



Congrats to Liz Hicks and all who made our 2014 annual meeting a great success. A picture is worth a thousand words!

- 1. We meet in the VFW Hall**
- 2. Where in Texas are we?**
- 3. We are ready to learn**
- 4. Ann & Mike Stewart tell us about Comfort**
- 5. We enjoy Roy Perkins Hospitality**



Annual Meeting Highlights





1. We learn to douse
2. Success
3. We hear first hand from the grave
4. 1st church in Comfort
5. We learn how it started-1st in a saloon!
6. The Seidensticker home
7. Inside the Seidensticker home
8. Our own Carl Luckenbach
9. Would you buy a RR trestle just to preserve it?

2014 GTHS CONFERENCE DONORS—we thank you!

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THE JOURNAL OF
THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
VOLUME XXXVI - NUMBER 3, FALL 2014

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Vielen Dank to these contributors

Rodney Koenig - Houston
Liz Hicks - Houston
Mike Stewart - Comfort
Donnie Eisenbach -

Angelina Kretzschmar - San Antonio
Daniel Bode - Dayton
James Johnson - Lewisville
Ed Oelkers-New Braunfels

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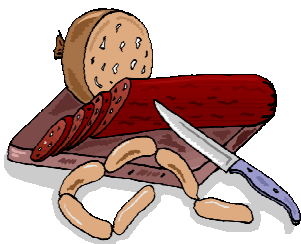
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Fröhliche Weihnachten Y'all!

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In Memoriam

James O. Hambrick

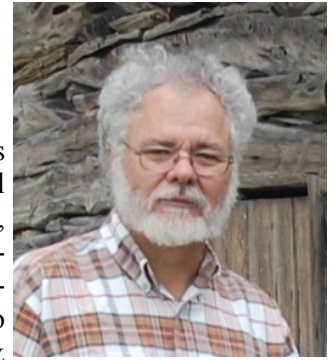


HAMBRICK, James O. from Round Rock, Texas, died July 22nd, 2014. He was born in Athens, West Virginia on November 2nd, 1926. Jim is survived by his wife of over 60 years, Betty; five sons: Konrad, Michael, Mark, Geoffrey and David; and daughter Sarah. He is also survived by seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Remembrance from Jean Warneke: *Jim was enrolled in advance German for years. He loved the conversation. He was always talking about epic German poetry and when a new member joined the class, he would Xerox a tome for him/her to read.*

President's Notes

The highlight of this past quarter was this year's annual GTHS meeting in the Texas Hill Country town of Comfort. Everyone I spoke with commented they had a wonderful time. We had over 60 members attend who enjoyed the presentations, area tours, food, and fine entertainment. I would like to thank the members of the GTHS Activities Committee and especially the Committee Chair, Liz Hicks for doing a wonderful job organizing the event. I would also like to thank a number of local Comfort area residents who helped tremendously including Brenda Seidensticker, Ann & Mike Stewart, Ruth & Frank Kiel, Roy Perkins, Bryden Moon Jr., Carl Luckenbach, and many others too numerous to mention. If you did not have a chance to attend make sure to watch for information about next year's annual meeting on the GTHS Web site and in upcoming issues of the Journal.



As the Texas weather hopefully cools and we get some much needed rain I encourage you to come and enjoy some German cultural events at the German Free School this fall. In October we will be celebrating Oktoberfest on Saturday October 18 from 11am to 6pm with live German music, German food and beer, and lots of activities for kids. When the weather cools even a bit more and you have recovered from your Thanksgiving turkey we will be having our annual Christmas Markt on Saturday December 6 from 10am until 4pm. We will have live German Christmas music entertainment and lots of handmade German Christmas items including glass ornaments and hand carved wooden decorations and toys for sale. If you get there early you also will have the best selection of German Texas homemade cookies we have for sale to choose from. Don't forget to bring the kids either, as we will be having St. Nikolaus stop by and visit with them, checking to see who has been good or bad, and giving out treats or coal.....

I look forward to seeing you at Oktoberfest and the Christmas Markt. In the meantime, don't forget to tell your German friends about GTHS and invite them to come to one of our events and join us. We all need to actively promote our German Texan Heritage and traditions.....

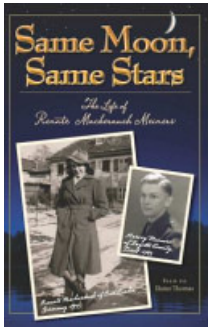
Michael Krause
 President, German Texan Heritage Society

LEAVE YOUR GERMAN MARK

By Rodney C. Koenig (past President of GTHS)



Recently the book: *SAME MOON SAME STARS* was published in Fayette County, Texas, recounting the life of Renate Macherauch Meiners, born October 1, 1926, in Bad Berka, near Weimar, Germany. The book relates the early life of Renate, her adventures growing up in the former East Germany before and during World War II and her life after she met Harvey Meiners, an American G.I. from Fayette County, Texas in September 1945. Harvey spoke German, having learned it on the farm in Texas, and he wanted to practice German with Renate, the German girl of 18 he met on his first day in Germany. Renate told some “whopper” lies to Harvey, including that she was the mother of six children at age 18. Harvey assumed that she was trying to give him a brush off, and persisted in speaking with Renate and getting to know her. By 1946 they were married the first time after he switched from being a soldier to being a civilian employee of the Army in Germany. The stories of their adventures are fascinating. As a G. I., Harvey had little freedom to marry, but as a civilian he had more latitude. Eventually they were able to get permission to come to the U.S. and they were married a second time with Army approval. They were then able to see the Same Moon and Same Stars in Texas as they did in Germany!



The book goes on to explore their lives in Houston, Texas, where they joined the Houston Liederkrantz, and their lives in Fayette County, Texas. I initially knew Renate and Harvey Meiners, having seen them at a German Singing function at the Liederkrantz and/or at a state wide singing festival which was and is an annual event each year in Texas. Later I knew them in and around my hometown of La Grange, Texas, as well. They served as docents at Monument Hill State Park and Kreische Brewery at La Grange. They also co-hosted the Sunday afternoon German Radio Show in La Grange on KVLG.

Renate’s story and book was told to Elaine Thomas, who works with the *Fayette County Record* in La Grange. The book also contains Renate Meiners’ Photo Album, which is unique in and of itself. The book is a fine read and I found it hard to put down once I had started reading it. Contact Elaine Thomas in La Grange, the Fayette Heritage Library in La Grange, or Renate Meiners to purchase a copy of the book. Renate had a book signing in June 2014 at the Fayette Heritage Library in La Grange.

Renate Meiners had truly left her German Mark through her unique life and in the telling of her story of one feisty German War Bride who brightened up the lives of all those around her! How will you leave your German Mark? Consider capturing the stories of your life (or others lives) as Renate and Elaine Thomas have done. Consider also leaving part or all of your estate and assets to further German heritage in Texas. Update your will and leave a nice percentage to German-Texan Heritage Society, to one of the High Schools for the German language or German Culture being taught there, or remember a German Singing Society or University program that supports German song or literature. For help in accomplishing any of the above, call Rodney C. Koenig at 713-651-5333 or email me at Rodney.Koenig@NortonRoseFulbright.com. You might also speak to any of our officers or Directors of GTHS.

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.



HOFSESS – ALLINGER/ELLINGER - THIELE

Karen O'Quin, 3907 Berryhill Way, Austin, TX 78731; e-mail: karenoquin@yahoo.com. I am looking for John Hofsess born 7 Aug. 1810, died 25 Feb. 1886, from Wurttemberg, came to America in 1841. His wife was Rosena (Rossina) Ellinger (Allinger). She came 22 June 1838 on the ship *Kutusoff* from Le Havre, France to New Orleans, Louisiana. I would like to know what town in Wurttemberg John Hofsess was from. Also, was Rosena from the same place?

Does Gustave H. Thiele, born 1848 in Hannover, have any Wurttemberg roots?

Reply: A surname such as Hofsess may have several spelling variations in records. I found information on the Höffsess and Höffsäss family in *Emigrants from Baden and Württemberg in the 18th Century volume 1* (Clayton Library, Houston, TX). There is quite a bit of information on this family starting with a Matthäus Hoffsäss. A Hoffsess family history is available from Amazon, www.amazon.com/The-Hoffses-genealogy.../0897251741. To save yourself some time, you need to know the religious denomination of your ancestors. You have a better chance of determining the place of origin of your ancestors from U.S. records, than trying to jump the big pond to find the town/village. Using U.S. census records, and burial information (www.findagrave.com), John (Johann) Hofsess and Gustave H. Thiele were living and are buried in Pike County, Ill. You need to research church records for both, and especially baptismal records for any children born in U.S. The baptismal records should provide “the place” (not just Württemberg) for Father and Mother. Are death certificates available for either? If completed correctly, death certificate will state parents’ names and place of birth.

Was Gustave H. Thiele, born 1848 from Hanover or Hannover? There were Thiele in Comal County, Texas (before 1880). Perhaps relatives of your G.H. Thiele, or from the same place in Germany. It is a long shot, but possible. Use research recommendations mentioned above for Gustave H. Thiele.

KUGEL – WESTERFELD – MCDONALD

Eugene Watson, e-mail: dripspring@yahoo.com would like marriage and death record for Hedwig Kugel who married (2) G. Westerfeld. A Mrs. G. Westerfeld age 60 is buried in the Lockhart Cemetery. Hedwig Kugel Westerfeld may have been living in the area where Hays and Caldwell Counties meet in southeast part of Hays County.

Reply: Marriage (1) to Frank Kugel may have been in Germany or Texas. Research both Hays, Caldwell and surrounding counties of both for marriage records. Have you looked at the county tax rolls to see on what survey the Kugel and Westerfeld were living. This will help you find the location within the county. Look for land transactions in both counties. Why is Mrs. G. Westerfeld (Hedwig?) buried in Lockhart? Is her first husband buried there as well? Did the daughter of Mrs. G. Westerfeld, Julia Kugel McDonald, have an obit, or Texas death certificate? Have you looked for probate records for Frank Kugel and Hedwig Westerfeld? Church records-what denomination? Hays and Caldwell counties may not have been first place of residence in Texas or U.S. Was there other family in these counties?

Question? Dennis Berger, e-mail: dennis.berger@meadowisd.net, has determined via naturalization and census records his g.g.grandparents immigrated from the Bohemian section of the Austro-Hungarian empire in the 1870s/1880s. The question is where do I go to access any possible records, the Czech Republic or Austria? Or both? Most of this family were in Lavaca Co., TX during this time period.

Reply: You need to determine the city/town/village, not just Bohemia or Czech. Have you looked for Declaration of Intent, Naturalization, and church records for your ancestors in Lavaca County? There is a Texas Czech Genealogical Society. Perhaps this society could offer some research suggestions to you.

STERENBERG/STERNENBERG – SCHADE - SHIELDS

Delayna; e-mail: ladybugdel@gmail.com is looking for information on Rudolph and Hester Schade Sterenberg, who were in Taylor, Williamson County, Texas from 1883-1888. They had 3 children born in Taylor: Alma Pauline, Emil Paul and Emilie Sterenberg. My great grandfather, William Thomas Shields was boarding with them around 1886 or 1887, while teaching school in Taylor. I would love to find out more about the Sterenberg family.

Reply: There is quite a bit of information on Rudolph August Sterenberg and wife, Hester Schade married 21 Dec. 1870 Washington County, Texas on www.familysearch.org and www.ancestry.com. They were living in Austin Co., TX on the 1880 U.S. Census, are listed on the 1882 tax list for Austin County, had a child, Emil Paul Sterenberg, born 28 July 1883 in Williamson County, TX, and were living in Otay, San Diego County, California on the 1910 U.S. Census. I was not sure the San Diego Co. Rudolph Sterenberg was the same one as the Texas guy, until I found his Confederate pension record and Texas Death Certificate. Rudolph Died 6 April 1925 Beaumont, Jefferson County, TX. Chas. A. Sterenberg was the informant. "Place of burial or removal: San Diego, CA". Hester must have died, as he is listed as widowed. Texas Death Certificates are available for free at www.familysearch.org. Confederate pension stated Rudolph also known as R.A. Sterenberg was a member of Waul's Texas Legion C.S.A. He enlisted 20 June 1862 at Camp Waul. He was taken prisoner at Yazoo City, MS, 14 July 1863, Prisoner of war at Gratiot State Prison, St. Louis, MO, sent thence to Camp Morton, Indiana. He was paroled and sent to City Point, VA for exchange 22 Feb. 1865. F. H. Niebuhr of Austin County, Texas, a witness to Rudolph's service stated, "Served with applicant (Rudolph A. Sterenberg) in Voigts Co., 2nd Battalion under General Pamperton [Pemberton]. Company was organized near Brenham, TX. We marched to Vicksburg, MS, were at battle at Fort Pamperton [Pemberton] at Yazoo River. After fall of Vicksburg, was taken prisoner, carried up Mississippi River and imprisoned for 22 months. We were exchanged for other prisoners in Virginia, and further paroled at Houston, Texas, received discharge in 1865". Complete pension is available on www.ancestry.com (not free site, but available at FHLs and some public libraries).

According to Rudolph's death cert., Pipkin & Brulin Funeral Home, Beaumont, TX handled his funeral. Find the funeral home records, request ledger sheets for Rudolph. The ledger sheets may provide the names surviving relatives. If any are still living, you should try to contact them for additional information. Use www.anywho.com or www.whitepages.com for phone book listing for any Sterenbergs in Beaumont. In 1896, a J.A. Sterenberg applied for a US passport (possible relative?). This Sterenberg stated he was born 11 March 1837 in Rittenshausen, Westphalia, Germany.

A VON ROSENBERG QUERY: Do you know the whereabouts of Friedrich Richard Petri's watercolor of a Dresden parlor or a walnut table made in Fredericksburg – both of which descended in the family of Ernst Johann von Rosenberg and Helene Clara Lungkwitz, who married 18 Oct. 1879 Austin, Travis County, Texas?

If so, Dr. Kenneth C. Hafertepe, Chair, Dept. of Museum Studies, Baylor University, One Bear Place #97154, Waco, TX 76798-7154, (254) 710-4349 would like to hear from you. He is writing two new books on German Texans. The descendants are:

Ernst and Johann's children:

- Elisabeth Marie "Elise" von Rosenberg (1880-1967) married Walter **Wuppermann**
- Cornelia Therese von Rosenberg (1882-1883)
- Marie Alice "Mary" von Rosenberg (1884-1957) married Max **Goeth**
- Johannah Helene "Hannah" von Rosenberg 1888-1972) married Botho **Schenck**
- Ernest Jacob von Rosenberg (1889-1975)
- Ralph William von Rosenberg 1891-1961 (dau., Virginia married Billy **Lane**)*
- Emma Martha von Rosenberg (1893-1975) married Heinz **Ulrich**
- Hermann Ursini von Rosenberg (1896-1963)

*children of Virginia von Rosenberg and Billy Lane:

Jo Ann Lane Linda Kay Lane William David Lane John Douglas Lane Sheri Sue Lane

The Richard Petri watercolor of Bertha Queisser’s parlor in Dresden was published in William W. Newcomb, Jr., *German Artist on the Texas Frontier: Friedrich Richard Petri*.

James Patrick McGuire’s book *Hermann Lungkwitz: Romantic Landscapist on the Texas Frontier* (p. 200, note 41) mentions “a walnut table, said to have been made for the family by William Leilich, a Fredericksburg cabinetmaker” that was owned by either Hermann or Adolph Lungkwitz. A related table at the Pioneer Memorial Library in Fredericksburg is attributed to Leilich; this may be the table mentioned in McGuire’s book or may be a related example. If you have information about the table, I would be glad to hear about it. I am interested in seeing the table, and possibly photograph it. Any help will be greatly appreciated!

EISENBACH—Hi my name is Donny Eisenbach. I have been tracking my 3rd great grandfather on my dad's side from Villmar Germany>Indianola Texas>La Grange Texas>Serbin, Pin Oak, Giddings Texas. His original land grant is actually in an area that today is called Paint Rock Texas in Concho County but I don't think he likely ever lived out there although his ancestors after him did in fact move out there close by to San Angelo Texas. His name is Christian Eisenbach 1820-1859. He married Julia Sophia Rabe although her last name might have been Peterson based on a death certificate someone said they had seen of her first husband who died.

He seems to have spent most of his time in Serbin and Giddings area in Pin Oak or the Pin Oak ranches where the slavic Germans or Wendish lived although he was not Wendish himself. There are even stories about how strong he and his brother Wilhelm were in moving hay bales off of wagons when moving cotton from there to Houston with a team of oxen after getting stuck in the mud. I will attach the story as well. It's a translation of Manfred Kunz research. Anyhow, I attached these two church documents. One document is of the Frelsburg Catholic Parish near La Grange Texas and the other is a list of Eisenbach's from Villmar Germany (some 80 listed, so not reproduced-editor.) I am trying to determine if any of the Eisenbach's in the Villmar church book are the parents of Christian but as far as I can tell the names are similar but everyone seems to have died there in Germany so it leaves me a little confused.

Christian had a brother Wilhelm who I think was born 1819-1887 and a brother Anton who I think was born around 1812-1876. He also had sisters Anna born 1829-1888 and Catherine born 1830- Barbara born 1820-1893. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Donny@eisenbachinc.com; phone: (903) 245-4989

Auszüge aus den Kirchenbüchern der kath. Pfarrei Frelsburg in Texas 1853 - 1861 unter den Pfarrern : Joseph Anstaett u. Victor Gury

Taufen Lfd. Nr.:	Name:	geb.am: in:	getauft am:	Eltern:	Taufpaten:
246	Barbara Meuth	18.12.1852	10.05.1853	Joh. Peter Meuth Elisabeth Defeld	Johann Meuth
286	Anton Faxel	10.10.1853	15.12.1853	Johann Faxel Catharina Riga	Anton Eisenbach
287	Mathias Nink	13.11.1853	15.12.1853	Mathias Nink Helena Rauch	Mathias Nink
288	Julius Eisenbach	07.09.1853	15.12.1853	Christ.Eisenbach Julia Raab	Mathias Nink
346	Johann Eisenbach	02.09.1854	24.10.1854	Wilh. Eisenbach Dorothea Bram	Johann Gaisert Frau Ant.Eisenbach
348	Catharina Meuth	05.01.1854	27.10.1854	Johann Meuth Elisab.Defeld	Andreas Meuth
349	Franz Meuth	17.03.1854	27.10.1854	Joh. Franz Meuth Catharina Bram	Johann Meuth Margaretha Bram
350	Paul Faxel	03.11.1854	05.11.1854	Johann Faxel Camelia Baye'	Anton Eisenbach Wilhelm Clonge'
399	Anton Eisenbach	28.09.1855	17.10.1855	Christ.Eisenbach Julia Raab	Anton Eisenbach Frau Gaisss
400	Christine Meuth	25.03.1855	10.09.1855	Franz Meuth Catharina Bram	Christian Brahm
432	Peter Meuth	18.04.1856	23.04.1856	Franz Meuth Catharina Bram	Peter Meuth Catharina Eisenbach
433	Peter Meuth	27.03.1856	23.04.1856	Peter Meuth Elisab.Defeld	Peter Eichhorn Katharina Wolf
552	Catharina Meuth	06.09.1857	18.10.1857	Franz Meuth Catharina Bram	Adam Becker Frau Gaiss
553	Georg Faxel	11.01.1857	18.10.1857	Johann FaxelFaxel	Frau v.A.Eisenbach Georg Klonge'
554	Joannetta Jackel	03.07.1857	18.10.1857	Johann Jackel Margaretha Reitz	Adam Becker Joannetta Becker
557	Helena Schafer	15.09.1857	21.10.1857	Carl V. Schafer Barbara Krep	Maria Walter

Per Liz: Donny Eisenbach, e-mail: Donny@eisenbachinc.com; phone: (903) 245-4989 Has an interesting problem. He has determined "the place" (Villmar, Germany) as place of origin for his ancestor, Christian Eisenbach, born 20 July 1819. The Catholic parish records in Villmar, Germany have a Christian Eisenbach born 20 July 1819 showing parents: Anton Eisenbach and Catharina Zöller. Christian Eisenbach had a sister, Catharine, a son and brother named Anton living in Texas. It appears the names were passed down.

Donny's problem is the church records seem to show each Anton, Christian, Wilhelm, Anna, Barbara, and Catharine to have been born on possible dates, but to have all died in Germany. In fact, these Eisenbach kids born in the early 1800's all immigrated to Texas and DIED IN TEXAS, not Germany.

Christian Eisenbach's brother, Wilhelm was born circa 1819; brother, Anton, was born circa 1812; sisters, Anna born 1829, Catherine born 1830, and Barbara born 1820-1893. Donny would like to know if the Eisenbach's in the Villmar Catholic church records are the parents of Christian. Any observations, suggestions greatly appreciated.

Editor’s Note: see the Manfred Kunz research article on page 132

Some Free Family Research Sites:

www.google.com – search engine Put a person's name or a place in quotes " " with the word genealogy or marriages or Cemeteries, or other limiting word. Example: "Rudolph Sternberg" genealogy or "Austin County Texas" marriages.

www.familysearch.org – U.S., European records (many digitized), family trees, library catalog (see what microfilm, books, are available from Salt Lake City (LDS) Library). Use the Wiki tab for research guides (how to research in Germany, Austria, Texas, many other topics).

www.findagrave.com – search cemetery records by individual's name, name of Cemetery, and all burials of a certain surname in a particular county.

<http://texashistory.unt.edu> – Portal to Texas History (Texas newspapers, yr. books, city dir.)

German Genealogical Word List: <http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/RG/Guide/WLGerman.ASP>

www.glo.texas.gov – **Texas General Land Office site.** On home page click tab "What we do", scroll down to Land Grant Database. Unless common surname, just put last name of ancestor in, and click search. Land records and German Emigration Contracts are here. Most people put in too much information for search.

<http://script.byu.edu> – guidance in deciphering old handwriting styles (German, Dutch, and others)

Germany puts 700,000 WWI docs online [The Local](#) ^ | 07/23/2014 | Staff Writers

More than 700,000 records relating to WWI, as well as photos, films and audio recordings were made accessible on a new portal on the [Federal Archive's website](#). The collection includes private material as well as files of military and civilian authorities, records left by politicians and military officers, documentaries and propaganda films. Access to the complete archive is free. The archive will also help people compiling family histories, say curators, since it has extensive information about locations where individual soldiers served. It also contains letters written to and by combatants in the war, which began on July 28, 1914, and ended on November 11, 1918. This should be of interest to history buffs.

Also worth noting are related articles <http://www.thelocal.de/20140718/rare-world-war-i-colour-photos-gathered-for-centenary> <http://www.thelocal.de/20140627/photos-capture-a-german-soldiers-life-behind-wwi-lines> <http://www.thelocal.de/20140616/german-kaiser-wilhelm-iis-love-of-the-sea-resurfaces>

Let's Bring Genealogy Roadshow to Houston !!!!

Dear Genealogical Organizations and Societies: Please share the notice below with your members at your general meetings and if possible, also publish in your newsletter if time and space allows. Also share with members, if possible, via email. Thanks so much !!!

Randy Pace, Director, Public Relations, Clayton Library Friends, 713 869-1528

GENEALOGY ROADSHOW (GR) on Public Broadcasting System (PBS) is seeking more family mysteries and fascinating genealogical stories to uncover for an upcoming season of the popular program, and Clayton Library Friends (CLF) wants you to join their members in submitting stories for consideration for the program!!!! Part detective story, part emotional journey, GR combines history and science to uncover stories of diverse Americans. Each story links to a larger community, revealing the rich cultural tapestry of America. "GENEALOGY ROADSHOW is an engaging, innovative program that reveals the bigger picture of our nation's past, present and future," said Beth Hoppe, Chief Programming Executive and General Manager of General Audience Programming for PBS. "With a diverse mix of stories in each episode, GENEALOGY ROADSHOW appeals to Americans interested in learning about their family histories. It also shows that no matter one's heritage and background, everyone has a place in history."

CLF is contacting other genealogists in the Houston area who might have a family story or mystery that they would like considered for the show? Please ask yourself these questions !!! Is there a family legend you would like to explore? Is there a missing piece or person in your family tree you have always wondered about? Do you believe you might be connected to our nation's rich history and folklore? Do you

think you have or have you discovered an ancestral link to a founding father or an American icon? Is there a family story passed down for generations you would like investigated and finally answered? It is suggested that you ask a succinct question or share a mystery rather than a long series of long-standing genealogical brick walls. Also submit a picture or two as anything that adds life to the story helps someone engage. The story does NOT have to relate to Texas history. If you determine that you have a family story or mystery then submit them directly to GR. Please go on-line to <http://www.grcasting.com/> and review all of the questions asked first. CLF suggests that you compile all of your information in a separate document, and then go to the GR website where you can cut and paste the information into each respective section of the on-line form provided. When you complete the section about "How did you hear about GR" please enter "Clayton Library Friends (CLF) (Houston)." If you saw the first season of the show you can also indicate that you watched it on Channel 8 - PBS - Houston. If you missed the Houston PBS broadcast in 2013 you can view segments at <http://video.pbs.org/program/genealogy-roadshow> to get an idea about the show format and hear some stories that were revealed.

CLF strongly suggests that you submit your stories no later than August 31, 2014 to GR for consideration for the third season. CLF also encourages you to submit the same information by email to Clayton Library Friends at info@ClaytonLibraryFriends.org (attention: Randy Pace) so that CLF will know about the number of submittals from the Houston area. Apparently, GR has already chosen the stories for their second season as it takes them a great deal of time to select the stories, complete the research for those stories, select the city, and then film the segment in each city in a historic venue. The cities already chosen for the broadcast in the Fall of 2014 so far are St. Louis, New Orleans and Philadelphia.

If your story meets the criteria of GR, then their experts in genealogy, history and DNA, using family heirlooms, letters, pictures, historical documents and other clues, hunt down more information. These experts also enlist the help of local historians to add color and context to the investigations, ensuring every artifact and every name becomes a clue in solving the mystery. Be prepared for what might be uncovered. One never knows what lurks in the archives about your family. GR unearths family and community secrets, reveals notable relatives and discovers unexpected stories that connect the past to the present. Many answers are revealed on camera before a local audience, in a historic building relevant to the cities chosen – and to the histories of the participants.

Wouldn't it be great if a large number of genealogists from our area submitted enough fascinating and interesting stories that would result in those stories as well as our area being chosen as one of the cities to be selected for the program ?? If your story is selected and you are notified by GR, please also let CLF know via email at info@ClaytonLibraryFriends.org (attn: Randy Pace). GR ultimately will chose the stories, the city and the historic venue for the broadcast. Your own individual story might even be chosen for broadcast in another city of their choice. However, if enough stories are chosen from Houston area residents, and GR also selects Houston as a city for their program broadcast, then CLF can contact GR to offer our encouragement and volunteer support. Of course there is no more perfect venue for the program than our own historic Clayton House, the centerpiece of the Clayton Library, Center for Genealogical Research, Houston, Texas, which is one of the top genealogical research facilities in the United States !!

The premiere season which was aired in September and October 2013 featured participants from four American cities — Nashville, Austin, Detroit and San Francisco — who wanted to explore unverified genealogical claims, passed down through family history, that connected them to an event or a historical figure. These cities were chosen as American crossroads of culture, diversity, industry and history, with deep pools of potential participants and stories. Initially GR was a hit in Ireland, where national public broadcaster RTE commissioned the original format from producer Big Mountain Productions. "It just hit a nerve," said Big Mountain executive producer Philip McGovern. "Everybody wants answers to questions about their own histories to help make sense of their lives today. We've had a lot of interest in the format internationally and are delighted PBS picked it up."

Please compile those stories and mysteries and send them today to GENEALOGY ROADSHOW !!! And, Good Luck from Clayton Library Friends !!!!

Resources at the General Land Office—excerpts from the presentation at our annual meeting in Comfort by Patrick Walsh, General Land Office

Genealogy Resources at the GLO

- Four important areas of research:
 - Spanish Collection
 - If your ancestor came to Texas prior to 1836
 - Land Grant records, Court of Claims records, Muster Roll, etc.
 - If your ancestor fought in the Texas Revolution or in the Army of the Republic
 - If your ancestor arrived in Texas in the early decades of statehood
 - German Immigration Contracts
 - If your ancestor came to Texas from Germany
 - Confederate Scrip Vouchers
 - If your ancestor served in the Civil War

Spanish Collection: If your ancestor came to Texas prior to 1836

Information in Spanish Collection files may include:

- Date of arrival in pre-revolutionary Texas
- Marital status, size of family
- Location of emigration
- Location of settlement
- Interesting correspondence about settlement between government officials
- Signatures

Land Grant records, Court of Claims records, Muster Roll, etc. - If your ancestor fought in the Texas Revolution or in the Army of the Republic. If your ancestor arrived in Texas in the early decades of statehood

Information in the Land Grant Records may include:

- Date of arrival into the Republic or State
- Marital status, family size
- Veteran status, military service
- Location of emigration
- Location of settlement
- Amount of land received from the government
- Reasons for receiving land

Court of Claims Records

Information in Court of Claims files includes:

- Hand-written letters from surviving family members requesting land
- Documents from the battlefield describing conditions and engagements
- Testimony about an individual in early Texas
- Descriptions of individuals, places, events, etc.

