hans-Martin Sass (Ruhr Universität, Bochum, Germany), Hubert Heinen (University of Texas), Wolfgang F. Michael (University of Texas), Gilbert Jordan (Southern Methodist University), Heinz Ziehe (Lutheran Pastor), Deolece Parmelee (Texas Historical Commission), Robert Robinson-Zwahr (Lubbock genealogist), Glenn Gilbert (Southern Illinois University), William Pool (Southwest Texas State University), Lisa Kahn (Texas Southern University), Francis E. Abernethy (Stephen F. Austin University), Joe B. Frantz (University of Texas), Terry G. Jordan (North Texas State University), A. Leslie Willson (University of Texas)—and Mary El-Beheri (Douglas MacArthur High School, San Antonio) with a number of her German students. Surely it was heady company for a high school teacher!

The stated objectives of the symposium were 1) to discover areas of Texas-German cultural survival, 2) to establish a place for interdisciplinary ethnic studies on the secondary and collegiate levels so that cultural awareness may be presented to the young, and 3) to involve the general community actively in cultural preservation. Mary with her talented students fit beautifully into our mission. We knew of their work with Julius Berends, through their untiring research a now noted German-Texan of San Antonio, and their exploration of primary sources in delineating his life and times in Texas. We did not know of public reaction to our whole symposium effort—whether sufficient interest in the topic of German Texas would be manifested by attendance and discussion.

The reaction and enthusiasm we found was overwhelming. Over 300 people attended and brought along lively discourse that several of us vowed to sustain. That had been our third objective, after all: community involvement. Within a month or two, Mary El-Beheri called several of us together to explore how best to continue the fervor we found at the symposium. First, we called a meeting at Mary’s apartment (she did not own a house yet) in San Antonio with Mary leading, Anna Thompson, James Patrick McGuire, Maria Watson, Susan Clayton and myself. Then, a month later, a larger group of enthusiasts met in San Marcos on campus. I cannot remember all who sat at that long table on campus that hot summer day, but I do recall the same people who had met in Mary’s apartment, along with Glen Lich, Gilbert Jordan and Minetta Goyne. We all acknowledged the need for an organization to support our beloved subject. It was Minetta, however, who tossed in our lodestone: “We shouldn’t be just another German-American social club; we must be a **backward looking, historical society**.” (I paraphrase her exact words.) That lodestone has been the magnetic pole that has shaped the German-Texan Heritage Society, born that day. Mary, Glen and I signed the Texas articles of incorporation November 10, 1978. It all happened very rapidly, publication of two volumes of symposium papers, the incorporation of the Society, the production of our first *Newsletter*, and solicitation of membership in a new German-Texan Heritage Society. For the latter, we used the addresses obtained from the Symposium. The response was heartening.

It was a cooperative venture from the beginning. Mary gathered the regular contributors into the first issues: Glen Lich’s “Grassroots Commentaries,” Anna Thompson’s “Events Calendar,” Minetta Goyne’s “Bi-Focal,” Gilbert Jordan’s “German-Texana,” Joseph Wilson’s “*Lebendiges Deutsch*,” Theresa Gold’s “German-Texans’ Genealogy,” and I compiled “Members’ Projects.” Mary lovingly patched it all together in a scrapbook form on a shoestring budget and we mailed it from the university. At the same time, we planned annual meetings, carried on correspondence and focused on a greater book publication program: Roemer, Biesele and those that followed. While it is true that the editors of the *Newsletter / Journal* functioned as officers of the Society for those first years, the arrangement was never

hierarchical. We relied on Mary to oversee the propulsion of the Society at the same time that each of us volunteered our efforts, learning often by doing. We observed the growth and strength of the Society and reveled in its success. Along the way, we heard Charles Trenckmann's admonition to get an office, but that would have to wait a number of years. We were guided by the wisdom of board members and advisors Miriam York, Elizabeth Lehmann, Leola Tiedt, Irma Goeth Guenther and many others who must have shaken their heads at our rather exuberant energy and managerial style. In reviewing early publications of our Society, we find few references to officers. Mary, aided by Anna, Glen and me, simply directed the Society for some twelve years until we felt it had progressed to a point where a larger leadership group might guide it into a solid future. By that time, we had rented an office and could afford a part-time office manager who would lend a professional tone to our organization. The four of us could afford to retreat; Mary relinquished her presidency, Glen had gone to Canada, Anna continued in the office and I became a reader of the *Journal*. We had worked without pay other than great satisfaction, we had met deadlines, expanded publication and established a healthy bank account. The goals we set had been attained; new goals would arise with new leadership.

Mary El-Beheri's guidance was the vinegar needed to season the formative years of the German-Texan Heritage Society. Without her leadership, the sprouts would have ripened less and the fruit we enjoy today would be less sweet. Mary protected the Society fiercely and loved it deeply. Thirty-four years of survival prove it had a solid foundation.

Submitted by Donna Reeves Marquardt

Long Time Member, Glen Treibs Honored

April 18 2012 issue of the *Fredericksburg Standard Radio Post*

Holy Ghost Lutheran Church hosted a celebratory German dinner honoring Glen Treibs, director emeritus, on his retirement from the board of the Cemetery Corporation after over 30 years of dedicated service on April 15 at noon in the Fellowship Hall.

Der Städtische Friedhof ("The City Cemetery") is jointly administered by a board of directors from HGLC, Zion and Bethany Lutheran Churches.

The net proceeds from the meal, enjoyed by more than 150 people, will go to the cemetery corporation for management and upkeep.

All members of Holy Ghost, Bethany and Zion Lutheran Churches and the community were invited to share in this event.

Treibs led on of his celebrated cemetery tours following the meal.

Submitted by Carl Luckenbach

President's Notes

You should not have any problem being bored this summer, as this Journal is just full of things to do and research! #1 item is our annual meeting in New Braunfels the end of July. What a lineup of speakers, seminars, field trips. Good job, Connie and Michael Krause! Our newest board member, Julia Kleinheider has given us a listing of great web sites "to spend time immersed in "deutscher Kultur,"; Trinity University's Scott Baird points us to a web site devoted to the continued interest in the changing interpretations and re-interpretations of the nineteenth century Texas German immigrants; member Carol Hackemack Harper sends us links for German research; and then there is the relaxation of reading about the old days in Austin in "Days of Beer and Pretzels" contributed by Liz Hicks among all the other things she does!



Every time I put the Journal together, I reflect on what has gone on before. And this one was no different as we pay honor to the memory of Mary El-Beheri, our founder and as one put it, "the vinegar needed to season the formative years of the German-Texan Heritage Society." Those early years can be compared to those early years of German immigration to America - groundbreaking, full of purpose, determination to succeed and visionary. Which brings to mind, who were we then, and who are we now? Per Mary E., "We shouldn't be just another German-American social club; we must be a *backward looking, historical society*." We are challenged as we move further and further away from that early history to keep it alive and relevant and interesting.

The 2010 census reported 50% of respondents claimed German heritage! How do we capitalize on those potential subscribers to our organization? Texas surely has a significant number given the state's immigration history. How do we reach those folks and what more can we offer?

Your board is beginning a long range planning process that I hope will be a "floor plan" for a continued successful organization committed to promoting awareness and preservation of the German cultural heritage here in Texas. You can help by weighing in on our future. What do you think we are doing right? What do you think we should do differently? What are we not doing that you think we should be doing and vice versa?

Give it some thought and get back to me. I have made my reservations for the annual meeting and hope to see you there!

Mary

Executive Director's Report

It is usually quiet around the German Free School but this summer we are planning the 2012 GTHS Annual Meeting, which takes place in New Braunfels at the end of July. You will find information and registration forms in this issue of the *Journal* as well as in the most recent issue of the *Schulhaus Reporter*. With Michael and Connie Krause on the job, you know it will be great; after all, they have lived there for years and know everyone.

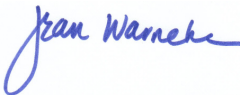
Did you hear that *The Heart of Tin Truck* will be performed in Round Top once again in July and August? Last year, the premiere year, they played to sellout crowds in that beautiful auditorium at Festival Hill. The theatre alone is worth the trip. Playwright Virginia Leech, a native of La Grange, started writing down stories from her ancestors. It became a play and voila! it became a musical. For tickets you can call 979-250-1843 or visit the website at heartofthetrunk.com.

We receive a number of books each year from authors asking us to review their publication. Would you be the right person to review such books and write a review for the *Journal*? If you like reading, this should not be a difficult task. Please let me know. We will be happy to mail the book to you and ask that you read it and send in a one page review.

GTHS has been experiencing some website problems and we want to apologize for any inconvenience. We are in the hopes of re-building the site soon. Any of you with such skills, please contact us as soon as possible. We hope to enable payment for classes, memberships, and meetings, as well as selling books and other items. Stay tuned.

Stay *kühl* this summer and we'll see you in New Braunfels!

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,



Jean Warneke
Executive Director

execdirector@germantexans.org



LEAVE YOUR GERMAN MARK

By Rodney C. Koenig (past President of GTHS)



We are already well into the year 2012. Perhaps you have already had your 2012 Birthday or maybe it is this month or will be coming later in the year. Have you thought that your birthday keeps coming much too often? Be glad it keeps coming since the alternative of not having any further birthdays is not good. Have you ever heard your 5 year old grandchild say, "Is it my birthday already? I thought I just had a birthday a few months ago." For a five year old, one year represents 20% of his or her life, while for a 50 year old, one year is only 2% of his or her life. If you are 60, 70, 80 or above, one year represents a very small percentage of all the years you have known. That's why time seems to drag for young persons and seems to rush by for those of us age 60 or older. One thing you should do on your birthday is to reflect on your estate planning and your Will. Check your life insurance and your beneficiary designations on IRAs, 401(k) and 403(b) plans. Are you certain what your Will and your beneficiary designations say? Is it still appropriate? Has it been five years or more since you looked at your Will and beneficiary designations? Resolve to update your planning this year on your birthday.

In light of the high threshold for Estate Tax (\$5,120,000 in 2012), most of us will not be subject to death taxes, allowing us to give more to family and our favorite charity, such as German-Texan Heritage Society. Remember that certain assets, such as IRAs, 401(k) plans and 403(b) plans will be subject to income taxes if you give those to your spouse, children or grandchildren, while GTHS can receive that asset without the imposition of an income tax or estate tax. So, if you desire to leave some amount to charity, consider changing your beneficiary designation to German-Texan Heritage Society or the German Department of your favorite school. If each of us gave five percent of our estate or IRA to GTHS, this would be a major amount in the aggregate. Please consider including a favorite German charity in your Will and estate plan. Your birthday, your parents and grandparents birthdays are wonderful opportunities to make memorial gifts to allow yourself, your parents, your grandparents, or a favorite teacher to be remembered.

The founding president and editor-in-chief of the Journal of the German-Texan Heritage Society, Mary Mathis El-Beheri, passed away on Tuesday, February 21, 2012. Mary was a tireless worker, along with her friends Anna Thompson, Donna Reeves, Glen Lich and others during the formative years of German-Texan Heritage Society. Mary taught German at Douglas MacArthur High School in San Antonio, Texas. She encouraged authors such as Glen Lich, Gilbert and Terry Jordan, Daphne Dalton Garrett, Meredith McClain and numerous other individuals active in German history, literature, language and culture to contribute to our Newsletter which later became the Journal. Mary received many awards for her teaching including the Texas Foreign Language Teacher of the Year which was presented by the Texas Foreign Language Association. She originated Sprachfest, the San Antonio area high school German contest and was a member of the National Pedagogical Journal of the American Association of Teachers of German Advisory Staff. There will be numerous other individuals who write of Mary Mathis El-Beheri, but it can truly be said of Mary that in her acting as founding President and first Editor-in-Chief of GTHS, she truly left her German Mark.

How will you leave your German Mark? How will you be remembered? Will you leave a memorial to your grandparents or your favorite teacher? If you desire help in leaving your German Mark, contact any of our GTHS officers, our Board Members or contact Rodney C. Koenig at (713) 651-5333 or at rkoenig@fulbright.com. Give yourself a birthday present by taking positive action in updating your Will!

Genealogy Inquiries: Liz Hicks, Genealogy Editor

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

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



GERMAN JAW – HABSBURG JAW/PROGNATHISM – more information

(See query Spring, 2012 *Journal*) Roberto McAllister, 2205 Bonita St., Austin, TX 78703 sent a query about the origin of his friend's appearance, specifically his friend's FAT JAW. The last name of his friend is RINEHART.

Reply: Response from NJ Thompson, thompsonnj@yahoo.com. "I have no idea how this relates to the Rinehart family, but there is definitely a jaw characteristic known as 'Prognathism', also known as 'Habsburg Jaw'. It is a protruding lower jaw and under-bite. The genetic deformity of Charles II of Spain was said to be so pronounced he could neither speak clearly nor chew as a result of generations of politically-motivated family inbreeding."

Websites with information on the "Habsburg Jaw"-encyclopediaen.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prognathism; www.thefreedictionary.com/Habsburg+jaw and additional information can be found by doing a Google search for Habsburg Jaw.

POSA – HOFFMAN(N)

Dollie Johnson, 13762 Calvary Road, Willis, TX 77318 seeks information on Marie Posa who married Jacob Hoffman 6 October 1874 Bastrop County, TX. Jacob was born 1851 in Germany. I was told she lived with a family in the Red Rock area, but their name was not Posa. Any information appreciated.

Reply: Mary Ann Posa Hoffman's death certificate #48435 Bastrop County, TX gives her date of birth as 29 April 1852, born Germany, and don't know for her parents. Mary/Marie died 4 Oct. 1937. Be sure to consider variation of spelling of Posa; such as, Powser, Pose, Pauza. Remember, the record keepers many times wrote how the name sounded, and not how it was spelled by the individual.

PETRICK – BIRKIGT

Norman M. Kneschk, 619 CR 231A, Jonesboro, TX 76538, e-mail: normk@htcomp.net is researching Johann Petrick and his wife, Clara Hermine Birkigt from Saxony, Germany. I know he was in the war of 1870-1871, and his wife died 1881 in Germany. He packed his belongs and 3 small daughters 7, 5, and 3 and came first to Robertson County, TX, then Bell County, and finally in 1895 to Hamilton Co. Is there a way to learn how Clara Birkigt Petrick died in Germany, and why he would leave and bring 3 small children to Texas? Clara was born in Friedrichwalde, Germany.

Reply: Johann/John Petrick filed Declaration of Intent in Robertson Co., TX. People have a reason for being where they are. Look at the county tax rolls for Birkigts or Petricks who may have preceded Johann to Texas. There is a Matthias Petrick age 81, born Prussia on the Bastrop Co., TX census. I would use www.familysearch.org, click catalog, then do a place search for Friedrichwalde, Germany to see if the parish records have been microfilmed, and available at a LDS (Mormon) Family History Library near you. I would see if there is a death record for Clara Hermine Petrick in the parish records. This record may provide additional information. I would also check for obits for Johann Petrick and daughters, as may also provide information about their mother's cause of death.

GRIMM – GRIM – ROSENTHALL – HIMLY

Brigitte Hulme Grimm, League City, TX, e-mail: Brigitte.Grimm@comcast.net I have looked at ancestry.com and FOLD 3, but can't seem to find information as to the parents of Adolf Grimm 1860-1947, born Washington Co., TX, married Clothilda Himly, Texas Death Certificate does not have his parents' names.

Reply: This sound familiar. A query was published for you in a previous *Journal*. Here is some additional information for you. Check the 1859-1861 Washington Co., TX tax lists to see if any Grimm is listed. If one or more are, these are the possible father of your Adolf. Grimm/Grim buried in Washington Co. cemeteries: Prairie Lea Cemetery-Emma Grimm 1880-1955, Henry Grimm 1878-1955, Charlie Grimm 1876-1954, Emma K. Grimm 1882-1924, Gustav O. Grimm 1894-1929, William 1874-1953; St. John's Lutheran-Christian Grimm 1843-1878, Ida 1897-1954; Union Church-Bertha Grimm 1889-1910, Elisabeth Grimm 1872-1890, Emily Sophie Grimm 1886-1908, Henry Grimm 1846-1929, Louise Grimm 1854-1916, Norma Louise Grimm 1914-1919, and Walter Grimm b. & d. 1888. Use www.familysearch.org to see the death certificates of those who died between 1903-1976. See who their parents were.

Washington Co., TX Declarations and Naturalizations- only Grimm/Grim listed is Joachim Grimm, date of proceedings 5 Oct. 1857. 1859-1862 Washington Co. tax lists-John Grim, 1 horse, 8 cattle, misc. property \$12, was assessed a poll tax (indicates he was 21+).

Charlotte Meissner of Killeen, TX contributed the following information. The Fred/ Ferdinand Grimm she is researching was born Washington Co., married in Austin Co. to Amelia Emily Haas 23 Jan. 1884. The church records of St. Jacobi (now St. James) Evangelical Lutheran, New Wehdem, (church records in the Nesbitt Memorial Library, Columbus, Tx) "Groom: Ferdinand Grimm, born Washington Co., TX, now lives near Travis [county] in Rocky Settlement". Witnesses at wedding: ADOLPH GRIMM, Miss Anna Graf. Charlotte believes your Adolph Grimm's father was John/Johann Grimm of 1860 Washington County, TX. Charlotte's Grimms lived later in Bell County, TX.

In a 1997 query, a Tim Wilson, timww@ktc.com, was looking for descendants of Alexander and Clothilde Oske Himly of Colorado Co., TX. One of their children, Clothilde Lillie Himly, married Adolph Grimm. And finally, for the suspected father of your Adolph, look for probate records, and always check the surrounding counties for information.

STAEHELY – TIPS – WUPPERMAN(N)

Walter Cooke, 26 Skyland Pl., The Woodlands, TX 77381, e-mail:waltercooke@gmail.com Would like to know how he is related to the Tips family of Austin, Travis County, Texas. A John Staehely is mentioned in the *Diary of Elsie Wuppermann 1850-1860*.

Reply: I did a Google search for Wupperman+Tips+Staehely and found a family tree of the Tips family. A Hermine Tips married Johann (John) Abraham Staehely in 1853 Guadalupe Co., TX. Hermine, John, and the Wuppermanns are mentioned in the diary. The family link is http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~davelram/TIPS/RR01/RR01_009.HTM.

VON KIRCHAIN Rev. Dewey E. Brown, Jr., Rector St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Dade City, FL, e-mail: frdewey@stmdc.com, is researching Ferdinand J. von Kirchain, buried Covington Cem., Falls Co., TX. The Falls Co. Clerk has no death records prior to 1903. When and why did he go to Falls County? He married Lucy Burris in Clarke Co., MS, and appears on the 1845 state census of Amite Co., MS. In 1850 Ferdinand is in Anderson Co., TX. His name appears in the Jan., 1850 *Texas State Gazette*, where Lt. Col. Ferdinand J. Von Kirchain petitioned the Texas Legislature for reimbursement for services during the Texas War of Independence.

Reply: People have a reason for being where they are. Check Falls Co., tax lists to see when Ferdinand first appears on the tax list. The state law creating the keeping of vital records did not pass until 1903. There was not good statewide compliance until 1920+/- by all Texas counties. County clerks did keep marriages and probate records prior to 1903, and tax lists from beginning of that particular county. I checked the *Index to Probate Minutes 1854-1943* for Falls Co., and did not find a record for him. Be sure to check surrounding counties. It is possible, the family settled his estate without probate. If that is the case, check the deed books. The Texas General Land Office, and the Texas State Library and Archives are good sources of information for Republic of Texas records. The Republic of Texas Claims are online at the Texas State Lib. & Archives.

An observation: Since the spelling of Kirchain will surely vary in records, are you sure you have the same person or another man by similar name in the Mississippi records? I guess it would be possible for someone to be in pre-1845 Texas, and then appear in 1845 MS. If you read the original claim/petition, it should indicate where he was when the claim was filed. Normal migration pattern is Mississippi to Texas and not vice versa.

RITZ – FIDDLER/FIEDLER

Carol Wootton, 8015 Blue Lake Dr., San Diego, CA 92119, e-mail: cwootton@aol.com Researching Christian Ritz born 25 January, 1853. 1880 census has place of birth as Bavaria, later censuses have Pennsylvania. I would like to know where he was born. He first lived in Gillespie Co., but moved to and died in Pecos Co., TX. His death certificate does not give name of parents. Christian married Magthdalena “Lena” Helen Fiedler/Fiddler, born 1855, Fredricksburg, TX.

Reply: At my suggestion, Carol checked the IGI (International Genealogical Index) found at www.familysearch.org. She found a Christian Ritz born the exact date as given on her Christian Ritz’s death certificate and tombstone. He was born in Hoeringen, baptism was 30 Jan. 1853 in Heiligenmoschel, Bayern, Germany to Christian Ritz and Elisabetha Becker. Carol also found a record of another Christian Ritz born 24 Jan. 1853 and baptized 30 Jan. 1853 Evangelisch Konken, Bayern, Germany to Christian Ritz and Elisabethe Wagner. Since Carol’s Christian was Catholic, I suggested she use *Meyers Orts* to see if Heiligenmoschel has a Catholic parish. If so, she will use www.familysearch.org, catalog search for microfilm of Catholic church records of births, etc. Your Christian Ritz is mentioned several times in *Pecos A History of the Pioneer West* by Alton Hughes. His grant of citizenship, 23 May 1874, Gillespie Co. gives his place of birth as Bavaria. Possibly, the census taker of later censuses asked, “Where were you from”, and **not** “Where were you born”? Of course, we do not know who gave the information to the census taker. A Chris. Ritz is listed (no land) on the 1873 Gillespie Co. tax lists, and appears to have left by 1877.

A query post to the Bavaria mailing list on www.rootsweb.com provided location (Speyer, Germany) of Catholic Archives where additional information may be found. This mailing list seems to be very active and helpful.

1940 US Federal Census

The 1940 census was released to the public on April 2, 2012. At present, there is not an index. Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org are working on it with the help of volunteers. Until an index is completed, you may want to try some of these suggestions to aid in your search. If you know the State, City, House and Street number where your person was living in April, 1940, your search will be pretty easy.

Ask older family if they remember where the family lived in 1940. Use old family address books, Christmas card addresses, old phone books, city directories, WWII draft registration, obituaries and newspapers, old letters may give family’s address. Death Certificates usually have the deceased’s address. Use the street address from the 1930 census, if you think they were living in the same place in 1940.

If street address cannot be determined, use <http://stevemorse.org/census/unified.html> to help you find an enumeration district for a specific 1940 location. If you know an address for a rural area, use <http://stevemorse.org/ed/ed.php?year=1940>. [Http://stevemorse.org/census/changes.html](http://stevemorse.org/census/changes.html) for street name changes. This tool helps determine street name changes in major cities. Enumeration District maps for counties and urban areas are available at <http://stevemorse.org/census/xml1940edmaps.html>.

Were your ancestors from Tiefenort? Tiefenort is a small municipality located in Thuringa, in the central part of Germany. Individuals or families with a connection are asked to share their research/history. Contact: Astrid Adler at unternehmensbetrueung@t-online.de. The 875th anniversary of Tiefenort will be held Sept. 8-Sept. 16, 2012.

Message Board Post: Al Tieman at altiemman@gmail.com The scope and purpose of this Geographical DNA Project is to offer help to those researchers who can either trace their ancestral roots to, or currently live in what was the former Principality of Lippe. Although there is a German DNA Project, the Lippe Detmold Project is designed to offer a more confined geographical area of research. Currently Lippe consist of roughly 481 square miles, this is walking distance. I originally started a DNA SURNAME PROJECT, which I still administer. Due to the German practice of changing surnames with the transfer of real-estate, either by purchase or inheritance through a female spouse, this project made sense to me. Historically Lippe has existed as a country since 1123 and was once an independent state within the Holy Roman Empire, later, it was incorporated into Prussia. Lippe was elevated to the status of Principality

from 1789 to 1949, it is now part of the state North Rhein-Westphalia. In the 19th Century 20,000 people from Lippe emigrated to the Americas, mostly to the United States and Canada. Those of you, who want to join, please contact; Al Tieman at altiemman@gmail.com

Surnames: Achterling, Altmicus, Austermann, Bauerkdmpfer, Benig, Berghan, Betke, Biere, Bvgeholz, Bolhvfer, Brakhage, Brand, Brockmeier, Br|ntrop, Budde, Burre, Busse, Claes, Cramer, Deppe, Dicke, Domeier, Drave, Drawe, Dregger, Ebert, Ebker, Fasse, Fleege, Grote, Grothe, Grvder, Hasse, Hagemeister, Herzog, Holsten, Huttemann, J|rgens, J|rgensmeister, Kanne, Kannen, Kannes, Kestings, Kisow, Klaas, Klemme, Kloch, Kloke, Kvster, Kvsting, Koestings, Kramer, Krammer, Krieger, Kuhfess, Kuhlmann, K|kenhvner, Langewort, Leimenk|hler, Linnemeier, Linneweber, Lukebart, L|cking, L|ning, Meyers, Milt-ing, Nese, Neese, Neidmann, Nieder, Niesen, Oberkruger, Vtermann, Pahl, Plvger, Pollmann, Poppe, Potthof, Rabbe, Rebbe, Rehse, Renner, Richter, Richtermeier, Richts, Riemann, Roof, Rose, R|gge, Ruth, Sasse, Schdfer, Schapeler, Schlingmann, Schluster, Schmidtmeier, Schrvder, Schweppe, Soll, Stapperfenne, Starke, Stecker, Stelter, Stockmeier, Stole, Stolschdper, Stoelting, S|nkler, Thies, Tieman, Tiemann, Toedt, Toedtmann, Tvdt, Tvtemeyer, Voss, Wegener, Wessel, Wiegmann, Wiese, Witte, Wolfs, Wulfkuhle

<http://boards.rootsweb.com/localities.northam.usa.states.texas.counties.travis/1447/mb.ashx>

Here are some links and opportunities for us.

1. Janice Quick is calling our attention to "Researching Your German Ancestors", a Webinar coming up on June 6, and found at <http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/Webinars.asp>

2. A Webinar, "Discovering your German Ancestors", recorded 8 July 2008. Of course the real-time features are not available.

[http://ancestry.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/ancestry.cfg/php/enduser/sab_answer.php?](http://ancestry.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/ancestry.cfg/php/enduser/sab_answer.php?p_faqid=4196&p_search_text=german%20ances-try&p_created=1223485747&p_sid=Rei64YWk&p_accessibility=&p_redirect=&p_lva=&p_sp=cF9zcmNoPTEmcF9zb3J0X2J5PSZwX2dyaWRzb3J0PSZwX3Byb2RzPSZwX2NhdHM9JnBfcHY9JnBfY3Y9JnBfcGFnZT0x&p_li=&p_topview=1)

[p_faqid=4196&p_search_text=german%](http://ancestry.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/ancestry.cfg/php/enduser/sab_answer.php?p_faqid=4196&p_search_text=german%20ances-try&p_created=1223485747&p_sid=Rei64YWk&p_accessibility=&p_redirect=&p_lva=&p_sp=cF9zcmNoPTEmcF9zb3J0X2J5PSZwX2dyaWRzb3J0PSZwX3Byb2RzPSZwX2NhdHM9JnBfcHY9JnBfY3Y9JnBfcGFnZT0x&p_li=&p_topview=1)

[20ances-](http://ancestry.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/ancestry.cfg/php/enduser/sab_answer.php?p_faqid=4196&p_search_text=german%20ances-try&p_created=1223485747&p_sid=Rei64YWk&p_accessibility=&p_redirect=&p_lva=&p_sp=cF9zcmNoPTEmcF9zb3J0X2J5PSZwX2dyaWRzb3J0PSZwX3Byb2RzPSZwX2NhdHM9JnBfcHY9JnBfY3Y9JnBfcGFnZT0x&p_li=&p_topview=1)

[try&p_created=1223485747&p_sid=Rei64YWk&p_accessibility=&p_redirect=&p_lva=&p_sp=cF9zcmNoPTEmcF9zb3J0X2J5PSZwX2dyaWRzb3J0PSZwX3Byb2RzPSZwX2NhdHM9JnBfcHY9JnBfY3Y9JnBfcGFnZT0x&p_li=&p_topview=1](http://ancestry.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/ancestry.cfg/php/enduser/sab_answer.php?p_faqid=4196&p_search_text=german%20ances-try&p_created=1223485747&p_sid=Rei64YWk&p_accessibility=&p_redirect=&p_lva=&p_sp=cF9zcmNoPTEmcF9zb3J0X2J5PSZwX2dyaWRzb3J0PSZwX3Byb2RzPSZwX2NhdHM9JnBfcHY9JnBfY3Y9JnBfcGFnZT0x&p_li=&p_topview=1)

3. Online Old German Script tutorial to go through at your own pace.

<http://script.byu.edu/german/en/welcome.aspx> You can go through the tutorial without registering, but will not be able to save any of your scores or other work.

4. Moderated Old German Script Tutorial in three parts.

Lesson 1

<http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/FHD/Community/en/FamilySearch/Handwriting/Kurrent/Lesson1/index.html>

Lesson 2

<https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/lesson/reading-german-handwritten-records-lesson-2-making-words-in-kurrent/70>

Lesson 3

<https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/lesson/reading-german-handwritten-records-lesson-3-reading-kurrent-documents/71>

Glückliches Forschen! Carol Hackemack Harper, CCGS Programs

This is a good source of stories about Texans of German heritage. http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/03_Consulates/Houston/00/Home.html?offset=0

Uncovering Family History in the Records of Travis County: An Introduction to the Travis County Archives and A Guide to County Genealogical Research

Christy Moilanen, Travis County Archivist, April 2012

Travis County has a rich history that is well-documented in the records produced and maintained by the Travis County government. These records are valuable not only to government officials, agencies, and employees, but also to business people, researchers, genealogists, and members of the general public. They document the political, economic, cultural, and social history of the county and provide unique insight into the history and development of the government, community, and the lives of citizens. Preservation of Travis County records is crucial to the maintenance of this rich history for the future.

In January of 2009, Travis County formally established its first county archives program. As a subdivision of Travis County's Records Management and Communication Resources department, the Archives was established to collect and preserve county records with enduring and historical value and make them available for reference and use. The Archives supports all county departments and elected officials by offering services to care for records of all types and formats.

The mission of the Travis County Archives is to serve the government and the community of Travis County by documenting, preserving, and making available its records and history. Records maintained in the Archives are those that must be kept permanently as mandated by the Texas State Library and Archives, or appraised to have administrative, legal, fiscal, evidential, informational, or historical value. Records with historical value are those that contain useful or significant informational content that reflect, exemplify or provide insight into the history of Travis County and its government. The Archives also accepts donations, particularly from individuals who have served as either elected or appointed county officials or employees.

Although the Travis County government is a large organization and nearly 175 years old, the Archives program is new and relatively small. Since its establishment, the Travis County Archives has been faced with limitations in dedicated staff, space and funding. Despite these constraints, however, the existence of the Archives program has allowed for the collection and care of valuable county records, many of which had long been at risk for deterioration and loss, to begin. In July of 2010, the Travis County Commissioners Court approved the allocation of nearly 5,000 square feet of space to the Archives program for the purposes of records storage and preservation. Located in the Ruiz Building at 5555 Airport Boulevard, the Archives records storage space is climate controlled, secure, and large enough to accommodate all current collections, as well as years of future growth.

Collections in the Archives are inventoried and organized to facilitate access by researchers. Finding aids, which describe the organization of the records and the content, are produced and placed online on the Archives web site at <http://www.traviscountyhistory.org/>. Records are stored in acid-free folders and boxes, and the entire records storage space is climate controlled to prevent further deterioration.

The Archives makes its services available to all county departments and offices. For the most part, the records of the County Clerk and the District Clerk are maintained by those offices, although both departments have deposited some of their oldest records with the Archives. Currently the Archives has nearly 40 collections and over 1,200 cubic feet of records that are available for research. Records include bound volumes, loose papers, digital and print photographs, oral history recordings, and an extensive collection of microfilm. New materials and collections are continuously being added, and as the program grows and the records storage space is developed, many records currently in offsite storage will be transferred to the Archives.

Current collections include records of the following departments and offices:

- County Attorney, 1974-1985 – case papers and administrative files
- County Auditor, 1942-1977 – revenue and payroll journals and registers
- County Clerk, 1839-1963 – Board of Equalization records, official bonds and oaths of office, deputation records, election records, school and livestock records
- County Commissioners, 1888-1985 – reports, road overseer records, and administrative and subject files
- County Health Department, 1932-1956 – public health publications, medicinal leaflets and autopsy statements
- County Judge, 1890-1980 – convict labor records and administrative and subject files

County Surveyor, 1838-1999 – land surveys, indexes and field notes
 County Treasurer, 1865-1903 – jury registers and scrips
 County Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1962-1978 – scrapbooks of clippings, photographs, correspondence and certificates
 District Attorney, 1980-1985 – case files
 District Clerk, 1840-1985 – early criminal case papers, bar dockets and jury books
 Facilities Management, 1929-2000 – plans and drawings
 General Services, 1981-1991 – administrative, personnel and facilities records
 Historical Commission, 1986-2011 – records of proceedings, historical marker files and publications
 Justices of the Peace Precincts 1-8, 1854-1980 – civil and criminal dockets, case papers, birth and death records and reports
 Purchasing Office, 2001-2010 – publications
 Records Management and Communication Resources, 1984-2005 – publications and general files
 Sheriff, 1841-2010 – law enforcement records and publications
 Tax Assessor-Collector, 1881-1974 – tax receipts, tax rolls and reports

Currently the Archives is open by appointment only, as there is only one individual on staff. As time allows, information searches can be conducted by the archivist at no cost, and photocopies or scans of records can also be provided to individuals requesting them.

It is a future goal to have the Archives located in a more centralized and accessible location, specifically in the top two floors of the Heman Marion Sweatt Travis County Courthouse in downtown Austin. Formerly the county jail, this space is envisioned as one day being renovated into a museum and archives, open to the public and available for tours and research.

A GUIDE TO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

Travis County records contain a wealth of information that is useful to the family history researcher. Records that inform genealogical research include marriage records, birth and death records, probate records, deed records, property tax records, inquest records, and many other documents. An investigation into these records can provide valuable insight into a family's unique history and the times in which they lived.

The following is an overview of the types of Travis County records that can be helpful in researching family histories, and where to find and access those records. It is important to note that while the Travis County Archives makes available preservation and archival storage services for all county departments and offices, for the most part, the offices of the County Clerk and the District Clerk maintain their own records and have their own staff to assist researchers. As the majority of genealogical information will be found in the records of these two offices, particularly in those of the County Clerk, records will typically be requested directly from those offices. Exceptions to this will be noted below.

Genealogical records of the County Clerk, District Clerk, Justices of the Peace, and the Tax Assessor-Collector will be addressed in the following sections.

Records of the Travis County Clerk

The office of the County Clerk is one that dates back to the days of the Republic of Texas. Most of the duties of the office of the County Clerk stem back to an 1846 law that required county clerks to record all sorts of official documents, such as deeds, bonds, marriage contracts, and conveyances of property, to name a few. Today, the majority of the duties still pertain to the receipt, custody and issuance of a wide array of records, instruments, certificates, licenses and other official papers, in addition to the Clerk's duties to the County Courts. In Travis County, the County Clerk's Office is divided into divisions, each with specific record keeping duties and different procedures for obtaining information.

Recording and Marriage Licenses Division, 5501 Airport Blvd., Austin, TX 78751

The Recording Division preserves all documents pertaining to real property and vital statistics records (marriage, birth and death records). For documents filed prior to 1988, there is a public research area located at 5501 Airport Boulevard, where research clerks are available to assist patrons find and view microfilmed records. If the microfilm is illegible, original records can usually be retrieved, although there may be a turnaround time of a few days, as

many of these records are located in offsite storage. For a fee, the Recording Division staff can also perform searches or provide certified copies. For documents filed after 1988, an online database of indexes and imaged documents, located at <http://deed.co.travis.tx.us/>, is available.

Civil and Probate Division, Travis County Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe St., #222, Austin, TX 78701
The Civil and Probate Division keeps records for civil and probate courts. The probate court hears cases concerning wills to be probated, administration of estates, mental health commitments, and guardianships.

Records Management Division, Travis County Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe St., #220, Austin, TX 78701
The Records Management Division is the overarching department that manages and preserves the records for the County Clerk's Office and provides an efficient retrieval service for the public. To access probate, county court, and other miscellaneous records, visit the Travis County Courthouse in downtown Austin. Research is on a semi-self serve basis. Staff is available to assist with retrieving records, either on microfilm or in original form. Many original records are located offsite, so allow time for records to be retrieved.

Marriage Records

Of the three principal vital statistics records maintained by the County Clerk, the marriage record is the oldest. Marriage records in Travis County date back to the County's establishment in 1840. State law requires that the Clerk record a marriage license upon issuance, and upon return of the license, record the date of the ceremony and the name of the person performing the marriage. In Travis County, these records are maintained by the Recording Division, and certified copies can be obtained by contacting this department. Early marriage records and their indexes were recorded in large bound volumes. Records prior to 1999 are microfilmed, and records dating from 1999 and after are digitized. Some original licenses in loose paper format are also maintained by the County Clerk's Office.

Marriage Licenses and Indexes – 1840-present. Sometimes referred to as the Marriage Record. Recorded copies of marriage licenses show license number, names of the bride and groom, date of ceremony, name and title of individual performing ceremony. Direct and reverse indexes (arranged alphabetically by the names of both the bride and groom name) show the license number, names of bride and groom, date of marriage, and volume and page number where recorded.

Marriage Applications – 1959-1970s. Applications for marriage licenses showing county, full names of applicants, social security numbers, date and place of birth, usual residence, and proof of identities. Earlier records are not indexed.

Birth and Death Records

The recording of birth and death records in Travis County has not always been a particularly straightforward matter. In Texas, births and deaths are recorded by the county in which they occurred, and in Travis County, they are recorded and maintained by several different entities, including the County Clerk's Recording Division, the Justices of the Peace, and the City of Austin. Generally, the County Clerk's Office records births and deaths that occurred within Travis County but outside the city limits of Austin, which are maintained by the City. However, over the years the recording responsibilities in Travis County have shifted between those different offices.

Because the County Clerk is not the only registrar for births and deaths in a county, if a particular birth or death cannot be found among county records, it does not necessarily mean the person was not born or did not die in the county. Records may also be on file with the City of Austin Office of Vital Records or with the State Department of Vital Statistics. Records of births and deaths are required to be forwarded to the State, so in theory, the State should have the same records as the County and the City, although this may not always be the case with older records.

The registration of births and deaths was not mandated by the state of Texas until 1903. Records before this time are scattered and incomplete. During the 1876-1879 time period, births were registered by the District Clerk's Office. In these records, families sometimes recorded the birth dates of their previous children at the same time. These records are now maintained by the County Clerk.

Beginning in 1939, individuals were permitted to provide proof of birth and receive a delayed birth certificate, which was recorded by the County Clerk in the Delayed Birth Record. Prior to 1959, persons could apply for delayed birth certificates in the county of their residence regardless of their birthplace, but beginning in 1960, only a person born in a county could obtain a delayed birth certificate in that county.

Travis County birth and death records include birth registers, certificates, and indexes. Early records were recorded in large bound volumes, and later certificates were often loose. Records are microfilmed for research purposes.

Birth Records and Indexes – 1873-1879, 1903-present. Birth registers and certificates include name, sex, and race of child, date and place of birth, names of parents. Later records include more detailed information, including residence, nationality, and occupations of parents. Indexes are arranged alphabetically by name of child.

Delayed Birth Certificates and Indexes – 1881-present. Delayed certificates show name, date and place of birth, sex, color or race of registrant, name of parents and the state or country of their births. Although these records are indexed alphabetically by name of child, they can be difficult to search, as the dates of births are not sequential.

Death Records and Indexes – 1890-present. Registers and copies of death certificates that show the name, residence, sex, race, marital status, age, and occupation of the deceased, place, date and cause of death, place and date of burial. The bulk of the records date from 1903 and after. Indexes are arranged alphabetically by the name of the deceased.

For births within the past 75 years and deaths within the past 25 years, only immediate family members to the person whose name is on the birth certificate or death certificate are eligible to request a copy. Any of the following relationships by blood or marriage are considered to be immediate family members: self, child, parent, brother, sister, grandparent, and spouse. All those with any other relationship to this person must provide legal documentation, such as a court order establishing guardianship.

Transcriptions of indexes of some early Travis County birth and marriage records were completed by Austin Genealogy Society and are available online.

Deed Records

The deed record is one of the oldest and most abundant types of county records. Deeds are legal records that document the ownership and conveyance of property. One of the principal duties of the County Clerk under the Republic was the recording of deeds. In many counties established before the 1880s, including Travis, a variety of documents unrelated to real property matters can be found recorded in the deed records. It was only after 1879, when separate recording of deeds of trust was first required, that the deed record in most counties began to become more and more exclusively a record of deeds and other title documents.

Information found in deed books far surpasses the basic transfer of land from one person to another and can often point to other records or avenues of research. They may provide a wealth of information on the family members, social status, occupation, and neighbors of particular individuals. Early land deeds are especially detailed and predate most other record sources, increasing the importance of land records the further back a researcher goes. Additionally, there may also be references to slave ownership in early records.

When deeds are recorded, they are copied into deed books, and indexes to these deed books are compiled. There are two types of indexes: a direct index, which is organized by the name of the grantor (seller), and a reverse index, also called an indirect index, which is organized by the name of the grantee (buyer). Indexes may span multiple years, a single year, or part of a year, depending on the volume of deed records filed. Indexes are not listed in strict alphabetical order, but rather, they are organized chronologically in a letter index corresponding to the first letter of the party's last name and first name. Entries typically include the names of the grantor and grantee, the location of the property, and the volume and page number where the full text of the deed or other recorded instrument describing the transfer may be found. Early indexes were handwritten, and names were sometimes misspelled or listed under a variation. If an initial search for a name does not turn up any information, check under other possible spellings.

Travis County deed records and indexes date from 1840 to the present. Records from 1840-1999 are microfilmed and available for research at the County Clerk's research room on Airport Boulevard. Later records are digitized and available online on the Clerk's web site.

Probate Records

Some of the most genealogically-rich documents are created following an individual's death. Probate documents, in general terms, are records created by the court after a person's death that relate to the distribution of his or her estate. If the individual left a will, then the purpose of the probate process is to document its validity and see that it is carried out by the executor named in the will. In cases where an individual did not leave a will, then the probate court

appoints an administrator to determine the distribution of assets. Probate records contain information about family relationships, property holdings and values, and land and building locations and descriptions. As a result, they are of substantial value for economic and social history and for genealogical research. Documents found in probate records include wills, petitions for probate or administration, bonds, property inventories and accounts, receipts from heirs and/or creditors, notices of sale, guardianship records, letters testamentary, petitions for dower, support, distribution, or division, and court orders. Early records may include materials relating to slave ownership. Travis County probate records date back to 1840 and include minutes, indexes, and case papers. Since the days of the Republic of Texas, County Clerks have been required to record virtually all papers filed in probate cases in the probate minutes (also sometimes referred to as the probate record). The minutes include transcriptions of the original probate case papers, but the original documents themselves can have considerable research value and are, at times, much easier to read. The records of probate proceedings from 1869 to 1876 can be found in the District Court civil minutes, when the office of the County Clerk was abolished. As with deed records, names may be misspelled or listed under variations. If an initial search for a name does not turn up any information, check under other possible spellings. Probate minutes and indexes are microfilmed and available for research at the Travis County Courthouse as well as at the research room on Airport Boulevard. Case papers are stored in offsite storage and can be recalled for research purposes, but be sure to allow turnaround time for records to be delivered.

Probate Minutes and Indexes –1840-present. Probate minutes are recorded copies of the loose probate case papers. Minutes are indexed by the name of the deceased, with a reference to the volume and page of the probate minutes. Probate Case Papers – 1840-present. Loose documents pertaining to probate cases, arranged numerically by case number.

Other County Clerk Records, Bonds and Oaths

Although they don't provide the usual sort of genealogical information, bonds and oaths can provide verification of whether or not an individual served in office. Bonds and oaths dating from 1876-1913 and 1940-1993 are microfilmed and available for research with the County Clerk's Recording Division. Bonds and Oaths Volume 1 (1852-1875) and select loose paper bonds and oaths dating from 1840-1909 are preserved by the Travis County Archives. The Travis County Archives has also compiled a list of all elected officials throughout Travis County history, which is available on the Archives web site.

Military Discharge Records

Military discharge records are those that are filed when individuals are discharged from the military. Information found in these records includes military histories of Travis County residents while in the service. These records are indexed and available on microfilm at the County Clerk's research room at Airport Boulevard; however, they are restricted records. Individuals and their immediate family members may request to view records, and proper identification must be presented to do so. Records date from 1918 to the present.

Naturalization Records

Under federal law in effect when Texas became a state, County Courts and District Courts were authorized to conduct naturalizations proceedings. By an act of Congress in 1906, only District Courts could hold proceedings. Naturalization records of the County Clerk, therefore, generally date prior to 1906. These records are maintained by the Recording Division and are microfilmed. Naturalization proceedings from the 1800s can also be found in other County Clerk records such as the County Court civil minutes, the probates minutes, and even the Commissioners Court minutes. Naturalization records include declarations of intention, in which the immigrant declares his or her intention to become a citizen, and the naturalization record, in which the petition for citizenship, the oath of allegiance, witness affidavits, and the order of the court granting or denying citizenship are recorded. It was not until the turn of the century that standardized forms for recording declaration of intention and naturalization proceedings came into widespread use.

Declaration of Intention – 1887-1902. Notices filed by aliens declaring intention to become citizens of the United States. Arranged chronologically by date recorded, includes index. Naturalization Record – 1892-1893, 1896-1902. Recorded copies of orders issued by the County Court granting citizenship, arranged chronologically by date recorded, includes index.

Petition and Record – 1904-1907. Records of final action taken by the county court on petitions for citizenship, arranged chronologically by date recorded, includes index.

A transcribed index of Travis County naturalization records was completed by Austin Genealogy Society and is available online.

Tuberculosis Records

Tuberculosis records include applications for admission to the state tuberculosis hospital and recorded copies of such information. Applications include the name, address, sex, race, citizenship, age, date of birth, place of birth, and occupation of applicant. The records may also include information such as income and personal property values, name and contact information for parents, spouses and children, and findings of the physician regarding the applicant's condition. These records date from 1925-1935 and are maintained by the Austin History Center.

Mental Health Records

Mental health records are those that pertain to mental health cases heard in the county court. Cases include those involving indefinite and temporary hospitalizations, and mental illness and alcoholic hospitalizations. Record types include minutes, case papers, and dockets. They date back to as early as 1893, although the majority dates from the 20th century. These records are maintained at the Courthouse but are restricted and require a court order to access.

School Records

In addition to providing information about education, school records can also include records such as accounts, enumerations, district reports, censuses, enrollment cards, pupils' annual records, and school board minutes. Early school records can serve as a substitute to federal and state census records and missing or incomplete vital records. Teachers' names and names of school board members are also shown in many of these records. Travis County school records are primarily maintained by the Austin History Center and include records such as the Teachers' Certificate Record (1935-1977), Teachers' Daily Register (1949-1967), School Board Minutes (1911-1978), Register of School Vouchers (1933-1951), and the School Census (1913-1970).

Records of the Travis County District Clerk

The District Clerk is the office of record for all proceedings heard in the District Courts, the principal trial courts in Texas. The District Courts serve as the court of original jurisdiction in all family law matters and as the court of appeal in probate matters. Genealogical records include court records of divorce and adoption and naturalization records, and relevant information may also be found in civil court records.

The public research room for the District Clerk's Office is located on the first floor of the Travis County Courthouse in room 103. The research room has computers and microfilm readers available for use, and staff are available to help with research requests.

Divorce Records

Divorces are recorded by the District Clerk's Office in the county in which the divorce was filed. Divorces are filed in the civil district courts and recorded in the minutes. Minutes relating to divorces show the date of proceedings, case number, style of case, nature of matters brought before the court and proceedings thereon, and orders and judgments of the court. Divorce minutes did not emerge as separate records until the 1890s, so earlier records can be found in the civil minutes and civil case papers. Minutes date back to the 1840s and have both direct and reverse indexes. All minutes are microfilmed. Copies of divorce decrees can be obtained by contacting the District Clerk's Office.

Adoption Records

Adoption records are sealed and require a court order to access. Adoption records date from 1943 to the present.

Naturalization Records

The naturalization records maintained by the District Clerk are like those of the County Clerk; like that office, naturalization proceedings can often be found in other minutes books of the District Clerk, such as the civil minutes. District Clerk naturalization records date from 1890-1906. The records are arranged in chronological order by the date of proceedings and are indexed.

Court Records

Court records include dockets, minutes and case papers, and date from 1840 to the present. Records have direct and indirect indexes, and all records are either microfilmed or digitized. Case papers of genealogical interest include appeals from the probate court and civil cases such as lawsuits and land disputes.

Records of the Travis County Justices of the Peace

Justices of the Peace handle both civil and criminal cases, including small claims court, justice court, and administrative hearings. In Travis County, most of the records of the Justices of the Peace are maintained by the Travis County Archives, though select records are maintained by the Austin History Center.

Inquest Records

Prior to the establishment of the Travis County Medical Examiner's Office in 1977, inquests were performed by Justices of the Peace in matters where a cause of death was unknown or suspicious or if a doctor was not in attendance. Justices of the Peace performed inquests in the precinct for which they served, so it is helpful to know in which precinct a death occurred. The precincts have undergone significant changes over the years, so it may be necessary to check the records for more than one precinct.

Inquest dockets provide information such as the date and location of proceedings, name of the deceased, date of death, location where the body was found, description of the deceased, and findings of the Justice of the Peace. Occasionally an autopsy will be attached to the page or inserted into the book. Entries are arranged chronologically by date of inquest and numerically by inquest number. Currently, Justice of the Peace inquest dockets are maintained by the Austin History Center. These records are not complete, but they date back to as early as 1887 and extend to 1977. Inquest records dating from 1977 and after are maintained by the Travis County Medical Examiner's Office.

The Travis County Archives has a small collection of inquest case papers from the 1800s and early 1900s from Justice of the Peace Precincts 1 through 8. They are very scattered and in poor condition; an index is available online on the Archives web site.

Birth and Death Records

There are just a handful of birth and death records on file with the Justice of the Peaces, dating from the 1930s-1960s. The records for Precinct 6, an abolished precinct, are with the County Clerk's Office. All other records can be accessed by contacting the Travis County Archives, but the same restrictions are in place as are with the County Clerk's birth and death records: for births within the past 75 years and deaths within the past 25 years, only the immediate family members to the person whose name is on the birth certificate or death certificate are eligible to request a copy.

Records of the Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector

Historically, the Tax Assessor-Collector was responsible for making lists of taxable property, (both real and personal) in the county and assessing its value, and for receiving and collecting all taxes. After 1980, the duties of assessment were transferred to local appraisal districts, although the official remains the county's tax collector. Useful records of the Tax Assessor-Collector include tax rolls, land registers, and city lot registers.

Tax Rolls

Tax rolls date from 1840-1995 and list the property owners in each county, the appraised value of their property, and the amount of taxes due. While tax rolls do not include genealogical data and will not explain family relationships, they provide information on the amount of land and personal property owned. They can be used to help determine when someone came to the county, how long they resided there, and when they left the county or died. Microfilmed tax rolls from the years 1840-1910 are available at the Austin History Center, as well as scattered original tax rolls from 1867-1933 and other assorted tax records. Records are arranged by the first letter of the taxpayer's last name, but are not strictly alphabetized. Additional original tax rolls dating from 1878-1996 and delinquent tax rolls from 1885-1977 can be viewed by contacting the Travis County Archives.

Land Registers

Land registers are the Assessor's abstracts of land in Travis County and date from 1877-1936. Volumes include legal descriptions of property, name of owner, assessed value, year rendered, deed record reference, and date of deed. Later records include number of acres in grant and name of original grantee. Records are arranged numerically by abstract number and are maintained by the Austin History Center.

City Lot Registers

City lot registers, dating from 1879-1974, list the value of property within the Austin city limits from year to year. Organized by legal description of the property, they indicate owner and assessed value in a given year. A list of names and the years in which they paid taxes can be used to find deeds of sale. Significant increases and decreases in listed tax value can indicate the construction or removal of a building. Some years are indexed. City lot registers are also maintained by the Austin History Center.

Germany On-Line, contributed by board member, Julia Kleinheider, PhD

The ideal way for German language learners to expand their knowledge of German language, culture, and history is with a visit to Germany, or –better yet – with an extended stay. In today’s busy world and less-than-ideal economic climate, this can seem like an impossible task. But while we might not all be able to hop across the big, wide ocean to spend time immersed in “deutscher Kultur,” – thanks to the marvels of the internet – we DO have access to some wonderful resources that give us a head start on expanding our knowledge of the language and familiarizing ourselves with what is happening here and now in Germany. The following list of websites is only a small portion of the on-line materials available to language learners, language experts, and cultural connoisseurs of all ages.

Language and Literature resources:

Deutsche Welle

www.dw.de

Although Deutsche Welle is mostly known as a news provider, the website offers all sorts of resources for language learners and for anyone interested in current happenings in Germany. Click on “Learn German” to gain access to lessons, an audio trainer, videos, glossaries, etc. Under “Podcasts and Newsletter” you will also find a link to “Langsam gesprochene Nachrichten” – a current news program broadcast in slowly-spoken German. Under the tab “Programm” you will find links to a multitude of German television shows.

BBC Language Learning - German

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/>

Especially good for young people and beginning language learners, the BBC Language Learning program for German has many free on-line resources. Games, videos, and even a “Cool German” link that gives information about slang and German for young (at heart) people will keep you browsing for a while.