Information in Clerk Returns includes:

- Date of arrival in Texas
- Date of application for land
- Location of immigrant when applying
- Names of testifying witnesses
- Number and date of issuance of Conditional and Unconditional certificates

Muster Rolls

Much of the original Army Muster rolls were destroyed in a fire at the Adjutant General's office in the 1855. What we have was a reconstruction of those records made for the GLO by the Court of Claims to check against land claims of soldiers from the Revolution. Received at the GLO in the late 1850's

Information on the GLO Muster Roll includes:

- Date of service
- Battles/engagements
- Commanding Officers
- Rank
- Location of origin
- How they left the Army (by death, discharged, abandonment, etc...)

German Immigration Contracts—If your ancestor came to Texas from Germany

There are 2,650 German Immigration Contracts at the GLO. Noted Austrian genealogist Karl Friedrich von Frank said, "These immigration contracts in Austin are of predominant importance for locating immigrants over here (in Europe), and I suggest that steps be taken to explore this important material."

Information in German Immigration Contracts includes:

- City of origin in Europe
- Date of embarkation from Europe
- Date of arrival in Texas
- Ship that carried the individual from Europe
- Original signatures of immigrants
- The German Immigration Contracts have been scanned and placed online!

1,055 Fisher-Miller Transfer files - scanned and placed online! - Transferred half of the 640 (or 320) acres from the immigrant back to the Fisher-Miller Colony as payment for passage. Fisher-Miller Colonists were the only colonists who filled out actual contracts to transfer land, but all empresarios tried this. Later determined by Legislature that it was illegal for empresarios to force emigrants to transfer land back.

Confederate Scrip Vouchers - If your ancestor served in the Civil War

Information found in Confederate Scrip Vouchers includes:

- Proof of service to Confederacy
- Proof of injury during war
- Location of service
- Description of wound

Helga's Corner



Die Torte

Eine Torte ist rund just like a pie, but it is usually bigger around. This example of baked goods is so popular in Germany, that it comes in uncountable varieties and has no real translation in English.

On the second or third day after my arrival in Germany I am always drawn into a *Café* or a *Konditorei* for a piece of *Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte*, the Black Forest Cherry Torte, which is a divine creation including cherries (*Kirschen*), chocolate cake, whipped cream and more whipped cream, grated chocolate, and a shot of *Kirsch* which is a liquor made of guess what. The *Likör* is poured over the *Torte* to keep it moist. Children and American teetotalers have to blow over their piece twice to get rid of the alcohol.

Birthday cakes are *Geburtstagstorten* with a smooth coating like *Marzipan oder Buttercreme* which can be beautifully decorated.

Very colorful (*bunt*) are the easy-to-make *Obsttorten*. You bake or buy a plain *Tortenboden*, which is the bottom of a Torte-to-be, and cover it with fruit like a slice of *Ananas* (pineapple) in the center, and other fruit around it. This is your opportunity to use up that can of sour cherries that has graced your pantry for two years (*oder noch länger?*). Then you smother everything with *Tortenguss*, a jello like sweet, transparent substance. *Schlagsahne* (whipped cream) adds to the enjoyment of the day.

When in *Amerika*, I replace *Torten* with pies for which I have no German word. Pecan pie, pumpkin pie and apple pie a-la-mode represent American cuisine quite well.

Being an American with German upbringing, which would I choose to eat when somebody offered me a piece of Key lime pie and ein *Stück Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte*? Of course, I would eat *beide*, both of them.

We Continue Our Outreach:

Our Children of the Republic of Texas members at Bullock Museum with your member (Warren Friedrich) representing Joseph Hannig. We also saw him at Oakwood Cemetery and enjoyed visiting with him there. In all the years I worked near the Capitol I was familiar with the German-Texan School but was never inside. I always wanted to see it.

Our German ancestor (third-great-grandfather) Reverend Jonas Dancer was killed by Indians in 1859 between Fredericksburg and Llano. His father was Peter Dantzer from the Palitinate, I think.

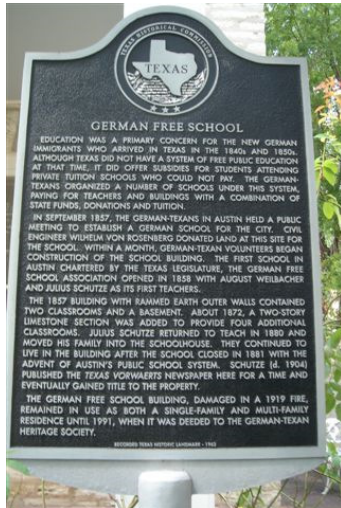
Milli Riley Williams, Director, Fort Croghan Museum, Burnet, Texas



GTHS Participates in Austin Museum Day

The event is scheduled this year on Sunday, September 21st. The German Texan Heritage Society has been a participating member of the Austin Museum Partnership for several years, <http://www.austinmuseums.org> The Historic German Free School building located on the original site of its construction in 1857 by German Texan immigrants is our featured presentation for visitors that day from 10 AM to 4 PM. It is located at 507 E 10th in Austin.

Guided tours of the history, purpose and the special features of this hand constructed building will be conducted. The German Free School is a Texas Historical Marker site that recognizes this building as the first school in Austin chartered by the Texas Legislature and is thus noted as the forerunner to the development of public education in Texas.



As Visitors enter the main gate they will enjoy festival music in our gardens and see the Texas Historical Marker. Inside the building visitors will be able to view German-Texan historical films and displays. Additionally Liz Hicks, GTHS genealogist, will be present for consultation and Warren Friedrich, a historical re-enactor, will give visitors an insight into the life of Joseph Hanning who was an Austin businessman and the German immigrant husband of Alamo survivor Susanna Dickinson.

Community Events

THE IMMIGRATION FROM LIMBURG-WEILBURG COUNTY TO BASTROP COUNTY, TEXAS, Manfred Kunz: translated by Carol Marlo Published in *The Genealogical and Historical Society of Caldwell County*, Fall 1992

In 1683 the first German emigrants from Krefeld went to America. These were thirteen families of weavers. They sailed on the Concord and settled near Philadelphia to form the town of Germantown.

In the next hundred years many citizens emigrated to North America from our homeland. In 1840 it came about that the region of Nassau was counted among the poorest in Germany to an ever-increasing extent. The reasons for emigrating were poverty, overpopulation, and economic trouble in our land. The hoped-for goals in the new land were plentiful and affordable land, economic success, and social betterment. The destination of emigrants in the middle of the last century was particularly the state of Texas, which had separated itself from Mexico in 1836 and which gave to the settlers good homesteading land, called land grants.

On April 20, 1842, under the chairmanship of Duke Adolph von Nassau in the castle at Biebrich, the Association of German Nobles and Gentry for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas was formed. They called themselves the Texas Association, or the Nobles Association of Mainz.

The association supported the emigrants for the ocean crossing and in their new home with lands, seed, and stock. In 1844 Prince Carl von Solms-Braunfels became general commissioner of the association. In Texas he bought a grant from a Frenchman, which turned out to be a swindle. A second grant was obtained from Henry Fisher, which was 250 kilometers from the nearest German settlement and was in the undisputed hunting grounds of the Comanche Indians. In addition, they found there no farmland for the settlers.

Prince Carl von Solms-Braunfels then bought a strip of land on the Guadalupe River on a spot where, according to the Indians, there was good water. Here was established on 21 May, 1845 the town of New Braunfels.

Also, Kuno Damien Baron von Schutz (born 25 February 1825) from Camberg lived in New Braunfels after its founding and was active for a short time in the Texas association. He was a son of the counselor for the Nassau duchy, Hugo von Schutz of Holzhausen, who was also the founder of the School for the Deaf and Dumb in Camberg. In 1846 there was published in Wiesbaden a book by Kuno Damien von Schutz called "Texas: Advice for Emigrants to this Land." He writes in this book that the emigration by farmers and various tradesmen chiefly promises profit; in comparison, clergymen, pharmacists, and school teachers should go only if they have firm contracts.

Prince Carl came to the association with great economic difficulty and then returned to his home in Lahn. Due to this, the settlers had to suffer much. Otfried Baron von Meusebach from Dillenburg undertook the direction of the Texas Association. He found a fertile region of 15,000 acres, about 100 kilometers north of New Braunfels, for the first settlement. Here he established on 8 May, 1846 the town of Fredericksburg, named for Prince Frederick of Prussia.

Also the St. Raphael's Association for the Protection of German Catholic Immigrants with Peter Paul Cahensly of Limburg, later delegate to the Reichstag, supported our fellow-countrymen in Texas

In confidence, with the protection of German princes and through publicity in the press, the number of emigrants increased. In the year 1850 was published in the Duchy of Nassau General Intelligence newspaper an announcement by an emigration society. The price of the fare from Biebrich to New York amounted to 68 Gulden for an adult and 54 Gulden for children from one to twelve years. In the same price was included among other things sufficient sea provisions with 12 pounds of meat and 100 kilograms of baggage for each adult and 50 kilograms for each child.

Most of the Nassau emigrants left from the ports of Antwerp, Bremen, or LeHavre. The contract for the ocean crossing had already been arranged by an agent in the homeland, of whom there were sufficient at hand. Employed as agents in our area by the emigration society were:

E. J. Biegel, in Limburg (about 1868)	Philipp Bouffier, Merchant in Camberg (about 1850)
Karl Jung, Merchant in Weilburg (about 1850)	Anton Muller, in Villmar (about 1881)
Carl Schneider, in Weilburg (about 1850)	Carl Streicher, Goldsmith in Limburg (about 1850)

In 1836 there were in Texas 218 German settlers. In November and December 1844 three ships brought 292 settlers there. From October 1845 until April 1846 there were 36 ships bringing 5200 settlers. In 1846 the provisioning was not well ordered. Means of transportation from the port inland was lacking. The United States annexed Texas, and a

war broke out with Mexico. Because of these conditions, 1000 immigrants died of infectious diseases in the port and on the way inland. By 1850, 20,000 German settlers lived in Texas. They brought to their new homeland great performance as pioneers.

From 1850 on, the citizens of Nassau had to publish their intentions to emigrate in the Intelligence newspaper. In 1850 there were only individual persons in some editions, but by 1854 the newspapers claimed several pages of published intentions. The citizens of Westerwald and Rheingau were particularly willing to emigrate. If one reads the notices, he can see for himself the troubled condition of the people; not everyone emigrated in a spirit of adventure.

It is known that entire villages sold all and packed their suitcases. It was a painful bleeding in our Nassau. Thousands, who left full of hope, did not arrive in the New Land. Terrible conditions prevailed on the ships. Many died before they even reached England or before the ocean voyage was over.

In the Nassau Intelligence newspaper one reads that in 1847-48 in the port of New Orleans, 17,500 immigrants arrived. In 1853-54 there were 36,000 persons. Here the paper writes that in 1853 yellow fever broke out among the immigrants and 8400 persons died of it. A literal quotation is: "Incredible is the devastation and indescribable the misery which this epidemic disease has produced within five months." Further, one should be advised not to land in New Orleans from July through October; in any case, there were no sailings to the port of New Orleans from any European port in the months of May through September.

History of Bastrop County, Texas

From 1845 on, Austin was the capital of the state of Texas. About 130 kilometers west of Austin is Fredericksburg, the settling land of that time. To the southwest, 80 kilometers from Austin, lies New Braunfels; and to the southwest 80 kilometers lies the city and county of Bastrop. The area around Bastrop, some 300 kilometers from Galveston and 800 kilometers from New Orleans which was the arrival port for the Nassau immigrants, was for many from our country their new home.

Long before the white man came, the region around Bastrop was the dwelling place of the Tonkawa and Comanche Indians. The first Spanish expedition, which came through the region of Bastrop, was in 1691, as Don Domingo de Tera'n sought to find for the first time a way from the Spanish grants to East Texas. There El Camino Real, or the Royal Highway - the main road for all the pioneers who were moved through Texas and who had to cross the Colorado River by today's Bastrop - was an important strategic point. In 1805 was established here Fort "Puesta del Colorado" (Post of the Colorado) to protect the traffic on this highway.

In 1825 the region became the first colony of Stephen F. Austin. In 1837, when the town took shape, it was named Bastrop and was made a court seat. Many of its citizens served in the Texas Revolution (1836) and in the war against Mexico - 1846-1848. One of the seven armament factories of the Confederacy was found here. Likewise, the oldest pharmacy in Texas is here. The first courthouse was built in 1840. Some years after, a later mayor of Bastrop, Pinckney Hill, built a second courthouse from the sale of a slave and a donkey. The present building is the fifth and was erected in 1883. In 1891-92 the townspeople built a prison which served until 1973. Many interesting stories are told about the jail, where the prisoners were on the second and third floors and the sheriff lived on the ground floor.

The first settlers from Limburg-Weilburg County

On 10 October, 1846 at the port of Indianola arrived the sailing ship Bohemia with 115 immigrants, probably all German, on board. A 67-day sea journey which had begun on 4 August (not September, as written) in Antwerp was at an end. The passenger list now available in Texas gives information concerning names and hometowns of the immigrants. From our county were the following families with the number of persons:

Camberg: Adam Becker (7), George Becker (2), Martin Diehl (1), Heinrich Grimm (1)
Philipp Jager (1), Franz Low (3), Johann Low (1).

Erbach: Joseph Hollingshausen (7), Mathias Nink (6), Johann Pfeiffer (1).

Limburg: Ludwig Nicolaus Ernst (1), Eva Gartner - widow (1).

Würges: Hubert Meuxer (5), Peter Pauli (5), Georg Waldschmidt (4).

Of the 115 passengers on the Bohemia, 47 persons were from our county.

Also the sailing ship James Edward under the leadership of Captain Webster brought 172 German emigrants to Texas on 30 November, 1846. The ship left Antwerp on 17 September and arrived in Indianola in 74 days. From here came the following families:

Villmar: Christian Brahm (6), Anton Eisenbach (1), Christian Eisenbach (1), Wilhelm Eisenbach (1), Nicolaus Eufinger (1), Johann Faxel (6), Johann Geis IV (1), Anton Rossbach (1).

Würges: The brothers Andreas, Johann Franz. and Peter Meuth, each (1).

At least 21 persons on this ship were from our homeland.

Of some of the emigrants, it is known where they went from Indianola inland. Many of the passengers of 1846, as well as later passengers up to 1855 settled in Bastrop County. The author (of this article) can relate their fate; in the

last year he has been in contact with some of the descendants of the emigrants and has formed new friendships in Texas. Of the passengers on the Bohemia and the James Edward (1846) the Becker, Brahm, Diehl, Nink, Eisenbach, Eufinger, Foxel, and Meuth families went to Bastrop County.

One of the known citizens would be Adam Becker of Camberg. In the old country he had a cartwright's shop with a separate house and also did a little farming. His application for emigration to Texas was placed on 8 June, 1846 at the duchy's office in Idstein. Besides his wife he had five children in age from two to 13 years. The money brought with him at this time was 2800 Gulden. Adam Becker had a contract with the Texas association for himself and his family. He was promised a 500-acre piece of land in the San Sabo land grant area. For the cost of the land and for passage to the land he had to pay 500 Gulden. With him went his brother George and his wife, as well as their brother-in-law Martin Diehl, who remained single and lived with the Beckers the rest of his life.

As with the Becker family, so went it with many of the emigrants at this time in Texas. After a 9-week sea voyage, the Beckers arrived in Indianola. Their youngest daughter, Charlotte, did not survive the voyage and was buried at sea. With 10 or 12 families they traveled the 210-km distance to New Braunfels. The association placed an oxen cart at their disposal. The road was a track which other carts had left behind from previous trips. In the region of New Braunfels the Indians were believed to be very hostile, and in Grand, where their land lay, it was then very dangerous to homestead. Adam Becker feared for the lives of his wife and children. As he heard that the Indians to the south and east were less numerous and more friendly, he determined to go to Bastrop County. Here around Oak Brook he cleared off new land and built an impressive log house of cedar. The house had two floors, six rooms, and a large central hall. At several points he built slate notches to fight off Indian attacks. Near the house he built an outbuilding 3.5m x 4m (?) in size - the first Catholic church in Pin Oak, used until 1869. Pin Oak is not a town in the usual sense, but a settlement for distant outlying farms. In the middle they built the church, the cemetery, the school, and a mill to process cotton. If one visits the little cemetery of this church, one would think he lingers in a cemetery in Goldenen Brund. Many German names, particularly from our region, can be read on the tombstones.

Back to the church community at Pin Oak. Adam Becker was a very active member of this young parish. He placed the first church by his house, and using a donkey he hauled the first bell for the church from Indianola. Today the bell still hangs in the third church. Also he prepared the construction for the altar, the frame for the picture of the Crucifixion, and a church pew. In 1869 the parish built a new church two km north of the Becker farm, and a third church was built on the same place in 1910.

For 100 years a Thanksgiving banner has hung in the church "In Remembrance of the mission to Villmar 10-20 December 1832." This brightly-painted picture was brought out by the settlers from Villmar and kept in their church as a memorial. Every two months a priest from Frelsburg came to say holy mass. Then he performed baptisms and marriages. John Preuss wrote in one of his letters, "It is a blessing that one can be buried by a priest."

Mathias Nink from Erbach was a neighbor of Adam Becker. He was 36 years old and a baker by profession. His wife Angelina (born Rauch) was 26 years old as they, with their three children, abandoned their village. With a prairie schooner they travelled to New Braunfels and lived there for two years. They erected their cabin at Pin Oak in 1848, and three more children were born there.

Also the descendants of the Villmar settlers like Brahm and Foxel, which is now called Foxel, live still in this area. All of the inhabitants of Pin Oak were especially glad to have a man like Eisenbach. When the cotton harvest was over, he went with 10 or 12 teams of oxen on the marshy road to Houston to sell their wares. Often the wagons became stuck in the spongy mud. Eisenbach then took the 500-pound bales of cotton from the wagons, the oxen pulling until free, then he loaded the bales again. It should be related that he was so strong that a team of oxen could not move him and that he could also straighten horseshoes. In legend he walked as the strongest man in Texas.

In 1846 there were three brothers, Andreas, Johann Franz, and John Peter Meuth, from Würges, who settled at Sandy Creek in the Rockne area south of Bastrop. On 10 October, 1850 they bought 800 acres of land for \$260. The land lay on a hill for which reason it is still today called Meuth Hill. Here they erected their log cabin. There were three rooms together. In the middle they built yet another room and set up a church. The first mass was read on 10 May 1853, and was the wedding of Johann Franz Meuth and Catharina Brahm from Villmar. For 20 years the settlers gathered at Meuth Hill for God's service. Even a small cemetery is found here where ten persons, mostly relatives of the Meuth family, are buried.

Johann Franz Meuth settled later near Pin Oak and had a farm, where 2000 head of cattle could graze at the same time. For up to three months he and his cowboys were on the trail when he drove his cattle to Oklahoma City. In the last emigration of November 1855 came the fourth brother, Greg Meuth.

In the autumn of 1850 17-year-old Johann Preuss left Camberg to emigrate to Texas. Already in March 1850 he had obtained from the ducal authorities in Idstein, the "Discharge from the Subject Union," after his father registered no objection. The family history relates that for the first year he lived with the Meuth brothers. In July 1856 he became a citizen of the United States. On 16 Oct. 1856 he married Maria Schaeffer, whose parents came from Germany. In 1857 the Preuss parents' home in Germany, an inheritance, was awarded and Johann Preuss (he called himself John

in Texas) renounced it in favor of his brother Franz, giving him 600 Gulden for his departure. The document was certified by the consultant for the duchy of Nassau in New Braunfels.

In Pin Oak he bought 400 acres of land near Adam Becker and Mathias Nink. Later he wrote once to Camberg that he had cleared the land (reclaimed it?) from the woods and prairie. In 1897 he sent a picture of his new house to his brother in Camberg. Here one can see John with his wife and some of his children. The house was surrounded by a cedar fence and in the middle lay a lovely flower bed. Of the 400 acres he wanted to plant about 100 with cotton, corn, and potatoes. In 1887 he had 35 head of cattle, two mules, and four mares. In the last week of December he wished to butcher efficiently. He wrote that in one year he had butchered nine hogs and one head of beef cow. The meat would be salted and smoked, as he had learned as an apprentice butcher in Villmar. In 1893 there was no rain for four months, and John Preuss had to sell 40 head of cattle at a distress price.

John Preuss and his wife had 13 children, of whom two died as infants. Six children died before the age of 40, and two lived to the ages of 85 and 95. Daughter Mary married George Foxel, whose father Johann Foxel came from Villmar. Daughter Emma married William Meuth and son Christian took Mary Elizabeth Nink as his wife.

Amelia Preuss was the youngest daughter. At a young age, Land Foxel courted her. Her parents were opposed to him and preferred Henry Nink. Both suitors met in a saloon in Smithville and fought each other. On their return to Pin Oak, Land Foxel shot the 19-year-old Nink near the Preuss farm. Even today the Nink and Preuss families are silent about this incident. The settlers from Goldenen Grund had much contact with each other. They lived miles away from each other; yet, if a celebration occurred, all were invited. So on the occasion of a wedding at the Preuss farm, 150 neighbors attended.

Writing was the only contact of the settlers with the old country. Often John Preuss forced down the homesickness. How often he wrote. "Oh, could I once more have the happiness of seeing my beloved homeland." For him and for many others a return or visit was not possible. Many letters home have remained and were already used in publication of Hessian emigrants' stories and in Texas.

In 1905 John Preuss sold his farm and moved to the city of Bastrop. Three years later his wife died in a train accident, and he died 7 August, 1916. In the funeral procession to the cemetery in Pin Oak, there were 20 to 25 teams, and his son George in an automobile. John Preuss raised a large family in Texas. Since that time the fifth generation is growing up and more than 500 descendants could be recorded in the family history.

The years 1855-56 brought the high point of mass emigration from Camberg and environs. In Camberg, Dambach, and Würges, more than 280 citizens wishing to emigrate to South America, due to the want and misery, had finally to remain in their own region.

On 11 November, 1855, 31 inhabitants of Würges, in age from nine months to 46 years, packed their sea chests and went to America. Many of them came to Texas and numerous descendants of these emigrants still live in Texas today. The family names of the settlers in Bastrop County were: Bambach, Eichhorn, Gorz, Hartmann, Meuth, Wilhelm and Wolf.

Phillip and Catharina Gorz had a 9-month-old son. They settled north of Rockne near Walnut Creek. Their first house was a tent. With brother-in-law Johann Hartman they bought 900 acres of land for \$950. After her third child, Catharina Gorz died; Philipp married a second time and had six more children. The oldest son, Johann, born in Würges, married Nettie Meuth. The Gorz family led a very religious life in Texas; many of their descendants were priests and members of religious orders.

The path in the New World of some of the emigrants became known through their accomplishments. There were hundreds of fellow citizens from the County of Limburg-Weilburg who moved to the New World and of whom in the 150 years since, nothing more is known.

(Source: Manfred Kunz, April 1990, for the 1991 Yearbook, Limburg-Weilburg cs.)

Submitted by Donnie Eisenbach

Seidensticker Honored

History of Immanuel Lutheran Church is Preserved

Comfort News, Vol. 110, No. 25, Thursday, June 19th, 2014

Each year the Comfort Heritage Foundation honors several individuals for their contributions to preserving Comfort's heritage. One of them, Harry Seidensticker, was honored for his work and leadership in preserving the history of Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Ester Wiedenfeld had been the Lutheran church historian until her passing in 2008 when the church put out a request for a volunteer. Being retired and having some time off, Seidensticker inquired about the duties and responsibilities. Before he knew it, the church council had unanimously volunteered him.

It was suggested that he form a committee to assist in the project. Starting in May 2009, Seidensticker along with committee members Joyce Behr, Cheryl Bryan, Colleen and Leroy Bohnert, Eyrleene Beyrens, Gloria Bierman and Mike and Ann Stewart began the process of gathering historic materials that had been stored in a variety of locations throughout the church that included closets, file cabinets, classrooms and attic.

The documents covered dates ranging from 1893 to 1955. One of the most important pieces of Comfort's history was the detailed minutes that were kept by the members of the Marie Martha Verein; all in German until the 1930s and 40s. That group of ladies met regularly to organize fundraisers that would pay for improvements for Comfort. These included installing street lights, spreading oil on the dirt roads throughout Comfort, equipping the fire department, adding park benches and caring for the cemetery. Many spoke only German during the early 1900s, and having spoken German at home, students learned to speak English when they started attending one of the one room school houses in the area. Seidensticker spoke only German until he began attending the one room school in Brownsboro near Comfort.

According to minutes written by members of Marie Martha Verein,

church services were originally held in the original train depot and then moved to a saloon; but the saloon would have to close for services. The women were able to negotiate with the saloon owner who provided a new building for their church. It was a classic German-style white church that stands across from the school district office on High Street. The history of the church is intertwined with the history of Comfort.

Some of the historic photos that were found included photos of the old church, the high school, the bell tower and the railroad bridge taken in 1904.

After 38 months of meeting once a week, Seidensticker's committee had finished compiling and cataloging letters, photos, minutes and a variety of other documents and placed the material in binders in a fireproof safe. The early minutes were translated into English by Inga Hail. Documents and history were organized by the pastors' names and the time they served.

This information including photos and minutes that are handwritten in the original cannot be replaced; it's priceless," Seidensticker said. "It's the human interest story of the individuals, the changes and growth of Comfort."

With time and as Comfort began to grow, other denominations began to form and build churches. The information records, the history of Comfort and the families that laid these foundations are present in Comfort today.

The only material available for viewing to the public that does not require supervision is the translated timeline taken from the minutes. This will be at the Comfort Heritage



Harry Seidensticker holds a copy of "A Centennial History of the Lutheran Church in Texas" while Mike Stewart looks on. Seidensticker was honored by the Comfort Heritage Foundation for his contributions to preserving Comfort's history. Stewart was a member of the committee that worked with Seidensticker to preserve the history of Immanuel Lutheran Church. (Photo by Bill Terry)

Foundation and the Library. The other historic material must be viewed under the supervision of one of the committee members. As more of the information is typed into a digital form, it will be archived at the University of North Texas at the Comfort portal and will be made available via internet to any history student.

Submitted by Mike Stewart, Comfort

Dedication Ceremony Held For Mayer Cemetery in Burton

Fayette County Record, May 20,

The Dedication Ceremony of an Official Texas Historical Marker for the Mayer Cemetery, located at 10100 Mayer Cemetery Rd. in Burton, was held on April 27. The estimated attendance was 145 descendants, family, friends, and invited Washington County officials.

The program was chaired by Colette Mayer Wunderlich, and included Burton American Legion Post 242 led by Commander Edna Mae Meyer presenting the Colors,

Arlin Naegeli, Tom Menu, and Pastor Glen Schoeneberg. Dr. Wilfred O. Dietrich introduced the special guests and gave very interesting Texas Historical Commission remarks and spoke about the beautiful sight and views from the cemetery. The Honorable John Brieden, County Judge, elaborated on the Historical Commission of Washington County. The keynote speaker, The Honorable Lois Kolkhorst, State Representative District 13, spoke about the Winedale Community and the cemetery history of years ago.

Joy Fuchs, County Commissioner Precinct 4, spoke of the process of first having the cemetery designated as a Historic Cemetery which was received in 2010 and then the long process of determining if it is eligible for an Official Texas Historical Marker. The cemetery received the marker in October of 2013. Unveiling the Historical Marker were Janet Green, Karen Schulz, and Julie Maass, daughters of Doris Mayer Eckert (deceased) and Franklin Eckert. Reading the inscription of the marker was Rhonda Cain, daughter of Sally Muesse Harty and granddaughter of Nelda Mayer Muesse. The four girls are great-great-great-great-grandchildren of Heinrich Mayer, one of the brothers for whom the cemetery is named.

Monty Mayer was last but not least as he recognized families of descendants and relatives who chose this beautiful site for their final resting place. Colette closed by thanking those participating in the program and everyone for coming and also for those who helped in anyway to make the afternoon a success. The cemetery is located in a rural setting, a part of the Winedale Community of Washington and Fayette Counties. This community lies in an area that had abundant wildlife, regions of post oak trees and blackland prairie. It was near the La Bahia Trail which was a major road dating back at least to 1690 when it was traveled by Alonso de Leon; it was also an old Indian trail.

The Mayer Brothers, J. Heinrich, born Dec. 14, 1818, and J. Martin,

born Sept. 23, 1823, in Berwangen, Baden, Germany, arrived in Galveston on Nov. 22, 1846, then sailed on a raft to Houston, and traveled by ox wagon to Brenham. Their destination was the Fisher Miller Grant; however,

in Brenham, they learned of the difficulties in settling in that area, and chose instead to go by ox cart to Round Top. They joined with two men, Peter Stork and Johannes Burkhardt, to buy 198.13 acres in the Townsend League in the area later to be known as Winedale.

The Mayer brothers married Burkhardt sisters; Henry married Eva and Martin married Julianna, both in 1846. They all lived together in one log house for several years. Later, they sold their portion of the original acreage and bought other farms in the area. J. Heinrich "Henry" purchased the Treude property which adjoined the cemetery. In 1865, Henry and Martin built the first cotton gin in Washington County, two miles south of the town of Winedale. They also had a mill to grind corn and rye.

Many of those buried in the Mayer Cemetery are descendants of J. Heinrich and Martin Mayer, probably the reason for the cemetery being called Mayer Cemetery. However, there are also many members of the Menn Family buried here.

Johann Heinrich Menn, born March 12, 1807, in Erndtebruck, Kreiss Siegen-Wittgenstein, arrived with his children in New Orleans in November 1848. He died in 1875 and is buried in Mayer Cemetery, along with two of his children: Heinrich, born Oct. 21, 1829, died June 30, 1883, and Wilhelm, born Sept. 3, 1832, died Jan. 6, 1908. Johann Heinrich's brother, Wilhelm, born June 26, 1814, died May 27, 1901, is also buried here.