Goethe-Institute

<http://www.goethe.de/>

The Goethe Institute promotes German language and culture throughout the world. Their website offers links to a wide variety of cultural organizations, current information about Germany, language-learning tips, and much more. Click on the tabs Künste, Gesellschaft, Wissen, etc. at the top of the page. There is also an English version of the website.

Cengage German textbook supplement

<http://college.cengage.com/languages/german/resources/students/links/index.html>

This textbook publisher offers public access to this helpful and varied list of German-related links.

Project Gutenberg <http://www.gutenberg.org/>

Project Gutenberg offers free e-books and stories in many different languages. You can have access to anything from fairytales to Kafka in both English and German.

German news*

Die Tagesschau

<http://www.tagesschau.de/>

This website contains up-to-the-minute news stories both in written and video format. With a little exploring, you’ll find international, domestic, and regional news. In the bottom right-hand corner of the main page, you’ll even find a “Video-Rückblick” that shows news footage from the show 20 years ago to the day.

Der Spiegel

<http://www.spiegel.de/>

Perhaps the most well-known German media publication, Spiegel offers a multitude of on-line resources. News and culture stories, a version for university students, and even a version for younger students (Click on “Schule” at the top of the main page) are available. The main page also links to their comprehensive website in English.

* Although not included here, all German national and regional newspapers have an on-line component, often offering select (or all!) stories in English.

Examples include: Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ), Süddeutsche Zeitung, Berliner Zeitung, Bild, etc.

German film and television

Watching films and television shows is a great way to familiarize oneself with German language, history, and culture. Even beginning speakers can gain a lot from watching a current television program – you might not understand every word spoken, but you will see situations in context and start to recognize things like greetings, farewells, and common expressions. Most German television stations (including many not listed here) will provide links on their website to their current TV line-up. While not every show will be available to American viewers, a large number WILL be. There is something for everyone.

In addition, anyone with Netflix Instant View has automatic access to a large number of German films – old and new. Many are also available for purchase on Amazon at reasonable prices. A fairly comprehensive list of German films is available via Wikipedia and via other on-line resources, such as the DEFA film library, which deals with the cinema of East Germany.

The following links are some of the more well-known and comprehensive resources for film and TV:

Goethe Institute Boston Film Archive <http://www.goethe.de/ins/us/lp/prj/flm/enindex.htm>

The Boston branch of the Goethe Institute offers a rental service and archive of German films, including everything from the innovative German silent films of the 1920s up through new releases. The films can be rented for non-commercial screenings only. The service is expensive, but a great way to access film that are not available elsewhere.

ARD

<http://www.daserste.de/>

Click on “Sendungen im Ersten A-Z” to find TV-series offered by this network.

Arte

<http://www.arte.tv/de>

Arte is a joint French-German network that offers news, TV-journals, independent films, and documentaries.

SWR

www.swr.de

Click on “SWR-Fernsehen” at the top left-hand corner of the screen for access to the TV network

DDR-TV archive (and YouTube channel)

<http://www.ddr-tv.de/>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/DDRfernsehen>

For access to television programming from the former East, visit this archive and associated YouTube channel.--

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TEXAS STATE GERMAN CONTEST WINNERS - submitted by Jean Warneke

In February I had the honor to attend the awards ceremony of the annual Texas State German Contest, where GTHS awards prizes for an essay written on German-Texan heritage. This year was particularly special. We had only days prior learned of the death of Mary El-Beheri, one of the founders of the contest as well as GTHS. So while a sad time, this auditorium filled with German language students from around the state was a pretty amazing site. On April 15, 2012, your board of directors voted to honor Mary by calling the prizes awarded the

“Mary El-Beheri German Heritage Essay Award.”

The 2012 award winners are:

1st Place: Saint Paul’s Evangelical and Reformed Church of Christ: A Brief History, by Avery Young, McMillen High School, Murphy

2nd Place: Little Church in the Hill Country: A History of the St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Aleman, Texas, by Allison Haase, Clements High School, Houston

3rd Place: The Industrial Father of German immigration, by Zachary Kerls and Catherine Long, Cinco Ranch High School, Katy



Avery Young, 1st place

Saint Paul’s Evangelical and Reformed Church of Christ: A Brief History

Written by Avery Young on February 20th, 2012

McMillen High School
750 N. Murphy Road
Murphy, Texas 75094

Time has been the uncontrollable hand that has molded the shape of the world since the beginning of life. Sickening wars, brutal revolutions and devastating famines have been merely passing trends in the eyes of time. Kings and their countries have risen and fallen, and eras of peace and cooperation have all been swept away in the current of time spanning several centuries. Languages, emotions and ideals have all been morphed beyond recognition over the course of history, and the same stands true for any country, building, or religion. Not even the steadfast beliefs of the Germans could completely avoid the change that time brought to their faith.

Nestled in a quiet neighborhood here in Dallas, Texas, you can stumble upon a remarkable building that goes by the name of Saint Paul’s Evangelical and Reformed Church. At first glance, it may seem tiny and timeworn, but that has nothing to do with the powerful spirit of the German congregation inside its welcoming doors. The small congregation with deep seated German roots was established in the area on December 1st, 1889, with only five charter members, led by Reverend H. Seigfried. The church flourished in the growing city as German immigrants, looking for some familiarity in the new land of America, flocked to the congregation. Alas, time and change come hand in hand and for this peaceful church tragic events around the world brought a quiet era of prosperity to a brutal ending*. Though those dark and distant days are now a thing of the past, and the church is once again dwelling in tranquility, the scars of adversity will forever be painful reminders of a society’s rejection.

As Alan Watts once said, “The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance.” And that is exactly what Saint Paul’s Evangelical and Reformed United Church did time and time again. The alterations the church has undergone have slowly but surely washed over it’s worshipers and resulted in a rich and culturally blended atmosphere.

After its initial establishment as the 6th church founded in Dallas, the congregation, at the time known as St. Paul’s German Evangelical Church, merged with a preexisting German Presbyterian congregation. The



Pictured above is Saint Paul’s original building as it stood in 1912.



The early congregation gathered for weekly worship in the 1900’s.

people quickly united under the same name and rapidly added mostly German members, partly due to the fact that all their services were spoken in German. A church service conducted in a foreign language was unusual at the time and created a positive buzz in the community, which resulted in increased attendance of curious citizens. All the publicity demanded a new church be built, and in 1912, those requirements were met. Services continued to be carried out in German, until, as previously mentioned, tragedy struck.

Blissful decades of quiet content were violently stripped away as Germany went to war with the United States in World War I. Remaining so culturally connected to their German roots suddenly became an act of betrayal as innocent proceedings were misinterpreted as a sly and shameless allegiance to Germany. Worship services were suddenly only heard in the English tongue, and the famous German quote proclaiming their faith was painted over in the sanctuary.



Seen on the right wall is the quote announcing in German, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

The Romanowski family, historic members of the congregation, can recount a



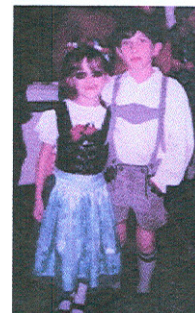
Pictured above is the wedding party of Elma Bilger and Raymond Romanowski, members of the church long before their marriage in 1937.

time when "Albert Romanowski, who was the Reverend at the beginning of World War I, was actually questioned by the FBI. They kept asking him if he knew anything about terrorists." Only after the war finally ended did the community begin to accept their German heritage again. After some hesitation, church services were introduced in half German, half English, and the congregation settled into a new routine, determined to keep a low profile. Unfortunately, disaster was inevitable with the looming outbreak of World War II.

The buried feelings of inhospitality aimed at Germans were reawakened and many lifelong members of the church, such as Sonja from the Romanowski family, have reflected back on those times of anger, and compared it to the period of "War Relocation Camps" that the United States used to relocate thousands of Japanese-American citizens during WWII. Both ethnic groups bore trials of resentment and were burdened with unnecessary dishonor simply for their heritage.

The rekindled hatred brought about seemingly irreversible change for the quaint German church, now known as St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed United Church of Christ. Not even the ending of World War II could bring back the once vibrant German perspective housed within the church and its members. None of the services had even a wisp of the German language as all hope for complete acceptance in the community was abandoned. The church quietly went about its own business, remaining under the radar, until 1957, when a new church was constructed, and the parishioners relocated to where they worship today*. The move greatly lightened the spirit within the congregation and though it was a slow process, the vivacious German heritage pushed past the resistance of the conservative attitude most members had adopted during the World Wars.

The result of such a combination, the old with the new, led to the harmonious opening of several doors. All-German Christmas and Advent services have been led for several years now, complete with handmade Alpine Horns played by men garbed in German folk costumes. The fourth Sunday of every month marks a church wide "Pot Luck", and although not all the food has its origins from Germany, there is plenty of sauerkraut to go around! Many German hymns can be heard resounding across the sanctuary, accompanied by the exquisite organ containing pipes from previous organs used by the congregation, which worshipers like Sonja Romanowski and Gladys Justus point out really tie the church to its past. For over a century Saint Paul's Evangelical and Reformed United Church of Christ has braved cruelty and hardships, only to be more blessed in the knowledge that although time will always bring the church face to face with difficulties, the faith of the congregation, and the overwhelming strength of the German heritage will always prevail



Seen above are two youth attending the 120th anniversary of the church.

Sources: Please note that all photographs were gathered from old scrapbooks, invitations, and congregational pamphlets spanning several decades.

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Little Church in the Hill Country: A History of the St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Aleman, Texas



2nd Place winner Allison Haase and her German teacher, Rustin Buck, of Clements High School of Fort Bend ISD.

Only a lone road bisects the farmland of this wind-swept part of the hill country. On one side of this road stands a pale church with a crowned peak and stained glass windows. Directly opposite this church, on the other side of the street, lies a small graveyard surrounded by a waist high chain link fence. The road, a line of grey asphalt divided, is a figurative river Styx, since people once baptized in the church are carried across the road in a coffin with the unavoidable passage of time. But this church, this beige brick church, over a century old, is not just a church. It is a memory of a different time, and a living memoir of the German immigrants who settled here.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church is located in Aleman, Texas, about seven miles from Hamilton. Aleman has had a varied history, starting in the fall of 1883 when German settlers arrived at the place formerly known as Pleasant Point, arriving before the presence of the Adelsverein, who contributed to "the most notable elements of German emigrants in the Hill Country," (Morgenthaler) and continuing in 1907 when the Cotton Belt Railroad picked Aleman "as a new location for the Pleasant Point community which was about a

mile away from the new railroad. Between 1870 and 1880 many German immigrants ... heard of the potential opportunities in Hamilton County and moved to Pleasant Point." (Weathers). German settlers also moved to Aleman from Washington and Bell counties.

The church's seeds were planted on the 24th of September, 1886, when the settlers of the area, around 14 families, met to form a church. They decided to form an Evangelical Lutheran Church with Reverend Johannes Barthel as the first pastor. Before this time, the people of this area were "ministered to by the Reverend Theodore Kohn who was followed by Reverend John J. Trinklein, both of whom were missionaries at large for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod" (Melde). The aforementioned pastor, Johannes Barthel, lived to a ripe old age, and at 82 wrote a text entirely in German, "Concerning his pastorate at St. Paul's in Aleman." Described below is one of the many passages concerning the hardships these early settlers faced:

"all divine services were conducted in the Kruger Schoolhouse since the congregation did not yet have their own church building and since they also had no organ... many had to travel distances of 6, 8 and 10 miles on rough roads and in rough wagons...no place to conduct classes...as a result I did not only preach...but I also taught school for five months of the year. I also instructed the children the rest of the year in reading, writing, the German language... There was a great drought with a burning heat from spring until late fall...many cattle...died of thirst" (Melde).

St. Paul's Lutheran Church survived these rough times, however, and retained its Germanic traditions. Today the German roots are clearly evidenced by the many cemetery gravestones engraved entirely in German. The names of Germanic families such as Schrank, Sommerfeld, Limmer and Krueger adorn these gravestones, which are slender, pale, and worn, with lichen growing in the cracks.

This beautiful church was built in 1916 and dedicated on August 20, 1916, to serve the needs of the local German farming families. The church was designed by architect Emil Waiser and was built in the Gothic revival architectural style with arched windows, pinnacles, and spires. It was not the original church, which was directly across the road from the church used today. Originally, all church services were held solely in German, but in October, 1913, the first English language service was held. Although English is now used in most services, annual Christmas services are still conducted in German (Melde). In addition to the church structure itself, St. Paul's School was built

to provide educational opportunities to children of the church. The school was in operation from 1921 through 1954, and the teachers were William H. Nielsen and E.W. Traugott. These teachers were paid by church goers and outsiders who paid the church to use the school's services. Classes were taught in both German and English and students were required to have the ability to read and understand German.

The little pale church still sits on a windy road, surrounded by farmland, with only the fallen leaves of the maple trees out front disturbed by the passage of people who walk into the church while the historic marker stands solemn, a lonely sign on a lonely road. But that history exists, nearly tangible in the blood of those who sit in the church, in the graven names and brittle bones resting in the cemetery across the road. That history exists, and always will, if the people here stay with their forefathers.

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Figure 1. St. Paul's Lutheran Church today still serves the local farming community of Aleman, TX. Photographs by A. Haase.



Figure 2. Confirmation certificate for an early member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church written entirely in German.



Figure 3. St. Paul's Lutheran Church was designated a Texas Historical Landmark in 1989.



Figure 4. Altar of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.



Figure 5. St. Paul's Lutheran Church interior



Figure 6. Gravestone in St. Paul's Lutheran Church Cemetery



Figure 7. Gravestone in St. Paul's Lutheran Church Cemetery

3rd place winners, Zachary Kerls and Catherine Long

The Industrial Father of German Immigration

Robert Venturi stated, "Less is a bore;" however a visit to the town of Industry, Texas, populated by 304 citizens, negates this concept. This small one-street town definitely qualifies as simple when taking into account that the fourth largest city in the United States is less than an hour away. The people who dwell in this peaceful city are excited and eager to share the town's rich history and exemplify Mies van der Rohe's idea that "Less is more." The founder of Industry, Texas, is Johann Friedrich Ernst, known as the "Father of German Immigrants." Ernst's early life, his contributions to the founding of Industry and the landmarks that remain all contribute to the legacy of the town.

The story begins in the birth place of Johann Friedrich Ernst on June 18, 1796, at the castle of Gödens near the village of Neustadtgödens, just north of Oldenburg in Lower Saxony. In February of 1814 at the age of 18, he joined the Oldenburg Regiment of the Duke of Oldenburg, and he remained a soldier until June of 1819. He reached the rank of quartermaster sergeant and received a medal from the duke for his participation in the campaign against Napoleon. He married Louise Gesine Auguste Weber in Oldenburg on October 25, 1818; they had seven children. In June of 1819, the duke appointed him clerk at the post office in Oldenburg. In September of 1829, Ernst, his wife, and their five surviving children fled Oldenburg; his sudden suspicious departure led to him subsequently being charged by the Duke of Oldenburg with taking a large amount of money from the post office. He and his family escaped and eventually sailed from Le Havre for New York, where they arrived toward the end of 1829. For a time Ernst and his family ran a boardinghouse in New York. There he met Charles Fordtran, a native of Germany. They became friends and decided to move together to Missouri. On the ship to New Orleans, they read a prospectus about the favorable conditions in Stephen F. Austin's colony in Texas and pursued this destination instead. The Ernst family and Fordtran sailed on the schooner Salltillo for Harrisburg and arrived sometime before March 9, 1831; they were the first German family to arrive in Texas (The Handbook of Texas Online).

Upon his arrival in 1831, Ernst applied for and was granted a league of land (4,428 acres) on Mill Creek at present day Industry, Texas, in a region that was still essentially frontier. Ernst is considered to be the father of German emigration to Texas by virtue of a letter he wrote to his friends back in Oldenburg in 1832 from his homestead in Texas (Kearney). His letters were widely spread throughout Germany, and he was given credit for much of the German immigration to Texas thereafter. Ernst wrote:

The meadows have the most sumptuous stands of grass...The soil is so rich it never requires fertilizing...The climate resembles that of lower Italy during the summer...a persistent fresh east breeze cools the air...The sun and air are always bright and clear; bees and butterflies are seen year round, birds are singing in the shrubs, some of which are evergreen; and in winter as well as in summer, the cattle find their own feed. The cows calve without assistance... (Lich).

Ernst became a Justice of the Peace in Austin County and sold subdivided lots from his land to new immigrants. Industry, the resulting settlement was the first German town in Texas. According to Kay Peschel, the town librarian, "Industry was given its name due to its involvement in the tobacco industry" (Peschel). Ernst made valuable contributions to help the tobacco commodity flourish in his new city, including cultivating tobacco, making cigars, and recording rainfall and temperature data at his farm to find the best time of the year to plant tobacco. In addition to his achievement in the tobacco industry, Ernst pioneered other endeavors in Industry such as establishing the Teutonic Order in Texas and chartering a university, which unfortunately never came into existence (The Handbook of Texas Online).

When visiting Industry, one can still observe landmarks left by Ernst. One such landmark is the first established pioneer post office west of Galveston, Texas, which still bears bullet holes from the Indian attacks on Austin's colony. Unfortunately, the hut that Ernst lived in no longer exists, but the surrounding area holds an historical marker highlighting the importance of what he started. Ms. Lula Schroeder and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kirschke, descendants of the original townspeople, donated a portion of their inherited land to honor Johann Friedrich Ernst. Today, on a portion of this donated land, a park named for Ernst can be found. An enclosed stone monument is erected there in his honor.

When German heritage in Texas is considered, Fredericksburg and New Braunfels overshadow all others. Many people overlook Industry, the first German settlement in Texas. The importance of this small, simple town in south, Texas had on German immigration in early Texas history should not be forgotten. Ernst died sometime between May 16 and July 10, 1848, but his legacy will continue to outlive his mere seventeen years spent developing Industry, Texas.

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Book Review: Sketches of Texas by Victor Bracht
Translated and annotated by Wolfram M. Von-Maszewski
Edited by Dona Reeves-Marquardt

Reviewed by Jean Warneke

Victor Bracht was hired as *Handelsagent* (commercial agent) for the Society in Texas. He arrived in Texas in 1845 with a group of emigrants bound for New Braunfels, and he worked with the Society until 1848, when he returned to Germany. There he published his manuscript *Texas im Jahre 1848 (Texas in 1848)*. *Sketches of Texas* was a series he wrote about the journey to his new home, on ship and overland. This series was printed in the *Allgemeine Auswanderungs Zeitung* in the late 1840's.

The sea voyage takes up about a third of *Sketches*. Bracht's journey started off well but his frustration with the captain grew as the trip went on. The boat was filled with rats, thus poison was put out for them. Many of the travelers, mostly in steerage, got ill from the smell of the poison or the rolling of the ship, or both. Bracht seemed to be immune to it all and never complained of lack of sleep or *mal de mar*.

As the ship neared Texas, Bracht observed American warships in the waters of the Gulf. They were told that Texas had a strong possibility of joining the United States, and these ships were sent in the event of conflict with Mexico.

Bracht's description of meeting Texans of importance shows his enthusiasm of becoming one of them. A Texan pilot came aboard to bring the ship into Galveston. "I cannot deny that his appearance gave a very good judgment in favor of the country that I wanted to be a part of... He was the first Texan that I met."

After Bracht and company arrived at Indian Point, he expressed thrill in landing on the continent: "Next morning ... I set foot on the American mainland for the first time with a strange and indescribably good feeling." However, the fact that there was only one structure in Indian Point greatly distressed them. It was then explained, that in Texas, one can sleep out in the open for 10 months of the year!

Bracht then went on to describe the trip from the coast up to New Braunfels. He chose to walk in order to set an example, the rest traveled by ox cart, and they all slept in the outdoors. Although he may have avoided seasickness, he was plagued by blood thirsty mosquitoes.

Near Cuero, he came upon an old German who'd lived a solitary life on a plantation. The old man said he'd not seen a fellow country man for 10 or more years and his knowledge of the mother tongue was so bad that it was impossible to communicate with him.

Another Texan who impressed Bracht was legendary Texas Ranger Capt. John Coffee Hays. "There have been only a few individuals whose first impression immediately aroused my interest in them. ... his physique had a certain elegance and his bearing something noble and proud. ... His nose had a truly Roman silhouette, his dark eyes sparkled with courage and fire and had a touch of melancholy found among the people of the south. ... In his patent leather belt he carried a Bowie knife and the Texan's preferred weapon, a Colt revolver."

Bracht was impressed when he met John O. Meusebach, director of the *Verein*, and felt he handled a difficult situation well. Many promises made to the settlers were not able to be fulfilled, and Meusebach was blamed for not keeping his word. Bracht asked: "How can a second person give his word to a third person when the first person does not keep his word ... or fails to provide him with adequate resources?"

Bracht commented that Texans are boastful people, but he did not put much faith in their bragging. "I had noted that every American or Texan claimed to have the best horse, the best rifle, the best farm, the best wife, against which nothing else could compare."

Sketches of Texas by Victor Bracht, translated and annotated by Wolfram M. Von-Maszewski, edited by Dona Reeves-Marquardt; 160 pages; published by Tortuga Press; ISBN 978-1448678747; \$20.00.

Community Events

Texas Journey, May/June 2012



From left: Joyce Bowman, Kenneth Herbst, Gary Joiner, and Jim Phelps

German heritage lives on in Boerne

Travelers in the Texas Hill Country have no shortage of opportunities to study, savor, and otherwise revel in semblances of the area's German heritage. When immigrants settled here in the 1800s, they brought with them cultural traditions that today's Texans enjoy just as fervently. One such pastime is a free series of alfresco German music concerts put on by the Boerne Village Band. Founded in 1860 by immigrant Karl Dienger, the group now boasts a 20-member roster, including one musician who is direct descendant of a founding member. The band kicks off its 152nd season on June 5 at Main Plaza Park in downtown Boerne, with additional performances on June 19 and July 3, 17, and 31. Concert-goers can arrive early to picnic and socialize; the first toot of the horn sounds off at about 7:30 p.m. Throughout the year, the band's oompahs can also be heard at some of the state's best German-themed events, including the Boerne Berges Fest in June, Fredericksburg's Oktoberfest bash, and New Braunfels' Wurstfest in November. (830) 249-9511; ci.boerne.tx.us. -Rebecca Ponton

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston
Carl Luckenbach, Fredericksburg

Group restoring Pflugers' 1875 home

Foundation to work on raising funds, creating future purpose of house

By Mistie Hinote
Pflugerville Pflag

PFLUGERVILLE - The late 19th century farmhouse in eastern Pflugerville isn't a beauty compared to the more decorative Victorian-style houses popular in the day. But a group of locals thinks the oldest building in Pflugerville is no less worthy of the time and effort it will require to restore it to its prime.

"This is not a Littlefield mansion. It's not an ornate work of art. It's a German immigrant's idea of what he wanted his family home to be," said Steve Fuller of the William Pfluger house, located off Pflugerville Parkway near FM 685.

Fuller established the Pfluger Haus Foundation in 2009 to restore the house and make it once again a place of simple beauty and community pride."

"The first thing is to make it structurally sound. There are some major problems with rotten wood, decay and deterioration. Then we want to restore it to what it was in the beginning," Fuller said.

The beginning was 1875 when William Pfluger finished building his two-story house outside town. It took Pfluger two years to build his enclosed dog-run-style house with limestone blocks. He later added four framed rooms to the front.

The house was Pfluger and wife Franziska's fresh start in Texas. The couple emigrated to Texas years earlier at the urging of his father, Henry. Henry eventually moved his entire family to the area and the town was later named in his honor.

"They saw that Texas was the place to be because Germany was having so many issues. They were a farming family and knew they needed more land to support their families," said Vernagene Mott, a foundation member and Henry's great-great-grand-daughter.

William was a rancher, banker and

farmer who also built a cotton gin, the city's first bank and several other buildings downtown.

"He became elite and was the richest man in Pflugerville at one point," said Fuller. "He was quite a pillar of the community."

The Pflugers raised six children in their house, and another four generations of Pflugers lived there until the family sold it in the 1990s. The developer who bought the house sold off parts of the land for commercial uses, and Pfluger-



William Pfluger finished building his home in 1875. The family sold it in the 1990s, and it has since had problems with rotting and decaying wood.

ville Parkway was built through the middle.

"It's a little slice of time that's surrounded by Wal-Mart and Home Depot," said Fuller, adding that the developer was never allowed to demolish the house because it's protected by the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark designation it received from the state in 1985.

The developer agreed to let Fuller and the foundation preserve the house if it could raise money for the restoration. Fuller hopes to soon have enough money to hire an architect to work on a master plan that will dictate the future purpose of the house. Early ideas include a wedding and party venue, small meeting space, restaurant, or bed and breakfast. "I think it has lots of potential. The

possibilities are there if someone has the vision to pick it up and go," Mott said.

But first things first. Fuller said the foundation's top priority is cleaning up the property. Fuller said he wants to rebuild the fence, restore the outhouse and repair the interior.

"The shape it's in right now, it can't be used for anything," said Fuller. "That's part of the architect's role - to figure out how to restore the house and not disturb the original appearance."

The foundation has hosted two workdays to clear brush and debris and remove artifacts members have found in the sheds. They hope to find a storage building for the farm tools and bags of 100-year-old clothes until they can be put on display in the house.

Fuller said the artifacts and the home's history can be a great teaching tool for school children and anyone else interested in the city's history.

"I think if you can't remember where you've been, you don't know where you are going. Looking back and preserving the way people used to live has cultural and educational value," he said.

Mott said she's less worried about what the house will become and more interested in the restoration.

"I think (the house) can be a cornerstone, a place of reference and a place of pride," she said.

The foundation will host a lemonade social at the house on March 25 from 2 to 4 pm. For anyone interested in joining the Restoration effort. For more information, visit pflugerhaus.org.

Submitted by Wendel Voigt, Pflugerville

Note: Theresa Gold writes that this house was just placed on the Texas' Most Endangered Place list.

Freyburg UMC to Celebrate German Heritage Sept. 25

Fayette County Record, September 9, 2011

Freyburg United Methodist Church will celebrate its German legacy during its annual Heritage Sonntag Celebration on Sunday, Sept. 25 at 10 a.m. The service, which will include prayers, hymns and reading in both English and German, will be followed by a brunch in the Fellowship Haus and outdoors, weather permitting. The service will also include the dedication of the newly laid Freyburg Family Walkway.

Join us as we pay tribute to the tradition and people who established this church. Our Heritage Sonntag represents a homecoming not only for those who have ties to this community but for those who respond to the joy and peace of worshipping in a little country church.

Two descendants of the Rev. Friede Bohmfalk, who was pastor at Freyburg UMC more than 100 years ago, will participate in the service. Rick Meinen of Temple will play a medley of old German hymns in the quiet time before the service and Sharon Spiess of Industry will lead German and English versions of the hymns.