A Dedication Ceremony was held on Sunday, April 27 at Mayer Cemetery on Mayer Cemetery Rd. Pictured are Joy Fuchs, Washington County Commissioner Precinct 4, Dr. Wilfred O. Dietrich, Historical Commission Chairman, Lydia Ann Heins, Cemetery Marker Chairperson, Colette Wunderlich, President Mayer Cemetery, Honorable Lois Kolkhorst, State Representative District 13, Honorable John Brieden, County Judge and Franklin Eckert.

The first known burial was Richard Menn, who died Aug. 20, 1869; he was the son of Heinrich and Eliza (Dornhoefer) Menn and the grandson of Wilhelm who was born in 1814. This Wilhelm's youngest son, Friedrich, died Sept. 14, 1869, and is the second oldest recorded burial. The cemetery is still active in 2014.

Most of the people in the Winedale area had some agriculture-related occupation: farmer, wine maker, ginner, miller. There were also blacksmiths, wagon makers, teachers, and ministers. The majority were of German descent and were Protestant in faith. The residents were also a patriotic group, and many of them served in the Civil War, World War I, World War II, and the Korean War.

The three Neidig brothers, Hugo Albert, Lancelot and Oliver all served in World War II and all are buried here. Roy Nagel died on the battlefield in Mindanao, P. I. on May 31, 1945; his stone is of pink granite with a ceramic photo and is adorned with an American flag.

The Mayer Cemetery is a well-maintained, traditional type of cemetery. In early years, the cemetery was maintained by members of the community. After some years of neglect, a meeting was held in February 1960 to organize the Mayer Cemetery Association. Bylaws were written and adopted on Feb. 21, 1961. Officers were elected, and dues and donations were collected for the upkeep of

the cemetery. Cleaning and preservation were their first priorities. Meetings and workdays were called as needed.

After about 10 years, the association became inactive except for general maintenance of the grounds. By 1990, interest by ancestral families had grown and the Association was reactivated. New bylaws were drawn and signed in 1995. The Mayer Cemetery Association, through its semi-annual meetings, is committed to the care and preservation of the grounds. The Mayer Cemetery is significant because it dates back to the early settlement of the Winedale area. The people buried there represent those people who came during the major period of German settlement in the 1800s and, specifically, several who came in the 1840s.

Many of the descendants of those first settlers remained in the area and those families continue to utilize the cemetery for burials. Other descendants who have moved to other areas bring their loved ones back to be buried in the cemetery of their ancestors.

The landscape of this cemetery is an excellent example of the culture and burial practices of those in the area. The setting for the cemetery is rural, but people from the large urban areas are moving to this countryside and an Official Texas Historical Marker for Mayer Cemetery will help them to understand the history of this important part of Texas, a part of Austin's First Colony, established originally by "The Old 300."

Officers of the Mayer Cemetery Association are: President, Colette Wunderlich; V. President, Arlin Naegeli; Secretary, Magdalene Knuppel; Treasurer, Monty Mayer; Trustees, Tom Menn, Claude Naegeli, Lydia Ann Heins; alternate trustees, Dale Neidig and Grace Crawford.

There are several sandstone markers and two large tombstone bases that are still unidentified. If anyone could identify either one please email one of the above.

Donations or Memorials for the upkeep of the cemetery may be sent to Monty Mayer, P.O. Box 232, Carmine, Texas, 78932.

**Submitted by Rodney Koenig,
Houston**

Ike-ravaged church reborn

Houston Chronicle, April 20, 2014

By Allan Turner

GALVESTON - Marking the miraculous resurrection of the crucified Jesus, Easter is among Christianity's holiest days. For Catholics of this island city, Easter 2014 will offer another - albeit smaller - miracle: the resurrection of the 166-year-old St. Mary Cathedral Basilica, closed since Hurricane Ike raked the Texas coast in September 2008.

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo will celebrate the first public Mass at the church, which was restored at a cost of \$4 million to the Galveston-Houston Archdiocese, at noon on Sunday.

In coming weeks the church, under the direction of Holy Family Parish priest the Rev. E. J Stein, will resume Masses six days a week.

"Easter is a time of rebirth," DiNardo said, "and this is the rebirth of our first church. The Archdiocese of Galveston Houston treasures the cathedral basilica and we wanted to ensure that it be restored to a place where all Catholics are drawn to for prayer and reflection."

Situated at the downtown corner of 21st and Church streets, St. Mary's long has been an architectural gem in a city that has gained international renown for its 19th-century structures. In its 16 decades it has survived dozens of storms, most notably the 1900 hurricane that killed at least one-sixth of the city's residents.

But when Ike slammed ashore with 110 mph winds before dawn on Sept. 13, 2008, pushing 10 feet or more of bay water into downtown streets, St. Mary's ran out of luck. Archdiocese officials found pews and the church piano bobbing in chest-deep water, roof tiles stripped and shattered and air conditioning units swamped by



Music Director Deborah Lewis has been rehearsing for Easter Sunday Mass at St. Mary Cathedral Basilica on Galveston Island (Photo by Mayra Beltran/*Houston Chronicle*)

sewage-tainted water.

While damage to St. Mary's, the oldest church on the island, was extensive, it was only part of the devastation Ike dealt the archdiocese.

Parishes combined

On Galveston Island, St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church and the Reina de la Paz Mission were destroyed. The mission later reopened in a new location, St. Patrick's and Sacred Heart churches largely escaped damage. On Bolivar Peninsula, the storm destroyed Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church and the St. Theresa of Liseaux Mission. A new church, Our Lady by the Sea, costing almost \$3 million, was opened on Bolivar. In 2009, the previous parishes of Galveston Island and Bolivar Peninsula were combined to form the Holy Family Parish, which now operates six churches and serves approximately 2,800 households.

"I'm grateful to the archdiocese for gathering the

St. Mary's seen as 'mother church' of Texas

funding, skills and energy to put St. Mary's back into use," said Stein, who transferred from the Chicago area in 2009 to work with the consolidated parish. Stein said the cathedral immediately will schedule funerals and weddings and will resume weekday and Sunday Masses in May. The Rev. Joseph Limanni, archdiocese special projects director, said the restoration of St. Mary's presented surprises, both pleasant and unpleasant. As workers stripped paint from the walls to apply Venetian plaster - seen as a logical answer to the "rising damp" that afflicts island buildings - they were pleased to find the remnants of multicolored stencils around windows and the ceiling. Workers restored the stencils, which had been hidden by layers of paint dating, probably, to the mid-20th century.

Less pleasantly, progressing repairs revealed that massive beams underpinning the church floor had been heavily damaged by termites. Restoration also included replacement of the roof and air conditioning equipment. St. Mary's pews, seating about 400 worshippers, were refurbished and returned to the cathedral.

Limanni said the restoration was funded through individual donors, foundations, distribution from a trust and a portion of the \$3 million garnered from last sum-

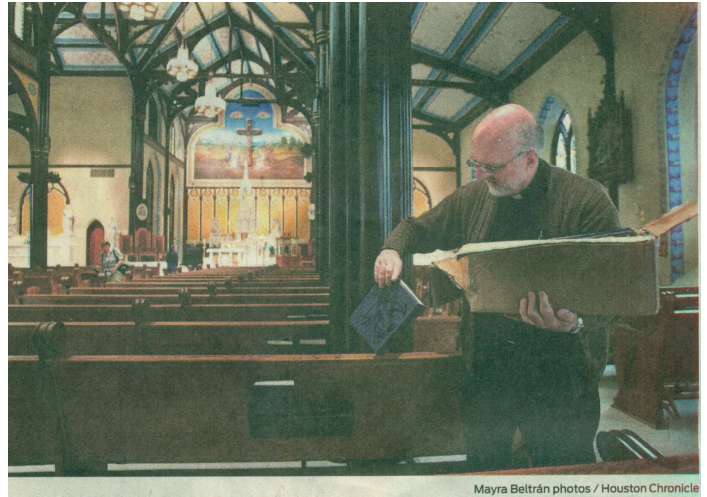


The cornerstone of St. Mary Cathedral Basilica was laid in 1847, a year commemorated in one of its stained-glass windows.

mer's sale of the Bishop's Palace to the Galveston Historical Foundation.

Praise for restoration

Historical Foundation executive director Dwayne Jones called the sale of the Bishop's Palace, formerly the Walter Gresham home at 1402 Broadway, a "win-win situation" for his organization and the archdiocese. The foundation, some of whose historic buildings also sustained heavy hurricane damage, will continue to operate the 122-year-old mansion, which the archdiocese had owned since the 1920s, as a house museum. Jones also had praise for the restoration of St. Mary's, which he called "one of the architecturally most significant structures in town. The work they did on it is really first-rate." Although the Catholic church had a



Mayra Beltrán photos / Houston Chronicle

The Rev. E.J. Stein distributes hymnals in preparation for Easter Sunday Mass in the restored St. Mary Cathedral Basilica. Stein said weekday and Sunday Masses will resume next month.

presence in Texas, arguably, as early as Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de' Coronado's foray into present day El Paso County in the 1500s, St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica commonly is considered the "mother church" of the Galveston- Houston Archdiocese and, by extension, Texas.

First church built in 1842

Construction of St. Mary's came at the urging of the Rev. John Odin, vicar-apostolic of Texas, who endeavored to reinvigorate a church that had languished after Texas' 1836 revolution.

In February 1842, he oversaw the dedication of a 50-by-22 foot frame church, which promptly was destroyed by a September storm. Odin propped the church up; a tower and bell were added in 1843. In 1845, Odin was given 500,000 Belgian bricks, shipped freight free to Galveston, for construction of a more enduring edifice. St. Mary's cornerstone was laid in March 1847; the church was dedicated in November 1848.

The Gothic Revival church was patterned after King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England, and is 130 feet long and 75 feet wide. In 1876, famed Galveston architect Nicholas Clayton added a central transept tower to the sanctuary.

In 1884, Clayton - who also designed the Bishop's Palace - raised the height of the church's twin towers to bring them into proper proportion with the transept tower.

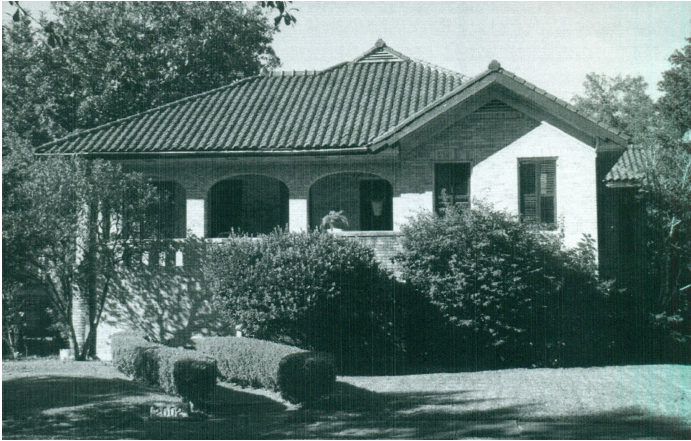
A cast-iron statue, "Mary, Star of the Sea," was installed atop the bell tower in 1878, and, for many years, its illuminated crown, church historians say, served as a beacon to guide sailors into Galveston Bay.

allan.turner@chron.com

Submitted by Liz Hicks, Houston

Lackner House Receives Landmark Designation

2002 Bolsover, Houston, Texas



The Lackner House was built in 1932 for Laura and Fred Lackner, both of whom were descendants of early German immigrants to Texas. Fred Lackner was born in July, 1873 in Texas. His Father, Carl was born in 1830 in Germany and immigrated to the U.S. in 1848. His mother, Minnie, was born in Germany in 1848 and immigrated in 1849. Laura was the greatgranddaughter of John and Anna Reinermann, who immigrated to Texas from Oldenburg, Germany in 1834.

The Reinermanns were on board the schooner "Sabine" from New Orleans when it wrecked near Galveston Island on December 22, 1834. The family settled along the north side of Buffalo Bayou near Memorial Park, where they established a farm, built a log cabin, planted orchards, and cultivated a few small fields.

John Reinermann died in 1835 and was buried in the family cemetery on the farm. In an effort to secure title to their farmland, John's widow, Anna, applied for a land grant from the State of Texas on the grounds that John qualified for the grant since he was an immigrant to the area before the Texas Revolution. On April 28, 1847, a league (4,338 acres) and a labor (177 acres) of land were granted by the State of Texas to the heirs of John Reinermann. The boundaries of the John Reinermann league were Buffalo Bayou on the south, the west edge of the John Austin league on the east (i.e. Reinermann Street), what is now Post Oak Blvd. on the west and approximately 15th Street on the north.

John's son, Henry married Louisa Margerethe Agnes Schiermann and they had two children, including Louisa Reinermann, Laura Lackner's mother. Louisa married William Quensell, who was born in Hanover Germany. William on his journey to America kept a diary that was later translated by Laura and Fred's son and published in 1978 under the title, "From Tyranny to Texas: A German Pioneer in Harris County."

Laura Lackner established the Lackner Realty Co. in 1929 to sell and lease the land she inherited from the Reinermann land grant of 1847. In 1932, the Lackner's purchased the corner lot at Bolsover and Hazard Streets for \$2500. Not wanting a two story home, but wanting the house to fit in, Laura hired architect Joseph W. Northrop who designed a raised brick bungalow. Northrop had overseen the construction of the Rice University Campus and many other public buildings in Houston. This Bolsover home was occupied by Fred and Laura until both their deaths, Fred in 1952 and Laura in 1954.

Submitted by Editor

Germany looks to back away from fracking

San Antonio Express News

BERLIN - Germany's ministers for energy and the environment are seeking a ban on shale gas and oil drilling over the next seven years because of worries that the practice could pollute drinking water and damage the environment.

Chancellor Angela Merkel's government had planned to introduce legislation in the autumn to regulate hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, bringing an end to a defacto moratorium on the practice. But Barbara Hendricks, minister for the environment and a member of the Social Democratic Party, part of the governing coalition, said at a news conference Friday that a framework of key points on the legislation agreed to with Sigmar Gabriel, the economy and energy minister, would result in the "strictest regulations we have ever set." "There will be no fracking for economic purposes in Germany in the near future," Hendricks said. But she said shale drilling could be used for exploration.

Opposition to fracking runs deep in Germany. Worries that shale extraction can pollute drinking water and damage the environment have turned public opinion against the practice, even though many people are facing rising electricity prices, a result of Germany's decision to wean itself off nuclear energy and focus more on renewable sources.

Yet business leaders also worry that Germany risks jeopardizing its position as an industrial leader if it refuses to consider exploring its shale-gas reserves.

In an editorial published in the Rheinische Post newspaper Thursday, Ulrich Grillo, president of the Federation of German Industries, warned against ignoring the potential of Germany's natural gas reserves.

"We will not gain knowledge by bans or by waiting," Grillo wrote. "It is time that politicians give the technological advances a chance within responsible measures. The ball is in the politicians' court to create the necessary security for citizens and investors."

Germany is largely dependent on Russia for its natural gas supplies. But the Federal Natural Resources Agency, a government organization, has estimated that Germany has 2.3 trillion cubic meters, or 81 trillion cubic feet, of shale gas, enough to supply domestic consumption for about 30 years. The proposed regulations would uphold bans on drilling in areas near water sources, though conventional oil and gas drilling would be allowed.

Submitted by Angelina Kretzschmar, San Antonio

People

Emma Kern's Personal Diary—1895 – 1901 Victoria, Texas

With visits to San Antonio, New Braunfels, Sisterdale, Cuero and more
Friends, Family and News, July 25, 2014

Foreword

Emma Kern, the maiden daughter, lived in Victoria, Texas with her father, Jacob Kern a retired tailor, when she began her diary at the end of 1894. She was the only child of Jacob and Elizabeth Hasler Kern born in Texas, all of her siblings having been born in Sis-sach, Basel-Land Switzerland before the family emigrated to Texas in 1852.(1) As was traditional, caring for the aging parents fell to Emma, the youngest daughter of the family.

The death of Emma's mother in 1888 came at a time when the older siblings were already living independent lives. Brother Jacob, twenty years Emma's senior, was ordained and active in the ministry of the Methodist church. Sister Elizabeth "Lisette" was married and had a household of her own. Sister Marie, the sibling closest to Emma's age, was thirteen years older and had a family. At the death of her mother, or perhaps even before, Emma, a seamstress aged 28, assumed the household cooking, cleaning and caring for the aging man she called "the father".

The Kerns were a very devout Protestant Christian family. In addition to the ordained brother, the father at times conducted services for the Victoria pastors. The many visits paid by the clergy to the Kern home seemed to indicate he had a close relationship with the church.

Life to a large extent revolved around religion. Church services were attended at least twice on Sundays, and although the family was Methodist, there was no discrimination among affiliations, with attendance at various Methodist, Lutheran and Presbyterian services, and on a few occasions, the Catholic Church. Services were attended on some week nights, as well as prayer meetings, choir practice, conferences and many other functions. Emma seldom missed a chance to go to church, and saying prayers was a part of daily home life.

Emma turned to her faith for her doubts and anxieties and depression. Despite her strong faith, she

had mood swings resulting in agitation and gloomy foreboding. She spoke of being tired from the increasing strain of drudgery and hoped for help from God in obtaining a living. She yearned for a faith as strong as "the father's".

Emma referred to her work as seamstress and maker of bonnets as "menial labor", but the statement may have been about all of her work. An occasion when her brother and sister-in-law visited, taking her father to visit sister Marie and family, while she had to stay home and sew bonnets, caused great distress. Other times, she was busily engaged at the sewing machine until night time and missed a big picnic while making some bonnets.

The family of two was not impoverished. Jacob Kern owned the house on Bridge Street where his sign, "Kern, Tailor" hung for many years.(2) He gave Emma a stove for a birthday gift; however, the father at 80 was retired from his business as a tailor. They were dependent on Emma for making a living for immediate income. She obviously was quite a good seamstress, winning a prize for "best made" sunbonnet and marking the completion of a fiftieth bonnet.

Although she worked hard at sewing and caring for her father, she was very social. A great deal of her time was spent as hostess, entertaining visitors. She recorded thirty five visitors to the Kern household the second week of March, 1895. Paying visits was the major entertainment and people seldom visited empty handed; there was constant giving of gifts and mementos. Her friends and relations were very generous with Emma. Sundays especially were a time for visiting, and if not at home, she and the father could be found making social calls, going on promenades and interacting with friends. Neighbors dropped in regularly for visits or accompanied Emma on social calls around town.

In addition to a social life among friends, the Kerns enjoyed visits from members of the Mosler family, her sister Marie's family, who lived a few miles outside of Victoria. Marie and her children had a close

relationship with their maiden aunt. Emma affectionately referred to Marie as "Cis". The visits from one or another of the family members to the Jacob Kern household were frequent, with Emma sometimes referring to the visiting group as the Mosler delegation.

She had her quiet times, with reading and writing, and keeping up an active correspondence. Especially important was the contact she maintained with relatives a greater distance away, sister Lisette and brother Jacob. The 1896 Christmas holidays found the father, Lisette and Emma content in rockers chatting about bygones and dear ones far away.

Jacob visited occasionally and after an extended visit from sister-in-law Minta, Emma felt lonely. She was the doting aunt of Abey, Emile Kern, her nephew, the son of brother Jacob. They had a very close relationship. Emma began her diary after a three week visit from "the dear boy". The two corresponded regularly and she received many gifts from Abey.

Emma was accustomed to a life in which the big event was visiting or receiving friends. She lived in a small, personal world. She cared for her father and spent her life in the Kern home. Although her siblings visited her, she was kept at home with responsibilities. She did not even attend dear Abey's wedding.

Upon the death of the father on September 7, 1897, great change came into Emma's life. She was taken away from home to San Antonio to stay with brother Jacob and sister-in-law Minta who looked after her. She said she must live on and prayed for the strength and courage to make others happy. Her Abey and his wife Minnie took her for a drive in the fresh air.

These visits to central Texas kept Emma away from Victoria for a while. Jacob took her to New Braunfels to a fellow clergyman's parsonage, where after breakfast, the reverend took her to the country home of sister Lisette. Visits were paid by the family and friends of Lisette. Emma was kept busy with social visits. Lisette's married children and their families paid visits and were visited in turn at their homes. Lisette's neighbors and some more distant relatives too were part of the social calls.

It was perhaps her first visit to the hill country, where she saw her first stone fence. She enjoyed a picnic outing at the Guadalupe River near New Braunfels, describing the lovely places near the river where she and her niece went wild over the beauties of nature, springs, plants, nuts. They enjoyed the outdoors, gathered pecans and cooked coffee on a camp fire, which caused her to exclaim about how wonderful it was to spend a day away from the noise and confusion of a city or town.

While in New Braunfels on her birthday, family members visited and a group walked to Comal springs where she admired the springs, the rocks, the foliage

and trees. She said the place was a thing of grandeur to one who had never seen much else but the smoke and roofs of a town. She grieved for the father, but gloried in the beauty of nature.

Emma and Lisette visited Sisterdale where Lisette's eldest daughter lived with her family. More socializing and glorious hill country touring with many relations and friends occurred. From their brother's home, after the trip back to San Antonio, Emma accompanied Lisette to the depot for her departure to New Braunfels, leaving Emma sad and gloomy.

After Thanksgiving, Emma's return home was delayed by Abey's illness. She stayed to help nurse him through his bout with typhoid fever. Christmas and New Year's were spent in San Antonio; then Jacob accompanied her back to Victoria, staying a few days until sister Marie and girls came.

Emma received much help from family and friends. Nieces Sophie and Meta often stayed with her, Meta for weeks at a time. The dog Joe kept her company on days she was content to stay home and write. She had the freedom to spend more time socializing, and spent most nights away from home. There were "owl nights" at home and away. Emma stayed busy and wrote less in her diary. At the beginning of 1900, she indicated a year had passed with no entries in her book.

She called herself "the migrating old maid" for as soon as the Moslers left after a birthday celebration, she fled to where human voices sounded on her ear. In 1890 on her birthday October 21, she wrote, "...I go caring not so much as I used to of the how, 'the why'..." Her friends remembered her liberally and thoughtfully.

Although she lived only about forty miles from it all of her life, Emma had never seen Lavaca Bay. Friends took her in the summer of 1901. She said it looked like a meadow. Her diary ends with her view of the bay.

Emma wrote her diary from 1894 to 1901. It is thought that at her death from stomach cancer (3) in 1908, her diary was inherited by her sister Marie Kern Mosler. It is known that the diary became the possession of Sophie Mosler McDougal, Marie's daughter who lived in Richmond, Texas, but whether she inherited it directly from Emma or received it from her mother Marie is unknown.

Sophie Mosler McDougal had no children. From Sophie the diary went to her nephew, Roy Luersen of New Braunfels, Texas, the son of her sister Hilda. Roy gave the diary to his daughter, Carolyn Luersen.

In Austin, in 2014, Carolyn shared the diary with her cousin and former student Edgar Oelkers. Edgar is a descendant of Lisette and Carolyn is a descendant of Marie. Together the cousins decided that the best

way to preserve the fragile book was to digitize it and place the original in a safe repository. Since Emma Kern lived in Victoria, Texas, it seemed the logical location for it.

Edgar and Dorothy Weltner Oelkers visited the VC/UHV library which serves Victoria College and the University of Houston-Victoria. Our decision was to entrust the diary to Victoria Regional History Center of that institution, retaining the right to distribute photocopies and digital copies, and the original is to be returned to the donors if the library no longer wants to keep it.

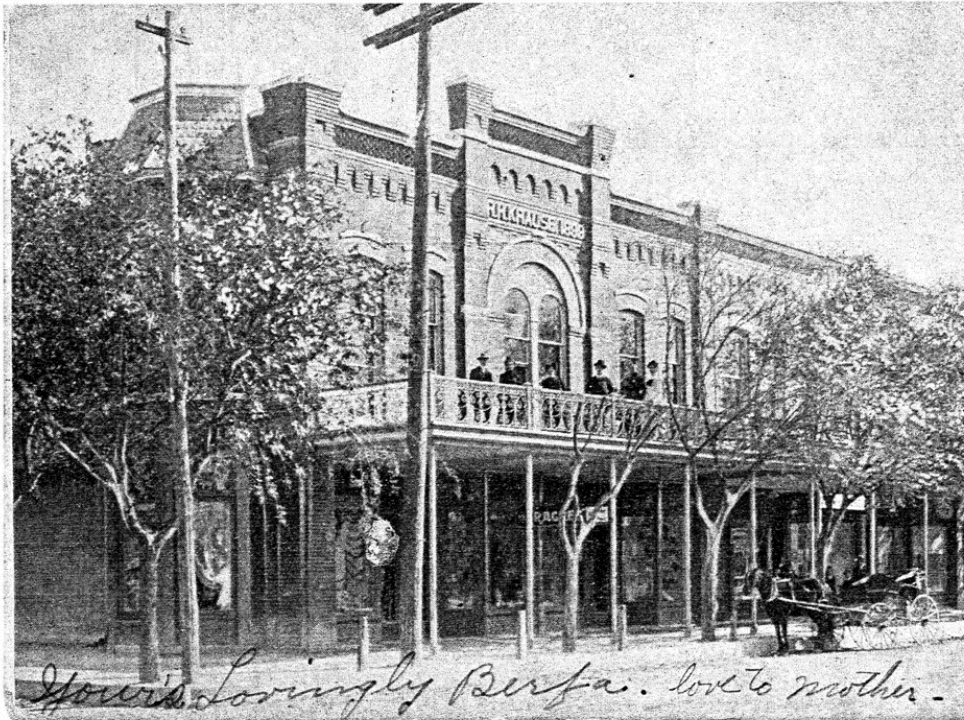
Emma Kern's diary of the period comprises 104 numbered pages. Some additional news clippings and a post card that were in the diary are included in the digital version. The digital version of the diary was prepared to simplify distribution and reproduction. It has been prepared from a Xerox copy of the original that was made circa 1994 when the diary was already in a very fragile 100 year age state. Page scans were prepared in grey scale at 600 DPI with jpg format. The intent is to provide an easily accessible, mostly readable copy of the material to family and researchers interested in life and times of the Kern pioneer family based in Victoria, Texas.

1. Kropp, Diane Tofte, C.G., 2012, "The Descendants of Hans Kern and Veronica Mueller of Sissach, Basel-Land Switzerland to Texas 1625-1940", p. 12.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid., p.15.

Monday, Dec. 17th 1894
 Does not it seem lonely in the little kitchen tonight
 wherever I trace my steps something is missing
 The place seems so desolate, and I am so restless,
 so tired, so tired. My dear little pet left us tonight
 at home in the tamale city, having spent a visit
 of weeks duration, and spent them pleasantly &
 soon swiftly those days, and weeks glided by so
 rapidly, that I hardly realized how near the holiday
 he had. I wonder whether my dear kind little ole
 one was upset, or whether I succeeded in playing
 a nice hostess, laying aside all cares and sorrows, an
 to ease, and at home. I most certainly trust my be-
 lieved he have read my thoughts, and see the conflicts
 within the four walls of my heart, whilst smiling a
 looking with him, he might have been astonished! O
 dear the dear boy, and may I live to see the day when
 he'll be through with his education, and settle down
 at home to live happily forever more, but hope to
 see more by Dec. 30th last, '94. Today is dear sister
 Anna's birthday. How much would I love to have spent
 and hours with her, the one I love best in this world
 the father. I pray that this year living to her mo-
 st joy of life than any she has spent on her life
 and above all things may she be blest with health
 that I must try to get some sleep, in preparat-
 for another week of manual labor.

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959.
Krause Block.
New Braunfels,
Texas. 7/16/04

*Dear Cousin
I am going
to send you
this card
and show
you I have
not forgotta
you. If you
have Berfa
I am with
Hilda and
having a
good time
Write me
real soon
and a long
letter..!*

Yours Lovingly Berfa. love to mother -

Obituary: JACOB KERN - The Daily Advocate, Victoria, T
Wednesday, 8 September 1897, page 2

Daily Advocate.

ning about 5 o'clock except
D, Editor and Proprietor.

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Mr. Kern Dead.

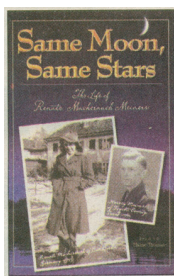
Jacob Kern, sr., died Tuesday evening at his residence in this city, aged 85 years and 27 days. He was an early settler of Victoria, having resided here for nearly fifty years. His wife died many years ago; and he has been cared for in his declining years by his faithful daughter, Miss Emma, who has deprived herself of society and pleasure to wait upon her father. The other children who survive him are Rev. J. Kern, jr., of San Antonio; Mrs. Herman Kolmberg, of New Braunfels, and Mrs. F. Mosler, of Victoria. The funeral will take place this evening.

Submitted by Ed Oelkers, New Braunfels

New Book Shares Special Story of Round Top's

Renate Meiners—*Fayette County Record*, May 30, 2014

By Elaine Thomas, *Special to the Record*



Three years ago, Renate Meiners of Round Top called me.

"I am ready to tell my life story. I want you to write it down and make me a book, a nice book with lots of pictures;" said the German war bride. "Come tomorrow at 1 o'clock and we'll get started."

The next day, Renate met me at my car and began regaling me with stories: some of them poignant, some of them funny, all of them rich in description. After scribbling furiously at her kitchen table for three and a half hours, I held up my hands.