A Texas Historic Site and a United Methodist Church Historic Site, Freyburg United Methodist Church is located at 4520 FM 2238, northwest of Schulenburg. The sanctuary is handicap-accessible and bathroom facilities are available. For more information, please contact (979) 561-8355

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

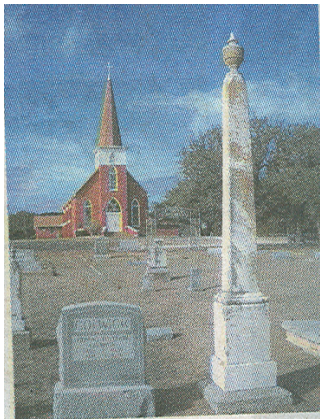
72 Hours or less: Bosque County Go Norse, and a little German

Joe Michael Feist, *San Antonio Express News*, 2/19/12

You have to really, really want to go to Bosque County to get there, because you won't run across it by accident. About an hour and a half south of Dallas-Fort Worth and 40 miles north of Waco, Bosque County is a bit hidden and undiscovered. But that's what you're looking for, isn't it?

What's there: Meridian, the county seat, bills itself as "the top of the Hill Country." You'll be greeted by rolling hills and beautiful vistas. Clifton, Meridian's bigger neighbor, is the capital of Norwegian settlement in Texas. Both have good restaurants and shopping. And, when you need it most, there's a great vineyard and winery.

Norse by northeast: History and genealogy buffs, especially those with a Ralf or an Olav in the family tree, should enjoy a visit to the community of Norse, settled in 1854 and considered home to Norwegian Texans. The historic Our Savior's Lutheran Church was formed in 1869, and the church itself was built from 1875-1885. Cleng Peerson, the father of Norwegian immigration to the U.S., is buried in the church's bucolic cemetery. Visit the Bosque Museum in Clifton for exhibits and more on the Norwegian pioneers in the area. BosqueMuseum.org or 254-675-3845.



Many early Norwegian settlers, including Cleng Peerson (monument above) are buried in the cemetery at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Norse.

and galleries, plus the requisite antiques stores, invite browsing in both Meridian and Clifton. If you like those black metal silhouettes of cowboys you see when you're driving by ranches, stop at Rusty Nail Metal Arts in Clifton for that and more.

On the vine: Red Caboose Winery and its vineyard, a few miles from Meridian, is a relaxing retreat that produces some fine wine. Ask owners Gary McKibben and his son, winemaker Evan McKibben, about green aspects of the winery, including geothermal cooling and solar panels. RedCabooseWinery.com or 254-675-0099.

Good eats: Don't miss Zur Autobahn German Restaurant, between Meridian and Cranfills Gap on Texas 22. Connie and Dieter Sedlmaier speak little English but make Hessian-style home cooking sing. My schnitzel with paprika gravy was *wunderbar*. You'll think you're in Germany; the doors, windows, bathroom fixtures and more were all imported. BYOB. Limited hours. ZurAutobahn.com or 254-597-2500.

For breakfast or a snack, head to Sulak's Czech Bakery & Meat Market in Clifton. Have coffee and a kolache, which will cost about \$2. Listening in on the conversation at the next table about rain, the crops and wild hogs won't cost a thing. 254-675-2825.

Another good option is the Cactus Grill in Meridian. I enjoyed Southwestern style tacos, and there are French and Italian specialties. 254-435-6062.

Staying over: The Best Western Velkommen in Clifton is new, clean and comfortable. There are also a number of B&Bs in the area., Check out the chambers of commerce in Clifton and Meridian for listings.

Submitted by Angelina Kretschmar, San Antonio

Shopping: Several well-known sculptors and painters, such as George Hallmark, live in the area. Cute shops

DAYS OF BEER AND PRETZELS

A beer-garden history of Austin by Richard Zelade

The 1880s and the 1890s were the golden age of live entertainment in Austin, before the siren songs of the phonograph, moving pictures, radio, TV, and *Wing Commander* began to lure the masses away from fresh entertainment to canned entertainment. Leisure time was among the many miracles of the marvelous new industrial age that came to Austin after the Civil War, and Austinites wanted diversion: song, dance, drama, comedy, daredevils, freaks, blaring horns and big bass drums, lions and tigers and bears, oh my!

Austin culture had a decidedly German flavor in those days; the German immigrants who poured into Texas brought their love of food, drink, and the arts with them and soon began rebuilding their Old World social structures out here on the Texas frontier: churches, schools, social and sports clubs, bands and choirs, and beer gardens.

The first German singing society in Texas, Germania Verein, was organized in New Braunfels in 1851. In 1852, German settlers in Austin formed the Austin Maennerchor, or Mens' Choir. In 1853, the two groups got together via horseback in New Braunfels for a Saengerfest, or singing festival. Where there's German singing, there's also beer, so a good time was had by all. In 1854, a statewide federation of German singing clubs was formed, as singing societies sprouted up across the state like the wild mushrooms the Germans used to hunt back in the old country.

All the singing came to a screeching halt with the start of the Civil War, and the Saengerfests didn't resume again until 1877. After postponing the 1878 Saengerfest because of a yellow fever scare, Austin hosted the 1879 statewide Saengerfest, which was the greatest and most stupendous musical event Austin had yet witnessed, and a precursor to Austin's current, annual South By Southwest Music Conference. A triple triumphal arch was built across Congress Avenue and Pecan Street. Groups came from across Texas and from neighboring states. A grand nighttime torchlight parade snaked through the downtown streets. Concerts were given at the Millet Opera House on E. 9th (See Congress Avenue Walking Tour.). A grand banquet was served at Turner Hall, now the Ben Hur Shrine Temple at 18th and Lavaca. Germania Hall, now the Saengerrunde Hall next to Scholz's Garden at 17th and San Jacinto, hosted the business meeting.

Visitors climbed to the top of Mount Bonnell to drink in the view and everybody took a special train from the International and Great Northern Depot on Congress Avenue out to Pressler's Garden for music, singing, and dancing. Orchestras from as far away as Saint Louis and New Orleans provided music for the Grand Ball at the Opera House and for the various parades, processions, and garden programs.

Currently, Austin boasts of being the "Live Music Capitol of the World." Dozens of groups play in dozens of clubs on any given night. But Austin clubs, which seldom offer more than booze and ballads, are small beer compared to the pleasure resorts that were Austin's beer gardens 100 years ago.

Buaas Garden, Pressler's Garden, Scholz's Garden, Jacoby's Garden, and Bulian's Garden were social centers of the capital city. "They were mighty fine places," one aging patron fondly reminisced in 1937. "The beer gardens of the old days were places where you went to drink pleasantly, not to get drunk. You took the family along. And the food they had! You don't know what good food is these days!"

You didn't have to be a German to enjoy Austin's beer gardens--folks of all stripes came and went--but it sure helped, at least when it came to understanding the words of the songs. But beer is a universal language, as are fireworks and parades and other spectacles, of which the gardens had a bumper crop.

A typical Scholz's Garden or Pressler's Garden Sunday afternoon extravaganza in the 1880s might include a concert by a touring orchestra from Germany, fireworks, hot-air balloon ascensions, tightrope walkers, marching bands and military drill teams, plus bowling and other games and amusements. Originally much larger than it is now, Scholz's Garden featured a bubbling spring, fountains, a bowling alley, a menagerie with bears, deer, alligators and parrots, two outdoor stages for concerts and plays, and, of course, lots of shade, tables, and beer. Scholz's dinners were legendary, with ham, roast beef, jellied fish, herring salad, potato salad, bean salad, chili, and every other kind of vegetable imaginable, plus cake for dessert, all for 75 cents. Mrs. Scholz and her family spent all week preparing them. The extended Scholz family lived in houses scattered around the fringes of the beer garden.

Scholz's Hall, which adjoined the beer garden, hosted many community activities: political rallies, social club meetings, plays, concerts, weddings, balls, dances, and dinners. It's said that Austin's most infamous and best-liked city marshal, Ben Thompson, celebrated at Scholz's after his acquittal in San Antonio on murder charges, shortly before he would die in an 1884 San Antonio gun battle. Today, Scholz's Garden is Austin's oldest business, the oldest beer garden in the state of Texas, and the only survivor of Austin's great nineteenth century beer gardens.

August Scholz was born in 1825 and moved to Austin in 1860, where he soon settled on the block bounded by San Jacinto, 17th, Trinity, and 16th Streets. For a brief time, Scholz boarded German immigrants who were waiting to get their homestead grants processed, but the Civil War soon put an end to German immigration to Texas and thus to Scholz's business. On October 1, 1862, he bought the entire block on which Scholz Garden now stands from Swante Swenson and immediately established Scholz's Garden. The first building on the property was a three-room log cabin. At some point after the end of the Civil War, Scholz built Scholz's Hall, which still stands today, much altered, as Saengerrunde Hall. We don't know exactly when Scholz's Hall was finished, but we have a good idea; its first written mention comes on February 24, 1871, when it hosted a "Grand Vocal and Instrumental Concert." This wasn't Scholz's first fling in showbiz; his "Deutsch Theater" had operated out of Buas Hall from 1865 to 1871. In June 1872, the opera *Preciosa* was staged in Scholz's Hall. It starred Madame Marie Methue-Scheller.

Buas Hall and Garden, located in the 400 block of old Pecan Street, opened in July 1860, making it the first of Austin's great entertainment centers. The *Austin Gazette* celebrated the new hall's arrival:

The New Hall Ready--Just the Place Needed--John L. Buas takes pleasure in informing his friends and the public generally that his New Hall will be opened on the 21st, inst., where he will be fully prepared to accommodate Balls, Parties, Theaters, Public Meetings and Exhibitions of every description. The Hall has been built expressly to meet the wants of the community, is fitted up with elegant seats, and lighted Peters' Patent Gas Lamps, and will be found the largest, best arranged and neatest of any public room in the City.

Connected with the above is an elegant seven octave Piano, with the latest improvements, for use of Balls, Parties, etc. There is also a large refreshment Saloon where a fine supper can be served up at short notice.

The public immediately embraced Buas Hall and Garden, and the newspapers told of many events that took place there in following years. With the end of the Civil War, Buas completely remodeled the hall and it became Republican Party headquarters. This left Buas Hall and Garden tainted in the eyes of Democrats, who regained power in Texas in 1874. This paradigm shift spelled Buas' demise, along with commercial development along old Pecan Street, which drove property values up and made the Buas property too valuable to remain a beer garden. In its place, in 1875, went up the three present buildings at 401-405 E. 6th.

August Scholz cast his lot with the Democratic Party and prospered. The Democratic and Greenback parties began meeting in Scholz's Hall soon after its completion. Scholz served as Austin city councilman from 1873-75; he also bought and sold real estate and dabbled in the printing business. In May 1878, the *Daily Democratic Statesman* accused Scholz and other Austin businessmen of improprieties with a state-owned printing press located at the state Deaf and Dumb Asylum. That same year, Scholz served as an election officer.

Scholz's Garden's ties with the University of Texas go back to the university's beginnings. Scholz was named an official University fundraiser in 1883, and the 1893 UT football team celebrated its first undefeated season there.

Take a look at the 1893 team photo that still hangs in Scholz's Garden and you'll wonder what prompted Will Porter (O. Henry) to quip, in an 1894 issue of *The Rolling Stone*, "Newcomers to Texas are warned to beware of the long-haired citizen. He may be only a desperado, but it might be discovered, when too late, that he is a football player." Nowadays he plays rugby for the Austin Huns.

Porter, who could drain a 32 oz. fishbowl of beer without pausing, was well acquainted with Austin's beer gardens and their patrons. He summed up the two loves of his life once, in four lines:

"If there is a rosebud garden of girls,
 In this wide world anywhere,
 They could have no charm for some of the men,
 Like a buttercup garden of beer."

Porter had a bass voice of some charm, and the group he sang with, the Hill City Quartette, sang all over Austin. His wife, Athol, sang regularly at concerts at Scholz's and Presslers' and Jacoby's Gardens, under the direction of William Besserer, the father of music in Austin.

Carl William Besserer was born in New Braunfels in 1851, the son of German immigrants who had come to Texas the year before. Besserer's father died 3 months before his birth. Besserer went to Germany at age 14 for his higher education. When he settled in Austin in 1869, there were very few musicians among the citizenry. Pianos were few, and many of them were old, out of tune, and in serious need of repair. Besserer opened a music store and began giving lessons. A talented pianist, Besserer got a few local boys interested in forming a band and orchestra. They worked by day, and learned how to play music at night on inferior instruments, under Besserer's patient and unflagging tutelage. Finally, they were playing well enough to attract new recruits, and then some paying gigs, which allowed them to buy better instruments. Besserer's band and orchestra became locally celebrated. UT students helped spread their reputation statewide, and soon they played in cities across the state. Besserer's Orchestra played at governors' inaugurations, during presidential visits, when troops were sent off to war, and when they came back for burial. When Lake Austin became the scene of boating parties about 1891, he directed the band that furnished the music. He also provided the musical programs for the *Ben Hur* river boat excursions that were so popular before the dam broke in 1900. Besserer also directed a state military band. A talented pianist, he helped found the Austin Saengerrunde, or singing society, for the singing of German songs in 1879.

BUAAS & BESSERER
 — DEALERS IN —
Pianos and Musical Instruments, Music,
 BOOKS AND STATIONERY, FANCY GLASS, LAVA AND CHINA WARE,
 NOTIONS, TOYS, WILLOW WARE, ETC.
AUSTIN, TEXAS.
 CHAMBERS, HAZELTON AND OTHER PIANOS ON HAND.
 AGENTS FOR PERIODICALS, BOOKS, ETC.

Ad for Buaas & Besserer Music Store, in the 1872 Austin City Directory.

Despite this whirlwind of activity, he still found time to fall in love and marry August Scholz's daughter Mary in 1873. In 1885, Besserer took over management of Scholz's Garden. At that time, Scholz's Garden boasted of being the "Most Popular Pleasure Resort in Austin," and guaranteed a free Grand Concert every Sunday evening in the summer. Scholz's even ran its own street cars to and from the grounds on special occasions. In 1886, the *Daily Statesman* lent credence to this boast when it noted that "Scholz Garden is well

AUSTIN CITY DIRECTORY. 23

J. O. BUAAS,
GALVANIZED IRON CORNICES

<p>DORMER WINDOWS AND WINDOW CAPS. Tin, Iron and Slate Roofing 110 West 9th Street.</p>		<p>CRESTINGS AND FINALS. ALL KINDS OF JOB WORK PROMPTLY EXECUTED AUSTIN, TEXAS.</p>
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 <p>Large and Spacious Hall Connected with Garden</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SCHOLZ'S GARDEN LUESCHOW & BESSERER, MANAGERS Most Popular Pleasure Resort in Austin. GRAND CONCERT Every Sunday Evening in Summer Garden, East Side San Jacinto St., Between 16th and 17th Sts. The Managers have their own conveyances running to and from the Grounds on Special Occasions.</p>
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Ad for Scholz's Garden, in the 1887 Austin City Directory.

ESTABLISHED 1862.

Germania Beer Garden!!

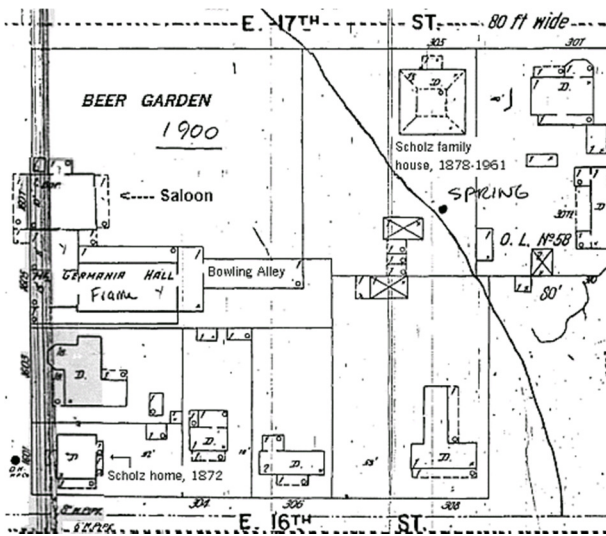
The Oldest Beer Garden in the State.

AUGUST SCHOLZ, Proprietor.

South side Linden, bet. San Jacinto and Trinity sts. Austin, Texas.

The place where you can go, at all times, and enjoy a quiet retreat with your friends. Fresh Beer always on draught.

Ad for August Scholz's Germania Beer Garden, in the 1881 Austin City Directory.



1900 Austin Fire Insurance Map, showing Scholz Garden block.

patronized, especially on Sunday evenings." The Tyroleans, a singing group, sang English-language and German songs there every Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. The German Theater continued to present plays in Scholz's Hall, often accompanied with fireworks and balloon ascensions, even a one-legged tightrope walker! A typical Garden Theater Sunday program would consist of six or seven operatic specialty numbers and a two-act comedy, such as *Promise at the Hearth*.

Austinites had a wealth of entertainment options to choose from. Let's take a look at Sunday, June 26, 1887. Scholz's Garden featured a free Grand Concert by Professor Herzog's Orchestra at 7 pm. George Herzog, who founded Herzog's Orchestra in 1873, was a local musical luminary whom Will Porter loved to poke fun at.

For 10 cents a head, Pressler's Garden offered an afternoon Grand Balloon Ascension and tight-rope walking by the renowned Professor De Ivey, "Whose areal (sic) voyages to the clouds have

earned for him the title of Cloud King, will make an ascension in his monster air ship, one of the largest ever inflated, 150 ft. in circumference." The Manning Rifle Band was also in attendance. Dancing until midnight in the pavilion followed. When the band wasn't playing, someone turned the crank of a giant music box so that the music never stopped.

Pressler's Garden, located at 1327 W. 6th, at Pressler, near the Treaty Oak, was built in connection with the Pressler Brewery. Shade by large live oaks, the Garden spread from 6th St. down to the river, with the bandstand in the center. There was a boating house by the river, a rifle club, an alligator pit, and the pavilion. You could play croquet, or just sit and swing. Pressler's most memorable character was Schwammel, the head cook, whose vast beard grew down to his waist.

While Pressler's brewery succumbed to competition with national beers like Budweiser, the Garden fell prey to subdivision as the city grew westward, and closed as World War I began.

Austin's famous dam created beautiful Lake McDonald (now Lake Austin). It was the perfect spot for a beer garden, and so Walsh's Garden and Picnic Grounds opened in 1892, two blocks above the dam. It promised "fine lunches, cool fresh beer, lemonade, soda, etc." and guaranteed "Perfect Order Always Prevails." Manager Dick Bulian soon took over the garden and renamed it Bulian's Garden. As such, Bulian's Garden figured largely in the famous March 2, 1897, uprising of the UT Law School's student body. Annoyed at having to attend classes on the most sacred of Texas holidays, they vowed to celebrate anyway and started their celebration of Texas Independence Day with a bang. The law students, led by such future political heavyweights as Senator Tom Connally, Senator Morris Sheppard, and Governor Pat Neff, fired off two old cannon on the football field. At noon, the president of the university caved in and dismissed the entire student body for the day. The fizz gone from their rebellion, the laws repaired to Bulian's Garden to revive their spirits. Bulian's Garden closed a year or so later, as Bulian moved back to Congress Avenue to open the Popular Saloon and Chop House.

Pressler's Garden

The Austin Pleasure Resort.

South side Pecan street, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of Hotel Brunswick,

H. KOPP, PROPRIETOR.

This beautiful Place of resort has recently undergone thorough repairs and is now one of the cosiest and most comfortable resorts in the city. The Garden is arranged with comfortable benches throughout, a fine dance pavilion, and its beautiful groves affording abundance of shade.

PRIVATE OR PICNIC PARTIES

Will find every convenience and comfort afforded them to spend their leisure hours pleasantly. Elegant lunches can be had at all times.

Dancing, Swinging, Croqueting and Games

Of various kinds may be indulged in with perfect quiet and safety from the intrusion of rough or improper characters.

Fresh Beer Always on Draught.

Ad for Pressler's Garden, in the 1887
Austin City Directory.

Jacoby's Garden, conveniently close at 15th and Lavaca, was another UT student haunt. During the 1890s, you could get a shave, hair cut, and a hot bath at Jacoby's, in addition to a hot meal, cold beer and ice cream. (Its founder, Walter Jacoby, was a barber.) A famous law school jingle went, "The junior law comes down to school, But doesn't get very far, Until Jacoby catches him, And admits him to the bar." "Alexander Frederick Clair," a wooden statue that became the patron saint of UT engineering students in 1908, was found discarded under Jacoby's front stairs by students.

One of Jacoby's annual rites was the *wein probe*, or wine testing. On an arranged date foreign wine representatives would arrive at Jacoby's, which was filled with Austin's leading citizens. They would gather and solemnly sample the fine wines, then lay in their supply for the winter. Fathers brought sons along to learn the art of wine. Jacoby's annual oyster roast was also greatly anticipated. Jacoby's closed a year or two before Pressler's Garden.

The Germans seldom let a little thing like Sunday blue laws get in the way of Sunday afternoon beer drinking. In June 1881, Scholz was convicted of violating the Sunday blue law against liquor sales and was fined \$20. There were other ways around the blue laws, as Will Porter observed in *The Rolling Stone*: "Most of the saloons now get a bona-fide close on their every Sunday, and the chaser of the merry jaglet must needs fortify himself Saturday night or become a member of the Singenderinkeneinmehrfritzgehaben Society."

In a little poem entitled "Unsusceptible," Porter zinged the German singers:

How many dimes my Lena's heart
I've dived to catch by singing.
It seems not all my highest art
No nearer her is pringing.
Though oft I soar above High A
Und tremulo and quiver
She says if I don't cease my lay
She'll jump right in dot river.
Und ven I sing to her my best
Und vith my voice surprise her
She says "Dis is no Saengerfest,
Let's open dot Budweiser."

The annual spring arrival of Anheuser Busch Bock beer was highly anticipated in saloons and beer gardens all over town, shipped in from St. Louis by refrigerated rail car.

Formation of the Austin Saengerrunde in 1879 was the younger generation's answer to their fathers' Maennerchor, and contained a women's chorus and a men's chorus. At first they practiced in Horst's Pasture, just south of Memorial Stadium on the UT campus. From there they moved to Jacoby's Garden and Turner Hall.

About 1892, the Saengerrunde began to slip into its present relationship with Scholz's Garden, as singing practices bounced back and forth between Jacoby's, Turner Hall, and now Scholz's. In 1895, the Saengerrunde subleased the Scholz's Garden bowling alleys from the Germania Club, which had long headquartered at Scholz's. In 1901, the Saengerrunde moved permanently to Scholz's.

When August Scholz died in 1891, the Garden became the property of daughter Mary and son-in-law William Besserer. They ran the place another 2 years before selling the operation to the Lemp Brewery of Saint Louis, which was seeking market share for its newly introduced brew. Breweries could own retail liquor establishments back then, and Besserer wanted to spend more time on his music. His orchestra continued to give Sunday afternoon concerts there. The Garden Theater presented acts like "Slater and Finch, the popular Chicago sketch artists and supporting company presenting a program full of nothing but laughs. This team will appear three times each evening in their celebrated society sketch, 'The Rehearsal,' their rural sketch 'Love at Sight,' and the most laughable black face act ever put before the public, entitled 'The Military.'" Adults paid 20 cents to get in, children, 10 cents.

In 1904, the Austin Saengerrunde leased the bowling alleys, and Scholz's Garden on Sundays. The Saengerrunde became a leading social club in Austin, and the vast majority of its members were nonsinging, "passive" members who enjoyed the ambience and the right to drink beer on blue Sunday. Even Governor Oscar Colquitt belonged to the Austin Saengerrunde. In 1908, the Saengerrunde bought the entire Scholz's Garden complex from the Lemp Brewery. And it has been that way ever since, despite Prohibition and two world wars with Germany.

After World War II, Scholz's Garden took on a new life, that of "the cloakroom of the Texas Legislature," immortalized in Billy Lee Brammer's 1962 novel *The Gay Place* as the "Dearly Beloved Beer and Garden Party." Common wisdom says that the Legislature got about as much work done in the beer garden as it did on Capitol hill, at least until the advent of liquor by the drink in 1974. Only then did the monopoly of Scholz's Garden on the thirsts of government begin to slacken, as solons gravitated to establishments that served more potent social lubricants.

All of Scholz's peers passed from the scene decades ago, victims of a growing city, but also of automobiles, phonographs, radio, the movies, and Prohibition.

The Austin beer garden scene enjoyed a brief revival in the 1970s, in the form of the world-famous Armadillo World Headquarters and Beer Garden at Barton Springs Rd. and S. 1st, but the pressures of commercial development turned the AWHQ into a memory at the dawn of 1981 and left Scholz's Garden alone again as the city's lone purveyor of *gemuetlichkeit*, or "good times."

Reprinted with permission from author who writes:

Sure, Mary. Just give me credit and send me a copy to enjoy.

I probably have a few things I would add if I were writing it today, like the Austin Fire department's San Jacinto Day picnics out at Pressler's when Ben Thompson was chief of police and a fireman. He competed in one of two fat men's races out there one year, first prize being 12 bottles of beer. I'm not looking at my files right now, but I think that one of Pressler's lesses was the earliest recorded use of "ice cold beer" in a newspaper ad in Austin.

Richard Zelade

Submitted by Liz Hicks, Houston

New books celebrate early Texas furniture

By Allan Turner, *Houston Chronicle*, Feb. 18, 2012

Sam Houston was spitting mad about the wagon load of furniture arriving at his Huntsville home. The stove had no pipe, the bed's canopy and side rails were missing and a bedpost was split, the mirror was shattered and the sideboard was "infamous beyond all things else."

"The veneering is broken and split," Houston furiously

complained to the Galveston merchant who sold the items. "Wherever it needed it, and I should say at least 20 places, it has been puttied. ... One end of the sideboard was split for near a foot and filled with wax. I have not told you all, nor is it worth the trouble."

Furnishing a house in mid 19th century Texas, where

even short-distance transportation could be treacherous, could pose serious problems. Thousands of early Texas settlers arrived with little more than a trunk, and the items needed to fill their homes - especially those in the hinterland - often were improvised on the spot.

Yet, when it came to furniture, Texas was filled with surprises. Among the frontier settlers were skilled craftsmen capable of transforming native woods into functional, sometimes highly sophisticated, furnishings.

'Gentrified' fashion

The scope of those accomplishments, long overlooked by scholars and collectors, is detailed by *Texas Furniture: The Cabinetmakers and Their Work - 1840-1880*, a two-volume work by Lonny Taylor, former director of the University of Texas' Winedale Historical Complex, and David Warren, founding director emeritus of Houston's Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens.

Volume One, to be issued in March by University of Texas Press, is an expanded edition of a book published in 1975, at the behest of Bayou Bend founder Ima Hogg.

The second volume, chronicling new research and feature color photos, is due out in October.

"There's still a feeling among some collectors that all Texas furniture was primitive," Taylor said. "We were surprised to see how much furniture, not just German but Anglo as well, strived to be fashionable, to be

'gentrified.' It reflected the styles that were popular in the East, the renaissance revival, the gothic revival. Things fashionable in New York and Philadelphia were being made right here in Texas."