"Renate, please, you must stop talking. I have no more room on my tape recorders and my wrist is sore from taking notes."

Renate followed me out to the car, still reminiscing. By that time, I understood Renate's story was special and felt fortunate to be entrusted to tell it.

The last three years have not been easy for this 87-year-old widow. Renate suffered a stroke in December 2012. Several months later, her only child, Evelyn, died of cancer. Through all this sorrow, Renate has lost neither faith nor hope. And she has never lost the desire to complete a full account of her life.

Renate will realize her goal on Friday, June 6, 2014, when we celebrate the publication of *Same Moon, Same Stars* at a come-and-go book signing at the Fayette County Library in La Grange between 2-5:30 p.m.

In memory of her daughter, Renate plans to fund a new La Grange High School scholarship with proceeds from book sales (\$16 per copy, plus tax.)

Review by James C. Kearney, *Special to the Record*

When we think of war, destruction and death come first to mind. But war has another side that is often lost.

War reshuffles lives in ways that can never happen during peace, and this redirection is sometimes elegant and touching and offers a small counterpart to the vast backdrop of mayhem that gave rise to it. This is the essence of *Same Moon, Same Stars*, the story of the German wartime bride Renate Macherauch Meiners. Her story is very personal yet representative for many thousands of other German girls who, during the desperate years in the aftermath of WWI, met young American soldiers during the occupation and fell in love. It is an odyssey that takes the reader through the enthusiasm of the pre-war years, the sobering reality of the war, and the struggle to survive after the collapse of the Third Reich. These elements comprise a good portion of the book, but prepare the reader for the emerging love story, and a second odyssey: Renate's

decision to marry Harvey Meiners, a young Texas German private from Fayette County, and to follow him home to a new life in far-off Texas. This part offers a tale of adaptation and resilience; of loyalty and love that sees the couple through many challenges. It is a testimonial for the human spirit at its best.

Kearney is the author of two books: Nassau Plantation; The Evolution of a Texas German Slave Plantation, and Friedrichsburg; The Colony of the German Fiirstenverein.

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

Tells Interesting Story of Native Land

Mrs. Lydia Kuehn, one of St. James most interesting citizens is 82 years old and continues an active life.

With the help of her ever-present cane, or "stick" as she calls it, Mrs. Kuehn visited at the JOURNAL office Wednesday, and we encouraged her to tell us something of her early life in her native Germany.

As she told of milking cows, definitely a chore for the women in Germany, she smiled and we snapped her picture.

Mrs. Kuehn was born in Sarsen Weimer, Eisannah, Germany in 1877. She came to the United States in 1903. The Kuehns had three children, all yet living: Frank Kuehn of St. James; Martha Schaefer and Willie Kuehn of East St. Louis. They lived 17 years in East St. Louis, after living in Milwaukee.

Mrs. Kuehn told of helping with the farm chores while a young girl in Germany. "The women had to milk the cows in one barn, the men doing the other chores in another barn nearby.

Mrs. Kuehn recalls that her father put out two acres of cabbage. "We made kraut from the heads and used the stalks, which we ground up, for cow feed," she explained. "We never wasted anything in Germany.

Mrs. Kuehn good-naturedly waved her "stick" at us but admitted that the Polaroid picture we took of her in 60 seconds "is pretty good."

She left in high good humor after buying a copy of the JOURNAL, a shopping chore which she follows every week.

Your editor messed up—I can't remember/find who submitted this! Let me know! It does not refer to our "Journal."



LYDIA KUEHN, 82 years old, who visited the JOURNAL office Wednesday, "to buy my copy of the paper."

Edward Henkel of Round Top, Part I of II

By Cynthia A. Thornton

Author of *The Times of Round Top*
Fayette County Record, May, 2014

Edward Henkel was born George August Edward Henkel on May 24, 1818 in Hesse-Kassel, Germany. On June 6, 1846, Edward Henkel and his wife, Louise Leopoldine Schoenwerks, sailing from Germany, landed in Galveston. Five days after arriving in Galveston, their first child, Carl, was born on June 11, 1846.

The Henkels came to Texas as part of the H. F. Fisher-B. Miller Land Grant Colony, which was created by the Republic of Texas in 1842. This original land grant allowed 600 families to acquire land.

On Oct. 3, 1846 Franklin Lewis sold 187 acres of land to Edward Henkel for \$450.00 on the north side of Cummins Creek. On February 1, 1847 the Henkels purchased 60 acres of land from Milton A. and Mary T. Hardin of Liberty County for \$75.00. This acreage was located on the south side of Cummins Creek and on the east banks of Shaw Creek. Edward Henkel built a log cabin for his family on this property. This log cabin is located on the L. C. Meyer homestead.

Edward Henkel's granddaughter, Mrs. L. C. Meyer, lived on the family farm until she died. Mrs. Meyer was one of the daughters of Edward Henkel and his second wife, Mathilde. The original log house built by Henkel in 1847 was still on the property. An outer layer of tin protected the cabin from the elements, and it was used as a corn crib. Mrs. Meyer had a family Bible containing vital statistics of the family since they came to Texas. Included among other family treasures, Mrs. Meyer had an oil portrait of Louise (Henkel's first wife), several photographs of Mathilde in her late years, and furniture brought from Galveston by the Henkels. Mrs. Hoskinson, Mrs. Meyer's cousin, had several old family photographs and some of Edward Henkel's ledger books and documents. Other Henkel family items, such as a coverlet brought from Germany and a platter from Henkel's old store on Live Oak Street in Round Top, are on deposit at the Daughters of the Republic Museum in Austin. A ledger book from Henkel's store, bearing the date 1877 on one page, is on file at the archives at The University of Texas at Austin.

The Henkels had two children born on the 60 acre farm on the south side of Cummins Creek near the village of Round Top. The children were Franz George Theodore Henkel born in 1849 and Henkel born in 1851.

On Nov 2, 1852 Edward Henkel purchased 25 acres of land along with buildings from John and Sarah Shults for \$700.00. This property was part of the early Mexican land grant in 1831 to James Winn. One half of the Winn land grant was sold to John York in 1835

including the 25 acres. In 1841 John Shults purchased the 25 acres and operated a store and lived on the property in the village of Round Top. This land that Edward Henkel purchased for \$700.00 had to have contained several buildings. This land was part of the land that was later called Henkel Square and today is called Henkel Square Market.

On Oct. 13, 1855 William Hodges sold to Edward Henkel Lot No.4, Block 9 for \$200.00 in the village of Round Top. There must also have been buildings on this lot because other lots were selling for \$50.00 and \$60.00. This is the lot where the Henkel house is today and where the family lived. Therefore, part or all of the house might have been built by Mr. Hodges. The original builder of the house cannot be proven.



Edward Henkel

Part II

The Henkel House was built of cedar and pine material. When the Henkel family lived in the house, there were three bedrooms and a main room used as a dining room. The exterior stairs on the side of the house led to the upstairs two bedrooms. There was a separate building behind the main house that served as the kitchen. The other building behind and to the side of the kitchen served as a building where meat was cured. It is believed that Rudolph Melchior painted the stenciling on the walls of the first floor back room.

In 1855 a daughter, Louise, was born to Edward Henkel and his wife. Ten days later Mrs. Louise Henkel died, and their new born daughter, Louise, died in 1856. After Edward Henkel's wife died and in accordance with his wife's wishes, Mr. Henkel returned to Germany and married his wife's sister, Mathilde Wilhelmine Schoenwerk. They were married in Frankfurt at the office at the American Consul. The couple returned to Round Top to live on the family farm on the 25 acres. The Henkels had a son, George, born in 1858 and a son, Albert, born in 1862. Edward Henkel was a farmer and operated a general store on Live Oak Street in Round Top. The store was closed during the Civil War due to lack of supplies.

Between the years 1855 to 1871, Edward Henkel sold some of his property in Round Top. On Oct. 17, 1855 he sold to Joseph Wagner Lot No.2 and 3, Block 3 for



The home of Edward Henkel in Round Top

\$60. On March 4, 1856 Henkel sold to Eli W. Tharp and Peter Snook 1/8 of an acre on Lot No.3, Block 9 for \$18.00. Tharp and Snook built a two story building called The Store House on the corner of Live Oak Street and Mill Street with living quarters upstairs and a store downstairs. On May 16, 1856 Edward Henkel sold to Carl Ehr Gott Bauer Lot No.4, Block 7 for \$35. On Jan. 28 1859, Henkel sold to Charles Vogelsang 112 of an acre for \$23.00. Vogelsang's land was located to the north of the village survey in an area called E. Henkel's Addition. On March 4, 1859 Edward Henkel sold to Peter Carl von Rosenberg one acre for \$100. This land was located on the northeast banks of Cummins Creek on Lot No.2, Block 5 on a hill. On December 1, 1865 he sold to Christian Huth Lots 1, 2 and 3/4 of 3, Block 8 for \$235.00. On February 28, 1885

Henkel sold to the town of Round Top 50 ft. x 100 ft. in Lot No.3, Block 9 for \$35. This land was to be used for a town courthouse for the Mayor's Court, the Justice Court for Beat No. 3 and a large room for the Round Top Lodge of the Knights of Labor.

On April 2, 1888 Henkel sold to Edward Recknagel 14,625 square feet along Live Oak Street for \$290. The Recknagels built a building called The Apothecary, and their house was side by side with their business facing Live Oak Street. Edward Recknagel operated a drug store and his wife, Fredericka Michaelis Recknagel, operated a photograph shop in the back of the drug store. On March 30, 1871 Henkel sold to William Johann Heinrich Umland Lots No. 1 & 4, Block 3 for \$100. Edward Henkel served his village and town as Justice of the Peace in 1860 and as mayor of Round Top from 1872 to 1875. He lived in his home until his death on July 22, 1885. His wife, Mathilde, lived until 1898 when she died in Round Top at the age of 70. They are buried together in the Florida Chapel Cemetery.

Sources:

Mrs. Jossie V. Henkel Hoskinson Papers, RTAHS, Round Top, Texas, 1956,p.16;
Fayette County Deed Records, Vol. L, p. 86; Vol. K, pp. 459-460; Vol. L, p. 18; Vol. N., p. 63; Vol. 0, p. 285; Vol. R, pp. 298-299; Vol. W. pp. 533-534; Vol. 24,pp. 311-312; Vol. 32,p. 506

1870 United States Census, Edward Henkel

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

Germany honors officers who tried to kill Hitler

San Antonio Express News, July 21, 2014

BERLIN - Germany on Sunday honored a group of Nazi-era officers who tried to kill Adolf Hitler 70 years ago. The plot - portrayed in the 2008 movie "Valkyrie" - helped establish a principle under which German soldiers today are encouraged to defy orders if they would result in a crime or violate human dignity.

President Joachim Gauck called the July 20, 1944, bombing of Hitler's Wolf's Lair headquarters in Eastern Prussia a "significant day in German history" for showing the world there were Germans who opposed the Nazi regime.

Hitler survived the bombing and was able to continue the war until his suicide in April 1945.

Four officers, including Claus Schenk Graf von Stauffenberg, were executed without trial within hours of the failed assassination. Some 200 supporters were killed later or driven to suicide.

While the July 20 conspirators were among the most prominent examples of German resistance, historians have sought to highlight other, lesser-known patriots who opposed the regime.

"Stauffenberg has become a symbol of the resistance. The broader public hardly knows the names of the many others," said Linda von Keyserlingk, a historian at the Military History Museum in Dresden, which opened an exhibition about the plot.



Jens Meyer / Associated Press
 Serigraph titled "Hero portrait. Claus Schenk Graf von Stauffenberg" is part of a special exhibition in Dresden.

Submitted by Angelina Kretzschmar, San Antonio

The Kuhlmann Family

Planting Roots for Future Generations

By Betty Trapp Chapman

In 1836 young Johann Frederick Kuhlmann made his way from Germany to America, eventually landing at the port of New Orleans after one of his sea journeys. Remaining in New Orleans working in various jobs, he continuously heard stories about the newly established Republic of Texas and its capital, Houston. To satisfy his curiosity, he made a trip to Houston and liked what he saw: a bustling little town that might provide him a promising future. He returned to New Orleans and soon claimed Mary Ann Heitman as his wife. In 1839, looking ahead to the future, Johann (or John as he was called in America) brought his bride to Texas where the couple began life together on their recently purchased acreage for which John had paid \$1 an acre "with buildings and improvements." The land, totaling 226 acres, lay three miles south of the fledgling town of Houston along Brays Bayou, one of the many streams in the area. The property that John claimed was originally part of the Luke Moore League, granted to Moore on August 3, 1824, by Stephen Austin.

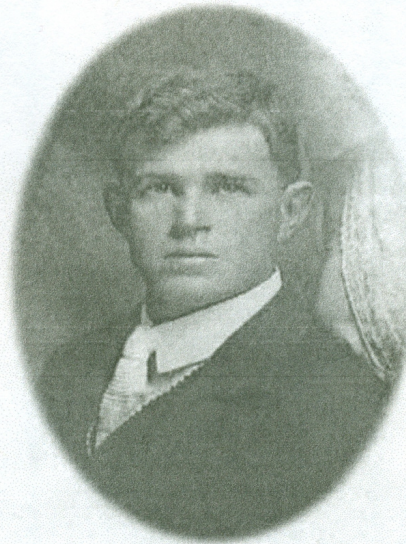
Other members of John Kuhlmann's family eventually joined him in Texas. Three of his brothers—Daniel Justus, John Heinrich, and George Deadrick—had also emigrated from their hometown of Buchen in the Hanover Province of Germany, settling in Loudon County, Virginia, where they farmed jointly-owned land. When George and John Heinrich (who became known as Henry in America) received a letter from a brother in Germany telling them the whereabouts of their seafaring brother, Johann, they made arrangements to join him on Brays Bayou, hoping to establish their own farms. By the time Henry and George arrived in 1845, John was thirty-three years of age and had acquired additional acreage as well as 100 head of cattle.

Henry and George, age twenty-four and twenty-two respectively, soon bought land of their own.



Siblings George Justus Kuhlmann and Adele Kuhlmann Schmeltz, grandchildren of John Heinrich Kuhlmann.

Photo courtesy of Gordon Nettles



August Louis Kuhlmann, grandson of John Heinrich Kuhlmann.

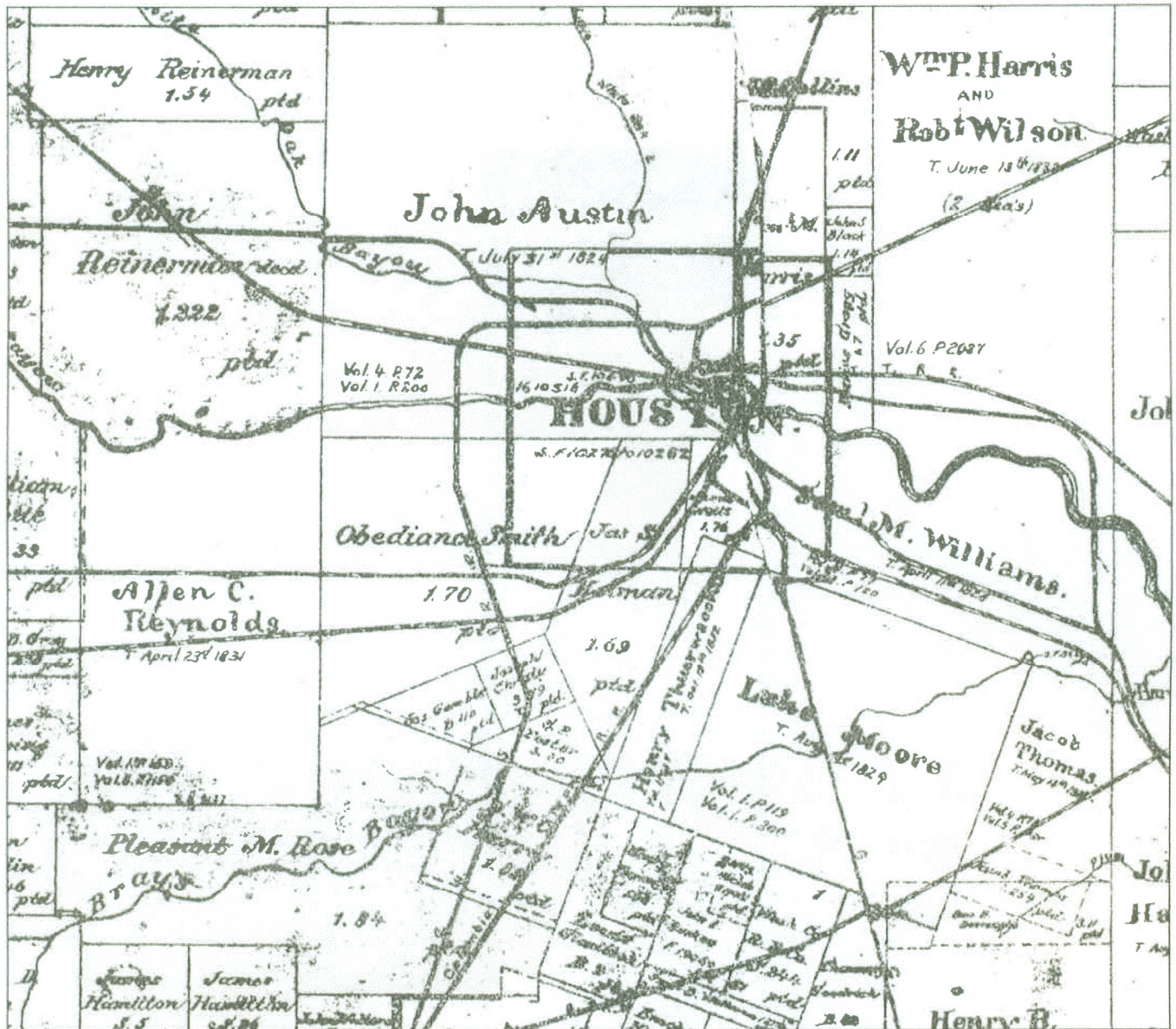
Photo courtesy of Gordon Nettles

After settling into farming his land, Henry met Sophie Henrietta Ulzfeld, who had come to Houston from Germany in 1846. After marrying in 1848, Henry and Henrietta set up housekeeping in a two-room log cabin along the bayou. George returned to Virginia and married Katherine Ann Truslow, whom he brought back to the farm land he had purchased. This was the beginning of a Kuhlmann family compound that a century later was considered a part of Southeast Houston.

Very few Germans settled in Texas during the Spanish and Mexican periods. Stephen F. Austin wanted to bring Germans into his colony because he admired their character, their industry, and their opposition to slavery. Austin, however, claimed he was only able to recruit five Germans for his colony because of the weather. This reality changed during the early years of the Republic of Texas when German immigration substantially increased. Although many immigrants came through an organized effort by groups such as the Adelsverein (The Society of Noblemen), others were doubtless drawn to Texas by the writings of visitors like Gustave Dresel, who spent the years 1838 to 1840, much of it in Houston, extolling the virtues of living in a place where a "love of freedom and the fair prospect of gain" dominated the landscape. Although no exact figures exist on what percentage of Houston's early population was German, an 1840 estimate placed it at twenty percent. The availability of land and the prospect of becoming a landowner were obviously significant attractions for these Germans flowing into Texas. This was certainly true for the Kuhlmann brothers. John in particular, purchased

and sold land for the next four decades, becoming one of Harris County's largest landholders.

Following his original purchase, John acquired more land on both sides of Brays Bayou. Realizing the value of property near a stream like Brays Bayou, he



This detail from an early Harris County map shows many of the areas around Houston where the Kuhlmann family owned pieces of land in varying sizes, including John Kuhlmann's first purchase in the Luke Moore League.

Photo courtesy of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston Public Library, Houston, Texas.

extended his land investments to property located near Greens, White Oak, and Buffalo Bayous. During the 1840s John bought nearly 3,000 acres out of the old Pleasant M. Rose Survey, the Brown Survey, and the J. S. Holman Headright. These purchases enabled John to help fifty immigrant families obtain land by providing loan money for them to establish their own twenty-five-acre farms in the area where Fannin Street crosses Brays Bayou today. He also apprenticed some young men in the basics of farm operation. Several of the Kuhlmann landowners expanded their agricultural pursuits by establishing dairies. Brothers August Louis (Gus) and George Justus Jr., grandsons of Henry, formed Kuhlmann Bros. Dairy on the east side of Chocolate Bayou, three miles south of Brays Bayou. They operated it for many years, but when the city began to encroach on their pastureland they sold it for \$45 an acre and became contractors, participating in the build-

ing boom that accompanied Houston's population growth in the twentieth century. At the same time, their cousin, Christian Kuhlmann, operated a dairy nearby where grazing fields were plentiful.

As the brothers farmed along Brays Bayou, their families grew. The 1850 census revealed that John, Henry, and George had six children between them, and more children followed. Other families also settled near the Kuhlmanns. The 1854-1855 Harris County Scholastic Census reported almost forty potential students in the vicinity of the Kuhlmann farms. Since these families lived far outside Houston's boundaries, they organized a school for their children. Named the Brays Brays Bayou Community School, it became part of the county school system. According to the Scholastic Census the enrollment of School District 3, which included Brays Bayou, equaled twenty percent of the total number enrolled in all Harris County public school districts.

John did not limit his real estate holdings to rural property. Deed records reveal that he also purchased town lots. Some of this property was in Houston's business district. In 1856 he purchased a store at the corner of Congress and Travis Streets fronting on Market Square. When an 1860 fire damaged the existing building, Kuhlmann constructed a handsome two-story building that initially housed a liquor, cigar, and wine store. At the same time he reconstructed the fire-damaged building adjacent to his that belonged to widow Eliza Stephanes Fox, who had operated a bakery there. Completed in 1866, the new double building became known as the Fox-Kuhlmann Building and survives today as a City of Houston Protected Landmark at 305-307 Travis Street.

While many of the Kuhlmann family members continued in agricultural pursuits, still others became involved in Houston's business community. Kuhlmann Floral Co. was a thriving business on Main Street when the massive 1915 hurricane destroyed all of its greenhouses. The business had been established by Henry J. Kuhlmann, but was under the direction of his son, Henry Jr. in 1915. Henry managed to recover from the storm damage, which was placed at \$100,000, and by 1920 had located his business in the Rice Hotel. Other businesses were Kuhlmann's Wood Yard; Kuhlmann's Hay and Feed Warehouse; Star-Bottling Works, manufacturer of soda, sarsaparilla, ginger ale, and mineral waters; Reichardt & Schulte, Dealers in Seeds and Fertilizer; and Walter Kuhlmann's Laundry Machinery Co. Others pursued independent vocations. Theodore Henry Kuhlmann, a grandson of Henry, was a carpenter. In 1907 he built a home for his bride in the Kuhlmann neighborhood near Scott Street on what became Mac-

Gregor Way. When Theodore decided to develop the property in the mid-1930s, he had his home moved three blocks to where it stands today on Charleston Street. Still others through the years were engaged in teaching, ranching, milling lumber, railroading, bookkeeping, and clerking.

In 1871 another young German immigrated to America with the hope of starting a grocery business in Galveston. When that plan failed, the ambitious twenty-one-year-old Henry Henke moved to Houston and met Henry Kuhlmann's daughter, Katherine, whom he pursued and soon married. Henke was also successful in pursuing his own business. With very little capital, he opened a grocery store across from Market Square. When he hired a young bookkeeper, Camille Pillot, and made him a partner, the firm of Henke & Pillot was born. The Kuhlmann farms frequently provided produce for the stores and several family members were longtime employees. Charles Heinrich Kuhlmann had a fifty-two-year career with the grocer, while his son, Charles Louis, was the manager of the large South End store for many years. Many long-time Houstonians remember buying groceries from Henke & Pillot, which evolved into a chain of nineteen stores in Houston and eight more in nearby towns. The local name disappeared after Kroger Corporation acquired the chain in the 1950s. Sophie Reichardt, a granddaughter of John Kuhlmann, also married a promising young businessman, Frederick Boettcher. After their marriage in 1887, the couple lived in Weimar for several years. In 1903, they moved to Houston where Frederick opened Boettcher Produce. A year later he partnered with C. L. Desel, forming Desel-Boettcher Produce



The Fox-Kuhlmann Building, completed in 1866 at 305-307 Travis Street, is a City of Houston Protected Landmark.

Photo courtesy of Mike Vance



The home Theodore Henry Kuhlmann built in 1907 near Scott Street and what became MacGregor Way was moved to Charleston Street in the 1930s. Photo courtesy of Jon Fairchild.

Co., which became one of the largest businesses of its kind in the Southwest by purchasing goods from vegetable commission companies and then selling to retail grocers. As boats came into the Main Street landing of Buffalo Bayou, a large sign painted on the Commerce Street building facade greeted them. Desel-Boettcher survived as a major produce source for many years; it was still a thriving operation when Frederick died in 1934.

During the city's formative years, the most important society for the German population was the Houston Turnverein, and Charles H. Kuhlmann served as its vice-president in 1910. Established in 1854, the organization occupied an entire block on Texas Avenue where the Turnverein club focused on German ethnic and cultural identity. They sponsored elaborate festivities involving not only athletic and military drills but also balls, concerts, and banquets. By 1869 the Turnverein was organizing the city's Volkfest each year on their own festival grounds where speeches, gymnastics, music, dancing, and baseball contests entertained those attending. The Turnverein also sponsored German Day, an event held on October 6 each year to commemorate the 1683 arrival of the first German colonist in America. The main event on German Day was a parade featuring elaborate floats.

As the promise of land ownership in the newly-opened Texas fueled a wave of German immigration in the 1840s, the religious life of the resettled Germans was paramount in the minds of church leaders in Europe. As a result, a missionary school in Basel, Switzerland, sent eight ordained Lutheran ministers to Texas in 1850 and 1851. These men, led by the Reverend Casper Messon Braun, organized the first Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Texas. On July 1, 1851, Rev. Braun founded the Erste Deutsche Evangelische Lutherische Kirche (First German Evangelical Lutheran Church) in Houston. The church was officially issued a charter by the state of Texas two months later. In 1854 the congregation purchased a lot and built its first church on Texas Avenue near Milam Street. A building behind the church was used for a day school. Records do not reveal how active the Kuhlmann families were in those early years. After all, filling a

wagon with children, large and small, to make the journey into Houston in all kinds of weather would not have been an easy task. It is obvious, however, that nearly all of the Kuhlmann families considered themselves to be communicants of this little frame church throughout the nineteenth century because burial records show that Rev. Braun, who remained the minister of First German Evangelical Lutheran Church for three decades, held funeral services for family members. In 1902, having outgrown its earlier building, the congregation built an impressive Gothic-styled brick structure on Texas Avenue at Caroline Street where Kuhlmann families worshipped.

In 1878 when John sold his Brays Bayou farm to his brother, Henry, two acres of the property were dedicated as a family cemetery. The deed cites the cemetery is to be used by the "Kuhlmann (family) or whoever owns or occupies the farm land." The first recorded burial was that of Mary Ann Heitman Kuhlmann in 1860. Years ago many of the graves were moved to a large Kuhlmann plot at Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery, but family records indicate at least nine burials likely remain in the family cemetery, including John, Mary Ann, and Sarah Kuhlmann, and several of John's grandchildren. After the death of his first wife, John had married Sarah Stroud Williams and fathered seven more children. The two-acre tract, surrounded today by the homes in Riverside Terrace, was designated in 2004 as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark."

The land around Brays Bayou remained a rural environment occupied by farms and dairies until the city of Houston began to expand in the 1920s to accommodate its rapidly growing population. In order to provide services for new residential enclaves, the city extended its boundaries in 1927. By 1930 Houston encompassed 72.8 square miles, an increase of forty square miles over the decade. The once-distant Brays Bayou farmlands were now officially part of the city.

Henry MacGregor, a land developer who wanted to extend Houston's residential area by building subdivisions southward along Main Street, had begun residential development of this area as early as 1900. MacGregor died before he could fully pursue his plan, but his wife, Elizabeth, followed the instructions in his will, giving acreage for MacGregor Park and donating land along Brays Bayou for a scenic drive. The remaining land was sold to other developers who pursued MacGregor's vision. In 1924 three subdivisions were started surrounding the bayou: Riverside Terrace, Washington Terrace, and Riverside. A lot measuring 50x100 feet sold for \$1,800—a sharp contrast to the \$1 per acre paid by the Kuhlmann brothers a century earlier. Sales brochures emphasized the suburban garden atmosphere of the subdivisions, yet observed that they were only three miles from the courthouse, long considered the center of Houston. Automobile travel had replaced the tiring wagon trips endured by the Kuhlmanns. What had once been unadorned country habitation was replaced by urban living with many



Map from Assessor's Block Book of Harris County.

Henry Kuhlmann designated two acres of the family land to be used for a cemetery, shown here. Most of the graves were later moved to Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery, but some family members remain buried there.

Photo courtesy of Jon Fairchild.

amenities such as sidewalks, gutters, paved streets, electric lights, and telephones.

Although most of the farms disappeared, many Kuhlmann families continued to be Southeast Houston residents. They, undoubtedly, were one of the largest extended families in the city. Elouise Schmeltz Loonam, great-granddaughter of Henry Kuhlmann, recalls growing up in the 1920s on Griggs Road surrounded by dozens of cousins. She walked one mile to Southland Elementary School, moved on to Johnston Junior High School, graduated from San Jacinto High School in 1939 and from Rice Institute four years later before beginning her teaching career. By then the neighborhood was changing rapidly, yet an article in *The Houston Post* in 1951 reveals that the area's rural roots were still deep. The reporter visited Elouise's parents, Adele and Henry Schmeltz, at their "farm in the city," noting that their acreage housed cows, chickens, and sheep. In fact, during his visit the sheep were fed fresh squash, corn, and cucumbers grown on the Schmeltz's "real farm" on Chocolate Bayou Road, which Henry, a retired rural mail carrier, claimed he only farmed as a hobby. The *Post* reporter described the family's homestead as "a mecca of quiet and well-being in the midst of a snarling clash of civilized noise and motion." And, indeed, while their neighbor on one side was family-Aunt Amelia Kuhlmann Serface and Uncle George Kuhlmann Jr.-the neighbor on the other side was a bustling supermarket, whose incinerator bumped their fence. Adele commented in the article that "things are getting altogether too crowded." This area, however, had been home to scores of Kuhlmanns for several generations and so they stayed." The three Kuhlmann brothers-John, Henry, and George, who chose the Brays Bayou territory as their home 175 years ago knew they were choosing fertile land for farming their crops. They probably never imagined that



the family roots they were planting would also cultivate the area and help it blossom into a twenty-first century community for future generations.

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Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

***Volksdeutsche* in Croatia, before World War II: Jakob and Katarina Webel are Merchants in Marcini (Taking Care of Business and the Business of Life)** James J. S. Johnson¹

As mentioned in Part One of this series,² Texas hosted the birth of Luke Webel,³ a boy born of German stock, furthering the biogenetic impact of his paternal grandfather's immigration to America, as an 8-year-old boy. Like his older brother (Nate Webel⁴), another native Texan, Luke Webel should one day learn to appreciate how his family history, thanks to God's good providence, includes the survival and immigration (to America, after WWII) of "*Volksdeutsche* by the Dozen", on Monday, March 19th of AD 1950, as "expellees" seeking refuge in America (under the amended *Displaced Persons Act*) from Communist tyranny⁵

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

To recap the Texas connection, little Luke Webel arrived in Texas, during the summer of AD2012. Luke's parents are Stephen and Erica Webel, whose lives (and those of their daughters and sons) are in constant motion (due to Steve's professional responsibilities teaching English to students in Asia), yet they periodically alight and reside (just long enough to catch their breaths) in Arlington, Texas. Stephen Webel (Luke Webel's father) is the son of Chaplain Robert ("Bob") and Marcia Webel, who currently reside in Florida. Chaplain Bob Webel (Luke Webel's paternal grandfather), as an eight-year-old, was one of the "***Volksdeutsche* by the Dozen**" who flew from Munich (Germany) to New York, arriving at Ellis Island, March 19th of AD1950.



Jacob and Katarina Schleicher Webel

Bob Webel's parents—Jakob Webel and Katarina (née Schleicher) Webel—who immigrated to America with their surviving ten children, have repeatedly illustrated the phrase "truth is stranger than fiction". As noted before, Jakob Webel's family belonged to an ethnically German evangelical Anabaptist church tradition, a group known as "Evangelical Rebaptizers"⁶ -- who lived in what was then called Yugoslavia.⁷ In Jakob Webel's mind it was vitally important, when he selected a wife, to marry within his family's faith tradition—it would have been unthinkable to marry someone of another faith.⁸ Jakob succeeded, marrying a kindred spirit wife, Katarina Schleicher, during the early AD1930s, before the world had learned that trying times would be forced upon the war by Hitler, Hirohito, Mussolini, and their ilk.

¹ The family history information in this article is derived from repeated personal interviews with Chaplain Bob Webel, mostly when he was visiting Arlington, Texas (during the summer of AD2012), and from the transcription of his sister (Rosie)'s interview of their parents, an unpublished family history titled "From Vinkovci to Medina" (which is further described below).

² "*Volksdeutsche* by the Dozen, Part One: Jakob and Katarina Agreed to Marry Before They Ever Spoke to Each Other, A True Example of Love at First Sight...and First Sound", *Journal of the German-Texan Heritage Society*, 35(1): 25-32 (spring 2013), citing Rosalie Webel Whiting, *From Vinkovci to Medina* (unpublished Webel family history), supplemented by personal interviews with Chaplain Bob Webel (during August AD2012).

³ Luke Webel was born during July of AD2012, in Plano, Texas.

⁴ Nate Webel was born during November of AD2007, in Fort Worth, Texas.

⁵ "*Volksdeutsche* by the Dozen" is the caption of an unidentified newspaper clipping, with a photograph of the 12 Webel family immigrants, who arrived at Ellis Island on March 19, AD1950, after a transatlantic trek that went from Munich to Copenhagen to Scotland to Greenland to New York City. The Webel dozen then were **father** Jakob, **mother** Katarina, Reinhardt (17, a/k/a Reini), Elisabeth (15, a/k/a Elsa), Karl (13), Adolf (12), Theresia (10), Robert (8), Rosalia (6, a/k/a Rosie), Jacob (4), Katherina (2), Daniel (2 months old).

⁶ The Yugoslav-emigrated, German-speaking Evangelical Rebaptizers, when they immigrated to America, renamed themselves the "Apostolic Christian Church of the Nazarene". (There is no ecclesiastical connection to what is popularly called the Church of the Nazarene).

⁷ Like a violently erupting fumarole, the tragic history of Yugoslavia's political factions is a series of internal fighting (dominated by Ustaše-led Roman Catholic Croats persecuting Eastern Orthodox Serbs, with Nazi and Russian Communists intervening with their own agendas), and that fighting is a major catalyst in this family history—as will be noted later, *D.v.*, in future reports on this fascinating family history (see, e.g., <http://www.icr.org/article/7056/>).

⁸ Certainly Jakob was thinking Biblically, on this point—see **Amos 3:3 & 2nd Corinthians 6:14**.

After the Wedding, Married Life Began with Hard Work on the Farm

As time would begin to show, and as more time would continue to demonstrate, the simple wedding vows of young Jakob and Katarina (*reported in Part One of this series*) were not a mere matter of happy youthful enthusiasm or ceremonial tradition. Jakob and Katarina were promised to one another; there was no looking back. It was unthinkable to consider separate lives thereafter: these two young hearts were now truly “one” (*see Genesis 2:24*), loyal to each other (and also to their God), as later events would prove, again and again. The young couple were faithfully committed to each other, before God and many witnesses (including themselves), and World War II’s horrors and deprivations would soon (and repeatedly) test that marital union. But the couple at least got started, as a new family, before those horrific challenges confronted them.

In the transcribed interview, quoted repeatedly below,⁹ the reader will notice that sometimes the replies of the Webel parents (“**DAD**” = Jakob; **MOM** = Katarina) don’t always fit the questions actually asked by the inquiring daughter (**ROSIE**). Notice also that Mom chimes in, frequently, to clarify (or correct) Dad’s memory on certain details. At this point (*following Part One of this series*), Jakob and Katarina Webel are newlyweds, in Vinkovci, Jakob’s hometown.

ROSIE: Now surely you didn’t live your entire lives with Grandfather [*i.e.*, Jakob’s father, Reinhardt Webel, *i.e.*, the paternal grandfather of Robert Webel].

DAD: We lived with Grandfather [*immediately after getting married*] about a year and a half or something like that.

MOM: Yeah, the [*i.e.*, that was] before Elsa [*i.e.*, Elisabeth, child # 2] was born.

ROSIE: Oh, you mean you had Reini [Reinhardt, child # 1] there.

MOM: Yeah, we had Reini there [*in Vinkovci*] and we still worked in the fields and all the chickens and all the

(*A discussion follows, about other relatives, who lived and farmed in Vinkovci; then the interview returns to Jakob and Katarina Webel’s life in Vinkovci, --- and their decision to move on to another town.*)

DAD: And then when Reini [child #1] was born and then about 2 years later, we decide to move to different place and [have] the store, because I ...

ROSIE: In the same town again?

DAD: No, no.

ROSIE: Different town, okay.

Dad and Mom Webel describe entrepreneurial activities as merchants in Marcini -- juggling cashflow, inventory, using credit, barter, and family.

DAD: In a different village called **Marcini**, we opened not a grocery but a ...

ROSIE: General store.

DAD: Yeah, general store.

ROSIE: How did you get the money to do this?

DAD: How did we get money?

ROSIE: Were you working for your father [*i.e.*, for Jakob’s father, Reinhardt Webel] for money at this point?

DAD: We was working but there was no money almost. We set up the store, the inventory, without what to sell. Then we owed more, you know, then [we] owed already, then we bought the merchandise on credit with no money,



Vinkovci

ROSIE: ⁹Rosalie Webel Whiting, *From Vinkovci to Medina* (unpublished Webel family history, copy provide by Chaplain Robert Webel), pages 1-4, supplemented & clarified by personal interviews with Rosie’s brother, Chaplain Bob Webel, during July and August of AD2012.

that's the way we start it.

ROSIE: Did you have money to buy the premises, the building?

MOM: They give us credit and they pay it nice, often get other credit. More and more and more.

DAD: No, we rent it. We rented a house.

MOM: We rented a big house, the house, then we open a big store on that corner.

ROSIE: And you borrowed for inventory.

DAD: I borrowed as I did inventory, that doesn't mean the shelf and whatever you need.

ROSIE: How many kids were born at this ...?

MOM: Just Reini [child #1].

ROSIE: Oh, you moved out [from Vinkovci] before Else [child #2] was born.

MOM: Before Else was born.

ROSIE: How many kids were born at this house [in Marinci] with the rental of the store? Oh, we're not getting that far yet. Okay. You borrowed money for inventory, then you purchased on credit your stock items.

DAD: Yes, yes.

MOM: The store went very good.

ROSIE: How large was this town, Marcini?

DAD: That town, it was a 250-300 houses. It was not large.

ROSIE: Were you the only general store in this ...?

DAD: No. There was already 2 stores when we opened ours but theirs was very small space.

ROSIE: Was yours bigger? ... [Were other stores] smaller than yours?

DAD: Oh, yeah. Then when we open, the next year another man opened a large store.

ROSIE: Even larger?

DAD: Not larger but competition but so bad, we have then 4 stores and that was too much for the town.

MOM: Just you don't say we had the yard goods.

DAD: Yeah. Then we start that.

ROSIE: Oh, we're going to get that, Mom. I know all about that.

DAD: Then we saw it is... I rented that house for 3 years.

ROSIE: Your lease was for 3 years?

DAD: Yes. And then when the lease was over and the time was over, there was a church property with a house over the church and a man had a store, he was working with us and he insisted to be auction for the lease.

ROSIE: Option probably.

DAD: Not option, but operate from an auction sale, but a lease I gave her that much more rent, you give that much[?], who gives more for that rent.

MOM: Who give more rent.

ROSIE: That would be like a bid.

DAD: Yeah, like bid.

ROSIE: He wanted to bid for what you were renting?

DAD: No, he wanted to push me out, to make it, but then I insisted, okay, everybody whoever had to, had to put that much money, it not just a bid.

ROSIE: You wanted cash up-front.

MOM: Oh, yes.

DAD: I bid \$10,000. He would bid \$1 more, and I don't go farther, and then when I move out, he has nothing given, the building stay empty, so I said, you have to put that much money if you want it, and so we did. Part one way, and they eventually sold, then that man withdraw. He withdraw.

ROSIE: Where did you get that much money to lay on the table?

MOM: We get.

DAD: I had no money. Again, I borrowed enough money in stocks from someone. I borrow stocks to put. But that man withdraw but soon we could get the auction, so I have found another man who came to bid against me. So I found and I bought it, for if one came to bid against me too, so I get the house again.

ROSIE: For another 3 years.

DAD: Yeah, for another 3 year[s] I get one.

MOM: We get.

DAD: Yeah, it wasn't important. It was '39, it was '33, '34, '39 ... 6 years.

MOM: In '34 was Reini [child #1] born, we just moved in before winter when the first snow fall.

DAD: Yeah.

ROSIE: To your new store.

MOM: Yeah. In this store, was usually.

ROSIE: You moved into this house [in Marcini] in the fall, near winter.

DAD: In the fall of '35.

MOM: And then early '36 April was Elsie [child #2] born.

DAD: Reini [child #1] was born in September of '34, next year in '35 we moved in, and when the first snow fell, you know the salt is white, you know, and he said heh (noise), not so salt we got, because salt always white.

ROSIE: Reini was just a tike and he thought [the snow] was salt.

MOM: It was salt.

ROSIE: Now his kids, if you remember when Paul first saw the snow, he decided it was sugar, not salt.

MOM: He said, salt we got now.

DAD: The store we got sugar that much, but salt we got much, you know.

ROSIE: I want to talk about this store. When you first opened it up, you had the normal things like nails and screws and ...

DAD: No, no.

ROSIE: No hardware?

DAD: No, at first it was just grocery.

ROSIE: And what else?

DAD: Grocery. Period.

ROSIE: When I talk grocery, am I talking fresh fruits like apples, lemons, cucumbers, what kind of groceries?

DAD: No, no, no.

ROSIE: You're talking dry goods, flour, and sugar.

DAD: Coffee and ...

MOM: Poppy seed.

DAD: And rice and salt and ...

ROSIE: No vegetables?

DAD: No.

MOM: All colors what you painting, all the colors needed for house painting.

ROSIE: You had groceries and paints.

MOM: Paints, all kinds of paints. Not like here is made the paint ready in big bucket...

ROSIE: This you had to mix.

DAD: Yes.

MOM: This was just powder. We had to fun ...

DAD: No, no, no. To mix the oil paint, you have to mix that to be some kind of oil, not oil but they call it something like that, for to mix it. And we got the water paint for the house, just make it with water, like... you have to mix it with the oil.

MOM: For paint, for furniture you have to mix with ... we call it "Fearnice". "Fearnice" was oily and thick like here when you buy the ready-mix. But then you put the color in whatever you want in.

ROSIE: So your store was groceries and paint. How long did you have that, groceries and paint?

DAD: Maybe 2 years.

ROSIE: And then you decided to expand?

DAD: And we had the wooden shoes, and the strings [harness] for the horses and cows and all those things. It whatever the farmer needs.

ROSIE: Farmer supplies.

DAD: Then, little by little, you ...

ROSIE: Did you have garden tools at this time?

DAD: Oh, yeah.

ROSIE: Hoes and things like that?

DAD: Not right away but we did have...

ROSIE: Shortly thereafter.

MOM: Yeah. Hoe and rake and all kinds of strings [harnesses used by farmers]. What they need for this ... for the barn and yards [pastures, fields, garden plots].

DAD: Little by little expanded.

MOM: How you said that ... Here is grease job. Over there for the wagon, what they use every day in the field and everywhere, they had to kind of grease, big can grease like here.

ROSIE: Oh, for the wheels and stuff.

MOM: For the wheels. They call you in the morning early, they had to go in the field and they forgot to buy.

ROSIE: Yeah, wheel-bearing grease.

MOM: Yeah, thick grease, yellow-brownish.

DAD: You have to put the grease on the axle.

MOM: All the axle, whatever turns the wheel, this had to be with this thick grease.

ROSIE: You have that?

MOM: Yeah. And cigarettes, matches and how you say? Kerosene? Every house had kerosene.

ROSIE: That's the lighting you had, this kerosene lighting.

DAD: The kerosene light.

ROSIE: What did you cook with?

MOM: Cook, we with wood stove, with sticks under of wood. We cook in the same stove.

ROSIE: How did you heat?

DAD: Heat? Wood stove.

ROSIE: You had no coal?

DAD: No, no coal.

ROSIE: Did you buy your wood, or ...?

DAD: Buy, sure, I buy. But the wood was not far, you could find it.

ROSIE: Was there water?

MOM: Well. We had well. We have ...

ROSIE: To carry it into the house

MOM: Oh, year, sure.

ROSIE: And you had outhouses at this point?

MOM: Oh, yeah.

DAD: They build the house before Adolf was born.

ROSIE: Alright. We [are] just a little bit past Elsa here, we're not anywhere near Adolf. Elsa was born in April.

DAD: In April '36.

ROSIE: And Reini was born in September?

DAD: '34.

ROSIE: I have all the information at home but I just thought I'd ask.

DAD: And then we rent on lease was almost over -- you know, for that house, that we bought, and bought an old house.

ROSIE: We're talking the second time around.

DAD: Yes.

ROSIE: So that would be 6 years later?

DAD: Yes, it was 5, 6 years, maybe for ... for rent that for 3 years. Then we bought an old house, and tore it down and build a new one.

ROSIE: You bought the house, tore it down, and built one on top of it?

DAD: No, no. We tore up the house.

MOM: Oh, make them level and then start building.

ROSIE: Bought old house, ripped apart, tore down?

DAD: Tore down and put a new house and new foundation [down].

MOM: And then it's not built like here with bricks.

DAD: That makes a difference now.

MOM: Yeah, makes a difference with just the dirt -- that thick.

ROSIE: Like the kind of stuff you're talking that your dad used to make.

DAD: No, no, no. You put like telephone post here. Both side of wall that thick, then form, each side 2x8's, put along, and then it's filled up with dry dirt.

ROSIE: The telephone poles were for support, then you put wood in-between so that the telephone poles hold it. And then you put dirt in-between.

DAD: In-between dry dirt. And ...

MOM: The ladies, the girls, they stomp it!

DAD: Stomp on that and then seal it up, and then you lift that board, both sides up and fill it again with dirt.

MOM: The wagon is bringing the dirt.

ROSIE: How did that dirt stay solid?

DAD: They stay solid when you put pressure ...

ROSIE: All day long they do this?

DAD: On the corner they put ... weeping willows or any kind of wood on the corner.

ROSIE: That you can bend a little bit?

MOM: No, no. Hold all together that when this dry out, this is hard like cement.

DAD: And then they said the house is, all walls are put up together, the middle walls, all the walls, all up together goes up. When they finished, before they're dry, they have to take a hatchet hole and make a hole in it.

MOM: And the holes going to be the windows, doors.

DAD: They have to because these are later on becoming hard like concrete.

ROSIE: Is this similar to the adobe houses that the Indians built in New Mexico?

DAD: I never saw that, but that is ...

ROSIE: Now, were the standard homes built that way?

DAD: The most. The many, many.

MOM: The most, just very seldom with bricks. This was not a solid house like the houses like they built here [in America].

ROSIE: What kind of a roof did you put on something like this?

DAD: Brick roof. Thick bricks.

ROSIE: What kind of support did you have?

MOM: They had noses.

DAD: They put the wood rafter on. How do you say that cross beams, that's not rafter.

ROSIE: Braces?

DAD: No, no. From wall to wall.

MOM: The "bulker".

ROSIE: That's a rafter, Dad.

DAD: No, the rafter you put after.

ROSIE: Tresses? Beams.

DAD: Beams. But the beams are about 6x6 or 6x8, and then the rafters are 5x5.

MOM: Oh, at least that.

DAD: And that rafter, and on the rafter are ...

ROSIE: Grooves.

DAD: No, no, no. From one rafter to other like that, but ... No, no. But an inch by two, 1x2. They nail from one rafter to other, and on that hangs the brick.

ROSIE: Shingle.

DAD: But that [was] like bricks.

ROSIE: Yeah, but hangs.

DAD: Hangs, yes.

MOM: Hangs like the fingers on this, closed together, one after the other row will come over here.

ROSIE: Is that similar to the tile roofs that you see in some old houses? The half-moon tile roofs?

DAD: No, no. They are flat.

ROSIE: Well, okay, but ...

DAD: Yeah, yeah. Just on that top is a half-moon to cover the ...

ROSIE: The ridge.

MOM: This was my work when I was a girl making this bricks.

ROSIE: Oh, you made the bricks!?

MOM: I made the bricks when I was a young girl. My father was this for the house.

ROSIE: He was a brick maker. Yeah.

MOM: I and my sister, we had to work this ...

ROSIE: Okay, Mom, when you built the house, who was born then?

DAD: Then we moved in.

ROSIE: How long did it take you to build this house?

DAD: About a whole summer, the whole summer.

ROSIE: And did you have your other store?

DAD: The other store? We had brought the store.

ROSIE: You had the store?

DAD: Yes, yes.

ROSIE: Did you hire this work out?

DAD: Yes.

ROSIE: You hired the work out to be done. Okay?

DAD: Yes. Work from hired men did it. And when it was done, they finished, we moved in.

ROSIE: With how many kids?

DAD: Two.

ROSIE: You [then] had Elsa and Reini?

DAD: Reini and Elsa. [*Notice that Dad insists on naming them by their birth order.*]

MOM : Karl. [*Notice that Mom recalls that Karl was also born by that time.*]

DAD: And Karl.

ROSIE: Oh, Karl was born by this time. So 3. Approximately when did you move into this house?

DAD: We went, Adolf was born in '39 in November, and we moved away a two-week [i.e., a fortnight] before we went in the house.

MOM: We moved away, more than a week we are moving. [*Notice that Mom recalls that the moving process lasted for days.*] We carry all in the hand, all the stores be working there or selling already here.

ROSIE: You said it was a couple days.

DAD: See, that's not far away.

ROSIE: A couple homes.

DAD: About from here to the corner. So the store is open, you sell here stuff and then you move, when someone moves, carry over there and ...

MOM : I selling there already. I selling here and Dad's selling there.

ROSIE: Okay, Dad, when you built this house, did you have it built for a store?

DAD: For a store, yes.

MOM: Oh, yeah.

ROSIE: Did you live upstairs in this house?

MOM: No. All on one floor.

DAD: All on one floor.

ROSIE: Is this place still existing today?

MOM: Yeah.

DAD: Yes.

MOM: The building is still there.

ROSIE: And did you close out the other store at that point?

DAD: Yes.

ROSIE: Was it a gradual close-out or was it immediate?

DAD: I gradually close. That's how we could move.

ROSIE: You closed own.

DAD: We moved that first store down.

ROSIE: Who did you hire in this store? Just you and Mom?

DAD: Just we two.

ROSIE: Just the two of you. And who took care of your kids?

MOM: Nobody. Nobody by themselves. They have to be in the store and helping. Even Reini know how to help and how to get matches and to give change. He knows they're good, some people they want to trick him, maybe give you, it's not the right change what you give to me. And he would look at you, and say, I give you the right change. I know for sure.

ROSIE: He [i.e., Reini] sold matches?

MOM: Matches and he sold tobacco and cigarettes.

DAD: That's a ... like a brick you can eat, chocolate, and we cut them into pieces for that much money a piece.

ROSIE: Reini was like 8 years old here.

DAD: About that.

MOM: He know [what] he do.

DAD: When we moved in, he was 2 years, but in 4 years he already a good merchant. He could give cigarettes, he could give yeast, if it was pre-packed, he could do.

MOM: Like now the pound of butter, the yeast is the same size it was a piece like a pound butter was it in one piece.

ROSIE: Did you have the flour in big sacks and you divided, you bought it in big sacks and they wanted to come in for a pound, you had to measure it out?

DAD: Yes. Sugar, that way the sugar, that way the rice, that way everything. Nothing was pre-packed.

MOM: Nothing. Raisins, nuts.

ROSIE: Oh, you had raisins there, too, and nuts?

MOM: Oh, yeah. Nuts and raisins and all kinds of things, plus you need for anything?

DAD: Before Christmas apples too, and oranges.

ROSIE: Where did you get all your produce from, or whatever?

DAD: In the grocery store.

MOM: Big city.

ROSIE: Big city in Yugoslavia?

DAD: In the ... it's a whole city in Vinkovci.

MOM: Yeah, he went to the whole city.

ROSIE: Did you go there and pick this stuff up and bring it back?

DAD: Yes, yes.

ROSIE: There wasn't any delivery?

DAD: No, no delivery. We hired a man with a wagon, you know, horse and buggy, to go there and bring it back.

MOM: All day.

ROSIE: Oh, you went with him.

DAD: I went with him. And I take the cash along to pay it and I paid last bill.

ROSIE: Last time's order?

MOM: Always we paid the last order and get the other order.

DAD: And always at Christmas time, is always a big business time, and when Christmas time, after Christmas, with the Christmas and New Year, it's day to day. In that time I went there and paid all my bills and came home empty. So on the New Year when they has [sic] to close the books, Jakob Webel owes nothing. And after New Year, I go right away, you don't have to do that, I stop to fill up the store again ... 5 to 600 dollars ...

ROSIE: Did you close the store?

DAD: No, no, no. Then I had not everything ...

MOM: Everything sold plenty, was not so filled everything, he wants to fill all shelves full.

ROSIE: Okay, you just went ahead.

DAD: Yeah. You have no 100 pounds of sugar, and you have no have ... you have only maybe 10 pounds of sugar now in that period. Everything little bit, but you have everything. Somebody could come there, you don't have it. And when a customer came, ask something, you don't have it, you mark it down that we have to bring it.

ROSIE: The next time you're in Vinkovci.

DAD: Whatsoever the customer asks. [*notice the King James English! Jakob and Katarina learned the English language by using the King James Bible in America*] titiJli!JtrilrlilitiJiliri

MOM: Keep supply, people don't get them.

DAD: Whatever the customer asks, you know ...

ROSIE: How far was Vinkovci from Marcini?

DAD: It was 20 kilometer, 20, 25, so what. [*i.e., about 14 miles distance*]

MOM: And then so many time on the bike, you get stuff, the people was asking and we will not say we don't have it in our store ...

ROSIE: What is kilometers in miles?

DAD: Miles? It's 160 kilometers is 105 [miles], that is ...

ROSIE: So it's less than 20 miles?

DAD: Oh, yeah. Less than 20 miles.

ROSIE: Yeah. 80 kilometers is [about] 50 miles.

MOM: And the tobacco and the cigarettes are always sent on the bike, loaded on the bike, this is not heavy stuff, just these big packages and he bring them on the bike. We cannot get in the same city where he get the groceries. He had to go in the ...

DAD: That is the state-owned, you know, cigarettes and matches.

ROSIE: Because of taxes and everything?

MOM: No, no, no, that you got the ...

DAD: That is state-owned.

MOM: You cannot buy in the big store.

DAD: You get only the 5%, that's all, the price is, let's say \$1, you paid that \$.95, and you could not sell it higher. You cannot put higher or lower.

MOM: Right.

ROSIE: In other words, you made no money on the sale of cigarettes.

DAD: No, but you have to have them because the customer wants [them]. And the same with the matches.

MOM: You had to go even [*i.e., sell for cost – no profit on cigarettes and matches*] in the store. When you work in the kitchen, go in the store, he wants 5 cigarettes, is not worth nothing to go even in the store, wipe your hands, just you have to give it.

ROSIE: Give me [the] layout of your home, so I have an idea of what it is like.

DAD: Okay. There was a store in the front, and one of the bedrooms beside it. Behind the store was a magazine or a storehouse.

ROSIE: Is that where you had more stock?

DAD: More stocks and that dirty things like lime. The people ... that lime means a stone, not [*lime powder*] dust like here. Like a stone, and you put them in water, then [that] boils ...

MOM: It gets so thick, you cannot even mix it, like cook.

ROSIE: I've seen it before.

DAD: That's kind of stuff, and wood, coal, for ironing ...

MOM: That's why you say, how you say you would what you make the wieners, well, charcoal. We had this, they put them in the irons, a little bit.

DAD: But we buy from a gypsy, not in a sack like here.

MOM: This is black and dustier, [in] big pieces.

ROSIE: You had a storeroom in the back behind the store. What was behind the bedroom?

DAD: Behind the bedroom was a kitchen.

ROSIE: And that was it?

MOM: No, we had the other room too.

ROSIE: One more room? Where was that?

MOM: And we had behind the store, first was, like this porch, a little, plus a window out.

DAD: Yeah. Like a porch, maybe just a little, and there was a door here, and here was the stockroom.

MOM: And from there we go into kitchen and the kitchen was very big. There was 2 beds in.

ROSIE: Oh, you had 2 beds in the kitchen?

MOM: Beds in the kitchen and we had the children's beds and we had a couch in the kitchen.

ROSIE: Just like in Medina [Ohio]. You had a couch and a chair and ...

MOM: Yeah, this was almost so big, big, and we had a big hutch where all the dishes are ...

ROSIE: Cupboard, yeah.

MOM: Where all the dishes are, in the kitchen washing ...

ROSIE [*speaking to Dad*]: And the bedroom was yours and Mom's bedroom?

MOM: We sleep in the kitchen.

ROSIE: What was this bedroom then?

MOM: For guests.

DAD: We sleep in the kitchen and children too.

ROSIE: Okay, now back to facilities, did you have indoor plumbing here?

DAD: No.

MOM: No well.

ROSIE: You had to go out and pump everything?

MOM: No pump. Over there we had the wheel [i.e., water-well], you wind.

ROSIE: Well. There was a big open water well and the bucket coming in.

MOM: Yeah.

DAD: Water well was enclosed and was closed and the roof on it and was a wheel and a big axle and the rope goes down with the bucket.

ROSIE: Did you ever get any animals in your bucket?

DAD: No.

MOM: No. We put the watermelons in this bucket and put them down and the yeast [in order to refrigerate them]. Dad make a little box form wood, the yeast had to stay down cool, otherwise they spoiled in one day. Just his house is not like this one, this is the thick wall, so thick walls.

ROSIE: How did you keep your food cold? Did you have ice boxes?

DAD: No, no ice box.

MOM: No, no have.

ROSIE: How did you keep food cold?

MOM: Like this, hanging down in the well.

ROSIE: How did you keep milk [from spoiling]?

DAD: For one day only.

ROSIE: Did you have a cow?

MOM: No, we buy every day.

ROSIE: From the milkman?