Although most settlements of any size had someone capable of fashioning at least rudimentary furniture, 19th century Texas furniture production centered in Austin, Galveston, New-Braunfels, Round Top and Nacogdoches and the black land prairie of North Texas.

Shops ranged from single-man operations to those with multiple artisans using simple hand operated machinery. Workers often doubled as farmers or builders of coffins and wagons. Some craftsmen also offered ready-made imported pieces.

By the 1880s, cheap industrially produced furniture brought by rail was available in most parts of Texas, and furniture artisans - some of whom had fled Europe to escape mechanization of their craft - found their skills obsolete.

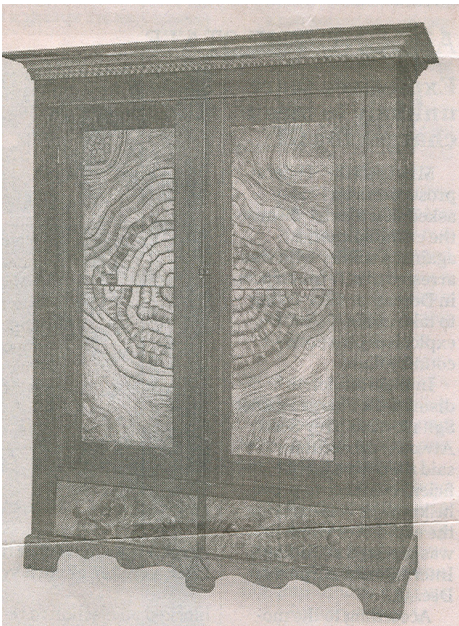
Warren credited Hogg for early research that led to the books, noting she became interested in Texas furniture in the 1960s after purchasing Winedale's Stagecoach Inn. Hogg later assembled a collection of 19th century Texas buildings at the site, furnishing them with period Texas furniture.

Own regional energy

Hogg, who died four months before the Volume One's first edition was issued, coupled interest in colonial New England with an "extra sense" to find value in objects from other parts of the nation, said Don Carleton, director of UT's Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, which is sponsoring the Texas furniture books.

"What has happened in the last 50 years," Taylor said, "is that the focus of American history in general has changed from the idea that all American history started in New England and somehow cultures seeped west and south. Now, people are looking at their regional history and seeing that it generated its own energy."

allan.turner@chron.com



University of Texas Press and Dolph Briscoe Center for American History

This cedar wardrobe was made in Texas in 1860, but the maker is unknown. It was possibly decorated by Matthias Melchior. The owner lives in Round Top

Submitted by Janice Thompson, Houston

People



GUTE ARBEIT! Fredericksburg High School German students who competed at the Feb. 4 regional Sprachfest contest in San Antonio and qualified for state which was held Saturday in Austin included: (from left) Andra Chavez Suarez, first place in sight reading; Bodie Houy, fifth place traditional gingerbread design; Seth Moellering, fifth place Skit Level 3; Samuel Studebaker, fifth place reading and listening comprehension; Tyler Klein, fourth place in Skit Level 2; Hunter Behrends, best actor and fourth place in Skit Level 2;

Riley Neffendorf, fourth place in Skit Level 2; Madison Sparrow, fifth place in Skit Level 3; Jacob Dittmar, fifth place in Skit Level 3; Lauren Berry, fourth place in Skit Level 2; Sarah Koennecke, fifth place in Skit Level 3; Austin Walter, fifth place in German T-shirt design; Johnna Werner, fourth place in Skit Level 2, and Chance Mohr, fifth place in Skit Level 3. Not pictured is Daniel Ransleben, fifth place in modern gingerbread house design. - *Standard Radio Post Photo*

FHS German students make top marks

Fredericksburg Standard Radio Post, February 29, 2012

Competing in "Sprachfest", a state-level German contest, on Saturday at The University of Texas at Austin were 15 Fredericksburg High School foreign language students.

The annual contest hosts over 500 students from around the state who had previously qualified to compete with performances at their individual regional competitions Feb. 4.

Dr. Donna Stieg Wasson, the FHS German teacher, said that even though today's local students are definitely learning "German as a second language, they compete passionately to demonstrate the Alter Stolz of Fredericksburg's German heritage."

Samuel Studebaker won second in listening comprehension and sixth in reading comprehension. He had qualified for state by earning fifth in reading and listening comprehension at the Feb. 4 regional Sprachfest held at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Austin Walter won ninth in state

with his T-shirt design featuring the 15 most-populated cities in Germany. He earned his trip to state with a fifth place T-shirt design at regional.

Daniel Ransleben won third with his modern gingerbread candy store, which was so detailed as to include counters and candies inside the structure. He qualified for state with a fifth place at regional.

German 2 students Hunter Behrends, Tyler Klein, Andrea Suarez-Chavez, Riley Neffendorf, Johnna Werner and Lauren Berry won eighth with their skit about a gorgeous blonde robot used to sell luxury cars. At regional, the skit team with members Cody Warren and Jessica Serrano, won fourth place, while Behrends was named the "Best Actor".

German 3 students Chancel Mohr, Madison Sparrow, Jacob Dittmar, Sarah Koennecke and Seth Moellering won sixth in state with a skit extolling the virtues of various fruits. At regional the

At state in "Sprachfest"

team, including member Taylor Manning won fifth place.

Also at the regional meet, Bodie Rouy won fifth in traditional gingerbread design. Only first-through fifth-place winners qualified to advance to state. Other FRS students competing at regional and their final placings included:

Jamie Lamascus, eighth place, grammar; Shelby Jacoby, seventh place, poetry memory; Mohr, eighth place, listening comprehension.

Stieg said the trip wouldn't have been possible without the "much-appreciated" help of volunteers Helma Koester, Wilfried Mazanke, Rosemarie Mazanke, Hannelore Mahafee, Sylvia Rodex and bus driver, Frank Ekenstam.

She encouraged anyone interested in the German program to contact her at 997-7551.

**Submitted by Carl Luckenbach,
Fredericksburg**

German exchange group visits GTHS

by Rustin Buck

As part of the German American Partnership Program (GAPP), 20 students from the Lessing-Gymnasium in Cologne (*Köln*), Germany, visited the headquarters of the German-Texan Heritage Society at the German Free School on April 5, 2012. GTHS docent Helga von Schweinitz gave them a tour of the building and a brief but fascinating overview of the history of German immigration to Texas. Each student also received a gift of a book from GTHS. The visit was coordinated by executive director Jean Warneke, and the group was greeted by GTHS office manager, Doris Boerkei.



Before the tour, the students had first enjoyed lunch in the GTHS garden, but there was no *Bratwurst* or *Sauerkraut* in sight. Rather, it was *Döner Kebab*, the Turkish-German fast-food specialty that is well known all over Germany and now also available in Austin from Vert's Kebab, a business founded by former University of Texas students from Berlin who missed their favorite fast food from home.

The group's visit to GTHS was part of a four-day trip across Texas that included Brenham, Austin, Fredericksburg, New Braunfels, and San Antonio. The four-day trip, in turn, was part of a three-week stay in Sugar Land, the first half of an exchange between the Lessing-Gymnasium in Cologne and Clements High School in Fort Bend ISD. Each German student lived with a host family and attended classes at Clements. The group also visited the Tomball German Heritage Festival, an Astros game, Space Center Houston, downtown Houston, a Rockets game, and a Sugar Land city council meeting. The Sugar Land students who hosted the German students will travel to Germany in June 2012 for a similar experience: a three-week stay in Cologne, life in a host family, classes at the Lessing-Gymnasium, and then two weeks of travel to other parts of Germany (Berlin with day trips to Potsdam and the Spreewald; the Harz-area towns of Quedlinburg, Wernigerode, and Thale; Munich with day trips to Castle Neuschwanstein, Innsbruck/Austria, Pilsting/Landau, and Dachau; and Heidelberg).

The German American Partnership Program (GAPP) is a high-school exchange program that links an American and a German high school in a long-term partnership. Founded in 1972, GAPP now sponsors almost 800 partnerships between American and German schools in all 50 U.S. states and all 16 German *Bundesländer*. The primary purposes of the program are to help students improve their foreign-language skills and to promote mutual cultural understanding. The program is supported and funded by the U.S. and German governments.

The exchange between the Lessing-Gymnasium and Clements High School has occurred every even-numbered year since 2002, making the 2012 exchange the sixth in the series. The Cologne students were accompanied to Texas by Gabriele Deylitz, coordinator of the exchange on the German side, and Brigitte Schumann, another teacher at the Lessing-Gymnasium. The Sugar Land side of the exchange is coordinated by Rustin Buck, German teacher at Clements High School; he is assisted by Ann Marie Schrock.

A new GAPP requirement starting in 2012 is that all exchanges must center around a particular project or theme. For this exchange, the organizers chose the theme "German heritage in Texas," which was the impetus for the four-day trip across Texas. The trip began in Brenham with a tour of the Blue Bell Creamery. Blue Bell CEO Paul Kruse greeted the group after the tour and provided space at Blue Bell headquarters for a presentation on the German history of Washington County, presented by GTJS member, Joycine Hannath and GTHS president Mary Whigham.

From Brenham, the tour continued to Austin for a tour of the capitol, a visit to the Texas State History Museum, and an evening cruise on Lady Bird Johnson Lake to watch the bat colony emerge at dusk from under the Congress Avenue Bridge. Day 2 of the trip featured a Segway tour of Austin, the visit to GTHS, and a tour of the General Land Office. The visit to the GLO focused on stories and documents related to German immigration to Texas.

The next stop was Fredericksburg, where on Day 3 the group hiked at Enchanted Rock and learned more about German settlement of Texas at the Pioneer Museum. This theme was picked up again on Day 4 of the trip in New Braunfels at the Sophienburg Museum. A picnic at New Braunfels' Landa Park was followed by a choice for the students: outlet shopping at San Marcos or more history and sights in San Antonio. After so much sightseeing over the past three-and-a-half days, it was understandable that most opted for bargain-hunting in San Marcos, but a few did take advantage of the chance to visit the Alamo, the Riverwalk, and the Mercado in San Antonio.

After a tearful goodbye on April 20, the Germans returned to Cologne, where they are now preparing for the Texans' arrival on June 5. The Texans, meanwhile, can hardly wait for school to be out so that the second half of the adventure can begin.

Grasmeyer Hoped for Colorado River Business

The Fayette County Record, May 4, 2012

The Founders of Fayette County

By KATHY CARTER

Fayette Heritage Museum & Archives and Fayette County Historical Commission

Frederick William Grasmeyer was born on Christmas Day 1800 in Hamburg, Germany. He was one of the first German citizens to immigrate to Texas and the first to acquire land in present day Fayette County. On August 4, 1831 he received title to a quarter league of land (1,107 acres) in Stephen F. Austin's Little Colony. Grasmeyer's land was along the Colorado River about midway between the La Bahia Road and the town of Mina (Bastrop). He established a trading post, cotton gin and mill on his homestead and built a river landing for his ferry boat.

Footprints Of Fayette Grasmeyer's Ferry was used to help the colonists escape the Mexican army and the Comanche Indians during the Texas Revolution. One of Grasmeyer's neighbors related that after the fall of the Alamo the settlers knew there was nothing for them to do but run. The families gathered together and were camped in a field when Comanche warriors stampeded and stole their horses and then came back and surrounded the group. The men with their guns and the women with sticks went out to make a stand. After a while the Indians rode off towards Grasmeyer's gin. He had hidden a lot of his goods under the cotton and expected it all to be burned but the Indians only cut the gin bands.

On December 14, 1837, the Congress of the Republic of Texas took two actions that were of vital importance to F. W. Grasmeyer. President Sam Houston signed the bill creating Fayette County and the Colorado Navigation Company was incorporated.

The county was carved out of the Mexican municipalities of Mina and Colorado. Grasmeyer's Ferry was chosen as the western boundary line between Mina (Bastrop) and Fayette County.

One of the first acts the new county government undertook was to define a network of "highways" in the county and the road from La Grange to Bastrop by Grasmeyer's Ferry was the first listed. However, overland travel in early Texas was often difficult and dangerous and Grasmeyer envisioned great economic benefits for himself and Austin's entire colony if the Colorado River could be used to easily transport goods and people from

the coast to Austin and back. The most serious drawback to navigation of the Colorado was "the raft," a miles long mass of timber and debris choking off the river before it reached the Gulf of Mexico. For newly two decades Grasmeyer and the Colorado Navigation Company attempted to keep the river open to the Gulf with little success.

The outbreak of the Civil War and the coming of the railroads brought about the end of navigation on the Colorado.

In the early 1850s Grasmeyer moved to La Grange and was involved in several businesses, investment ventures, and many real estate deals. He also owned interests in silver mines in New Mexico.

The first three months of 1861 brought turmoil to Fayette County as the citizens struggled with the secession movement prior to the Civil War. On March 21, 1861 a scathing editorial against the character of Frederick Grasmeyer was printed in the local newspaper. The writer alleged that "Grass" was a traitor to Texas going all the way back to the Texas Revolution and then pronounced him as an abolitionist in hiding and accused him of secretly plotting to free slaves. One witness stated that during the Revolution of 1836 Sam Houston ordered that Grasmeyer be brought in for questioning but "Grass" could not be found because he was hiding with the Mexican Army.

Weeks later Grasmeyer distributed his rebuttal in a lengthy broadside entitled "F.W. Grasmeyer's Vindication." He disputed each and every charge against him and included a letter from Sam Houston stating that Houston found "not a single fact" implicated Grasmeyer "in the slightest degree" and Houston hoped that Grasmeyer would "not be annoyed further in relation to these base reports."

Many of the accusers in the original article also confessed that the allegations were either incorrect or that they never said them. Citizens from Fayette and Colorado counties both signed proclamations declaring Frederick William Grasmeyer innocent of treason.

Grasmeyer returned to his family in Germany several times over the years, the last being in 1885 when he was nearly 85 years old. Two years later he was diagnosed with breast cancer and traveled to San Antonio for surgical treatment. The surgeons removed two large tumors but Grasmeyer was too aged and frail to survive. He died on May 2, 1887 and his body was brought back to La Grange by train. He was laid to rest in the Old La Grange City Cemetery.

At the time of his death, Grasmeyer had numerous land holdings throughout central Texas and his substantial estate was divided among quite a few people in the States and abroad. He left a sizeable donation and his extensive personal library to start a library association in La Grange. The remainder of his estate went to his niece and her husband who moved to Fayette County from Russia.

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

Phillip Wahl, Texas Ranger



About three Sundays ago on March 18, 2012, I went out for a dedication of a Texas Ranger Cross at the grave of Phillip Wahl, who is buried in the Bracken Church Cemetery on FM 2252 (Nacogdoches Road down from FM 3009). The Texas Rangers are making it their mission to locate all the old Texas Rangers and mark their graves with these crosses. The Ranger in the blue shirt is Ray Martinez, who is their spokesman. He is the Ranger who shot and killed Charles Whitman (tower sniper) at the University of Texas back in the 1960's. --

Jean Heide, San Antonio



and moved to Bracken area in 1860.

Philipp Jakob Wahl is my great, great grandfather. I will be doing some of the conducting of the ceremony. At one time he owned land along FM 3009 on both sides from IH35 north into Garden Ridge. He was a Texas Ranger from 1850-52 and served under Capt. Owen Shaw and Big Foot Wallace. He purchased land

Information from Stuart Vordenbaum:

A vital part of the Former Texas Rangers Association (FTRA) is to preserve the true history of the Texas Rangers and to provide landmarks relating to the Texas Rangers. The marking of Rangers' graves with the Texas Rangers' Memorial Cross is just one activity that fulfills this mission. In commemoration of the service rendered and the sacrifices made by Philipp Jakob Wahl, the Former Rangers Association has given a special grave marker. This marker will be placed at Ranger Philipp



Jakob Wahl's grave at Bracken-Garden Ridge Community Cemetery by his descendants at 2PM Sunday March 18, 2012. Following the cemetery ceremony, everyone is welcome to stay for a brief historical background presentation and refreshments back at the church. Bracken-Garden Ridge Community Cemetery is located approximately 0.2 miles east of Bracken United Methodist Church on FM2252, Comal County, Texas.



With the help of local historical societies and Ranger descendants, the Texas Ranger Memorial Cross Program researches, identifies, and documents the burial sites of Texas Rangers statewide and places the Memorial Cross at the Resting place of the honored Rangers. The cross, with the mounted Ranger circle star badge, is a fitting landmark relating to the preservation of our Texas heritage. The Texas Ranger Memorial Cross is furnished to members of the FTRA as a benefit of membership. There is no cost to the member for the cross or participation in the ceremony by the association. It is one of the many benefits

afforded members; any member who is a descendant of a Texas Ranger can apply for the cross to be provided to them for installation. Membership in the Association includes former Texas Rangers and lineal descendants of Texas Rangers. Associate memberships are available to active Texas Rangers and Special Rangers. Members receive a membership certificate; ID card; decal; and the Newsletter, Straight Talk. The Former Texas Rangers Association would like to invite any Ranger, Ranger family member, or descendant of a Ranger, to join the Association. The Texas Ranger Memorial Cross Program is funded in part by a grant from the Texas Historical Foundation, the Henderson Family, Dale Williamson and numerous anonymous donations. For information on Membership, Memorial Crosses, or donations contact the FTRA by mail at PO Box 3195, Fredericksburg, TX 78624, by phone at (830) 990-1192; by fax at (830) 990-1121 or by email at jeanftra@windstream.net.

Jaster Family Reunion

On Sunday April 22, 2012, descendants of Martin, Gottlieb and Gustav Jaster assembled at the historic La Bahia Turn Verein Hall in Burton, Texas for their 62nd annual Jaster Family Reunion.



Shown is the original Banner of the La Bahia Turn Verein, organized by German settlers in 1879. The term originally referred to the Turner gymnastic societies popular in German in the late 19th & 20th centuries. The term was more flexible in Texas in that it usually was the home of Shooting Clubs (Schutzen Vereins), Singing Societies (Sing Vereins) and other social activities usually including a large dance hall as is still in use at La Bahia. La Bahia Turn Verein Inc. is the dance hall (huge magnificent hardwood floor and bandstand) where the Jaster Family has held its Reunions for many years

In 1881, the Martin Jaster family immigrated to Texas through the Port of Galveston from the German Province of Poznan (now a part of Poland) and settled in the small community of Kurten, in Brazos County, near Bryan Texas. Later



the family moved to the Burton area in Washington, County. He was followed to Texas later by his two brothers, Gottlieb and Ferdinand from the same area of Germany.

The children of Martin were: Frederich (Fritz), b. 1880, August, b. 1882, Matilda, b. 1884, Gottlieb, b. 1887, Julius, b. 1889, and Ferdinand, b. 1891.



It was the descendants of these three Jaster brothers that met to celebrate their German roots and family history as well as renewing old acquaintances and meeting new family members. All enjoyed a delicious catered barbecue dinner and desserts furnished by the family members.

Several family members brought displays and old family pictures as well as photos from the last reunion.

At the business meeting, the group voted to continue the tradition by meeting next year, on April 21st, again at LaBahia hall, with the barbecue dinner done by family members on the premises.

Martin's beautiful daughter, Matilda & husband, John Ludwig



Martin Jaster (seated) and his four sons: Frederich Gustav, Julius, Gottlieb, Ferdinand, and August

Submitted by Melvin Rosenbaum, grandson of Fritz Jaster,

Nineteenth Century Texas German Immigrants: Peasants, Freethinkers, Lateiner, and Intellectuals

Scott Baird, of Trinity University, and Frank Faulkner, of the San Antonio Public Library, have initiated a new blog <http://www.texaslateiners.blogspot.com/>. Their rationale for the blog rests on the continued interest in the changing interpretations and re-interpretations of the nineteenth century Texas German immigrants – an interest that still fascinates a significant number of scholars and genealogists.

For several decades, Baird has explored central and south Texas German cemeteries. Faulkner, during the same time period, has served as director of the Library's Texana/Genealogy Department. The two have worked on various projects together, particularly on documentation of grave markers in the East San Antonio city cemeteries.

Baird, an applied linguist, has documented the gradual loss of German language inscriptions on grave markers, accompanied by the gradual assimilation of the German into the English language. The German language assimilation process followed the same pattern as other ethnic immigrant groups: Spanish, Czech, Polish, Norwegian, Swedish, Italian, French, Greek, Chinese, Arabic, etc. In this universal pattern, five basic semantic bits move from the minority language into the dominant language in a predictable pattern: First the name, then the death date, then the birth date (or age at death), then kinship terminology, and finally creative epitaphs. Research has shown this progression occurs not only when English is the dominant language, but also when the dominant language is German, Greek, or Czech. (Baird 1996, Baird and Duncan 1985.)

Other semantic bits (stylized epitaphs, place of birth (or of death), occupation, means of death, lodge/religious affiliation, etc.) assimilated in random order. The basic five, however, appear to reveal a universal appeal for recognition. Families of the deceased usually create these markers and communicate to anyone who passes by: "Here is a real person who died on this date, at this age, and is related to us, and this is what that person meant to us."

At various times during his forty years of language assimilation studies, Baird's children and grandchildren would learn in middle school history classes about a small group of Texas German immigrants who were called *Lateiner* (Latin ones). Supposedly these Lateiner were German intellectuals, who spoke fluent Latin – along with their native German. Eight years ago, intrigued by this linguistic information, Baird renewed his cemetery visits to the Texas German cemeteries. He hoped to find bilingual – or even trilingual – markers that included creative epitaphs in Latin.

Simultaneously, Baird researched written histories of these German immigrants. The documentation is prolific, starting with Adalbert Regenbracht in 1897 to Gary Keith in 2007 – with updated articles available on the Handbook of Texas Online in 2011. From these histories, the labels of subgroups became so convoluted – *Peasant/Freethinkers/Lateiner/Intellectuals* – that, Baird enlisted the help of Faulkner.

Their present thinking divides the nineteenth century German immigrants into two main groups. Certainly the largest group consisted of peasants; only a small group included the intellectuals. A handful of the intellectuals were total failures as farmers. The peasants derisively referred to them as "Lateiner." The term most definitely was not a compliment. Most of the Lateiner gradually moved to Austin and to San Antonio, where they pursued careers in business, medicine, education, engineering, and politics. (Flach; Gold; Grasshoff ; Herff; Jordan 1966, 03 March 2011, 08 April 2011; Lich, Bettina; Lich, Sisterdale; Lotto; Ragsdale 03 March 2011, 08 April 2011; Regenbrecht; Sanders; Sibley; Tilling; Wallechinsky; Weyland.)

Unlike the Lateiner, the Freethinkers were a group that included both peasants and intellectuals. The Freethinkers did not believe in the need for any organized religion nor for any form of civil government. Since about 1970, however, documents from the ancestors of the Lateiner and of the Freethinkers have propagated an entirely new

We also want to thank Andrew Blout, Ray Grasshoff, Sylvia Reyna, Terry Smart, and Anne Stewart for their generous, critical, and helpful input – input that initiated in 2006 and continues today.

interpretation of this history – a New History, as it were. On the one hand, *all* intellectuals were Lateiner and all were successful. All Lateiner, in other words, were noble people. The Freethinkers, on the other hand, were not really "Free-Thinkers" at all. They were *all* agnostics – therefore, either noble or evil, depending upon the eyes of the beholder. (Gideon; Keith; Lich; Scharf; Smith and Tetzlaff; Smyrl; Wikipedia, Bettina Von Arnim; Wikipedia, Edgar Von Westphalen; York.) [As recently as in the Spring of 1011, Baird considered Sharf to have the original Lateiner focus; Baird now considers Sharf to be in the "New-History" camp.]

Back to the blog. Baird and Faulkner realized that the knowledge base on the Lateiners appeared to be rather limited. (1) From a number of sources, they have been able to identify only a small number (65) of people referred to as Lateiners, some of these only by surnames, some only by surnames. Were these the only ones? Could they determine both first names for the missing ones on their list? If there were others, who were they? (2) Some of the Lateiners are well documented, others are not. Is it possible to fill in these gaps? (3) Finally, what happened to the families of these early German settlers? Do descendents possess stories which might illuminate the lives of their ancestors? The Texas Lateiners Blog can provide a means of answering these questions and others that might arise.

If you will go to the blog address given earlier in this article, you will see on the left side a narrow column with the purposes of the blog given and below that a list of the sixty-five (65) individuals we have identified as members of the consensus "Lateiner" group. The narrow column on the right side provides links to Scott Baird's paper presented at the spring 2011 meeting of the American Culture Association and to a paper on Freethinkers by Edwin Scharf. These two articles will provide the reader with some general background information. The wider center column contains monthly posts on individuals, locations, and events related to Texas' Lateiners. The current post appears at the top and earlier ones below. After each post you will find the word "comments." The current post appears at the top and earlier ones below. After each post is the word "comments." To see what others have said, or to add your own comments, documents, photographs, etc. click on "comments" and post.

Both Baird and Faulkner hope that the blog will allow interested Texas German families to maintain diverse visions of the nineteenth century immigrants. Also, they hope that participants will add family stories and documentation – hopefully opening up new viewpoints and avenues for research on these fascinating contributors to our present-day Central and South Texas culture.

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Hoelscher Family Reunion Has Ties to LG Sister City

The Fayette County Record, May 11, 2012

When the descendants of Anton and Mary Catherine Hoelscher decide to get together, it's not the ordinary family reunion. When they gather, it is probably one of the largest family reunions in Texas with an average of over 700 persons in attendance.

For 58 years, since the first reunion in 1954 in Westphalia, Falls County, the Hoelscher-Buxkemper family has been meeting biennially in different locations throughout Texas.

Preparations are being made for the next reunion, June 23-24, at the KC Hall in Columbus.

The two-day event not only will allow adequate time for visiting, and reminiscing, but also will feature a large display area of old family photographs and memorabilia, a silent auction, raffle, souvenirs, entertainment for children, a dance with the Donnie Wavra Orchestra, catered meals and a polka Mass with family clergy, live music, and a family choir.

Tours of various historical sites associated with the earlier generations of the family, who lived in Colorado and Fayette Counties, will be held on Friday, June 25 and Saturday morning, June 26.

Anton and Mary Catherine Hoelscher came to Texas in 1846 from Olfen, Westphalia, Prussia (now in western Germany). They landed in Galveston with five sons: Anton, Jr., whose fiance traveled with the family, Joseph, William, Franz, who died as a teenager, and Bernard. A daughter, Elizabeth joined them in 1850 with her husband, Theodore Buxkemper, and their three children.

Following the pattern of many early Germans who settled in Texas, Anton and Mary Catherine came for the promise of land. Anton, Sr., along with his three oldest

sons, had land grants in McCullough County, but instead they chose to settle in the vicinity of Frelsburg, located northeast of Columbus in Colorado County.

Eventually everyone, except the Buxkemper family, moved into southeastern Fayette County in the area of present-day Ellinger. Later, sons and daughters were among the pioneering families in Westphalia in Falls County, Olfen in Runnels County, Violet in Nueces County and Weimar in Colorado County.