MOM: No, not milkman.

DAD: From the farmers.

ROSIE: Did you have to go and buy it or did they come and deliver?

MOM: We can go and get them or she can bring it, whatever we want.

ROSIE: So it was a little town where you kind of exchanged things back and forth.

DAD: No, with the money.

MOM: For money, everything for money.

ROSIE: Tell us more about your store.

DAD: The store was everything all for money but the people had the chicken and eggs and then they can bring eggs and we give them grocery for the eggs. We know that that much egg, than many eggs, what is worth ...

ROSIE [*or was this said by Mom?*]: This is this much and they exchange the eggs.

DAD: And then in the fall, they can bring flour, exchange for bread. And they could bring corn and exchange for candy, the children. And when the fall is, the farmer brings corn, wagon full of corn, and the children are hollering "give me a cup, give me a cup, give me a cup". And they get a cup and they run with the cup in the store and candy for that.

MOM: They come, so many children ...

DAD: And we put on the scale how much is it, so we give 1 candy or 2 candy, how much ...

MOM: 2, 3 candy, how much is, how big, how many corns they have in cup, the children. And the lady has no salt at home, she bring an egg and I show her how much [salt] she gets for this egg. She has no money, she has egg.

DAD: Nothing is pre-packed then.

ROSIE: When did you start getting more things? Did you ever become a hardware store?

DAD: Little by little.

ROSIE: As the customers asked for it or how? What inspired you?

MOM: When we came in this new store, it was a lot bigger.

DAD: The new house.

MOM: A new house, this was now 4 times as big.

DAD: Then we started yard goods.

MOM: And all the lace for all kinds of when you want to have lace, and kind of lace.

DAD: And yarn.

MOM: Or like I crocheted the ...

DAD: Oh, and also we had the yarn there for sale and to crochet, and people need that.

MOM: And then I thought to ...

DAD: To pre-print for handiwork.

MOM: You know all this what you buy that was printed blue on white material.

ROSIE: Oh, that you iron on so you can embroider.

MOM: Yeah, that's for embroidery.

ROSIE: Transfers. You made those.

MOM: Yeah, I made this. The people come in with the wagon, and bring lots of what they sell by themselves, woven.

DAD: Self-woven.

MOM: Self-woven stuff. When I print it, they help me. Evenings when we close the store and the children went to bed.

ROSIE: Just like that thing you made that Theresa has that you embroidered when you were a little girl. You drew that.

MOM: Yes. This was on paper and then I make this and the next day or day after ...

DAD: Everything was to get money.

MOM: When other day or next day, I said then they can come and pick it up. This was the good thing then they buy even the embroidery. All this was standing there.

ROSIE: Did you draw this on their ... to their size that they wanted on their material, where they wanted it?

MOM: Yeah, yeah.

DAD: We had pre-printed papers. They came and look at the paper, I want that and that, and then from that paper we make it.

MOM: Put pattern onto skirts and on the bedspreads and on all kinds of things.

ROSIE: You made it to the size they wanted even though you only had a small picture to look from?

MOM: Don't matter. They was looking on a small picture. But my pattern we enlarge it and do it how they want it. We had this heavy ...

ROSIE: Like carbon paper?

MOM: NO, it was heavy, to put this weight on the ... and stretch it on this big counter, like a counter where we selling stuff. And evening for it was quiet and then I can make it ... make money.

DAD: Many times Mom made for [*i.e.*, *before*] the fire, the stove is here, wood is here, and the meat is here, all the same, other, and a customer came, and customer came, and customer came, and fire goes out.

MOM: And chicken lays half-cleaned on the table, half of its feathers off lying, still there. But Dad come home from the store, from the city, and I leave him then alone and I go in the kitchen and make us some food to eat, something to eat.

DAD: Maybe we just eat so-so.

ROSIE: What did the kids do when that was happening and they were hungry?

MOM: From one lap to the other. They were carried. Customer to carry one and then the other customer ...

[*Katarina Webel ("Mom") remembers how babies were cared for during hours when the family store was open for business. Sometimes, **customers took turns holding small Webel children while Katarina was attending to customer needs.** Customer nowadays would be surprised if the store merchant expected them to hold or carry children during their shopping experience!*]

MOM [continuing]: Then is leaving this customer, and give it to the other [*i.e.*, *transfer a small Webel child into the arms of another store customer*], then they¹⁰ [*i.e.*, *infants who were passed from one customer's arms to the next*] fell asleep.

DAD: The small children, we had a ...

¹⁰ The small children eventually fell asleep, so they could be laid on a bed and thus no longer needed to be held by someone. The pronoun "they" refers to small Webel children who would fall asleep in the store, not to the helpful customers!

MOM: A wagon, have a wagon wheel [?]. ... [Wicker?] chair, a chair is just that way, and it put them upside-down and put them on the counter, and here is, and could not get out. Our customers, they feel sorry, [so] they take this child from this chair out and carry around [inside the store].

DAD: The customer take the children.

MOM: Till they come on their turns, and then they give it [i.e., the small Weibel child being held] to the next [customer who is waiting to make a purchase]. So Sometimes [the child] went asleep or they put them over there I their little carry or some are going one day to the other.

DAD: It was not easy, but a hard living. [*What an under-statement!*]

ROSIE: What inspired you to have your own store like this?

DAD: Because only that way you could gain something.

ROSIE: By working for yourself.

DAD: By working for yourself. In a store, you could gain in a 5, okay, in a 5 year you had a store, you owe no money nobody. Otherwise you could work 50 years, you could not achieve to have your own house.

ROSIE: This is an example?

DAD: Example.

ROSIE: How old were the kids when you put that [*child restraint enclosure*] in?

MOM: 6 months only.

DAD: They start to walk, either way, when they start walking, then a little bit higher ...

MOM: Then we tie a rope around. Then they begin to walk around, higher, they have higher fence.

DAD: That is the ... a little bit more than that.

MOM: A little bit higher.

DAD: Little bit high, then we put a rope here so that when they get up, to not fall out.

ROSIE: Like a playpen only a lot smaller?

MOM: Lot smaller. They have to sit there. They get used to it.

ROSIE: You gave them a piece of bread to chew on, or something?

MOM: Yeah, a piece of bread, give them to chew on, or something else, always was something.

DAD: Homemade bread. Then we had a bread form bakery too, from the town. Bring it back for bread, selling the bread were exchanged for money or for flour.

MOM: They had to bring it so many flour, so many pounds of bread, was very good bread. That ... they had very good bread.

DAD: Very good. Little by little the store [business] was built. And then we had every other year another child.

ROSIE: Approximately it was every other year.

DAD: Year and a half, 2 year, another child, and then there came time Mom hired someone to wash clothes and do some kind of work, out in the store.

MOM: They come and shop ...

DAD: Wiped heir slate clean.

MOM: Then we say, your debt, we say, you owe us that much and that work is, that way, that we erase, oh, I need so bad that much money. Okay, we give you the half for what your wages and the next day to work for that too.

ROSIE: You'd pay her sometimes in wages [money] and sometimes all for debt ...

DAD: Till she paid off the debt she had.

ROSIE: Did you ever get into the hardware part of the store?

DAD: Oh, yeah. We get little by little.

MOM: We have nails was almost from the beginning.

DAD: Then the tools, shovels, and fork [i.e., pitchfork], and rake, and screws ...

MOM: Most time we got the farm stuff.

DAD; And then for the plow, what they need.

ROSIE: At this point was everything done by hand? Everything was work horses and plows?

DAD; Oh, yeah. Not big with the tractor.

MOM: How we say the platter or the plates or the bowls?

ROSIE: Oh, your bowls and your saucers and your cups and your plates.

DAD: Every house had a bowl where they wash the face. And towel was hanging beside the kitchen a nail was here it was a towel for wipe up the hands and the face. That was custom, every house had that.

ROSIE: So Adolf was born in '39. Next we have Theresa.

DAD: Yes.

MOM: Theresa, was in same kitchen born as Adolf.

ROSIE: Now Adolf and Theresa were born in this new house in Vinkovci.

DAD: Yes, and Robert.

ROSIE: Oh, and Robert was born there with [i.e., as one of] the twins and you were so sick at this point.

MOM: Yes, I was so sick; I had malaria.

ROSIE: You had malaria?

MOM: Yeah, then it came to prepare for war.

ROSIE: You mean news of war came?

DAD: Not just news but preparing. [*In other words, not just a rumor of war.*]

ROSIE: Right after Robert was born?

DAD: Before.

MOM: Before.

DAD: Before Robert was born.

[TO BE CONTINUED]

More adventures of the family of Jakob and Katarina Webel, during and after World War II, needs reporting (God willing), specifically world-changing events directly impacting the Webel family, triggering their emigration from Yugoslavia.

When Hitler's ambitions reached Yugoslavia (in April AD1941), daily living became an unrelenting challenge to endure, a never-ending series of threats and dangers (including German **Nazis**, Croatian **Ustaše**, and Soviet Russian **Communists**, plus war-caused food shortages, property and relocation losses, illnesses and injuries, etc.), as a growing family of honest Evangelical Rebaptizers tried to survive long enough to hopefully, someday, rebuild a "normal" family life.

For two decades life was anything but "normal", much less convenient and comfortable. Meanwhile the Webel family grew to include eleven children, though one died an infant in Yugoslavia (during WWII), leaving a dozen Webels.

How Jakob and Katarina survived the disasters and dangers and deprivations of WWI (and its aftermath) is a magnificent testimony, firstly to God’s providential care, and secondly to the Webel family’s persistent practice of survival skills.

All of those years, during World War II, as well as the refugee years leading up to March of AD1950 (when the dozen Webels successfully immigrated to America), are amazing chapters in the Webels’ amazing family history. Meanwhile, the life of business – and the business of life – continued for the growing Webel family. Hardships and heartaches would hover over the Webel family for years to come, as World War II and its aftermath ravaged the European continent. Yet, in time, 12 of the 13 Webel family members would successfully migrate to Ellis Island, and from there to Ohio.

But the reporting of the next chapters (God willing) must, for now, await another day.

So, for now, this “chapter” rests with an appreciation that two native-Texan boys, **Nate Webel** (born in AD2007) and **Luke Webel** (born in AD2012), as well as their sisters, descend from German immigrant stock (“*Volksdeutsche*”) who trace back one ancestral line to paternal grandfather’s parents, **Jakob Webel and Katarina Schleicher**, whose *early family life together included challenging years as merchants in Marcini*, before the storm of World War II arrived in Yugoslavia. >< **JJSJ**
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Jakob and Katrina Webel

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Dr. James J. S. Johnson is a member of the **German-Texas Heritage Society**, and an occasional contributor to its Journal pages. A lover and teacher of Providential history and geography, Jim has taught at 4 different Christian colleges (LeTourneau University, Dallas Christian College, Concordia University Texas at Fort Worth, and ICR School of Biblical Apologetics) in Texas, as well as aboard 8 different cruise ships. As a C.P.E.E. (*Certified Paternity Establishment Entity*, credentialed by the Texas Attorney General’s Office), Jim maintains a strong interest in family history documentation. After studying under many teachers, at many schools, Jim happily acknowledges that his best teacher (under God) was Chaplain Robert (Bob) Webel.

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



Submitted by Jim Johnson

The Family of Bill and Emma (Engelage) Bode

By Daniel R. Bode

Rudolph Wilhelm Heinrich “Bill” Bode was born 20 Sept. 1864, in Berlin, Washington County, Texas; he was the son of **Heinrich Konrad Wilhelm Bode** (born 20 Dec. 1830, in Rosenthal near Peine, Hannover, Germany; died 6 Dec. 1891, in Zionsville, Washington County, Texas) and **Catherine Albertine Marie Dorothea Jahnke** (born 14 Dec. 1839, in Solenthin, Prussia, Germany; died 2 Aug. 1866, in Berlin, Washington County, Texas). Bill’s parents met on the ship, **FORTUNA**, on the voyage from Germany. Bill’s father, Wilhelm Bode, was coming to Texas to join his younger sister, Friedericke Bode Leverkus, who had left Germany in 1857, and was living in Galveston with her husband Fritz Leverkus. Bill’s mother, Albertine Jahnke, was coming to Texas with her parents and most of her siblings. A sister, Friedericke Jahnke Neumann, and her husband, Siegmund Neumann, had left Germany in 1858, and were living in Austin County, Texas. Albertine’s mother had two brothers, Joachim Friedrich Schawe and Christoph Schawe, and a sister, Louise Marie Schawe Wernecke, who had come to Texas with their families, and had settled in the Salem Community in Washington County. These connections brought the Jahnke Family to Texas. The ship, **FORTUNA**, docked at Galveston, Texas, at 7:30 in the evening of 28 Oct. 1860. Wilhelm Bode and Albertine Jahnke were married 30 Oct. 1860, at the First German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Galveston; Pastor J. G. Ebinger conducted the marriage ceremony. Wilhelm and Albertine Bode lived the first full year of their marriage in Galveston where their daughter, Wilhelmine, was born in Dec. of 1861. Sometime after Wilhelmine’s baptism in March of 1862, Wilhelm and Albertine moved to Washington County, Texas, where they settled in the Berlin community, west of Brenham, where the Jahnke Family had settled. During the War Between the States, Wilhelm Bode served as a private in Walker’s Division in the Confederate Army. After the war ended, a yellow fever epidemic swept Washington County, and this epidemic claimed the life of Bill’s mother. Albertine Jahnke Bode died at the age of 26 years on 2 August 1866, leaving Wilhelm Bode with two young children to care for. After Albertine’s death, Wilhelm Bode married **Henriette Spreen** on 20 Oct. 1866, at the Salem Lutheran Church in Salem, Washington Co., Texas; Pastor Christoph Geiger conducted the marriage ceremony. Henriette Spreen Bode was born 18 Nov. 1845, in Wehden, Westphalia, Germany, and she died 14 Oct. 1874, in Zionsville, Washington County, Texas. From his father’s second marriage, Bill Bode would have two half-sisters and a half-brother. After Henriette’s death, Wilhelm Bode married **Emma Kalbow** on 6 Dec. 1874, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin; Pastor Heinrich Pfenninger conducted the marriage ceremony. Emma Kalbow Bode was born 28 April 1841, in Plattenhoff, Prussia, Germany, and she died 6 Jan. 1907, at Caldwell, Burleson Co., Texas. From his father’s third marriage, Bill Bode would have a half-brother.



Bill Bode's parents, Wilhelm and Albertine (Jahnke) Bode. They married in Galveston in 1860. Wilhelm Bode served the Confederacy in the War Between the States, and he became a naturalized U.S. citizen on June 25, 1867, in Brenham, Texas.



Bill Bode and his older sister, Wilhelmine, as children. Wilhelmine Bode later married August Rosentreter, and they were the parents of 13 children.

Bill Bode’s siblings were:

1. **Wilhelmine Albertine Louise Bode** born 30 Dec. 1861, in Galveston, Texas, and she died 12 June 1907, in Shive, Hamilton Co., Texas. Wilhelmine married **August Benjamin Rosentreter** on 15 Oct. 1880, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. August Rosentreter was born 11 Sept. 1848, in Langebenicke, Posen, Germany, and he died 9 March 1929, in Hamilton, Hamilton Co., Texas. August and Wilhelmine Bode Rosentreter are buried in the St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery in Shive, Hamilton Co., Texas.
2. **Sophie Henriette Louise Bode** born 6 Jan. 1870, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas, and she died 3 March 1907, near Malone, Hill Co., Texas. Sophie married **Ludwig Ferdinand Carl Schmidt** on 22 Dec. 1889, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Carl Schmidt was born 13 April 1865, in Gadenstedt, Hannover, Germany, and he died 10 Nov. 1954, in Malone, Hill Co., Texas. Carl Schmidt is buried in the Ridge Park Cemetery in Hillsboro, Texas. Sophie Bode Schmidt is buried in the Salem Lutheran Cemetery near Malone, Texas.

3. Friedericke Wilhelmine Sophie Bode born 26 June 1872, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and she died 16 April 1874, in Zionsville. Friedericke is buried in the Eben Ezer Lutheran Cemetery in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas.

4. Friedrich Carl Daniel "Fritz" Bode born 4 Oct. 1874, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and he died 31 May 1950, in Waco, McLennan Co., Texas. Fritz married **Anna Margaretha Louise Haferkamp** on 19 April 1896, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. Anna was born 13 May 1876, in Welcome, Austin Co., Texas, and she died 18 June 1964, in the Gerald Community near Elm Mott, McLennan Co., Texas. Fritz and Anna Haferkamp Bode are buried in the Gerald Cemetery in the Gerald Community of McLennan Co., Texas.

5. Hermann Johannes Rudolph "John" Bode born 26 Aug. 1875, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, and he died 18 Dec. 1956, in Moulton, Lavaca Co., Texas. According to his death certificate, John Bode was never married. John Bode is buried in the Moulton City Cemetery in Moulton, Texas.

Bill Bode's paternal grandparents were **Johann Christoph Heinrich Bode** (born 14 May 1793, in Rosenthal, Hannover, Germany; died 6 July 1859, in Rosenthal) and **Dorothea Margarethe Herweg** (born 2 Sept. 1792, in Adenstedt, Hannover, Germany; died 3 Jan. 1856, in Rosenthal, Hannover). They were married 20 Sept. 1822, in Adenstedt.

Bill Bode's maternal grandparents were **Joachim Friedrich Jahnke** (born 6 March 1805, in Gulow, Perleberg, Prussia, Germany; died 21 June 1883, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas) and **Catharine Dorothea Schawe** (born 14 May 1814, in Laslich, Brandenburg, Germany; died in 1886 in Washington Co., Texas). They were married 25 March 1832, in Laslich, Brandenburg, Germany.

Bill Bode was baptized 20 Oct. 1866, by Pastor Christoph Geiger in the Salem Lutheran Church in Salem, Washington Co., Texas. Bill's sponsors at his baptism were Wilhelmine Zschapel, Wilhelm Spreen, and his mother's brother, Rudolph Jahnke. Bill's baptism took place the same day that his father married Bill's stepmother, Henriette Spreen. Since Bill was not quite two years of age when his mother, Albertine Jahnke Bode, died in the yellow fever epidemic in Aug. 1866, Bill's first memory of a mother-figure was his stepmother, Henriette Spreen Bode.

When Bill was five years old, his father moved the family to the Zionsville Community in Washington County to a 181-acre farm that was purchased 1 Jan. 1870, from Geo. H. Gentry. Bill lived his childhood and grew into adulthood on his father's farm in Zionsville. The Bode Farm eventually reached the size of 206 acres as Wilhelm Bode purchased more acreage in 1875, and again, in 1888.

In Oct. of 1874, Bill's stepmother, Henriette Spreen Bode, died of complications 10 days after giving birth to a son, Fritz. Bill Bode was 10 years of age at this time, and less than two months later, Bill had a new stepmother when his father married Emma Kalbow in Dec. of 1874.

Bill Bode was confirmed 21 March 1880, by Pastor Friedrich Jesse at the Eben Ezer Lutheran Church in the Berlin Community of Washington County, Texas.

Bill and his sister, Wilhelmine Bode Rosentreter, each received an inheritance of \$72.91 from the Jahnke Estate in 1885, and Bill and Wilhelmine each received an inheritance of \$37.75 from the Jahnke Estate after the death of their grandmother, Dorothea Schawe Jahnke, in 1886.

At the age of 23 years, Bill Bode married **Emma Karolina Friedericka Engelage** on 23 Oct. 1887, in Berlin, Texas; Pastor J. H. Sieck of Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin conducted the marriage ceremony. Bill and Emma's witnesses were Wilhelm and Wilhelmine (Engelage) Rosenbaum.

Emma was born 17 Nov. 1868, in Berlin, Washington County, Texas; she was the youngest child of **Carl Friedrich Wilhelm Engelage** (born 24 Aug. 1829, in Westrup, Westphalia, Germany; died 30 May 1879, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas) and **Maria Louise Henriette Schaefer** (born 28 Jan. 1828, in Westrup, Westphalia, Germany; died 7 Aug. 1870, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas). Emma's parents were married 30 March 1855, in Westrup, Westphalia. The Engelage Family left Germany in 1859, and migrated to Texas where they settled in the Berlin Community of Washington County. Emma's father, Carl Engelage, became a naturalized citizen of the United States on 24 June 1867, in Brenham, Texas.

Emma had one brother and four sisters:

1. Maria Louise Henriette Engelage born 19 July 1855, in Westrup, Westphalia, Germany, and she died 27 Aug. 1926, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. Louise Engelage married **Friederick "Fritz" Hauck** on 1 Dec. 1878, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. Fritz Hauck was born 30 Jan. 1852, in Landau, Rhine-Bavaria, Germany, and he died 1 Sept. 1929, in Washington Co., Texas. Fritz and Louise Engelage Hauck are buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham, Texas.

2. Friederich Wilhelm Ferdinand "Fritz" Engelage born 8 Sept. 1858, in Westrup, Westphalia, Germany, and he died 8 Feb. 1940, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. Fritz Engelage married **Maria Sophia Albertine**

Schawe on 24 Jan. 1881, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. Maria was born 3 July 1858, in Laslich, Brandenburg, Germany, and she died 30 Oct. 1943, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. Fritz and Maria Schawe Engelage are buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham, Texas.

3. Wilhelmine Louise “Minnie” Engelage born 1 March 1861, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas, and she died 18 Dec. 1934, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Minnie Engelage married **Heinrich Friedrich Wilhelm Rosenbaum** on 7 Jan. 1880, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. Wilhelm Rosenbaum was born 12 Jan. 1859, in Wehdem, Westphalia, Germany, and he died 17 June 1934, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Wilhelm and Minnie Engelage Rosenbaum are buried in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas.

4. Alwine (Alvina) Louise Engelage born 15 Jan. 1863, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas, and she died 13 Sept. 1929, at the Sons of Hermann Home for the Aged in Kerr County, near Comfort, Texas. Alvina Engelage married **Ludwig Frederick Frerking** on 31 Dec. 1880, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. This marriage ended in divorce. Ludwig F. Frerking was born 30 April 1861, in Germany, and he died 9 July 1940, in Luling, Caldwell Co., Texas. He is buried in the Luling City Cemetery in Luling, Texas. Alvina’s second marriage was to **Anton Carl Grassmuck** on 22 Oct. 1896, in Washington Co., Texas. Carl Grassmuck was born 7 Feb. 1862, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas, and he died 17 March 1921, in Houston, Harris Co., Texas. Carl Grassmuck is buried in the Glenwood Cemetery in Houston. Alvina Engelage Grassmuck is buried in the *Altenheim* (Sons of Hermann Lodge Cemetery) near Comfort, Texas.

5. Auguste Henriette Engelage born 8 May 1866, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas, and she died 16 July 1883, in Berlin, Texas. Auguste Engelage is buried next to her parents in the Eben Ezer Lutheran Cemetery in Berlin, Texas.

Emma’s paternal grandparents were **Friedrich Wilhelm Engelage** (born 31 July 1791, in Wehdem, Westphalia, Germany; died 25 Dec. 1852, in Westrup, Westphalia, Germany) and **Marie Margarethe Elisabeth Kettler** (born in Dielingen, Westphalia, Germany; died 8 Feb. 1862, at the age of 71, in Oppendorf, Westphalia, Germany). They were married 25 Jan. 1815, in Wehdem, Westphalia, Germany.

Emma’s maternal grandparents were **Gerd Heinrich Schaefer** (born 2 Dec. 1787, in Westrup, Westphalia, Germany, died 29 Oct. 1844, in Westrup, Westphalia) and **Henriette Wilhelmine Rennegarbe** (born 28 April 1793, in Westrup, Westphalia, Germany; died 9 Jan. 1860, in Westrup, Westphalia). They were married 28 Aug. 1813, in Wehdem, Westphalia, Germany.

Emma Engelage was baptized 11 July 1869, by Pastor Rudolf Weidli, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. Emma’s sponsors at her baptism were Heinrich Groene, Karolina Schramme, and Friedericka Krueger.

Emma was not quite two years of age when her mother, Henriette, died in Aug. of 1870, at the age of 42. Emma’s father, Carl, never remarried, and he reared his motherless children on his own. On 1 Dec. 1872, Carl Engelage purchased 50.1-acres of land from Henry and Minna Klander. The records state that Carl paid \$600.00 in gold for the property. The land was located three miles southwest of Brenham in the Berlin community. On 5 Dec. 1872, Carl Engelage purchased 42.25 -acres from Julius Lehmann. Carl paid \$633.75 for this tract of land. Emma was orphaned at the age of 10 years when her father died in May of 1879, at the age of 49. Emma would know much tragedy, sorrow, and hard times in her life.

Emma was confirmed 2 April 1882, by Pastor Friedrich Jesse, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. A year later, Emma suffered another tragedy in her young life when her sister closest to her in age, Auguste, died of encephalitis in July 1883 at the age of 17 years.

After their marriage in Oct. 1887, Bill and Emma Engelage Bode settled in the Washington County community of Zionsville, near the farm of Bill’s father. Two weeks after their marriage, Bill purchased the 125-acre farm of his late grandparents, Friedrich and Dorothea Schawe Jahnke. Bill bought the property on 8 Nov. 1887, from his uncle, Theodore Jahnke, who was the executor of the Jahnke Estate, and the youngest brother of Bill’s mother. This farm was originally purchased by Friedrich and Dorothea Jahnke on 14 June 1866, and the land was conveyed to Theodore Jahnke by Dorothea Jahnke on 11 May 1885. Bill purchased the property for \$1,400.00.

Bill paid \$700 in cash and he made two promissory notes; one note for \$250 payable in 12 months from date, and the second note for \$450 payable in 24 months from date, with 10% interest. The \$700 cash that Bill bought the property



Bill Bode’s uncle, Theodor Jahnke, and his wife, Ida Dietz Jahnke. It was from Theodor that Bill Bode purchased his farm on Nov. 8, 1887.

with was the money that Emma had received as her inheritance from her father's estate.

It was to this place that Bill and Emma would begin their new life together. Emma must have felt that her new home and her life with her new husband would bring her some stability.

Bill and Emma would have three children born to them: two sons, **Willi** (born in 1888) and **Oscar** (born in 1892), and a **daughter** that was born between Willi and Oscar, but lived only five days. Bill buried his unnamed daughter on his farm beneath an oak tree.

Bill Bode was a young farmer who enjoyed his *bier*, liked attending a good dance, and seemed to get in a "scrap" every now and then.

The Thursday, Feb. 12, 1891, edition of *The Brenham Banner News* reported the following:

"At a ball in Burton last Saturday night, as previously stated there was a difficulty in which knives were used. The matter has been kept so quiet that it has been difficult to get particulars, or even names of the participants, but Friday the reporter "rounded up" a gentleman from Burton and by dint of perseverance, ascertained a meager statement of facts, though the gentleman was quite reticent.

He said that in the difficulty Messrs. Frank and Fritz Homeyer were both cut, the former still being confined to his bed from the effects of his wound, the most serious is a stab in the back, the reporter learning from another source that he was also cut in the face and that Mr. Fritz Homeyer, the postmaster at that place, was also cut in the face, having a bad wound dangerously near one of his eyes.

It is said that Messrs. Bode and Glover were their opponents in the difficulty, and probably inflicted the wounds, though no one seems to know just who was engaged in that ballroom melee, or how the difficulty came about.

Sheriff Teague went out there Friday to investigate the matter and will probably return today (Saturday), with a full knowledge of the affair, which he will not hesitate to report to the BANNER."

No other information has been found in the archives of the newspaper regarding this incident at the dance in Burton.

Bill's father, Wilhelm Bode, died at his home in Zionsville on 6 Dec. 1891, at the age of 60 years. After his father's death, Bill took charge of family affairs; helping his stepmother and two teenaged half-brothers in running the family farm and taking care of business.

On the evening of Sunday, 18 Sept. 1892, Bill Bode attended a dance on the Ben Miller farm in the nearby community of Long Point. The dance would have a very tragic ending. *The Brenham Banner News* reported, "It was during the progress of the ball but early in the evening when John and Sam McLin and Bedford Wood arrived and they had not been there long when it became apparent that they were there to run things their own way or clean out any or all that raised objections to their free and high-handed way of running the ball. They first had a clash with Mr. Fritz Kramer upon whom they drew a big knife and invited him out on the road, he of course refusing to go. Their next disturbance was with Mr. Otto Krohoski, Mr. Ben Frank interposing, when they retired a short distance from the platform and cursed out the crowd in general.

Mr. Miller ordered them off the premises, it being his pasture, where the fest was held, and insisted that they must leave. They were 100 yards from the platform and about 50 from the beer stand when Mr. Wm. Bode and Steve Lewis, a colored man working around the stand, went down where they were to try and get them off, and the negro says that when in about ten feet of them there was a slight scuffle among the three, and he said he heard one of them say 'give me the pistol,' and about that time the shooting commenced. He went down flat on his stomach at the first shot and lay as close to the ground as possible, but could see Bode and the men shooting. He says Bode begged them to stop shooting not seeming to realize that they were shooting at him, as he remarked you don't want to shoot me, and I will hold some of you accountable for his hereafter. At the fourth shot Bode staggered and called some of his friends telling them to run to him, he was shot but that they never ceased firing until eight shots has been fired, and then left hurriedly going the road that had come from towards Burton. Bode was taken charge of by his friends and lived just ten



Bill Bode—Photo courtesy of his great-granddaughter, Mitzi Bode Schmidt



Bill Bode is sitting in the center, front row. Standing on the left in the back row is Fritz Bode, a half-brother of Bill. The identity of others is not known. This photo was taken about 1890 in Brenham, Texas.

minutes, expiring at 12:13 Monday morning, the bullet having gone in at his side and passed through his body to the other side. Neither of the other seven shots striking him.

Mr. Wm. Bode was a young German farmer about 29 years of age and leaves a wife and two children to mourn his tragic death, and since his father's death last Spring he has been looking after the affairs for the family.

The men accused of the shooting all reside near Burton. The McLin brothers live on Mr. Wm. Hendley's place in half a mile of Burton and Bedford Wood about one mile from there. One of their neighbors says they are pretty 'tough' boys, attend all the places of amusement, drink and carouse frequently and that they were apparently under the influence of liquor when they started to the fest Sunday afternoon."

This article appeared in the Sept. 20, 1892 edition of ***The Brenham Banner News***.

Bill Bode died 19 Sept. 1892, the day before his 28th birthday. Bill's body was straddled over his horse, and taken to the family home. Bill's funeral was held on the afternoon of 19 Sept. 1892; Pastor C. Kniker of St. Peter's Lutheran Church of the Washington County community of Gay Hill performed the burial rites. Bill Bode was buried beside his infant daughter on the Bode Farm in Zionsville. This site today is known as the Bode Family Cemetery.

Bill left behind his young wife of nearly five years, Emma Engelage Bode; his four-old-son, Willi, and his eight-month-old son, Oscar. Bill also left behind his sister, Wilhelmine Bode Rosentreter; his half-sister, Sophie Bode Schmidt; his two half-brothers, Fritz and John Bode; and his stepmother, Emma Kalbow Bode.

The Sept. 21, 1892, edition of ***The Brenham Banner News*** had the following article:

"Sheriff Teague arrested John and Sam McLin and Bedford Wood, charged with the killing of Wm. Bode Sunday night, at their homes near Burton. Monday and Tuesday they were to have an examining trial there before Justice J.J. McCain, but they waived examination and gave bond for their appearance in the sum of \$500 each.

The BANNER has already published one side of the story and here gives their version of the affair.

In the first place one of the McLin boys was shot also, and they claim that he was the first man shot. They deny shooting Bode at all, and say that Bode was one of and had always been a good friend of theirs, and that he was coming towards them when the firing opened towards the beer stand where the crowd was and accuse Miller, the owner of the pasture, who had ordered them off, of shooting them. Their opinions is that Bode was killed by careless shooting of the other crowd as the wound was in his side and he was coming towards them, the firing opening from the left, the side on which the ball entered.

At the bar one of the McLin's says he was struck on the head with what he believed to be a six shooter just before Miller ordered them to leave and that they were leaving and believed as they do now that Bode as a friend to both sides was coming to urge them to leave and tell them of the danger that threatened them.

Miller, owner of the pasture, was arrested, so we learned from County Attorney Rogers and also gave bond in the sum of \$500.

Mr. Rogers said from what he could learn that McLin was shot with a 41 calibre revolver, the same size that Bode was killed with and that Bode was just a head of the crowd going down to where the three Burton boys were, when there was some shooting from both sides. Several theories were advanced as to how it all occurred, but an investigation by a grand jury will scarcely show."

No one was ever formerly charged and brought to trial for Bill Bode's senseless death.

For Bill's young widow, life became a hard scramble. Emma Engelage Bode was suddenly widowed at the age of 23 years with two young sons to support, a farm to manage, and a mortgage to worry about. It would take a deep faith and resolve to carry Emma through the grief and the heavy burdens that lay before her. Certainly, there were times when she felt the weight of the world had fallen on her. Emma had no government agency or program to turn to for help, and her parents were both dead so there were no comforting words of a mother, or the helping hands of a father. Emma must have surely received some help from the men in her family and men in the community in running her farm, and with help in planting and harvesting crops.

The two promissory notes made by Bill Bode when he purchased the property in 1887 had not been paid at the time of his death.

On 8 Nov. 1893, Emma made a payment of \$50.00 on the notes. On 8 Nov. 1896, Emma borrowed \$650.00 from Otto Kieke to pay the



Emma Engelage Bode Look in the late 1920's. Emma is pictured with two of her grandchildren, Marjorie and Leroy Look. Marjorie married Wm. "Bill" Fischer, and they were business owners in Brenham. Leroy Look died at the age of 16 in 1933 from a gunshot wound while out hunting.

balance of the notes. Otto Kieke then placed a lien on the property until the \$650.00 was paid in full. Otto Kieke later transferred this note to F. W. Schuerenberg, who then held the lien on the Bode farm.

After being widowed for over four years, Emma Engelage Bode married August H. Look on 9 January 1897 in Brenham; Washington County Judge E. P. Curry performed the ceremony. August Look was born 15 Feb. 1865 in the German kingdom of Brandenburg. August was six years of age when his family immigrated to Texas in 1871. August was a divorcee when he married Emma. August first married Anna Wilhelmine Auguste “Minna” Frank on 3 March 1887 in Brenham, Texas. Minna was born in Berlin, Texas, on 29 Dec. 1869; she was the daughter of Phillip Frank and his wife, Caroline Wilhelmine Ernestine Boortz.

August and Minna Frank Look had three children born to them: Lillie Anna Emma Look (born 20 Jan. 1888); Karl Robert Bernhard “Charlie” Look (born 20 Aug. 1889); and Ella Hulda Alwine Look (born 20 April 1892). August and Minna Look filed for divorce in Sept. 1896, and they were granted the divorce on 5 Oct. 1896. Minna was given custody of their two daughters, while August had custody of their son.

An earlier incident with the law that August was involved in was reported in the Sept. 23, 1886 edition of *The Brenham Banner News* noted from the Mayor’s Court on Monday, Sept 20, 1886: “August Look, abusive and offensive language; fine \$1 and trimmings.”

August Look was remembered as being something of a scoundrel. He apparently married Emma Bode for her property, as he took control of the land bought by Bill Bode in 1887. When Bill’s father, Wilhelm Bode, died in Dec. of 1891, Bill was to inherit \$250.00 from his father’s estate. According to Wilhelm Bode’s last will and testament, the terms of the will were to be carried out when Wilhelm Bode’s youngest son, John Bode, reached the age of 21, which would be in Aug. of 1896. Since Bill was killed before that time, his inheritance from his father’s estate would go to his two young sons, Willi and Oscar. Three weeks after his marriage to Emma, August and Emma Look signed a notarized document dated 29 Jan. 1897, as guardians to Willi and Oscar Bode, stating that they had received the payment of \$250.00 from Bill’s half-brother Fritz Bode as the inheritance from the Bode Estate. It is safe to say that Willi and Oscar Bode never had any of this money, but August Look used the money himself.

The 1900 Federal Census shows August and Emma Look living in Precinct 3 of Washington County in the Zionsville Community with August’s three children, Lillie, Charlie, and Ella Look; Emma’s two sons, Willi and Oscar Bode; and the first two children that August and Emma had together, Louis and Bernhard Look. August and Emma would have six children in all. In addition to Louis and Bernhard, there were Elsie, Walter, Alice, and Nora Look.

August Look’s stepdaughter-in-law, Edna Dietz Bode, remembered that August did not treat Emma very well, and that he was not a good stepfather to Willi and Oscar Bode. Edna recalled that Oscar was often whipped by August for things that the Look children did. Willi was sent by August to live with some of Emma’s relatives. It was said that August told Emma that since he had to give up his two daughters that Emma would have to give up one of her sons. Willi went to live with Emma’s brother, Fritz Engelage. Even though her marriage to August Look was not a “match made in Heaven,” Emma may have felt a little security in her marriage—just to have a provider around.

Edna Dietz Bode recalled that August Look used to brag that he had paid the mortgage off on the farm in Zionsville. Edna also recalled that her husband Oscar would say that all August Look had to his name was a horse and buggy, and that was mortgaged.

On 6 Dec. 1899, Emma and August sold 15 acres of land to Bill’s younger half-brother, Fritz Bode, for \$300.00. Fritz made a \$25.00 down payment, and he made a note for \$75.00 and two notes for \$100.00 each to be paid on Dec. 1, 1900, Dec. 1, 1901, and Dec. 1, 1902, respectively with interest from date at 8% annually. Because of continuous boll weevil devastation to the cotton crops in Washington County, Fritz sold the 76.3-acre farm he had from his father’s estate on 30 Sept. 1902, and moved his family to McGregor, Texas, in western McLennan County. Fritz still owned the 15 acres he bought from Emma and August Look, but being unable to make the bank payments, Fritz and his wife Anna conveyed these 15 acres to Frank Giesecke of Washington County for \$25.00 on 8 June 1903. Mr. Giesecke took up the payments on the property. Fritz and Anna Haferkamp Bode’s daughter, Lydia Bode Grudziecki, recalled that her parents had no use for August Look. Lydia recalled a story she heard her parents tell: August Look was so disliked that one evening as he was sitting at the table, someone came up to the house and thru the window, shot August as he was eating supper; however, August survived the close call. Apparently, even this narrow escape did not change his disposition. Lydia also recalled her parents saying they were standing at the window in their home in Zionsville one day during a very heavy rainstorm, and Fritz and Anna Bode could see Emma Look walking along the fence-line in the field during the stormy weather. They never knew why Emma was out in the storm.

On 9 March 1906, Emma and August Look sold 3.6 acres of land for \$108.00 to F. W. Holle, Gottlieb Rosentreter, F. W. Roehling, and R. W. Boemer, trustees of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Zionsville. The \$108.00 was applied to the unpaid balance of the loan made by Bill Bode when he purchased the property from Theodore Jahnke in 1887.

Emma experienced more grief when her oldest son, Willi Bode, died of meningitis in August of 1906, at the age of 17 years. Willi was living with Emma's niece and her husband at the time of his death. Willi was laid to rest in the Eben Ezer Lutheran Cemetery in the Berlin community of Washington County.

Emma's daughter-in-law, Edna Dietz Bode, recalled that Emma was a very kind lady with a quiet disposition. Emma always tended to stay in the background, and never sought attention for herself. Edna recalled that Emma was a wonderful homemaker and a very good cook.

August Look filed his intent to become a U.S. citizen on 20 Sept. 1906 in Brenham, and he took his oath to become a naturalized citizen on the same day before District Judge E. R. Sinks, with Robert Lehmann and A. G. Lehmann as witnesses to August.

On 5 Oct. 1906, August purchased 90.4-acres of land in Zionsville from Fritz and Anna Drews for \$1,600. August made five promissory notes on the property. August sold this acreage to Adolf Schulz on 18 Nov. 1910, and August was released from the lien on this property on 28 Nov. 1910.

On 15 Dec. 1906, Emma Bode Look was released from the lien held by F. W. Schuerenberg, and Emma was given a free and clear title to the farm.

On 22 Dec. 1906, August Look purchased 10.2 acres in Zionsville from the estate of the late Caroline Homeyer of Burleson County. The price for the acreage was \$401.62. August sold this property to Henry Lehde on 21 Oct. 1907 for \$525.00. Mrs. Caroline Groppe had a claim against this property for \$57.37, which Mr. Lehde agreed to pay.

On 18 June 1907, August Look purchased 15 acres from Frank Giesecke for \$165.00. These were the same 15 acres sold to Fritz and Anna Bode in 1899, and that they later conveyed to Mr. Giesecke in 1903.

On 14 Nov. 1907, August Look purchased 50 acres from August Brockschmidt for \$401. August Look paid \$1.00 in cash, and made a note for \$400 which was payable on 1 Jan. 1908. This note was transferred to Frank Giesecke, and August was given a clear title to this property on 3 July 1909.

On 15 Jan. 1910, August Look purchased from the widow Caroline Boortz three tracts of land in the Berlin community for \$1,100. One tract consisted of 86.5 acres, the second was 4.4 acres, and the third was 8.8 acres. On 18 Jan. 1910, August sold these tracts for \$1,100 to Otto Kieke, Kurt Zwahr, and L. Fink, trustees of the Sons of Hermann Lodge No. 180, Berlin, Texas. August released the Sons of Hermann Lodge from the lien on 5 Nov. 1913.

The 1910 Federal Census shows August and Emma Look living in the Zionsville Community with their children: Louis (age 12), Benny (age 10), Elsie (age 8), Walter (age 6), Alice (age 4) and Nora (age 2). Emma's son, Oscar Bode, is listed on the 1910 census as being 18 years old, and living on the farm of Herman and Betty Meyer in the Zionsville Community. Oscar is shown as working as a laborer on the Meyer Farm.

On 15 Feb. 1913, August Look purchased 5 acres from his neighbor, Wm. Krause, for \$100.00.

On 9 July 1914, August Look and H. Schleider purchased 2.82 acres in the Berlin Community from Emma's brother, Fritz Engelage, for \$176.25. H. Schleider later sold his interest in this property to Hermann Borchardt. These 2.82-acres were part of the 42.25-acre tract of land purchased by Emma's father, Carl Engelage, from Julius Lehmann in 1872. On 8 Dec. 1919, August Look and Hermann Borchardt sold these 2.82 acres to H. B. Wood for \$1,500.

On 10 June 1918, August Look purchased 19.8-acres from Henry Schlottmann for \$365.00.

The 1920 Federal Census shows August and Emma living in the Zionsville Community with their children: Elsie (age 18), Walter (age 16), Alice (age 14), and Nora (age 12).

Two years later, Emma became widowed once again when August Look committed suicide in the barn. The death certificate states August died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. August Look died on the morning of 31 May 1922, at the age of 57 years, in Zionsville, Washington County, Texas. August was buried 1 June 1922 in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham. Edna Dietz Bode recalled the day that August Look died. She said her husband, Oscar, went over to his mother's home, and spent the night with his mother and the family. Edna was at home with their three young daughters, and she said it was the first time in her life that she spent the night alone. Edna said it was a sleepless night for her. Nora Look Haack recalled, *"After Papa's death, there was no going to school. There was too much work on the farm to be done, and work was all we had time for."*

On 17 March 1924, Emma Look, along with her children Oscar Bode, Louis Look, Bennie Look, Elsie Eikenhorst and her husband Ernest, sold 3-acres for \$212.50 to Henry Gaskamp, Wilhelm Kettler, and Fred Holle, trustees of the Harrisburg Common School District #11 in Zionsville.

On 12 Feb. 1927, Emma conveyed 100-acres of land to her son, Louis Look. These 100 acres were from the "August Look Estate." These 100-acres included the 50 acres purchased by August Look from August Brockschmidt in 1907, and the other 50 acres was part of the 125-acres purchased by Bill Bode from Theodor Jahnke in 1887. Louis and his wife, Lillie Look, agreed to pay \$497.00 to each of the heirs of August Look—these heirs were named as Emma Look, Bennie Look and wife, Martha; Elsie Eikenhorst and husband, Ernest; Walter Look; Alice Schulze and husband, Benton; Nora Haack and husband, Charlie; and August Look's son from his first marriage, Charlie Look.

Not mentioned were August Look's daughters from his first marriage, Lillie and Ella. Also not mentioned was Oscar Bode, who had a legal right to the property as the bulk of the "August Look Estate" was the property purchased by Oscar's father, Bill Bode, in 1887, and August Look had no title to this property.

On 1 Feb. 1928, Oscar Bode and his wife, Edna, filed a suit against Louis Look in the District Court of Washington County. In his petition, Oscar Bode stated that he and Louis Look were joint owners of these 50-acres. Oscar's father had paid \$700 cash when the property was purchased, and the property has half-paid for at Bill Bode's death. In his statement, Louis Look stated that the \$700 used by Bill Bode in purchasing 125-acres in 1887 was the personal money of Bill's wife, and Emma, along with her second husband August Look, paid off the two promissory notes made by Bill Bode. Louis Look stated that Oscar's father "*was possessed of very little, if any property, did not accumulate any property thereafter and was possessed of only a small amount of personal property, consisting of a few head of stock, a blacksmith shop, and farm implements at the date of his death.*" Oscar and Louis's mother, Emma Look, did not personally testify at the hearing, but she was interrogated by lawyers for both sides. The lawyers prepared questions on behalf of Louis and Oscar, and these were presented to Emma. Emma's answers were written down and submitted to the court. The court stated that Oscar Bode had a 3/16 interest in the 50 acres, which included half of the interest of Oscar's late brother, Willi, and that Louis Look had a 13/16 interest in the 50 acres. Oscar Bode at first requested that a receiver be appointed by the court to have the 50 acres sold and the money to "*be distributed in accordance with the equities of both plaintiff and defendant to this suit.*" The court's decision was to sell the 50-acres, but Oscar decided to convey his interest in these 50-acres to Louis Look. On 21 March 1928, Oscar was awarded \$450.00 from Louis Look for his interest in the 50-acre tract.

The 1930 Federal Census shows Emma Look living on her farm in Zionsville. Emma's age is given as 61 years; her marital status is listed as a widow; and she is shown as head of the household. Emma's youngest son, Walter Look, is shown as living in the home with Emma. Walter's age is given as 26 years. Emma's health soon began to fail, and she suffered a stroke which left her an invalid. Emma then made her home between her two youngest daughters, Alice Schulze in Brenham and Nora Haack in Zionsville.

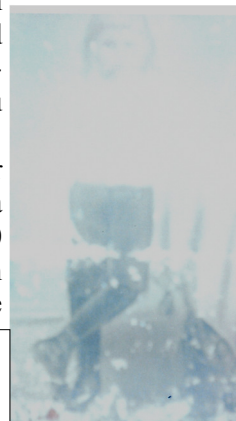
On 16 Jan. 1931, Emma Look conveyed her remaining property—69.4-acres—to her daughter Nora Haack and husband Charlie for \$10.00 for "*the consideration of the support and maintenance of myself during the past 3 or 4 years—they having taken care of me during my old age, and while sick and infirm, and the further consideration to take care of me during the remainder of my life, to support and maintain me, and provide nursing and medical attention, and upon my decease to pay all funeral expenses.*"

Emma Engelage Bode Look died at 7:00 in the morning on Monday, 20 June 1932, at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Alice and Benton Schulze, in Brenham, Texas. Emma had reached the age of 63 years. Emma's funeral was held at the Schulze home on Tuesday at 4 o'clock in the afternoon of 21 June 1932; Rev. Karl Mueller, pastor of the Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville conducted the funeral services at the home. From the Schulze home, the funeral procession made its way to the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham. Rev. Arthur Hartmann, pastor of the St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brenham, conducted the services at the cemetery. Emma was laid to rest beside her second husband, August Look. Emma's obituary states she was survived by her four sons: Oscar Bode, Louis Look, Bennie Look, and Walter Look; her three daughters, Elsie Look Eikenhorst, Alice Look Schulze, and Nora Look Haack; her 23 grandchildren; her brother, Fritz Engelage; and her last surviving sister, Minnie Engelage Rosenbaum.

The family of Bill and Emma Engelage Bode:

I. Wilhelm Rudolph "Willi" Bode was born 23 Oct. 1888, in Zionsville, Washington County, Texas. Willi was born on his parents' first wedding anniversary. Willi Bode was baptized 8 Oct. 1891, at his parents' home in Zionsville by Pastor C. Kniker of St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Gay Hill, Washington Co., Texas. Willi's sponsors at his baptism were Wilhelm Meyer, Rudolph Gloft, and Louise Knipske. Willi was confirmed 5 April 1903, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. As stated previously, Willi Bode was sent by his stepfather, August Look, to live with members of the Engelage family. Willi died of meningitis on 10 Aug. 1906, at the age of 17 years, at the home his first cousin, Minna Engelage Sommer and her husband, Martin, in the Berlin Community of Washington County. Willi was working as a farm hand on the Sommer farm. Willi's funeral and burial was held on the afternoon of 10 Aug. 1906, at the Eben Ezer Lutheran Cemetery of Berlin. The Eben Ezer Lutheran Church records state that Willi was survived by his mother, Emma Look, and his foster parent, Friedrich Engelage (Willi's uncle).

Willi Bode as a young child. This is the only known photo of Willi. This is a copy of the original and the original is in very poor condition.



II. Infant Daughter Bode. This unnamed baby was born sometime in 1890, and lived only five days. She was buried on her parents' farm in the Zionsville Community. The baby's grave was discovered in June of 2005; thanks to Roy and Jan Kelm and their grave-dousing technique. The baby's grave was marked with a granite tombstone in June of 2009, along with the grave of her father.

III. Oscar Friedrich Wilhelm Bode was born 2 Feb. 1892, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Oscar was baptized 19 Sept. 1897, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Oscar's sponsors were Wilhelm Rosenbaum, Friedrich Engelage, and Alwine Grassmuck. Oscar Bode was confirmed 8 April 1906, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. On 11 June 1910, Oscar Bode was introduced to Miss Edna Dietz at a dance in Greek Oak. Oscar Bode married **Edna Gertrude Dietz** on 22 Dec. 1915, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin; Pastor Johannes Mgebroff conducted the marriage ceremony. Edna was born 13 Nov. 1896, in the Green Oak Community of Washington County; she was the daughter of **John Valentine Dietz** (born 15 April 1859 in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas; died 25 March 1950, in Brenham, Texas) and **Friedericke Alvina Lehmann** (born 5 Feb. 1863, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas; died 8 June 1950, in Brenham, Texas). Edna's parents were married 19 Oct. 1882, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. Edna's paternal grandparents were **Valentine Dietz** (born 1835; died 1865) and **Louise Koenig** (born 20 Sept. 1839, in Germany; died 8 Oct. 1883, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas). They were married 12 Jan. 1858, in Washington Co., Texas. Edna's maternal grandparents were **Carl Ludwig Lehmann** (born 25 Dec. 1824, in Havelberg, Brandenburg, Germany; died 23 April 1904, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas) and **Friedericke Louise Charlotte Clausmeyer** (born 28 Aug. 1825, in Quernheim, Hannover, Germany; died 3 Aug. 1875, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. They were married 23 Jan. 1854, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas).



Oscar Bode at the age of 18 years.

Edna Dietz was baptized 27 June 1897, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin; her sponsors were Fritz Kramer and Caroline Boortz. Edna was confirmed 14 April 1911, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin. After their marriage, Oscar and Edna Bode lived in the Zionsville Community in Washington County before moving to the Mill Creek Community in southwestern Washington County where they purchased 53.7-acres of land on 17 Nov. 1919 from Mrs. Martha Juerges, widow of Herman Juerges, for \$3,300. Oscar Bode signed the Constitution of



Oscar Bode in buggy. His wife, Edna, said this picture was taken in Berlin, Texas, during their courting days.

Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin on 4 Jan. 1922 for his family to officially become members of the church's congregation. On 28 Oct. 1924, Oscar and Edna Bode sold their 53.7-acre farm to Steve and Pearlina Andrejczak for \$4,027.50. On 29 Nov. 1924, Oscar and Edna were released from the lien that was placed on the property by Martha Juerges (who was by then Mrs. Martha Schmeltkopf of Kyle, Texas.) On 21 May 1925, Oscar and Edna Bode purchased 140.6-acres in the Mill Creek community from C. G. Botts, of Harris County, and D. C. Williams, of Brenham. They paid \$5000.00 for this property. They settled here to farm and raise cattle. Their farm was described as being very productive with the bottom lands

producing corn, cotton, and hay, and Mill Creek flowing through their property. On 22 Dec. 1928, Oscar and Edna sold 15.5-acres of their farm to Mandy Adkinson for \$775.00. On 10 April 1934, Oscar purchased 2.05-acres of land from his neighbor, Willie Pflughaupt, for \$125.00. Oscar received 14-acres out of the 125-acre farm in Zionsville purchased by his father, Bill Bode, in 1887. On 10 Dec. 1946, Oscar settled with his half-sister, Nora Haack, and her husband, Charlie, on the 69.4-acres conveyed to Nora by their mother, Emma Look, in 1931. On 5 Aug. 1950, Oscar Bode sold his interest in the 3.6-acre tract that was sold to Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville by August and Emma Look in 1906. Oscar received \$100.00 from Zion Lutheran Church for his interest.

Oscar and Edna were the parents of three daughters, **Bernadine, Mickey, and Joyce**; and three sons **Oscar, Jr., Harold, and Billy**. Oscar and Edna Bode observed their 50th wedding anniversary in Dec. of 1965 with a celebration hosted by their family at the American Legion Hall in Brenham. On the evening of 31 Oct. 1969, Oscar Bode was returning home after working at his son, Oscar Bode, Jr.'s cattle auction barn in Brenham. Oscar was driving west on Hwy 290 about 5:30 with the sun in his face. Oscar did not see an east-bound automobile driven

by Mr. James Kesterson of Huntsville, with Mrs. Kesterson on the passenger side. Oscar attempted to make a left hand turn off of Hwy. 290 and onto Lange Lake Rd. In so doing, he turned into the path of the Kesterson's vehicle. Oscar Bode and Mrs. Kesterson both died in this accident. Mr. Kesterson was taken to Bohne Memorial Hospital in Brenham, and then transferred to his home in Huntsville. Oscar Bode was 77 years of age at his death. Oscar's funeral and burial took place on 2 Nov. 1969. Oscar's funeral was held in the Brenham Memorial



Edna and Oscar Bode shortly after they married in Dec. of 1915



Edna Dietz Bode and Lydia Bode Grudziecki at the Bode Family Reunion, May 29, 1983, at Firemen's Park in Brenham, Texas. Lydia Grudziecki was a first cousin of Oscar Bode.

Chapel, and he was laid to rest in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham. Oscar and Edna Bode were married nearly 54 years at the time of his death. After Oscar's death, Edna continued to live on their farm in Mill Creek until she sold the property on 20 June 1973, and moved into the Manor Square Apartments on South Day Street in Brenham. Edna kept her membership at the Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin until 1978 when she transferred her membership to St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brenham, which was walking

distance from her apartment. Edna Dietz Bode celebrated her 100th birthday in Nov. 1996, with a grand party hosted by her family. The mayor of Brenham proclaimed Nov. 13, 1996, as "Edna Bode Day" in Brenham. Edna continued to live in her apartment until just before her 101st birthday when she became a resident at Gazebo Terrace Nursing Home in Brenham where she lived the last two and a half years of her life. Edna had many joys and sorrows in her long life. She had the heartbreak of seeing many of her children and grandchildren precede her in death, as well as the loss of her two brothers and seven sisters.

After being widowed 30 years, Edna Dietz Bode died 28 May 2000, in the Trinity Medical Center in Brenham, Texas. Edna had reached the age of 103 years, 6 months, and 15 days.

Edna's funeral was held 31 May 2000, at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brenham, and she was laid to rest beside her husband, Oscar, and daughter, Bernadine Landua, in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham. I had the honor and privilege of being a pallbearer to "Aunt" Edna Bode, along with Richard Schmidt, Paul Lampe, Randy Klussmann, John Val Dietz, and Larry Klotz.

The family of Oscar and Edna Dietz Bode:

1. **Bernadine Ruth Bode** born 23 January 1917, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Bernadine was baptized 12 August 1917, in Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville; her sponsors were Alvina Dietz, Emma Look, and Charlie Look. Bernadine was confirmed 31 Aug. 1930, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin. Bernadine Bode married **R. Lee Landua** on 10 Nov. 1940, in Washington Co., Texas. R. Lee Landua was born 21 May 1917, in Rehburg, Washington Co., Texas; he was the son of **Paul Landua** and **Olivia Broesche**. Bernadine and R. Lee Landua had three children: **Jerry Lee Landua** (born 1942; died 1989); **James Ray "Porky" Landua** (born 1947); and **Lois Landua Klussmann** (born



Edna Bode with members of her family at her 95th birthday party, 1991. Front from left: Mickey Schulenberg, Chris Bode, Ena Dietz Bode, Carolyn Byrne, Judy Hendley, Brenda Klotz, Cherie Clark, Lois Klussmann, Mitzi Schmidt, and Joyce Grimm. Back from left: James "Porky" Landua, Kelly Bode, Mike Bode, Billy Bode, Harold Bode, and Dale Bode, Firemen's Park in Brenham, Texas.



Oscar and Edna Bode with their first child, Bernadine. This photo was taken at the farm of Edna's parents in the Green Oak Community

1956). Bernadine Bode Landua died of a heart attack in Brenham, Texas, on 28 January 1985, at the age of 68. R. Lee Landua died in Brenham on 31 Aug. 2003, at the age of 86. Bernadine and R. Lee Landua are buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham, Texas.

2. Ora Nell Marie “Mickey” Bode was born 27 March 1919, in Mill Creek, Washington Co., Texas. Mickey was baptized 20 August 1919, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin, Texas; her sponsors were Emma Hauck, Lillie Look and Edward Hueske. Mickey was confirmed 4 Sept. 1932, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin. Mickey Bode married **Robert Edward “Bob” Schulenberg** on 8 Aug. 1937, in Washington Co., Texas. Bob Schulenberg was born 17 June 1912, in Rehburg, Washington Co., Texas. Mickey and Bob Schulenberg had two children: **Robert Henry “Bobby” Schulenberg** (born 1940) and **Carolyn Schulenberg Byrne** (born 1945). Bob Schulenberg died in Houston, Texas, on 29 July 1994, at the age of 82 years. After his death, Mickey married **Royce Jones** on 31 July 1999. Royce Jones was born 17 June 1918, in Texline, Texas, and he died 17 March 2011, in Houston, Texas. Royce is buried in the Higgins Cemetery in Higgins, Lipscomb Co., Texas. Ora Nell “Mickey” Bode Schulenberg Jones died 16 Nov. 2011, at the age of 92 years. Mickey and Bob Schulenberg are buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham, Texas.