Olfen, Germany, was chosen to be the Sister City of La Grange, the county seat of Fayette County, primarily because of the significant contributions made by the descendants of the original Hoelscher family members, who immigrated from Olfen and settled in Fayette County in the early 1850s.

There are approximately 15,000 descendants of that immigrant family, spanning nine generations. Presently the living descendants, that number in the thousands, reside in every state in the nation and several foreign countries.

This year, the theme of the reunion is "Return to Our Roots," because the event will be held near the locale where the family first put down its roots in Texas. Family members are invited to "come back to their origins" and make this the "biggest family reunion ever."

If you are a member of the Hoelscher-Buxkemper family planning to attend the reunion pre-register by June 13. Information can be obtained from their family website: <http://www.hbfamily.org> or by calling Leonard Buxkemper, chairman, (832) 563~8901 or Elsie Kahlden, cochairperson, (979) 732-5000.

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

German Immigrant Builds Up a Town The Father of Halsted: John Henry Wessels

by Katie Kulhanek, Fayette County Historical Commission
The Fayette County Record, September 6, 2011

Although there are little physical remains of this man's life, Henry Wessels was a man who accomplished much during his time in Fayette County.

Johann Hinrich Wessels was born on April 8, 1863 in Oldenburg, Germany to Lutheran parents, Gerd Hinrich and Anna Sophie (Lange) Wessels. The couple also had two more children in Oldenburg; Gerd and Friedrich Bernhard.

In late April of 1869 when Johann Hinrich was six years old, Mr. Wessels died leaving his wife with three young boys. Mrs. Wessels decided to leave for America with the boys and begin a new life. They left Oldenburg in 1871 and sailed out of Bremen, Germany on the *s.s. Frankfurt*. There are varying reports as to which port they came into, either New Orleans or Galveston. Either way, the Wessels family settled in Ruttersville, Fayette County because Mrs. Wessels had relatives there. Within the first year, Mrs. Wessels began a successful farming career; in her second year in Texas she met and married William Handcord, a local farmer and sheepman with whom she had one son, Willie, who died in his youth.

While in Texas, the three young Wessels boys experienced many changes in their lives. They were living in a new land, they had a new father who took them in as his own, and their German names were anglicized to John Henry, George, and Frank. From the time he was old enough to work, John Henry proved himself in every job he took. The young man worked as a farm hand, well digger, section hand and even obtained a limited education from country schools around the Ruttersville and Halsted areas. Over some time, he was able to purchase a pony for thirteen dollars and take out a \$600 loan for farm equipment

With a strong ambition, John Henry began farming on his stepmother's farm along the Colorado River bottom near Halsted. Through his work there, the young Wessels was eventually able to work himself out of debt and make a small profit for himself. He used that profit to purchase thirty acres of bottom land located on the Ellinger Road. Not long after this purchase, Wessels was joined in marriage to Mary Magdalen Heller of Halsted. Mary was the daughter of Francois Placide (Platza) Heller and Eva Catherine Braden Heller. The Hellers were early settlers of Halsted and relatives to Joseph Biegel who founded the community of Biegel. One interesting note about the marriage is that it was a mixed marriage; while Wessels came from a Lutheran family

and was a Pythian knight and member of the Sons of Hermann, Mary Heller was a Catholic. These types of marriages were very uncommon during this time.

Wessels continued his quest for more land and ventured to buy a thirty-five acre tract, increasing the size of his previous property, and twenty-three acre tract in the Halsted community. His total acreage eventually came to 90 acres. At one point, his farming expanded beyond the limits of his domain and he had to lease his land out to sharecroppers who raised corn and cotton, thus making a total of 1,000 cultivated acres.

Wessels did much for the community of Halsted.

He and his wife built a beautiful two-story house in the small town and, realizing the trade and commerce potential of Halsted, he opened up a general merchandise store, gin, saloon, lumber shed, and dance hall. The general merchandise store had a post office located inside it, which Wessels served as postmaster for, with a telephone connection, daily mail, and railroad and passenger service. Wessels also built a prosperous gravel business in Halsted. Wessels Pit #1 opened in 1906, and Wessels Pit #2 opened in 1912. These pits were located on 500 acres of land where the power plant is now located. Wessels also donated land for a school in Halsted.

When Frank Lotto published his book, *Fayette County: Her History and Her People* in 1902, John Henry Wessels ran an ad for his General Merchandise store:

"J. H. Wessels, Headquarters for Groceries and General Merchandise. Jobber in Flour and Grain. Dealer in Lumber and, in fact, everything you call for. Proprietor of a First Class Gin and Mill. Halsted, Texas."

In 1896, Wessels was elected County Commissioner for Precinct I. He served two terms totaling four years and during his tenure he advocated for the grading of roads and erected various new bridges throughout the precinct. Wessels also ventured into state politics, serving in the 37th and 38th Texas Legislative Sessions as the Fayette County Representative from 1921 to 1924.

John Henry and Mary had seven children: Garland (who was the first and only trainmaster of the Halsted depot), Edward (who worked at his father's gravel business), Sophie (who ran the Wessels' general merchandise store after her father's death), Leon, Johnny (who died when he was three as a result of an accident at the family



John Henry and Mary Magdalen Heller Wessels

farmstead), Lloyd (who died when he was seventeen as a result from a fall from his horse), and Irene. John Henry passed away on April 14, 1943 and Mary passed away on February 24, 1952. They are both buried in Rutersville.

The town of Halsted was quite bustling in its heyday. However, two fires which occurred in the early 1900s destroyed all the businesses of Halsted, including

the dance hall and gin. A second fire destroyed the lumber yard and general store around 1940. The only remainders of John Henry Wessels' successful life in Halsted are the depot and his original two-story home.

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Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

President resigns in favors scandal

San Antonio Express-News, February 18, 2012

New York Times

BERLIN - Germany's beleaguered president, Christian Wulff, announced his resignation Friday after prosecutors asked Parliament to strip him of his immunity from prosecution over accusations of improper ties to businessmen.

Wulff said he was stepping down because Germany needed a president who enjoyed the full trust of the people.

"Events of the past days and weeks have shown that this trust, and with it my ability to work effectively, have been persistently impaired," he said. He was therefore resigning quickly to make way for a successor, adding he was convinced the legal inquiry into his behavior would lead "to a complete exoneration."

The announcement brought to an end weeks of revelations over vacations with rich friends and a series of favors and freebies that might not have been illegal but were unseemly. The resulting scandal has become an ever greater distraction for Chancellor Angela Merkel and her government amid the Euro crisis.



Christian Wulff was accused of improper ties to business people

Merkel

said her conservative bloc would hold discussions with the opposition Social Democrats and Greens in an effort to put forward "a joint candidate" to re-place Wulff as president. Merkel will also meet with coalition leaders over the weekend to try to settle on a successor, German media reported.

In the meantime, Wulff said, Horst Seehofer, head of the Bundestag upper house, would assume the role of acting president.

Prosecutors on Thursday requested that the Bundestag strip Wulff of his immunity from prosecution, saying they had "factual indications" of long-suspected improper ties to business executives.

"The Hanover prosecutor's office now has sufficient factual indications and therefore initial suspicions of the acceptance of favors" by Wulff, prosecutors said.

As a result, a request was made to "the president of the German Bundestag to lift the president's immunity."

The scandal emerged in December with the news that Wulff, while serving as governor of the state of Lower Saxony, had taken a private loan from the wife of a wealthy friend worth about \$650,000. Recent attention has focused on his relationship with a film executive who was host to Wulff on vacations and whose company received loan guarantees from Lower Saxony.

Wulff said he had behaved correctly.

"I made mistakes, but I was always honest," he said.

Submitted by Angelina Kretzschmar, San Antonio

THE FAMILY OF FRITZ AND KAROLINE (WESTERFELD) LEHDE

By Daniel R. Bode

Karl Friedrich Wilhelm "Fritz" Lehde was born 6 Oct. 1843, in Westrup, Westphalia, Germany. Fritz was the son of Friedrich Wilhelm Lehde (born 22 Feb. 1803, in Westrup, Westphalia; died 9 April 1869, in Westrup, Westphalia) and Wilhelmine Rabe (born 27 April 1806, in Levern, Westphalia).

Fritz's paternal grandparents were **Gerhard Heinrich Staas Lehde** and **Anne Marie Elisabeth Roehling**. Fritz's maternal grandfather was **Johann Friedrich Rabe** from Levern, Westphalia.

According to the church records in Wehdem, Westphalia, Germany, Fritz was born illegitimate. Fritz was baptized 11 Oct. 1843, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church Parish in Wehdem, Westphalia, with his last name given as Rabe. On 13 Oct. 1843, Friedrich Wilhelm Lehde stated he was the father of Fritz. No record has been found to indicate if Fritz's parents ever married.

Fritz left Germany and immigrated to Texas in July 1860, on the ship *SS WESER*. Upon his arrival in Texas, he began using **Lehde** as his last name. During the War Between the States, Fritz enrolled in CO. E 16 Texas Infantry of the Confederate States Army on 13 March 1862 in Brenham, Texas, and he was mustered into the service on 7 April 1862. During that time while at Ft. DeRussy, Louisiana, he was captured 14 March 1864 and confined as a prisoner of war in New Orleans until he was released in an exchange of prisoners on 22 July 1864 at the Red River Landing in Louisiana.

The unit returned to Hempstead, Texas, and disbanded. After the war, Fritz returned to Washington County, Texas. The records show that Fritz purchased 49.4 acres in the Salem Community of Washington County from H. Schawe on 14 Nov. 1865. On 24 Aug. 1868, Fritz purchased 21 1/3 acres of land from W. F. Busch, and on 2 Jan. 1869, Fritz purchased 15 acres again from W. F. Busch. Fritz Lehde married **Karoline Westerfeld** on 14 Jan. 1869, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church in Berlin, Washington County, Texas; Rev. R. Weidli conducting the ceremony. Karoline Charlotte Wilhelmine Westerfeld was born 29 Nov. 1844, in Oppenwehe, Westphalia; she was the daughter of **Johann Heinrich Westerfeld** (born 9 Jan. 1810, in Oppenwehe, Westphalia; died 13 May 1859, in Oppenwehe, Westphalia) and his second wife, **Marie Henriette Meier** (born 16 Oct. 1815, in Oppenwehe, Westphalia; died 4 Jan. 1859, in Oppenwehe, Westphalia). Karoline's parents were married 28 Aug. 1840, in the Lutheran Church Parish of Wehdem, Westphalia. Karoline had four sisters and two brothers, and from her father's first marriage, she had one half-sister and two half brothers. Johann Heinrich Westerfeld's first wife was **Johanne Friedericke Wunder**, and they were married 20 May 1835, in the Lutheran Church Parish of Wehdem, Westphalia. Johanne nee Wunder was born 9 July 1808, and she died 21 June 1840. Karoline's half-siblings were:

1. **Wilhelmine Henriette Westerfeld** born 7 July 1835, in Oppenwehe.
2. **Johann Heinrich Wilhelm Westerfeld** born 7 May 1837, in Oppenwehe, and he died 1 June 1837, in Oppenwehe.
3. **Christian Friedrich Wilhelm Westerfeld** born 1 May 1838, in Oppenwehe, and he died on 15 July 1838, in Oppenwehe.

Karoline's siblings were:

1. **Marie Wilhelmine Caroline Westerfeld** born 31 Aug. 1841, in Oppenwehe, and she died 21 Feb. 1843, in Oppenwehe.
2. **Marie Charlotte Sophie Westerfeld** born 5 Jan. 1843, in Oppenwehe.
3. **Charlotte Henriette Louise Westerfeld** born 13 Jan. 1847, in Oppenwehe, and she died 13 Feb. 1849, in Oppenwehe.



Karoline Westerfeld Lehde

4. Wilhelmine "Mina" Dorothee Westerfeld born 28 Dec. 1849, in Oppenwehe, and she died 30 Jan. 1895, in Salem, Washington Co., Texas. Mina immigrated to Texas as a single girl in 1866. Mina married **Friedrich Wehmeyer** on 13 Jan. 1870, in Salem, Washington Co., Texas. Friedrich Wehmeyer was born 16 Jan. 1841, and he died 5 Dec. 1874. Mina married #2. **Heinrich Friedrich "Wilhelm" Wehmeyer** on 28 July 1875, in Salem, Washington Co., Texas. Wilhelm Wehmeyer was born 11 Jan. 1857, in Westrup, Westphalia, Germany, and he died 11 Aug. 1915, in Salem, Washington Co., Texas.

5. Christian Friedrich Wilhelm Westerfeld born 18 Sept. 1852, in Oppenwehe; he immigrated to Texas in 1870. Christian Westerfeld married **Louise Dubbe** on 23 March 1874, in Salem, Washington Co., Texas.

6. Johann Christoph Wilhelm Westerfeld born 3 July 1856, in Oppenwehe, and he died 29 April 1913, in Salem, Washington Co., Texas. Christoph immigrated to Texas with his brother Christian in 1870. He married **Wilhelmine Renneberg** on 1 Jan. 1880, in Salem, Washington Co., Texas. Wilhelmine was born 4 Oct. 1856, in Dielingen, Westphalia, Germany, and she died 14 July 1929, in Salem, Washington Co., Texas.

Karoline's paternal grandparents were **Johann Heinrich Westerfeld and Marie Henriette Redeker**. Karoline's maternal grandparents were **Johann Friedrich Meier and Margarethe Catharine Storch**.

Karoline Westerfeld was baptized 8 Dec. 1844, in the Lutheran Church Parish in Wehdem, Westphalia. According to her obituary in the *Brenham Banner Press*, Karoline immigrated to Texas in 1867 where she settled in Washington County and met Fritz Lehde.

After their marriage, Fritz and Karoline set up housekeeping on Fritz's farm in the Salem Community of Washington County, where their first child was born. Fritz and Karoline soon thereafter moved to the Zionsville Community in Washington County. Fritz and Karoline purchased 50 acres from Herman Meyer on 27 Jan. 1874. On 19 Oct 1875, Fritz sold 5.63 acres of land to August Zabel for \$140.75. In January 1878, Fritz and Karoline became official members of the congregation of Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville after Fritz signed the church's constitution. On 17 Sept. 1879, Fritz sold a 100-foot right of way across his property to the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railroad for \$5.00. On 8 May 1888, Fritz and Karoline purchased two 50-acre tracts from Gottlieb Nierdick, and on 24 Nov. 1890, Fritz purchased 123 acres from Henry Meyer. On 2 Dec. 1890, Fritz sold 32.7 acres of land to Christoph Lehrmann. Around 1888, Fritz Lehde, along with other men of Zion Lutheran Church, became involved in a division in the Zion congregation regarding the church school. The synod had adopted resolutions that pastors should gradually free themselves from conducting public school. The Zion Congregation wanted to act in accordance



The homeplace of Fritz and Karoline Lehde in the Zionsville Community of Washington County, Texas. This home later became the homeplace of Adolph Lehde and his family. This home burned in the spring of 1946.

with this and resolved that public school should no longer be held in the church. Fritz Lehde, along with neighbors H. C. Meyer, Wilhelm Bode, George Grater and Friedrich Wolf, sought to keep the church school open. These men became trustees of the Harrisburg Academy and they purchased 3 acres from Wilhelm Lehde of Burleson County on 15 Feb. 1889 on which a school was constructed. These respective families, and others, began attending church services in the schoolhouse and the pastor of the St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Gay Hill would come to the schoolhouse to conduct worship services and teach confirmation classes. It took the action of the courts before the division over the church school was resolved.

Fritz and Karoline Lehde were the parents of 11 children; one child died as an unnamed infant. Fritz and Karoline were the parents of four sons: **Henry, August, Otto, and Adolph**; and they were the parents of six daughters: **Mina, Bertha, Caroline, Sophie, Emma and Anna**.

Shortly before her husband's death, Karoline Lehde signed the Constitution of Zion Lutheran Church on 19 Jan. 1894 for her family to rejoin the church congregation. On 28 Feb. 1894, Fritz and Karoline signed their joint will. Fritz Lehde died on 1 March 1894 at the age of 50 years in his home in the Zionsville Community. The death and burial records of Zion Lutheran Church state that Fritz's cause of death was lung inflammation. Fritz's funeral was held 2 March 1894, and he was buried in the Lehde Family Cemetery, which is today a section of Zion Lutheran Cemetery of Zionsville. Fritz and Karoline were married 25 years at the time of his death. Karoline was left a widow at 49 years of age with several children still living at home. Karoline suffered another loss 14 months after



The tombstone of Fritz and Karoline Westerfeld Lehde. Karoline's year of birth is given as 1846 on the stone, but she was actually born in 1844. The Lehde Family section in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery was originally the Lehde Family Cemetery when Fritz and Karoline were buried. This cemetery was located on Fritz and Karoline's property; only a fence separated the Lehde Cemetery from the Zion Lutheran Cemetery. The fence is now gone. As time went on and Zion Lutheran Church expanded, additional property was obtained from the Lehde Family.

Fritz's death when her oldest daughter, Mina Haferkamp, died at the age of 24 years, leaving behind two small children.

The 1900 census shows Karoline living on the Lehde Farm in Zionsville as head of the household with her children August, Sophie, Otto, Adolph, Emma, and Anna.

In 1910, Karoline divided the Lehde Farm between her four sons as the terms of the joint will she and Fritz signed specified. The Lehde daughters received a payment of \$200.00 each as their inheritance, along with a cow. Adolph Lehde received the acreage of the farm that also contained the family home, and Karoline made her home with Adolph and family. It was at Adolph's home that Karoline died after a brief illness at 6

o'clock on Sunday evening, 23 Dec. 1917, at the age of 73 years and 24 days. Karoline's funeral was held on Christmas Day, 25 Dec. 1917, in the Lehde home and Karoline's body was taken to the Lehde Family Cemetery where she was laid to rest beside her husband who

had preceded her in death 23 years earlier. Karoline's obituary states that her survivors were her nine living children, 29 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

The children of Fritz and Karoline (Westerfeld) Lehde:

I. Wilhelmine Henriette Dorothea (Mina) Lehde born 13 November 1870, in Salem, Washington County, Texas. Minawas baptized 2 July 1871, in Salem Lutheran Church in Salem, Washington County, Texas, and she was confirmed 6 April 1884, in Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Mina married **Friedrich Wilhelm Gottlieb "Fritz" Haferkamp** on 11 Dec. 1890, in Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Fritz Haferkamp was born 11 May 1869, in Haldem, Westphalia, Germany; he was the son of Wilhelm Heinrich David "Henry" Haferkamp (born 1838; died 1928) and Margarethe Engel Agnes Gaskamp (born 1840; died 1912). Fritz was baptized 23 May 1869, in the Lutheran Church Parish of Dielingen, Westphalia, Germany. Fritz came to Texas with his parents in 1872. Fritz was confirmed 1 April 1883, in Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Fritz and Mina Lehde Haferkamp lived their brief marriage in the Zionsville and Gay Hill communities of Washington County, Texas. They were the parents of two children: **Henry** and **Anna**.

Mina Lehde Haferkamp died at the age of 24 years on 10 May 1895, in Gay Hill, Washington County, Texas. Mina was buried 11 May 1895, beside her father in the Lehde Family section of the Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Zionsville. Following Mina's death, Fritz Haferkamp married **Wilhelmine Wolf** on 7 January 1896, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. This marriage later ended in separation and divorce. After the divorce, Fritz and his children, Henry and Anna, moved to McGregor, Texas, in western McLennan County, where Fritz's older brother had settled. Fritz married **Mina Marie Dorothea Bremer** on 4 December 1903, in McGregor.

Fritz Haferkamp died in Perry, Falls County, Texas, on 23 Sept. 1925, at the age of 56 years. Fritz was buried 25 Sept. 1925, in the Friedens Cemetery in Riesel, Texas.

The children of Fritz and Mina (Lehde) Haferkamp:

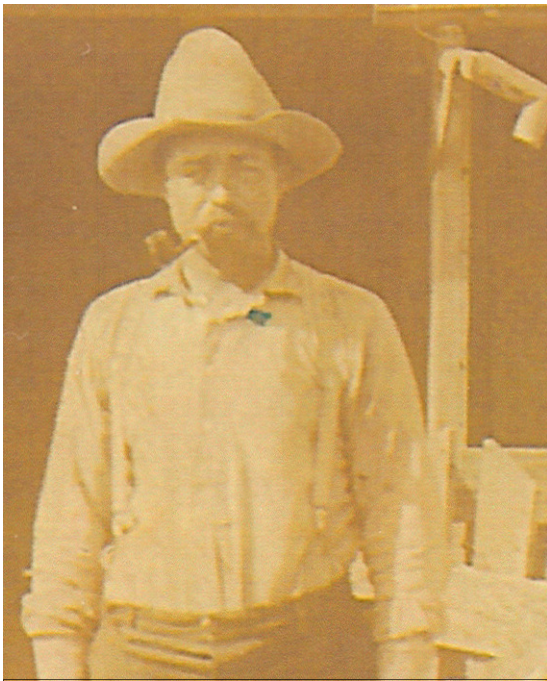
1. **Henry Wilhelm "Chicken" Haferkamp** born 8 Sept. 1891, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Henry was baptized 20 Dec. 1891, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville, and he was confirmed 29 April 1906, at Zion Lutheran Church in McGregor, Texas. Henry



The Confederate Memorial Marker placed at the foot of Fritz Lehde's grave. The marker was formally dedicated by the Sons of Confederate Veterans during a Lehde Family Reunion in April 2011.



The tombstone of Minna Lehde Haferkamp in the Lehde Family section of Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Zionsville, Texas.



Fritz Haferkamp, who married Mina Lehde in 1890. After Mina's death in 1895, Fritz married a second time in 1896, and a third time in 1903. All three of Fritz's wives were named Wilhelmine, or Mina! This picture of Uncle Fritz was taken in 1913 at Riesel, Texas.



The tombstone of Fritz Haferkamp in the Friedens Cemetery near Riesel, Texas.



Henry W. "Chicken" Haferkamp, the son of Fritz and Mina Lehde Haferkamp. Chicken Haferkamp married Frieda Holle in 1915 at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel, Texas

Haferkamp married **Frieda Henriette Louise Holle** on 5 Jan. 1915, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel, Texas. Frieda was born 1 March 1893, in Salem, Washington Co., Texas; she was the daughter of **Adolf Friedrich Holle** and **Malinda Lehrmann**. Henry and Frieda Haferkamp lived several years of their married life in the McLennan, Falls County area before moving to Gatesville, in Coryell County, Texas. Henry "Chick" Haferkamp died in the Grandview Manor Nursing Home in McGregor, Texas, on 24 Nov. 1968, at the age of 77 years. Frieda Holle Haferkamp died 7 Aug. 1980, in Gatesville, Texas. Henry and Frieda Haferkamp are buried in the Friedens Cemetery in Riesel, Texas. Henry and Frieda Holle Haferkamp were the parents of seven children:

I-A. **Alberta Minna Louise Haferkamp** born 12 March 1916, near Riesel, Texas, and she died 9 Aug. 2006, in Gatesville, Texas. Alberta married **Wilhelm Johann George Emil "Bill" Wolske** on 29 Nov. 1934. Bill Wolske was born 15 Oct. 1909, at Perry, Texas, and he died 13 Nov. 1994, in Gatesville, Texas. Alberta and Bill Wolske are buried in the Restland Cemetery in Gatesville, Texas.

I-B. **Esther Klara Anna Haferkamp** born 3 Jan. 1919, near Riesel, Texas, and she died 21 Nov. 2006, in Gatesville, Texas. Esther married **Bernhardt Ludwig "Ben" Wolske** on 26 Nov. 1936. Ben Wolske was born 20 June 1915, at Perry, Texas, and he died 26 Jan. 1983, in Gatesville, Texas. Esther and Ben Wolske are buried in the Jonesboro Cemetery in Jonesboro, Texas.

I-C. **Malinda Hilda Haferkamp** born 5 March 1921, near Elm Mott, Texas. Linda married **Ernest Arnold Fenske** on 23 Dec. 1944, in Riesel, Texas. Ernest was born 20 May 1913, at Riesel, Texas, and he died 27 June 1985, in Cypress, Harris Co., Texas. Ernest Fenske is buried in the Salem Lutheran Cemetery in Tomball, Texas. Linda Haferkamp Fenske resides in Cypress, Texas.

I-D. **Vernon Fritz Adolf Haferkamp** born 16 Aug. 1923, in Marble Falls Co., Texas, and he died 26 Nov. 1999, in Waco, Texas. Vernon married **Grace Smidth** (later div.) Vernon Haferkamp is buried in the Friedens Cemetery in Riesel, Tex.

I-E. **Elmo William Haferkamp** born 7 March 1927, near Riesel, Texas, and he died 7 Dec. 2008, in Waco, Texas. Elmo married **Georgia Sykora** on 31 May 1949, in Riesel, Texas. Elmo Haferkamp is buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Waco. Georgia Sykora Haferkamp resides in Waco.

I-F. **Elwood Nelson Haferkamp** born 25 March 1931, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas, and he died in a truck accident at Mexia, Limestone Co., Texas, on 14 Dec. 1988. Elwood married **Mary Rose Raidlon** 12 Sept. 1953, in Waco, Tx. Elwood Haferkamp is buried in the Gatesville City Cemetery in Gatesville, Tx. Mary Rose Raidl Haferkamp resides in Gatesville, Texas.

I-G. **Wilmer Berthold Gustav Haferkamp** born 4 Jan. 1936, in Lott, Falls Co., Texas. Wilmer married **Helen Springer** on 14 May 1955, in Otto, Falls Co., Texas. Wilmer and Helen Haferkamp reside in Hewitt, Texas.

mer

2. **Anna Karoline Wilhelmine Haferkamp** born 17 Sept. 1893, in Gay Hill, Washington Co., Texas. Anna was baptized 12 Oct. 1893, at her parents' home by the pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Gay Hill, and she was confirmed 24 March 1907, at Zion Lutheran Church in McGregor, Texas.

Anna married **Frank Schroller** on 28 Nov. 1911, in Hamlin, Texas. Frank Schroller was born in Austria on 3 Jan. 1886; he was the son of **Joseph Schroller** and **Emma Pohle**. Anna and Frank Schroller lived the first years of their marriage at Otto, in Falls County, Texas, before moving to Pawnee, in Bee County, where they settled and continued farming. In 1967, they moved to Restful Acres Nursing Home in Kenedy, in Karnes County. Frank Schroller died in Kenedy, Texas, on 14 Nov. 1971, at the age of 85. Six weeks later, Anna Haferkamp Schroller died in Kenedy on 21 Dec. 1971, at the age of 78. Anna and Frank Schroller are buried in the Pawnee Cemetery in Pawnee, Tx. Frank and Anna were the parents of one son and eight daughters:

2-A. **Leo Joe Schroller** born 25 April 1913, near Otto, Falls Co., Texas, and he died 16 Oct. 2005, in Corpus Christi, Texas. Leo Schroller married **Eunice Lovora Rogers** on 4 Sept. 1937, in Kenedy, Texas. Eunice was born 7 Jan. 1917, and she resides today in Corpus Christi. Leo Schroller is buried in the Pawnee Cemetery in Pawnee, Texas.

2-B. **Olivia Emma Schroller** born 14 April 1915, near Otto, Falls Co., Texas, and she died 2 Jan. 1984, in Houston, Texas. Olivia married **Lloyd Ellis** on 5 Nov. 1950, in Honolulu, Hawaii. Lloyd Ellis was born in Ohio and he died in San Antonio, Texas. Olivia and Lloyd Ellis are buried in the Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery in Houston.

2-C. **Emma Schroller** born 2 Sept. 1917, near Otto, Falls Co., Texas, and she died 14 Oct. 1917, at Otto. Emma is buried in the St. John United Church of Christ Cemetery at Otto, Texas.

2-D. **Annie Mary Schroller** born 4 Sept. 1919, near Otto, Falls Co., Texas. Annie married **Charles Edward Johnson** on 14 June 1939. Charles Johnson was born 14 Sept. 1918, and he died 20 Feb. 1979. Charles is buried in the Pawnee Cemetery in Pawnee, Texas. Annie Schroller Johnson resides with her son in Humble, Texas.

2-E. **Lorene Hilda Louise Schroller** born 25 April 1921, at Pawnee, Bee Co., Texas, and she died 23 Nov. 2000, in San Antonio, Texas. Lorene married **Charles Henry Polozeck** on 27 Dec. 1944. Charles Polozeck was born 26 March 1922, and he died 10 Sept. 1992, in San Antonio, Texas. Lorene and Charles Polozeck are buried in the George West Cemetery in George West, Texas.

2-F. **Mary May Schroller** born 30 May 1923, at Pawnee, Bee Co., Texas, and she died 12 March 2003, in Cuero, DeWitt Co., Texas. Mary May married **Joel Grant Page** on 31 Jan. 1945. Joel Page was born 27 April 1924, and he died in Victoria, Texas, on 1 July 1975. Mary May and Joel Page were divorced. Mary May, Schroller Page is buried in the Pawnee Cemetery in Pawnee, Texas.

2-G. **Leona Annie Selma Schroller** born 28 April 1926~ at Pawnee, Bee Co., Texas. Leona married **Darrell Eugene Smith** in 1948. Darrell and Leona Schroller Smith reside today in McAllen, Texas.

2-H. **Willis Wanda Frieda Meta Schroller** born 19 May 1928, at Pawnee, Bee Co., Texas, and she died 16 March 2006, in Houston, Texas. Willis married **Paul Adolph Mueller, Jr.** on 10 April 1949. Paul Mueller was born 26 March 1929, and he died 16 June 1986, in Houston, Texas. Paul and Willis Schroller Mueller are buried in the La Rosa Cemetery in Woodsboro, Refugio Co., Texas.

2-1. **Ella Jane "Janie" Schroller** born 15 Feb. 1931, at Pawnee, Bee Co., Texas. Janie married **Dalton Ray Metting** on 13 Jan. 1957. Dalton was



The wedding of Frank Schroller and Anna Haferkamp, the daughter of Fritz and Mina Lehde Haferkamp. Frank and Anna married in 1911 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Hamlin, Texas, where Anna was living with her father and step-

II. **Bertha Henriette Wilhelmine Lehde** born 18 Oct. 1872, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Bertha was baptized 13 July 1873, and she was confirmed 18 April 1886, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Bertha married **John Ernest Kuretsch** on 23 Nov. 1893, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Ernest Kuretsch was born 18 Feb. 1868, in Germany; he was the son of **Johann Kuretsch** (born 1840; died 1933) and **Rosina Biele** (born 1841; died 1911). The Kuretsch Family immigrated to Texas from Germany in 1872. Bertha and Ernest Kuretsch lived the first years of their marriage in Washington County before moving to Otto, in Falls County, Texas, where they



Bertha Lehde Kuretsch Ernest Kuretsch



The tombstone of Ernest and Bertha (Lehde) Kuretsch in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery near Riesel, Texas.

settled and farmed. They became mem-

bers of Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel, Texas. Ernest Kuretsch died at the family home in Otto on 6 Dec. 1938. Ernest and Bertha were married 45 years at the time of Ernest's death. Bertha Lehde Kuretsch died near Riesel, Texas, at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Lena and Adolph Jander on 3 Jan. 1948, at the age of 75 years. Bertha and Ernest Kuretsch are buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery near Riesel, Texas.

Ernest and Bertha were the parents of 7 children:

1. **Caroline Rosine "Lena" Kuretsch** born 19 Sept. 1894, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Lena was baptized 28 Oct. 1894, in Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville, and she was confirmed 4 April 1909, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel, Texas. Lena married **Adolph John Jander** on 5 Nov. 1914, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel, Texas. Adolph Jander was born 23 Sept. 1889, in Perry, Falls Co., Texas; he was the son of **Rudolph Jander** and **Sophia Mascheg**. After a marriage of 41 years, Lena Kuretsch Jander died 25 Dec. 1955, in Marlin, Texas. Adolph Jander died in Marlin, Texas, on 29 Oct. 1981. Lena and Adolph Jander are buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery near Riesel, Texas.
2. **Ida Wilhelmine Marie Kuretsch** born 10 Oct. 1896, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Ida was baptized 13 Dec. 1896, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville, and she was confirmed 20 March 1910, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel, Texas. Ida married **Rudolph Henry Jander** on 8 Nov. 1917, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel, Texas. Rudolph Jander was born 14 July 1896, at Perry, Falls Co., Texas; he was the son of **Rudolph Jander** and **Sophia Mascheg**. After a marriage of nearly 40 years, Ida Kuretsch Jander died 28 July 1957, in Waco, Texas. Rudolph Jander died in Waco, Texas, on 11 May 1969. Rudolph and Ida Jander are buried in the Waco Memorial Park in Waco, Texas.
3. **Selma Anna Kuretsch** born 7 Nov. 1898, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Selma was baptized 11 Dec. 1898, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville, and she was confirmed 16 March 1913, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel, Texas. Selma married **Paul Koester** on 12 Nov. 1919, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel. Paul Koester was born 11 Feb. 1894 at Perry, Falls Co., Texas; he was the son of **Friedrich Heinrich Bernhardt Koester** and **Henriette Henschou**. After a marriage of 35 years, Paul Koester died 2 July 1954, at his home near Riesel, Texas. Selma Kuretsch Koester died 31 May 1970, at the family home near Riesel. Paul and Selma Koester are buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery near Riesel, Texas.
4. **Edwin Friedrich Ernest Kuretsch** born 27 Nov. 1901, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. Edwin was baptized 26 Dec. 1901, in Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin, and he was confirmed 16 April 1916, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel, Texas. Edwin married **Lydia Bletsch** on 2 Dec. 1923, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel. Lydia was born 5 March 1906, near Otto, Falls Co., Texas. After a marriage of 36 years, Edwin Kuretsch died 2 Sept. 1959. Edwin died in an accident at his farm in Otto, Texas. While working on the lid of an underground water cistern, Edwin fell into the cistern and drowned. His widow, Lydia Bletsch Kuretsch, died 3 Sept. 1989, in Marlin, Texas. Edwin and Lydia Kuretsch are buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery near Riesel, Texas.

5. **Otto Heinrich August Kuretsch** born 13 Dec. 1903, at Otto, Falls Co., Texas. Otto was baptized 17 April 1904, at St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed Church in the St. Paul's Community, Falls County, and he was confirmed 24 March 1918, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel, Texas. Otto Kuretsch married **Selma Frieda Jander** on 28 March 1925, in Grace Lutheran Church in Marlin, Texas. Selma was born 13 Oct. 1903, at Perry, Falls Co., Texas; she was the daughter of **Rudolph Jander** and **Sophia Mascheg**. Otto Kuretsch died in Waco, Texas, on 11 Feb. 1972. Selma Jander Kuretsch died 10 Jan. 1996, in Temple, Bell Co., Texas. Otto and Selma Kuretsch are buried in the Chapel Hill Memorial Park in Waco, Texas.

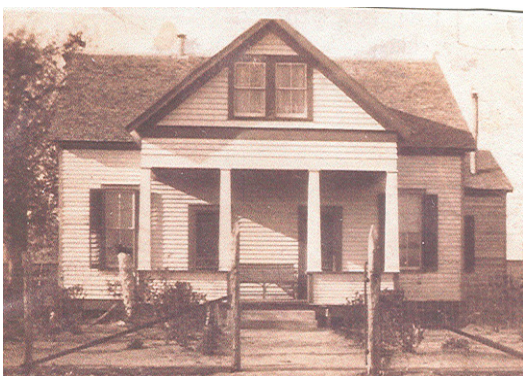
6. **Anna Carolina Sophia Kuretsch** born 13 Oct. 1906, at Otto, Falls Co., Texas. Anna was baptized 25 Nov. 1906, and she was confirmed 20 March 1921, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel, Texas. Anna married **Paul Berthold Abel** on 23 Feb. 1938, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel. Paul Abel was born 20 Nov. 1905; he was the son of **Gustav Abel** and **Natalie Fenske**. After a marriage of 41 years, Paul Abel died 29 Oct. 1979. Anna Kuretsch Abel died 6 April 1995, in Monroe, North Carolina. Paul and Anna Abel are buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery near Riesel, Tex.

7. **Paul Heinrich Wilhelm Kuretsch** born 15 Dec. 1909, at Otto, Falls Co., Texas. Paul was baptized 13 Feb. 1910, and he was confirmed 13 April 1924, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel, Texas. Paul Kuretsch married **Mabel Olga Finn** on 25 Sept. 1930, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel, Texas. Mabel was born 22 Aug. 1912, near Riesel; she was the daughter of **George Finn** and **Hedwig Ballmann**. After a marriage of 43 years, Paul Kuretsch died in Marlin, Texas, on 13 May 1974. Mabel Finn Kuretsch died in Waco on 23 Dec. 1998. Paul and Mabel Kuretsch are buried in the Riesel Cemetery in Riesel, Texas.

III. **Heinrich Hermann Christoph "Henry" Lehde** born 28 Oct. 1874, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Henry was baptized 4 April 1875 at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville, and he was confirmed 21 April 1889, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Gay Hill, Washington Co., Texas. Henry Lehde married **Henriette Louise Agnes Quebe** on 7 Dec. 1899, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas. Henriette was born in Haldem, Westphalia, Germany, on 20 Aug. 1876; she was the daughter of **Carl Quebe** (born 1847; died 1906) and **Louise Kasting** (born 1847; died 1939). Henriette was baptized 3 Sept. 1876, in the Lutheran Church Parish in Dielingen, Westphalia, Germany. Henriette was six years old when her family immigrated to Texas in Sept. of 1882. Henriette was confirmed 20 April 1890 at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas. Henry and Henriette Lehde lived all their married life in the Zionsville Community of Washington County where they farmed, and they were members of Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville.

Henriette was hospitalized with flu and pneumonia in the Buie-Allen Hospital in Marlin, Texas, where she died on 21 April 1943, at the age of 66 years. Henry and Henriette were married 43 years at the time of her death. Henry Lehde died 7 Jan. 1945, in the St. Francis Hospital in Brenham, Texas, at the age of 70 years.

Henry and Henriette Lehde are buried in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Zionsville.



The home of Henry and Henriette Lehde in the Zionsville Community. This home later became the homeplace of their son, Berthold and his wife, Ema. The home is still in the Lehde Family today.



The wedding of Henry Lehde and Henriette Quebe. They married Dec. 7, 1899, at St. John Lutheran Church in the Prairie Hill Community of Washington Co., Texas



Henry Lehde and his mules on his farm in Zionsville



Henry Lehde Family. From left: Mary Lehde Knppel, Henry and Henriette Quebe Lehde, Berthold Lehde



The tombstone of Henry and Henriette (Quebe) Lehde in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Zionsville, Texas.

Henry and Henriette (Quebe) Lehde were the parents of two children:

1. **Marie "Mary" Lehde** born 26 March 1904, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Mary was baptized 17 April 1904, and she was confirmed 24 March 1918, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Mary married **Friedrich Wilhelm Otto "John" Knuppel** on 20 Nov. 1924, in Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. John Knuppel was born 1 Oct. 1902, in Salem, Washington Co., Texas; he was the son of **Fritz Knuppel** and **Augusta Abel**. After a marriage of 56



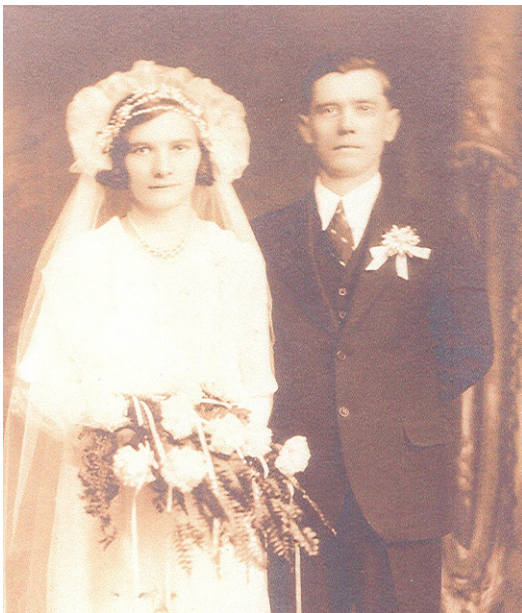
Henry and Henriette Quebe Lehde at their home in the Zionsville Community.

years, John Knuppel died of a heart attack in St. Jude Hospital in Brenham, Texas, on 5 Sept. 1981. Mary Lehde Knuppel died in Brenham, Texas, on 23 June 1991. John and Mary Knuppel are buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham. John and Mary Lehde Knuppel were the parents of three children: **Helene** (born 25 Aug. 1925; died 26 Aug. 1925); **Arnold** (b. 1929) married **Magdalene Menn**; and **Bernadine** (b. 1933) married **Fred Blum**.



Mary Lehde Knuppel and the wedding of John Knuppel and Mary Lehde. They married Nov. 20, 1924 in Zionsville, Texas. They were married 56 years.

2. **Berthold Christoph August Friedrich Lehde** born 27 June 1907, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Berthold was baptized 28 July 1907, and he was confirmed 9 April 1922, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Berthold married **Erna Keim** on



The wedding of Berthold Lehde and Erna Keirn. They married Jan. 10, 1933, in Zionsville, Texas. They were married 46 years.

10 Jan. 1933, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Erna was born 12 April 1910, in Haskell Co., Texas; she was the daughter of **Albert Keim** and **Caroline Louise Emma Nierdieck**. Berthold and Erna Lehde lived their

married life on Berthold's parents' farm place in Zionsville. Erna Keirn Lehde died at the family home in Zionsville, Texas, on 5 May 1979. Berthold Lehde died in La Grange, Texas, on 4 March 1997. Berthold and Erna Lehde are buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham. Berthold and Erna



Mary Lehde Knuppel and her brother, Berthold Lehde. This picture was taken in March 1988 at Mary's 84th birthday party in the Brenham Rest Home, where Mary was a resident from Jan. 1986 until her death in June 1991.

Keirn Lehde were the parents of six children: **Mervin** (b. 1933; d. 2009); **Elaine Lorenz** (b. 1936); **Vernon** (b. 1940); twins-**Billy Joe & Bobby Gene** (b. 1945); and **Gary** (b. 1949).

IV. **Emilie Caroline Lehde** born 19 April 1876, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Caroline was baptized 3 Dec. 1876, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville, and she was confirmed 13 April 1890, in the schoolhouse in Zionsville by the pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Gay Hill, Washington Co., Texas. Caroline married **Henry Wilhelm Kuretsch** on 14 April 1895, in Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Henry Kuretsch was born 6 Jan. 1874, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas; he was the son of **Johann Kuretsch** (born 1840; died 1933) and **Rosina Biele** (born 1841; died 1911). Henry Kuretsch was baptized 24 May 1874, and he was confirmed 25 March 1888, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Henry and Caroline Kuretsch lived the first years of their marriage in Washington County until moving to Falls County, Texas, where they first lived in the Otto Community until moving to the St. Paul's Community, north of Marlin, where they settled. They became members of St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed Church of St. Paul's Community. (In 1957, the church became known as St. Paul's United Church of Christ.) Besides engaging in farming, Henry also did carpentry work. Henry Kuretsch died at his home on Rt. 1, Marlin, in the St. Paul's Community of Falls County, Texas, on 14 Aug. 1948. Henry and Caroline were married 53 years at the time of his death. Caroline Lehde Kuretsch died in the Seguin Hospital in Seguin, Texas, on 4 Jan. 1957, at the age of 80 years. Caroline was visiting her son, Rev. Richard Kuretsch and his family, who lived in Geronimo, near Seguin, when she suffered a heart attack and was taken to the hospital in Seguin where she died. Henry and Caroline Kuretsch are buried in the St. Paul's United Church of Christ Cemetery in the St. Paul's Community in Falls County, Texas. Henry and Caroline Lehde Kuretsch



were the parents of seven children:

The tombstone of Henry and Caroline (Lehde) Kuretsch in the St Paul's United Church of Christ Cemetery in the St Paul's Community, north of Marlin, Texas.

1. **Wilhelm Johann Ernst Kuretsch** born 22 Oct. 1895, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. William was baptized 1 Dec. 1895, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville, and he was confirmed in 1910, at St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed Church in St. Paul's Community, Falls Co., Texas. William first married **Emma Julianne Grams** on 30 Nov. 1916, in Falls Co., Texas. Emma was born in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, on 9 Jan. 1897; she was the daughter of **Gottlieb Grams** and **Auguste Woltmann**. Emma died 14 April 1930, in Marlin, Texas. After Emma's death, William Kuretsch married (**Mrs.**) **Louise Adams** on 11 Nov. 1931, in Falls Co., Texas. This marriage ended in divorce. William's third marriage was to **Sophie Mathilde Grams Brown** on 18 Jan. 1941, in Marlin. Sophie was a younger sister of William's first wife, Emma. William and Sophie later divorced. Sophie was born 7 April 1903, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and she died in Waco, Texas, on 27 Jan. 1969. Emma and Sophie are both buried in the St. Paul's United Church of Christ Cemetery in St. Paul's Community, Falls Co., Texas. William Kuretsch died 3 Aug. 1971, in Waco, Texas. William is buried in the Waco Memorial Park in Waco.
2. **Heinrich Wilhelm Ernst Kuretsch** born 24 Oct. 1897, in Gay Hill, Washington Co., Texas. Henry was baptized 21 Nov. 1897, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Gay Hill, and he was confirmed in 1912, at St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed Church in St. Paul's Community, Falls Co., Texas. Henry Kuretsch married **Johanna Schaefer**. Henry Kuretsch died 12 Dec. 1971, in Waco, Texas. Johanna Schaefer Kuretsch was born 23 Jan. 1889; she was the daughter of **Wilhelm Schaefer** and **Charlotte Graeber**. Johanna died in McGregor, Texas, on 31 Oct. 1973. Henry and Johanna Kuretsch are buried in the Waco Memorial Park in Waco, Texas.
3. **Albert Wilhelm Kuretsch** born 12 Jan. 1900, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Albert was baptized 10 March 1900, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville, and he was confirmed 5 April 1914, at St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed Church in St. Paul's Community, Falls Co., Texas. Albert married **Augusta Grube** on 16 Nov. 1921, at St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed Church in Falls Co., Texas. Augusta was born 21 Jan. 1901, near Riesel, Texas. After a marriage of 41 years, Albert Kuretsch died 21 Dec. 1962, in San Antonio, Texas. Augusta Grube Kuretsch died 12 March 1987, in Inez, Victoria Co., Texas. Albert and Augusta Kuretsch are buried in the Friedens Cemetery in Riesel, Texas.

4. **Edmund Christoph Kuretsch** born 17 April 1902, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Edmund was baptized 8 June 1902, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Gay Hill, Washington Co., Texas, and he was confirmed 4 April 1916, at St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed Church of St. Paul's Community, Falls Co., Texas. Edmund married **Lillie Katrina Lessman** on 29 Oct. 1924, in St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed Church in Falls County. Lillie was born 26 May 1903, in Falls County. After a marriage of 55 years, Edmund Kuretsch died in Marlin, Texas, on 11 Jan. 1980. Lillie Lessman Kuretsch died in Marlin on 19 Aug. 1989. Edmund and Lillie Kuretsch are buried in the St. Paul's United Church of Christ Cemetery in the St. Paul's Community of Falls County, Texas.

5. **Richard Friedrich Kuretsch** born 15 Aug. 1904, in Otto, Falls County, Texas. Richard was baptized 2 Oct. 1904, at Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel, Texas, and he was confirmed 7 April 1918, at St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed Church in St. Paul's Community, Falls Co., Texas. Richard married **Regina Josephine Knurst** on 12 June 1930, in Cibolo, Guadalupe Co., Texas. Regina was born 8 April 1906. Richard Kuretsch began his ministry in 1944 at Geronimo, Texas. After a marriage of 53 years, Rev. Richard Kuretsch died in San Antonio, Texas, on 2 Dec. 1983. Regina Knurst Kuretsch died in New Braunfels, Texas, on 26 June 1995. Rev. Richard and Regina Kuretsch are buried in the St. Paul's Church Cemetery in Cibolo, Guadalupe Co., Texas.

6. **Adeline Cristina Kuretsch** born 18 May 1906, in St. Paul's Community, Falls Co., Texas. Adeline was baptized 1 July 1906, and she was confirmed 25 April 1920, at St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed Church in St. Paul's Community, Falls Co., Texas. Adeline married **Karl Bernhardt Lessmann** on 5 Nov. 1924, in Falls Co., Texas. Bernhardt Lessmann was born 17 Dec. 1901, in Salem, Washington Co., Texas. Ben Lessmann divorced Adeline and remarried. Becoming very distraught after the divorce, Adeline Kuretsch Lessmann committed suicide on 28 Jan. 1956, by crossing into the path of an oncoming train, one mile north of Marlin, Texas. Adeline is buried in the St. Paul's United Church of Christ Cemetery in the St. Paul's Community of Falls Co., Texas. Bernhardt Lessman died 14. Sept. 1984.

7. **Anna Alvina Kuretsch** born 30 March 1911, in St. Paul's Community, Falls Co., Texas. Anna was baptized 7 May 1911, and she was confirmed 5 April 1925, at St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed Church in St. Paul's Community, Falls Co., Texas. Anna married **Oswald Friedrich Meisch** on 12 Dec. 1931, in Waco, Texas. Oswald Meisch was born 27 Dec. 1891, and he died 9 April 1980, in Dallas, Texas. Anna Kuretsch Meisch died 1 March 1999, in Dallas. Oswald and Anna Meisch are buried in the Laurel Land Memorial Park in Dallas.

V. **Heinrich August Lehde** born 6 Dec. 1877, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. August was baptized 11 Aug. 1878, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville, and he was confirmed 26 March 1893, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Gay Hill, Washington Co., Texas. August Lehde married **Anna Minna Imhoff** on 3 Dec. 1903, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Anna was born 29 Aug. 1879, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas; she was the daughter of **Georg Daniel Imhoff** (born 1840; died 1910) and **Henriette Charlotte Louise Spreen** (born 1851; died 1941). Anna was baptized 25 Jan. 1880, and she was confirmed 26 March 1893, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin, Texas. After their marriage, August and Anna Lehde settled in the Zionsville Community where they farmed their entire married life. August and Anna were members of Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville, and they were parents of twin children: **Elma** and **Helmus**. August Lehde died in the Milroy Hospital in Brenham, Texas, on 21 April 1952, at the age of 74 years. August and Anna were married 48 years at the time of his death. After August's death, Anna made her home with her daughter, Elma Winkelman in



The tombstone of August and Anna (Imhoff) Lehde in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Zionsville, Texas.



The wedding of August Lehde and Anna Imhoff. They married Dec. 3, 1903, in Zionsville, Texas. They were the parents of twins.

Anna were members of Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville, and they were parents of twin children: **Elma** and **Helmus**. August Lehde died in the Milroy Hospital in Brenham, Texas, on 21 April 1952, at the age of 74 years. August and Anna were married 48 years at the time of his death. After August's death, Anna made her home with her daughter, Elma Winkelman in

Columbus, Texas. Anna Imhoff Lehde died in Columbus, Colorado Co., Texas, on 23 Jan. 1969, at the age of 89 years. August and Anna Lehde are buried in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Zionsville, Texas.

The family of August and Anna (Imhoff) Lehde:

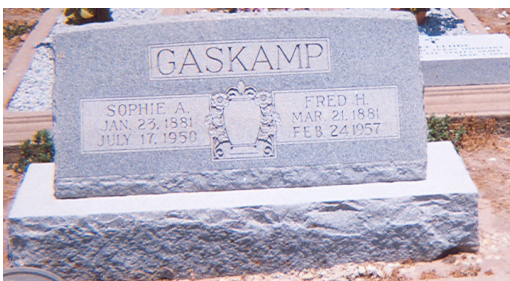
1. **Elma Karoline Louise Henriette Lehde** born 17 Aug. 1908, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Elma was baptized 20 Sept. 1908, and she was confirmed 25 March 1923, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Elma married **Karl Heinrich Friedrich "Charles" Winkelmann** on 14 June 1938, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Charles Winkelmann was born 6 Sept. 1906, in Hoddeville, Washington Co., Texas; he was the son of **Fritz Winkelmann** and **Sophie Quebe**. After a marriage of 40 years, Charles Winkelmann died in Brenham, Texas on 8 July 1978. Elma Lehde Winkelmann died in Brenham on 17 Aug. 1999. Charles and Elma Winkelmann are buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham. Charles and Elma Lehde Winkelmann were the parents of one child: **Charles Henry "Chip" Winkelmann** (born 17 April 1945; died 16 Aug. 1948 of leukemia).



August Lehde Family. Anna and August Lehde sitting and their children are Elma Lehde Winkelmann and Relmus Lehde.

2. **Helmus Daniel Christoph Heinrich Lehde** born 17 Aug. 1908, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Helmus was baptized 20 Sept. 1908, and he was confirmed 25 March 1923, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Helmus married **Nola Helen Balke** on 6 July 1932, in Sealy, Austin Co., Texas. Nola was born 5 July 1913, in Peters Community, Austin Co., Texas; she was the daughter of **Karl Christian Balke** and **Natalie Timme**. After a marriage of 66 years, Helmus Lehde died in Brenham, Texas, on 27 Nov. 1998. Nola Balke Lehde died in Brenham on 7 March 2011. Helmus and Nola Lehde are buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham, Texas. Helmus and Nola Balke Lehde were the parents of one child: **Jeraldyn Louise Lehde Weisler** (born 29 Aug. 1939; died 12 Jan. 2004).

VI. **Anna Sophie Lehde** born 23 Jan. 1881, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Sophie was baptized 14 Aug. 1881, and she was confirmed 7 April 1895, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Sophie Lehde married **Friedrich Heinrich Wilhelm Gaskamp** on 18 Dec. 1904, in Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Friedrich Gaskamp was born 21 March 1881, in Haldem, Westphalia Germany; he was the son of **Friedrich Heinrich Wilhelm Gaskamp** (born 1853; died 1941) and **Margarethe Louise Sophie Wendt** (born 1847; died 1928). Friedrich Gaskamp was baptized 10 April 1881, in the Lutheran Church Parish in Dielingen, Westphalia Germany. Friedrich came to Texas with his parents in 1882. Friedrich was confirmed 7 April 1895, in Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville,



The tombstone of Fred and Sophie (Lehde) Gaskamp in the Lehde Family section of Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Zionsville.



The wedding of Friedrich Gaskamp and Sophie Lehde. They married Dec. 18, 1904, in Zionsville, Texas. Sophie died in an automobile accident in Ganado, Texas, in 1950.

Washington Co., Texas. After their marriage, Friedrich and Sophie Gaskamp lived in the Zionsville Community before moving to Blieberville, in Austin County. From there, the Gaskamp Family moved to Ganado, in Jackson County, where they settled and farmed. Friedrich and Sophie became members of St.

James Lutheran Church in Ganado. Sophie Lehde Gaskamp died in an automobile accident in Ganado, Texas, on 17 July 1950, at the age of 69 years. This accident also claimed the life of her

sister-in-law, Louise Finke Gaskamp. Sophie and Friedrich Gaskamp were married 45 years at the time of her death. Friedrich Gaskamp died in the Yorktown Memorial Hospital in Yorktown, DeWitt Co., Texas, on 24 Feb. 1957, at the age of 75 years. Friedrich and Sophie Gaskamp are buried in the Lehde Family section of the Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas.

Friedrich and Sophie Lehde Gaskamp were the parents of one son:

1. **Reinhardt Wilhelm Christoph Gaskamp** born 11 Oct. 1905, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Reinhardt was baptized 4 Nov. 1905, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville, and he was confirmed 18 Sept. 1921, at St. James Lutheran Church of Ganado, Texas. Reinhardt Gaskamp married **Elsie Caroline Ida Kramer** on 31 Dec. 1931, in St. James Lutheran Church in Ganado, Texas. Elsie was born 31 Dec. 1913, in Wallis, Austin Co., Texas; she was the daughter of **John W. Kramer and Louise Emma Adler**. Elsie Kramer Gaskamp died in Ganado, Texas, on 31 Oct. 1971. Reinhardt Gaskamp died in Ganado on 15 Sept. 1977. Reinhardt and Elsie Gaskamp are buried in the Ganado Cemetery in Ganado, Jackson Co., Texas.



Reinhardt Gaskamp--the only child of Friedrich and Sophie Lehde Gaskamp.

VII. Friedrich Wilhelm Otto Lehde born 29 Dec. 1882, in Zionsville, Washington

Co., Texas. Otto Lehde was baptized 24 June 1883, and he was confirmed 11 April 1897, in Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Otto married **Anna Fischer** on 22 Feb. 1912, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. Anna was born 20 April 1886, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas; she was the daughter of Heinrich **Wilhelm Fischer** (born 1855; died 1912) and **Louise Eliesabetha Boortz** (born 1854; died 1941). Anna was baptized in Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin (date unavailable), and she was also confirmed in Eben Ezer Lutheran Church on 15 April 1900. Otto and Anna Lehde lived their married life in the Zionsville Community of Washington County where they farmed, and they were members of Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. They were the parents of four children. Anna Fischer Lehde died in the Milroy Hospital in Brenham, Texas, on 13 Feb. 1959, at the age of 72 years. Anna died the week before she and Otto would have observed their 47th wedding anniversary. Otto



Otto Lehde as a young man

Lehde died in the Milroy Hospital in Brenham on 18 July 1961, at the age of 78 years. Otto and Anna Lehde are buried in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. The family of Otto and Anna Fischer Lehde:



The tombstone of Otto and Annie (Fischer) Lehde in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Zionsville, Texas.

1. **Manela Louise Caroline Lehde** born 26 Dec. 1912, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Manela was baptized 20 April 1913, and she was confirmed 1 April 1928, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Manela Lehde was institutionalized in Austin, Texas, where she died on 6 Jan. 1947, at the age of 34 years. Manela was buried in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery of Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, on 8 Jan. 1947.
2. **Ora Lee Emma Bertha Anna Lehde** born 5 April 1915, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Ora Lee was baptized 1 Aug. 1915, and she was confirmed 13 April 1930, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Ora Lee Lehde married **Charles Harmel** on 29 June 1938, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Charlie Harmel was born 27 Oct. 1908, in Burton, Washington Co., Texas; he was the son of **Willie Harmel and Lydia Dorner**. Charlie Harmel died 21 Nov. 1976. Ora Lee preceded him in death on 1 May 1973, in Brenham, Texas. Charlie and Ora Lee Harmel are buried in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery of Zionsville.
3. **Herbert Monroe Lehde** born 22 Sept. 1917, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Herbert was baptized 14 April 1918, and he was confirmed 9 April 1933, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Herbert Lehde first married **Viola Hess** on 22 Dec. 1945, in Washington Co., Texas. Viola was born 15 Jan. 1917, in Brenham, Washington Co., Texas; the daughter of **Anton Hess and Anna Dolejsi**. Herbert's second marriage was to

Lillie Schreiner on 5 Feb. 1955, in Eagle Lake, Texas. Herbert Lehde died in Brenham, Texas, on 3 June 1974. Lillie Schreiner Lehde was born 15 Dec. 1916, and she died 24 Sept. 2006. Herbert and Lillie Lehde are buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham, Texas.

4. **Laverne Marie Henriette Lehde** born 24 May 1922, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Laverne was baptized 3 Dec. 1922, and she was confirmed 21 March 1937, in Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Laverne married **Odus Graham** on 1 June 1945, in Dallas, Texas. Odus Graham was born 21 Oct. 1913, in Statford, Garvin County, Oklahoma, and he died 6 Dec. 1975, in the V.A. Hospital in Houston, Texas. Laverne Lehde Graham died 14 Feb. 2007, in Port Arthur, Texas. Odus and Laverne Graham are buried in the Oak Bluff Cemetery in Port Neches, Jefferson Co., Texas.

VIII. **Christoph Adolph Lehde** born 15 May 1885, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Adolph Lehde was baptized 7 Aug. 1885, and he was confirmed 26 March 1899, in Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Adolph married **Bertha Henriette Louise Lange** on 5 June 1911, in Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Bertha was born 11 Jan. 1892, in Sandy Hill, Washington Co., Texas; she was the daughter of **Wilhelm Lange** (born 1864; died 1931) and **Wilhelmine Spreen** (born 1865; died 1935). Bertha was baptized 14 Feb. 1892, in St. Matthew's Lutheran Church of Sandy Hill. Adolph and Bertha Lehde lived their married life in the Zionsville Community where they farmed, and they were members of Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Adolph and Bertha were the parents of five children. Bertha Lange Lehde died in Brenham, Texas, on 22 June 1942, at the age of 50 years. Bertha was buried 23 June 1942, in the Lehde Family section of the Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Zionsville. Ten years after Bertha's death, Adolph Lehde married a widow, **Bertha Winkelmann Goeke** on 7 Aug. 1952, in Giddings, Texas. Bertha was born 20 Feb. 1889, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas; she was the daughter of **Henry**



The wedding of Adolph Lehde and Bertha Lange. They married June 5, 1911, in Zionsville, Texas.



The tombstone of Adolph and Bertha (Lange) Lehde in the Lehde Family section of the Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Zionsville. The stone gives Bertha's date of birth as Feb. 11, 1892, but the baptism record gives her birthday as Jan. 11, 1892.

Winkelmann (born 1862; died 1941) and **Friederike Spreen** (born 1869; died 1922). Bertha was baptized 4 Aug. 1889, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas, and she was confirmed 27 March 1904, at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Wiedeville, Washington Co., Texas. After their marriage, Adolph and Bertha made their home in Brenham. Adolph Lehde died his residence in Brenham on 26 Dec. 1964, at the age of 79 years. Adolph was buried 28 Dec. 1964 beside his first wife, Bertha nee Lange, in the Lehde Family section of the Zion Lutheran Cemetery of Zionsville. Adolph's second wife, Bertha nee Winkelmann, died in Brenham, Texas, on 20 Oct. 1984, at the age of 95 years. Bertha was buried in the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery in Wiedeville, Washington Co., Texas, beside the grave of her first husband, William Goeke, who had

died in 1949.

The family of Adolph and Bertha Lange Lehde:

1. **Almon Wilhelm Heinrich Lehde** born 17 Sept. 1913, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Almon was baptized 26 Oct. 1913, and he was confirmed 24 March 1929, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Almon Lehde married **Jessie Lafaye "Faye" McFarland** on 26 Sept. 1945, in Waskom, Harrison Co., Texas. Almon Lehde died in Longview, Gregg Co., Texas, on 10 June 1996. Faye McFarland Lehde was born 14 Jan. 1914, and she died 12 Jan. 2002. Almon and Faye Lehde are buried in the McFarland Family Cemetery in Waskom, Harrison Co., Texas.
2. **Lilborn Heinrich Lehde** born 17 Aug. 1915, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Lilborn was baptized 10 Oct. 1915, in Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Lilborn Lehde died of pneumonia on 11 Jan. 1929, at the age of 13 years. Lilborn was buried 13 Jan. 1929, in the Lehde Family section of the Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas.
3. **Helena (Celonie) Sophie Henriette Lehde** born 26 May 1917, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Celonie

was baptized 24 June 1917, and she was confirmed 20 March 1932, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Celonie Lehde married **Henry Schwartz, Jr.** on 18 Oct. 1934, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Henry was born 22 Jan. 1912, in Washington Co., Texas; he was the son of **Henry Schwartz, Sr.**, and **Louise Becker**. Henry Schwartz, Jr. died 24 July 1988. Helena (Celonie) Lehde Schwartz died 11 May 1994. Henry and Celonie Schwartz are buried in the Restever Cemetery in Bryan, Brazos Co., Texas.

4. **Calvin Adolph Lehde** born 3 July 1925, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Calvin was baptized 30 Aug. 1925, and he was confirmed 17 Sept. 1939, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Calvin Lehde married **Veradell Hodde** on 12 Sept. 1948, at St. John's United Church of Christ in Burton, Washington Co., Texas. Veradell was born 20 Dec. 1926, at Burton, Texas. Calvin and Veradell Lehde reside in the Zionsville Community of Washington County on a portion of the Fritz and Karoline Lehde farm that was inherited by his father, Adolph Lehde.



From left: Bertha Lee Lehde Kolby and Calvin Lehde (Children of Adolph and Bertha Lange Lehde) with their first cousin, Adell Knuppel Schomburg (daughter of Otto and Emma Lehde Knuppel).

5. **Bertha Lee Lehde** born 16 Nov. 1929, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Bertha was baptized 23 Feb. 1930, and she was confirmed 14 Oct. 1943, in Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Bertha Lehde married **Lawrence Clarence Kolbyon** 18 Feb. 1951, in Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Lawrence Kolbyon was born 5 Nov. 1930 at Roans Prairie, Grimes Co., Texas, and he died 16 Feb. 1983, in Navasota, Grimes Co., Texas. Lawrence is buried in the Oakland Cemetery in Navasota, Texas. Bertha Lee Lehde Kolby resides in Navasota, Texas.



The wedding of Otto Knuppel and Emma Lehde. They married Dec. 20, 1911, in Zionsville, Texas.

IX. **Emma Louise Wilhelmine Lehde** born 9 March 1888, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Emma was baptized 5 Aug. 1888, and she was confirmed 23 March 1902, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Emma married **Wilhelm Heinrich Friedrich Otto Knuppel** on 20 Dec. 1911, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Otto Knuppel was born in the Salem Community of Washington County, Texas, on 3 June 1890; he was the son of **Friedrich "Fritz" Knuppel** (born 1860; died 1950) and **Auguste Abel** (born 1859; died 1919). Otto Knuppel was baptized 7 Sept. 1890, at Salem Lutheran Church of Salem, Washington Co., Texas, and he was confirmed 16 April 1905, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas. After their marriage, Otto and Emma Knuppel set up housekeeping in the Cedar Hill community of Washington County. After a few years, they moved to Ganado, in Jackson County, where they settled and farmed. The Knuppel Family became members of St. James Lutheran Church of Ganado. Otto and Emma were the parents of five children. Otto Knuppel died in the Mauritz Memorial Hospital in Ganado, Texas, on 30 Aug. 1975, at the age of 85 years. Otto and Emma were married 63 years at the time of Otto's death. Emma Lehde Knuppel died of congestive heart failure in the Mauritz Memorial Hospital in Ganado on 13 April 1981, at the age of 93 years. Emma was the last surviving child of Fritz and Karoline Westerfeld Lehde. Emma and Otto Knuppel are buried in the Ganado Cemetery in Ganado, Texas.



Emma Lehde and Otto Knuppel.



Emma and Otto Knuppel's 50th wedding anniversary celebration in 1961



The monument marking the Knuppel Family plot in the Ganado Cemetery in Ganado, Jackson Co., Texas

The family of Otto and Emma Lehde Knuppel:

1. **Felix Heinrich Wilhelm Knuppel** born 22 Sept. 1912, in Cedar Hill, Washington Co., Texas. Felix was baptized 10 Nov. 1912, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas, and he was confirmed 26 Aug. 1928, at St. James Lutheran Church of Ganado, Texas. Felix married **Ivy Freeman** on 23 Dec. 1938, at St. James Lutheran Church of Ganado. Ivy was born 17 Dec. 1907, in Sparkman, Dallas Co., Texas. After a marriage of nearly 39 years, Felix Knuppel died in Ganado on 5 Dec. 1977. Ivy Freeman Knuppel died 26 April 1994. Felix and Ivy Knuppel are buried in the Ganado Cemetery in Ganado, Texas.

2. **Lonnie Heinrich Wilhelm Knuppel** born 1 March 1914, in Cedar Hill, Washington Co., Texas. Lonnie was baptized 19 April 1914, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas, and he was confirmed 26 Aug. 1928, at St. James Lutheran Church of Ganado, Texas. Lonnie Knuppel married **Wilhelmina Elizabeth Stehling** on 19 May 1939, in Edna, Jackson Co., Texas. Wilhelmina was born 4 July 1914 in Victoria, Texas, and she died 27 Sept. 1994. Lonnie Knuppel died in Victoria, Texas, on 22 Nov. 2003. Lonnie and Wilhelmina Knuppel are buried in the Memory Gardens Cemetery in Edna, Texas.

3. **Adell Louise Henriette Knuppel** born 28 May 1918, in Cedar Hill, Washington Co., Texas. Adell was baptized 14 July 1918, at St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas, and she was confirmed 21 May 1933, at St. James Lutheran Church of Ganado, Texas. Adell married **Bennie William Schomburg** on 26 Oct. 1939, in Houston, Texas. Bennie Schomburg was born 23 Sept. 1912, in Kenney, Austin Co., Texas; he was the son of **Fritz Schomburg** and **Caroline Meier**. Bennie died of leukemia on Sept. 1951, at John Sealy Hospital in Galveston, Texas, at the age of 38 years. Adell Knuppel Schomburg died 7 Dec. 2005, in Victoria, Texas. Adell and Bennie Schomburg are buried in the Ganado Cemetery in Ganado, Texas.

4. **Lifford Fritz Knuppel** born 12 Nov. 1921, in Ganado, Jackson Co., Texas. Lifford was baptized 15 Jan. 1922, and he was confirmed 12 April 1936, at St. James Lutheran Church of Ganado. Lifford Knuppel married **Lois Geraldine Bacak** on 12 May 1950, at St. James Lutheran Church of Ganado. Lois Bacak was born 11 Oct. 1926, in Salem, Louisiana. Lifford Knuppel died 28 July 1962 in Ganado at age 40 as a result of being electrocuted. Lois Bacak Knuppel died in Ganado on 19 Dec. 1983. Lifford and Lois Knuppel are buried in the Ganado Cemetery in Ganado, Texas.

5. **Edna Sophie Frieda Knuppel** born 4 Jan. 1926, in Ganado, Jackson Co., Texas. Edna was baptized 4 April 1926, and she was confirmed 28 April 1940, at St. James Lutheran Church of Ganado. Edna married **George Aaron "Bud" Hooper** on 1 Sept. 1946, in Joaquin, Shelby Co., Texas. George A. "Bud" Hooper was born 6 March 1924, in Joaquin, Texas. Edna Knuppel Hooper died in Tomball, Harris Co., Texas, on 11 Jan. 2000. Edna is buried in the Klein Memorial Park in Tomball, Texas. Bud Hooper resides in Magnolia, Texas.



Anna in her teenage years.

X. **Anna Wilhelmine Lehde** born 15 March 1890, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Anna was baptized 17 March 1890, in St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Gay Hill, Washington Co., Texas, and she was confirmed 27 March 1904, in Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Anna Lehde married **William Franklin "Bill" Slagle**. Bill Slagle was born 21 Feb. 1894, in Denison, Texas; he was the son of **Van Dorn Price Slagle, Sr.** (born 1862; died 1950) and **Mary Elizabeth Burke** (born 1868; died 1925). The Slagle Family moved to Taylor in Williamson County, Texas, in 1900. Anna and Bill Slagle lived their married life in Taylor where Bill was engaged in the produce business. Anna Lehde Slagle died in the Sweetbriar Nursing Home in Taylor, Texas, on 13 Feb. 1972, at the age of 81 years.



Anna Lehde Slagle



W. F. "Bill" and Anna Lehde Slagle

W. F. "Bill" Slagle died in the Sweetbriar Nursing Home in Taylor on 10 March 1976, at the age of 82 years. Anna and Bill Slagle are buried in the Taylor City Cemetery in Taylor, Texas. Bill and Anna Lehde Slagle were the parents of two children:

1. **Evelyn Franklin Slagle** born 23 March 1918, in Taylor, Williamson Co., Texas. Evelyn married **Albert Carl Keeton** on 27 May 1936, in Taylor, Texas. Albert Keeton was born 28 May 1907, and he died in Brownwood, Texas, on 2 May 1991. Albert Keeton is buried in the Staley Cemetery in Early, Brown Co., Texas. Evelyn Slagle Keeton resides in Brownwood, Texas.



The monument marking the Slagle Family plot in the Taylor City Cemetery in Taylor, Williamson Co., Texas.

2. **Billy Burwell Slagle** born 17 Sept. 1923, in Taylor, Williamson Co., Texas. Billy married **Lorene Elizabeth Struska** on 24 Dec. 1944, in Taylor, Texas. Lorene was born 23 July 1924, and she died in Austin, Texas, on 14 May 1977. After her death, Billy married **Myrtle Violette Linnea Liddell Hundley** on 9 June 1978. Billy Slagle died in Taylor, Texas, on 8 Oct. 1982. Billy and Lorene Slagle are buried in the Taylor City Cemetery in Taylor, Texas.



Lehde Family Reunion in 1960 near Brenham, Texas. *Sitting from left:* Otto Lehde, Emma Lehde Knuppel, Adolph Lehde, Anna Imhoff Lehde (widow of August Lehde), Henry Haferkamp (son of Mina Lehde Haferkamp). *Standing from left:* Frank and Anna Haferkamp Schroder (daughter of Mina Lehde Haferkamp) and Frieda Holle Haferkamp (wife of Henry). Otto Lehde, Emma Knuppel, and Adolph Lehde were three of the four surviving children of Fritz and Karoline Lehde at that time. The other sibling was Anna Lehde Slagle of Taylor, Texas. Henry Haferkamp and Anna Schroder were the two oldest grandchildren of Fritz and Karoline Lehde.

SOURCES: Records of Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas; Records of St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Gay Hill, Washington Co., Texas; Records of Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin, Washington Co., Texas; Records of Trinity Lutheran Church near Riesel, Texas; Records of St. James Lutheran Church in Ganado, Jackson Co., Texas; Records from the Washington County Courthouse in Brenham, Tx; Falls County Courthouse in Marlin, Texas; McLennan County Courthouse in Waco, Texas; Obituaries from the Brenham newspaper, Marlin newspaper, and Waco newspaper. Copies of Texas State Death Records on microfilm in the Clayton Library in Houston, Texas.

Mr. Erwin Abel of Waco, Texas, Mr. Arnold Knuppel of Brenham, Texas, Mrs. Bernadine Knuppel Blum of Brenham, Texas, and Mrs. Paulette Schomburg McElveen of Ganado, Texas.

Tombstone inscriptions from numerous cemeteries in Washington, Falls, McLennan, Jackson, and Williamson Counties.

Information on records in Germany obtained from Mr. Wilhelm Niermann of Stemwede-Wehdem, Germany.

Submitted by Daniel Bode of Dayton, Texas—a descendant of the Haferkamp, Gaskamp, and Spreen Families, and many members of these family lines married into the Lehde Family.

OPERATIONS

UNAPPROVED

Minutes of the April 15, 2012 Meeting of the German-Texan Heritage Society Board of Directors

The April 15 meeting of the German-Texan Heritage Society was held at the German Free School in Austin, TX and called to order at 10:14 am by President Mary Whigham. In addition to President Whigham, other board members in attendance were Charles Locklin, Warren Friedrich, Michael Krause, Daniel Bose, Julia Kleinheider, and Liz Hicks. Member James Kearney arrived later. Executive Director Jean Warneke was also present and Larry Deuser joined us a guest about mid-way through the meeting. Absent were Christina Gilliland, Carl Luckenbach, Bob Flocke and Hans Boas.

Minutes of the February 5, 2012 Board Meeting: With a few typos noted (spelling of "Minutes" in title and unnecessary single quote following Martha Liehse's name) the minutes, as recorded by Secretary Carl Luckenbach, were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Charles Locklin reported that we have taken in almost \$15,000 in memberships, whereas \$26,000 is budgeted. Member numbers continue to slide and there are still many who have not renewed for 2012. Both Liz Hicks and Michael Krause asked for member lists from ED. Insurance premium increased as he'd just paid an additional premium. ED mentioned that the additional was for the two structures on Lot 505; these were never added as improvements. Treasurer Locklin wants us to focus on fundraising and learn to use the building for outside events that can bring in money. Michael expressed concern that we must be aware of how much we can earn from outside income and still retain our tax exempt status. The two signatories are Charles Locklin and Warren Friedrich. Bookkeeping services are an additional expense; she works every other Monday. Treasurer's report was accepted as presented orally.

Executive Director's Report: ED Jean Warneke asked if there were any questions to ED report as presented by email and added a few things.

1. Should we attend the many heritage festivals and events around the state? Are these worth our time? Case by case, as many heritage events have become less heritage and more festival. We will have representation at Brenham Maifest in which President Whigham is quite involved.

2. The empty lot on our block (903 Neches) has apparently been sold for approximately \$1.8M and will become a medical facility specializing in preventative tests. Jean suggested that the block neighbors (GTHS, TEPSA, Mohawk & Deville) invite the new owners for a meet & greet.

3. ED suggested we have an 'Antiques Roadshow' type event with appraisers, offer items to be appraised at \$10. This was well received; Liz may have a friend who would offer services.

Regarding our continued phone and internet hacking problems, President Whigham suggested that we contact AT&T and Time Warner and get bids for our phone/fax/DSL services. ED to follow up.

It was approved by the board to rename our scholarship awards to be called the Mary El-Beheri German Heritage Essay Award.

President Whigham will appoint Gerri West to the Advisory Board.

ED asked for any volunteers who may be interested in helping with the National Registry of History Places application for the German Free School. President Whigham and Julia Kleinheider said they would help in the summertime.

President Whigham suggested that we contact some of the Office Manager applicants to see if they'd like to volunteer. ED to follow up.

Michael Krause asked if

1. We had received a book from Von Maszewski; he is pending acknowledgment and a book review for the Journal. ED Warneke said she had responded to him that it was received and she would prepare a review for upcoming Journal.

2. Someone asked Connie Krause if we had received a CD with a data base of German Immigrants. Without further detail, ED was unable to respond.

Program Director Report

ED Warneke added that Melanie will be away for the month of June.

Executive Committee Report

1. Treasurer Locklin reported the committee's decision on participation in a joint Oktoberfest with Austin Saengerrunde and Scholz Garten.

2. The MSSB funds, including both the cash and the investment accounts, were transferred to Chase Bank last Friday, April 13th, where they will be managed by the Chase Bank investment advisor as we order from time to time. The transferred funds remain in these two separate accounts, cash and investments. The cash account is a "holding account" that includes the earnings we receive from our investment accounts and any cash we place in it pending an investment order to the advisor/manager (now the assigned Chase Bank person). I was authorized to order the Chase Bank investment advisor to move the MSSB moneys (now at Chase) from the MSSB cash account to our GTHS cash account where they will earn a little more interest and be easier to transfer out for checking use or for placement into our investment account.

Activities Report

Michael Krause presented a tentative schedule for the 2012 Annual meeting which will take place in New Braunfels on July 27/28. He asked for board members to work with him and Connie, reminding them that ED Warneke will be away on vacation.

The 2013 Annual Meeting will be in Dubina, Schulenburg area and chaired by Jim Kearney.

Charles Locklin presented a Paradigm Shift Exercise to get board members to think outside the box regarding our work. Board members each chose a number and were given a challenge to promote free thinking. This was a beginning step in developing a Strategic Plan for GTHS.

The three and the comments:

Question 1. What Value Systems did the immigrants bring with them and how do they continue to have a significant impact on TX culture today?

Response 1. Community centered around language. How can we network with younger people, even those without German heritage? It is suggested that we focus on what is going on in Germany today that younger people might be interested in: Music, Film, Energy. Education – immigrants wanted their children to be educated.

Question 2. What significant developmental progress in TX occurred in recent times due to leadership of German Texans? Name living individuals.

Response 2. Nimitz, Staubach, Hofeinz, Eisenhower, von Braun. Role models. Can we feature well-known German Texans and their contributions? Will this appeal to students and teachers?

Question 3. Describe important areas of progress in TX that have high probability of occurring due to the influence or direct contributions of German Texans, either descendants or new immigrants.

Response 3. Tourism

German Free School Committee

Chair Friedrich presented reports.

Finance Committee

Regarding our investments, Mary feels we need more income generation and several of our prior accounts were poor performers. She will spend more time studying stocks, possibly putting \$100,000 (approximately 1/3 of investments) into high dividend paying stocks, getting at least 4.5 % dividend. She will have recommendations to present to the June meeting and will request no-load funds.

New Business

Larry Dueser, recommended by Charles Locklin, was appointed to Board Position 15.

Next meeting will be June 10 at 10 am; location TBA.

Adjourn at 2:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Warnek



German-Texan Heritage Society

Promoting Awareness and Preservation of the
German Cultural Heritage of Texas Since 1978
2012 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Renewal
New

If New, how did
you find us?

Salutation: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Other: (list) _____

Name: _____

Other Household Member(s): _____

(If joining in the family, patron or life categories)

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

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)
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