3. Edna Joyce Bode was born 28 June 1921, in Mill Creek, Washington Co., Texas. Joyce was baptized 25 June 1922, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin, Texas; her sponsors were Josephine Schulte, Alice Look, and Arthur Menking. Joyce was confirmed 13 Sept. 1936, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin. Joyce Bode married **Delphine Ben Grimm** on 31 Dec. 1939, in Washington Co., Texas. Delphine Grimm was born in Washington County on 28 Aug. 1918. Joyce and Delphine Grimm had three daughters: **Joy Dell Grimm Lloyd** (born 1941); **Judy Grimm Hendley** (born 1944); and **Jane Grimm Barden** (born 1946). Delphine and Joyce Grimm divorced. Delphine Grimm died in Brenham, Texas, on 28 Aug. 1983, at the age of 65. Delphine Grimm is buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham. Joyce Bode Grimm died in Houston, Texas, on 27 Oct. 2003, at the age of 82 years. Joyce is buried in the Forest Park East Cemetery in Webster, Harris Co., Texas.

4. Oscar Karl Bode was born 17 October 1923, in Mill Creek, Washington Co., Texas. Oscar, Jr. was baptized 4 May 1924, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin, Texas; his sponsors were Ernest Eikenhorst, John Dietz, and Betty Gieck. Oscar, Jr. was confirmed 4 Sept. 1938, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin. Oscar Bode, Jr. married **Doris Pearl Helmer** on 11 June 1942, in Washington Co., Texas. Doris was born 14 Feb. 1927, in Houston, Texas; she was the daughter of **Charlie Helmer** and **Elmira Alma Koenig**. Oscar and Doris Bode had five children: **Brenda Bode Klotz** (born 1945); **Sharon Bode Pennell** (born 1947); **Kathy Bode Kenjura** (born 1950; died 1982); **Oscar “Butch” Bode** (born 1952; died 2013); and **Bruce Brian Bode** (born 1957; died 1977). Oscar Bode, Jr. died in an automobile accident on 7 July 1978, at the age of 54 years. The accident occurred at the intersection of Hwy. 105 and F.M. 159, about four miles west of Navasota, Texas, in Grimes County. Doris Helmer Bode died in Houston, Texas, on 16 June 1979, at the age of 52 years. Oscar, Jr., and Doris Bode are buried beside their son, Bruce, in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham, Texas.



The Oscar Bode Family in 1942. Front from left: Billy Bode, Edna Dietz Bode, Oscar Bode, Joyce Grimm. Back from left: Bernadine Landua, Oscar Bode, Jr. Harold Bode, Mickey Schulenberg

5. Harold Dietz Bode was born 30 January 1926, in Mill Creek, Washington Co., Texas. Harold was baptized 23 May 1926, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin, Texas; his sponsors were John V. Dietz, Sr., and Elsie Hauck. Harold was confirmed 25 Aug. 1940, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin. Harold Bode married **Mary Louise Stelzer** on 20 June 1952, in Houston, Texas. Mary was born 1 Sept. 1931, in Houston. Harold and Mary had two sons: **Harold Dale Bode** (born 1954) and **Christopher Brent Bode** (born 1958). Harold and Mary Bode divorced in 1976. Harold Bode died 7 Nov. 1999, at the age of 73 years, in

Oscar and Edna Bode’s 50th wedding anniversary in 1965. Seated, Oscar and Edna. Standing from left: Mickey Schulenberg, Harold Bode, Billy Bode, Oscar Bode, Jr., Bernadine Landua and Joyce Grimm.



Houston, Texas. Harold is buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham, Texas.

6. John William "Billy" Bode was born 30 July 1929, in Mill Creek, Washington Co., Texas. Billy was baptized 8 Dec. 1929, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin, Texas; his sponsors were August Hauck, Otto Schulte, and Louise Wiese. Billy was confirmed 24 Sept. 1944, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin. Billy Bode married **Toni Estelle Regenbrecht** on 11 May 1950, in Washington Co., Texas. Toni was born 25 Feb. 1934, in the Peters Community in Austin Co., Texas. Billy and Toni Bode had four children: **Michael William "Mike" Bode** (born 1952); **Cherie Bode Weishuhn** (born 1956); **Kelly Cole Bode** (born 1957) and **Mitzi Bode Schmidt** (born 1960). Toni Regenbrecht Bode died in El Campo, Wharton Co., Texas, on 12 Dec. 2000, at the age of 66 years. Toni is buried in the Garden of Memories Cemetery in El Campo. Billy Bode continues to reside in El Campo, Texas.

The children of Emma Engelage Bode Look by her second husband, August Look:

1. Louis Frank Paul Look born 2 Aug. 1897, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Louis was baptized 19 Sept. 1897, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville; his sponsors were Frank Handrock, Paul Matrozky, and Anna Frecke. Louis was confirmed 23 Feb. 1913, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Louis Look married Lillie Minna Louise Fischer on 28 May 1917, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. Lillie was born 22 April 1895, in Berlin, Texas; she was the daughter of Heinrich Wilhelm Fischer and Louise Elisabeth Boortz. Louis and Lillie Look were the parents of two children: Leroy Look (born 1917; died 1933) and Marjorie Look Fischer (born 1919; died 1995). Louis Look died of a heart attack in Sealy, Texas, on 7 May 1975. Lillie Fischer Look died in Brenham, Texas, on 27 April 1978. Louis and Lillie Look are buried in the Eben Ezer Lutheran Cemetery in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas.

2. Bernhardt Henry Anton "Bennie" Look was born 18 July 1899, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Bennie was baptized 18 Oct. 1903, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville; his sponsors were Henry Engelage, Wilhelm Meier, and Martha Engelage. Bennie was confirmed 23 Feb. 1913, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Bennie Look married Martha Maria Kramer on 20 June 1918, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. Martha was born 7 March 1899, in Berlin, Texas; she was the daughter of Johann Friedrich Wilhelm "Fritz" Kramer and Louise Henriette Loesch. Bennie and Martha Look had four children: Garrett Dawson "Sonny" Look (born 1919; died 2003); Helen Look Schulte (born 1921; died 2005); Ben Oscar Look (born 1923; died 1989) and Lois Evelyn Look Hill (born 1926). Bennie and Martha Look divorced. After the divorce, Bennie Look moved to Houston where he lived until his death. Bennie Look died in Houston, Texas, on 13 March 1963. Martha Kramer Look died in Brenham, Texas, on 19 Feb. 1985. Bennie and Martha Look are buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham, Texas, but, of course, in different sections.

3. Elsie Anna Look was born 8 Nov. 1901, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Elsie was baptized 18 Oct. 1903, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville; her sponsors were Anna Frecking, Mina Engelage, and Anton Grassmuck. Elsie was confirmed 16 April 1916, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Elsie Look married Ernest Heinrich August Eikenhorst on 20 Dec. 1923, in Zionsville, Texas. Ernest Eikenhorst was born 4 Sept. 1902, in Zionsville; he was the son of Heinrich Wilhelm Eikenhorst and Wilhelmine Holle. Elsie and Ernest Eikenhorst had five children: Ernest Eikenhorst, Jr. (born 1926; died 2010); Patsy Ruth Eikenhorst Allred (born 1928; died 1998); Ralph N. Eikenhorst (born 1930); Judith Ann Eikenhorst Colebrook (born 1939) and Gary Wayne Eikenhorst (born 1943; died 2012). Ernest Eikenhorst died in Orange, Texas, on 29 June 1983. Elsie Look Eikenhorst died in Orange, Texas, on 29 Dec. 1988. Elsie and Ernest Eikenhorst are buried in the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Orange, Texas.

4. Walter Oscar Look was born 30 March 1904, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Walter was baptized 25 May 1919, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville; his sponsor was Oscar Bode. Walter was confirmed 28 March 1920, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Walter Look married Erna Emma Caroline Meyer on 5 Sept. 1942, in Washington Co., Texas. Erna was born 2 Nov. 1904, in the Klump Community of Washington County; she was the daughter of Henry Meyer and Caroline Lueckemeyer. Walter and Erna Look had no children. Walter Look died in Brenham, Texas, on 21 Dec. 1969. Erna Meyer Look died in Brenham on 23 Dec. 2001. Walter and Erna Look are buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham.

5. Alice Mae Look was born 14 January 1906, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Alice was baptized 25 May 1919, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville; her sponsor was Lillie Look. Alice was confirmed 28 March 1920, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Alice Look married Benton William Schulze on 14 Nov. 1926, in La Grange, Fayette Co., Texas. Benton Schulze was born in Brenham, Texas, on 25 June 1908; he

was the son of Henry Schulze and Minnie Schmidt. Benton and Alice Schulze had two children: Bonnie Schulze Sonnier (born 1927) and Benton W. Schulze, Jr. (born 1929; died 1991). Alice Look Schulze died in Brenham, Texas, on 28 April 1979. Benton Schulze, Sr. died in Brenham on 11 April 2000. Alice and Benton Schulze are buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham.

6. Nora Lee Look was born 14 January 1908, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Nora was baptized 25 May 1919, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville; her sponsor was Betty Meyer. Nora was confirmed 20 March 1921, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Nora Look married Charles William "Charlie" Haack, Jr. on 14 Nov. 1926, in La Grange, Fayette Co., Texas. Charlie Haack was born in Washington County on 1 July 1909; he was the son of Charles W. Haack, Sr. and Minnie Mohr. Nora and Charlie Haack were the parents of two sons: Jack Douglas Haack (born 1927; died 2006) and Charles David "Buster" Haack (born 1929; died 2000). Charlie Haack, Jr. died in Brenham, Texas, on 31 Aug. 1973. Nora Look Haack died 7 Feb. 1988, in Brenham. Charlie and Nora Haack are buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham.

Sources: Lydia Bode Grudzecki, Edna Dietz Bode, Joyce Bode Grimm, Joy Grimm Lloyd, Bonnie Schulze Sonnier, Elizabeth Lehmann, Courthouse records from the Washington County Courthouse in Brenham, Texas; Records of the Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin, Washington County, Texas; Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville, Washington County, Texas; Salem Lutheran Church of Salem, Washington Co., Texas; and the SL Peter's Lutheran Church of Gay HiB, Washington County, Texas; Records of the Brenham newspaper archived in the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library and the Blinn College Library in Brenham, Texas.

Submitted by Daniel R. Bode of Dayton, Texas—a great-grandson of Fritz Bode. My great-grandfather was a younger half-brother of Bill Bode.

The Family of Johann Christoph Heinrich Bode (The paternal grandfather of Bill Bode)

Johann Christoph Heinrich Bode was born 14 May 1793, in Rosenthal (near Peine), Hannover, Germany; he was the son of **Friedrich Heinrich Wilhelm Bode** (born 12 June 1768, in Rosenthal, Hannover, Germany; died 30 Sept. 1841, in Rosenthal) and **Marie Elisabeth Dorothea Wolters** (born 22 Feb. 1772, in Mehrum, Hannover, Germany; died 25 January 1847, in Rosenthal). They were married 2 December 1792, in Rosenthal, Hannover. Johann Christoph Heinrich Bode was a shoemaker in Rosenthal. His social standing was listed as *Kotsass*. Johann Christoph Heinrich Bode married **Dorothea Margarethe Herweg** on 20 Sept. 1822, in Adenstedt, Hannover, Germany. Dorothea was born 2 Sept. 1792, in Adenstedt, Hannover; she was the daughter of **Johann Heinrich Herweg** (born 10 Oct. 1753, in Adenstedt, Hannover; died 22 June 1836, in Adenstedt) and **Ilse Catharine (Maria) Gier** (born 20 Oct. 1761, in Adenstedt; died 15 March 1830, in Adenstedt). Johann Christoph Heinrich Bode and Dorothea Margarethe (nee Herweg) Bode were the parents of three sons and four daughters. Dorothea Margarethe (nee Herweg) Bode died 3 January 1856, in Rosenthal, Hannover, Germany, at the age of 60 years. Johann Christoph Heinrich Bode died 6 July 1859, in Rosenthal, Hannover, Germany, at the age of 66 years .

Their family:

- 1. Johanne Christine Elisabeth Bode** was born 26 December 1823, in Rosenthal, Hannover, Germany. She married **Johann Heinrich Conrad Wehrspohn** on 12 February 1860, in Hohenhamein, Hannover, Germany. *Onkel* Wehrspohn was born 11 Nov. 1819, in Germany.
- 2. Johann Friedrich Wilhelm Bode** was born 19 August 1825, in Rosenthal, Hannover, Germany, and he died 8 November 1907, in Copenhagen, Denmark. He married **Sophia Dorothea Wesche** on 1 March 1853, at St. Peter's Church in Copenhagen, Denmark. Sophia Dorothea Wesche was born 16 November 1820, in Burgdorf, Hannover, Germany, and she died 3 August 1884, in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 3. Johanne Ilse Luise Bode** was born 7 February 1827, in Rosenthal, Hannover, Germany.
- 4. Heinrich Friedrich Wilhelm Bode** was born 6 January 1829, in Rosenthal, Hannover, Germany, and he died 22 June 1915, in Copenhagen, Denmark. He married **Charlotte Ernestine Mueller** on 17 July 1858, in Copenhagen, Denmark. Charlotte was born 24 December 1828, in Verden, Hannover, Germany, and she died 28 April 1881, in Copenhagen, Denmark. After her death, Heinrich Friedrich Wilhelm Bode married **Viktorija J.**

Jorgensen in Copenhagen, Denmark. Viktoria Jorgensen Bode was born 5 June 1840, in Copenhagen, Denmark, and she died 23 Oct. 1914, in Copenhagen.

5. Heinrich Konrad Wilhelm Bode was born 20 December 1830, in Rosenthal, Hannover, Germany, and he died 6 December 1891, in Zionsville, Washington County, Texas. Wilhelm Bode was buried 7 December 1891, in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Wilhelm Bode married **Albertine Jahnke** on 30 Oct. 1860, in Galveston, Texas. Albertine Jahnke was born 14 Dec. 1839, in Solenthin, Prussia, Germany, and she died 2 Aug. 1866, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. Albertine was buried 3 Aug. 1866, in Eben Ezer Lutheran Cemetery in Berlin, Texas. Wilhelm Bode married **Marie Charlotte Henriette Spreen** on 20 Oct. 1866, in Salem, Washington Co., Texas. Henriette Spreen Bode was born 18 Nov. 1845, in Wehdem, Westphalia, Germany, and she died 14 Oct. 1874, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Henriette was buried 15 Oct. 1874, in Eben Ezer Lutheran Cemetery in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. Wilhelm Bode married **Emma Wilhelmine Louise Kalbow** on 6 Dec. 1874, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. Emma was born 28 April 1841, in Plattenhoff, Prussia, Germany, and she died 6 January 1907, in Caldwell, Burleson Co., Texas. After Wilhelm Bode's death in 1891, Emma Kalbow Bode married **Wilhelm Homeyer** on 18 Dec. 1897. Emma was buried 7 January 1907, in the Elizabeth Lutheran Cemetery near Caldwell, Texas.

6. Johanne Dorothea Wilhelmine Bode was born 10 May 1834, in Rosenthal, Hannover, Germany. She married **Heinrich Erbe** on 1 February 1852, in Rosenthal, Hannover.

7. Johanne Wilhelmine Henriette Friedericke Bode was born 25 June 1836, in Rosenthal, Hannover, Germany, and she died 28 February 1925, in Houston, Harris Co., Texas. Friedericke Bode married **Friedrich Conrad "Fritz" Leverkus** on 21 August 1858, in Galveston, Texas. Fritz Leverkus was born 15 April 1834, in Germany, and he died 31 August 1914, in Houston, Texas. Fritz and Friedericke Bode Leverkus are buried in the Washington Cemetery in Houston, Texas .

The Family of Joachim Friedrich Jahnke (The maternal grandfather of Bill Bode)

Joachim Friedrich Jahnke was born 6 March 1805, in Gulow, Perleberg, Prussia. Friedrich Jahnke married **Catharine Dorothea Schawe** on 25 March 1832, in Laaslich, Brandenburg, Germany. Dorothea Schawe was born 14 May 1814, in Laaslich, Brandenburg; she was the daughter of **Friedrich Schawe** (born 11 Dec. 1786, in Laaslich, Brandenburg; died in 1850 in Laaslich) and **Dorothea Blume** (born 4 Sept. 1791, in Laaslich, Brandenburg; death date unknown). Friedrich and Dorothea Schawe Jahnke left Germany in 1860 and immigrated to Texas where they settled in Washington County, Texas. Friedrich Jahnke signed the constitution of the Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin in 1861 for his family to become members of the church's congregation. As stated previously, Friedrich and Dorothea Jahnke purchased 125-acres of land in 1866 in the Zionsville Community of Washington County that was later purchased by their grandson, Bill Bode, in 1887. Friedrich Jahnke died 21 June 1883, at the age of 78 years. He was originally buried on his farm, but in August of 1883, his remains were moved to the Eben Ezer Lutheran Cemetery in Berlin and reburied-according to the records of Eben Ezer Lutheran Church. Dorothea Schawe Jahnke died in 1886 and she was buried in the Eben Ezer Lutheran Cemetery of Berlin. The Jahnke graves are today unmarked. Friedrich and Dorothea Schawe Jahnke had 15 children-several died in infancy or as young children.

Their family:

1. Friedrich Wilhelm Jahnke born 2 July 1834, in Laaslich, Brandenburg, Germany. He did not come to Texas with his parents and siblings, but married and remained in Germany. Friedrich Wilhelm Jahnke died in Netzow, Prussia, Germany.

2. Friedericke Lissette Jahnke born 2 March 1837, in Laaslich, Brandenburg, Germany, and she died 20 January 1919, in Brenham, Washington Co., Texas. Friedericke Jahnke married **Johann Joachim Siegmund Neumann** in 1858 in Lenzen, Prussia. Siegmund Neumann was born 5 June 1822, and he died in the Cedar Hill Community of Washington Co., Texas, on 13 April 1895. Siegmund and Friedericke Jahnke Neumann are buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham, Texas.

3. Catharine Albertine Marie Dorothea Jahnke born 14 December 1839, in Solenthin, Prussia, Germany, and she died 2 August 1866, of yellow fever in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. Albertine was buried 3 August 1866, in Eben Ezer Lutheran Cemetery in Berlin, Washington County, Texas. Albertine married Heinrich Konrad Wilhelm Bode on 30 October 1860, in Galveston, Texas. Wilhelm Bode was born 20 December 1830, in Rosenthal, Hannover, Germany, and he died 6 December 1891, in Zionsville, Washington County, Texas.

4. August Ludwig Wilhelm Jahnke was born 30 September 1841, in Solenthin, Prussia, Germany. August Jahnke married Wilhelmine Kieke on 29 November 1861, in Washington County, Texas. August and Wilhelmine Jahnke settled near Temple, in Bell County, Texas.

5. Wilhelm Rudolph Jahnke born 6 June 1844, in Solenthin, Prussia, Germany, and he died 11 July 1894, in Brenham, Texas. Rudolph Jahnke married Wilhelmine Mueller in 1868. Wilhelmine Mueller Jahnke was born 1 June 1839, in Perleburg, Brandenburg, Germany, and she died 10 September 1914, in Brenham, Texas. Rudolph and Wilhelmine Jahnke are buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham, Texas.

6. Hermann Friedrich Jahnke was born 12 February 1855, in Solenthin, Prussia, Germany, and he died 4 December 1936, in Brenham, Texas. Herman Jahnke married his first cousin, Anna Dorothea Louise Wernecke on 20 February 1879, in Salem, Washington Co., Texas. Anna was born 19 December 1857; she was the daughter of Johann Joachim Christoph Wernecke and Louise Marie Schawe. Anna Wernecke Jahnke died 5 December 1892, in Salem, Washington Co., Texas. Anna was buried in the Salem Lutheran Cemetery in Salem. After Anna's death, Herman Jahnke married Marie Haack on 20 April 1893, in Salem, Washington Co., Texas. Marie was born 15 July 1869, in Benkheim, Altpreußen, Germany, and she died 7 December 1945, in Brenham, Texas. Herman and Marie Jahnke are buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham, Texas.

7. Theodor Jahnke was born 8 October 1859, in Lenzen, Prussia, Germany, and he died 17 May 1927, in Fort Worth, Tarrant Co., Texas. Theodor Jahnke married **Ida Dietz** on 8 December 1878, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas. Ida was born 16 June 1861, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas; she was the daughter of **Valentine Dietz and Louise Koenig**. Ida Dietz Jahnke died 23 January 1957, in Temple, Texas. Theodor and Ida Jahnke are buried in the Eben Ezer Lutheran Cemetery in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas.

The Family of Friedrich Wilhelm Engelage (The paternal grandfather of Emma Engelage Bode Look)

Friedrich Wilhelm Engelage was born 31 July 1791, in Wehdem, Westphalia, Germany; he was the son of **Gerd Heinrich Engelage and Marie Charlotte Hodde**.

Friedrich Wilhelm Engelage married **Marie Margarethe Elisabeth Kettler** on 25 Jan. 1815, in Wehdem, Westphalia, Germany,

Marie Margarethe Elisabeth Kettler was born in Dielingen, Westphalia, Germany; she was the daughter of **Hermann Heinrich Kettler and Anna Marie Koester**. Friedrich Wilhelm Engelage died in Westrup, Westphalia, Germany, on 25 Dec. 1852, at the age of 61 years. Marie Margarethe Elisabeth Engelage nee Kettler died in Westrup, Westphalia, Germany, on 8 Feb. 1862, at the age of 71 years.

Friedrich Wilhelm Engelage and his wife were the parents of eight children:

- 1. Marie Charlotte Engelage** born 1 April 1816, in Wehdem, Westphalia.
- 2. Johann Friederich Engelage** born 29 April 1818, in Westrup, Westphalia.
- 3. Wilhelmine Henriette Engelage** born 25 Sept. 1820, in Westrup, Westphalia, and she died 12 June 1893, in Gay Hill, Washington Co., Texas. Wilhelmine married **Heinrich Gottlieb Wilhelm Groene**. Heinrich Groene was born 6 May 1821, in Westphalia, and he died 2 Sept. 1894, in Gay Hill, Washington Co., Texas. Heinrich and Wilhelmine Henriette Engelage Groene are buried in the St. Peter's Lutheran Cemetery in Gay Hill, Washington Co., Texas.
- 4. Caroline Wilhelmine Louise Engelage** born 26 Oct. 1822, in Westrup, Westphalia.
- 5. Henriette Charlotte Engelage** born 16 Aug. 1824, in Westrup, Westphalia.

- 6. Louise Caroline Engelage** born 13 Sept. 1826, in Westrup, Westphalia, and she died 21 March 1902, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. She married **Charlie Hanke** on 1 Dec. 1874, in Berlin, Texas. Caroline Hanke nee Engelage is buried in the Eben Ezer Lutheran Cemetery in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. 7
- 7. Carl Friedrich Wilhelm Engelage** born 24 Aug. 1829, in Westrup, Westphalia. Carl Engelage married **Maria Henriette Louise Schaefer** on 30 March 1855, in Wehdem, Westphalia. Carl Engelage and his wife are buried in the Eben Ezer Lutheran Cemetery in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas.
- 8. Marie Elisabeth Engelage** born 3 Nov. 1831, in Westrup, Westphalia

The Family of Gerd Heinrich Schaefer
The maternal grandfather of Emma Engelage Bode Look

Gerd Heinrich Schaefer was born 2 Dec. 1787, in Westrup, Westphalia, Germany; he was the son of **Gerd Heinrich Schaefer** and **Marie Ilsabein Bohne**.

Gerd Heinrich Schaefer married **Henriette Wilhelmine Rennegarbe** on 28 Aug. 1813, in Wehdem, Westphalia, Germany.

Henriette Wilhelmine Rennegarbe was born 28 April 1793, in Westrup, Westphalia; she was the daughter of **Johann Christoph Rennegarbe** and **Anna Marie Rennegarbe**.

Gerd Heinrich Schaefer died in Westrup, Westphalia, on 29 Oct. 1844, at the age of 56 years. Henriette Wilhelmine Schaefer nee Rennegarbe died 9 Jan. 1860, in Westrup, Westphalia, at the age of 66 years.

Gerd Heinrich Schaefer and his wife were the parents of 11 children:

- 1. Hermann Heinrich Schaefer** born 25 July 1814, in Westrup, Westphalia.
- 2. Heinrich Wilhelm Schaefer** born 15 Dec. 1816, in Westrup, Westphalia.
- 3. Margarethe Henriette Wilhelmine Schaefer** born 22 Jan. 1820, in Westrup.
- 4. Johann Heinrich Wilhelm Schaefer** born 4 Oct. 1821, in Westrup.
- 5. Heinrich Wilhelm Schaefer** born 6 Dec. 1822, in Westrup.
- 6. Wilhelmine Henriette Schaefer** born 15 Aug. 1824, in Westrup.
- 7. Caroline Wilhelmine Louise Schaefer** born 29 Sept. 1825, in Westrup, and she died 2 June 1893, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas. Caroline married **Hermann Friedrich Wilhelm "Fritz" Schramme** on 30 March 1855, in Wehdem, Westphalia. Fritz Schramme was born 9 Nov. 1826, in Wehdem, Westphalia, and he died 12 Aug. 1900, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas. Fritz and Caroline Schaefer Schramme are buried in the St. John Lutheran Cemetery in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas.
- 8. Maria Louise Henriette Schaefer** born 28 Jan. 1828, in Westrup, Westphalia, and she died 7 Aug. 1870, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. Henriette married **Carl Friedrich Wilhelm Engelage** on 30 March 1855, in Wehdem, Westphalia. Henriette Schaefer Engelage and her husband, Carl, are both buried in the Eben Ezer Lutheran Cemetery in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas.
- 9. Marie Charlotte Louise Schaefer** born 2 June 1830, in Westrup, Westphalia.
- 10. Marie Charlotte Louise Schaefer** born 14 Aug. 1833, in Westrup, Westphalia.
- 11. Carl Friederich Schaefer** born 4 Nov. 1836, in Westrup, Westphalia.

Thanks to Wilhelm Niermann of Stemwede-Wehdem; Germany for searching the German records for me!!

OPERATIONS

German Texan Heritage Society – Full Board Meeting

June 29, 2014 - German Free School, Conference Room (Minutes unapproved)

Meeting called to order at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes prepared by JT Koenig, Secretary

Members present:

Michael Krause, President

Charles Locklin, Vice President

Jim Gudenrath, Treasurer

JT Koenig, Secretary

Jim Kearney

Larry Dueser

Members absent:

Liz Hicks

Connie Krauzse

Mary Whigham

Bob Flocke

Guests present:

None

Initial Discussion – No Initial discussion was held.

Comments on last minutes – Prior BOD minutes were accepted with one correction. JK will send on to Doris

Topics:

Executive Committee Minutes – EC Minutes were reviewed. Actions taken / decision made were discussed: App funding – partial 5K was approved but a deficit remained. Schedule for app was extended to allow for possible additional private funding. LD was reconfirmed as chair of App committee.

BOD Membership – Warren Friedrich has resigned from BOD but will remain a member of GTHS. Bob Flocke has also resigned from BOD but will remain as member of GTHS. Mary Whigham also resigned as ex-officio member of BOD but will remain as a member of GTHS and as editor of the Journal. CL raised subject of Christi Lee Nordin as possible new BOD member. JG moved to accept her as a new BOD member. LD seconded. All others in favor. CL and MK will orient her. More discussion was held on need to have BOD members from other areas of state. We could use phone conferences as a tool to prevent them from having to drive to Austin.

Committee Reports – No action has occurred on this and none were submitted. Advisory Board was discussed as per the last BOD minutes and the same comments were there were again agreed to. Subcommittees were then discussed and JK asked to resign as Chair of the Educational Subcommittee. This was agreed to by all. More volunteers should be asked to take part in the committees and subcommittees.

Office Management – CL will remain involved and will revise the Personnel and Volunteer policies as well as the written job descriptions. He will also continue to provide staff guidance and support through the remainder of 2014. CL advised that Melanie had become certified in website management and was now in charge of the GTHS website. Question was raised as to who would take on these functions when CL stepped away.

Meetings - MK discussed when the BOD would be meeting, as well as when the Executive Board would be meeting. CK requested that the minutes of the EB be provided to the BOD and that the BOD minutes be printed in the journal. No decision was made on either suggestion.

Budget & Finance – JG presented the documentation of such to the BOD on the subject and BOD members accepted it as written.

Activities Committee / Seasonal Events – Oktoberfest was discussed briefly again by the BOD. CL volunteered previously to spearhead the effort to get this going for the 3rd Saturday in October. Christmas Market was then discussed and while CL agreed to also spearhead this effort insofar as planning it for the 1st Saturday in December, the effort needs a designated volunteer(s) to do the work. Geri West has agreed to help with ordering materials. Possibly Christi Lee Nordin could also assist. WE still though need help with pricing things, decoration, and with San Antonio desk in La Villita.

Membership / Journal – Spring Journal was sent to all members (even non-renewed members). LH had attempted to do personal appeals to non-renewing members, as did MK. Summer Journal was not sent to non-renewed members. A letter will be sent to non-renewed members now with notice of annual 2014 meeting in Comfort. LD moved to accept MW as continuing editor of Journal, since now she could focus on it more keenly. CL seconded. All others in favor. Discussion re: Journal was that it should be more contemporary, less genealogical, and more educational.

Annual Meeting – LH reported the progress which had been made in securing a location in Comfort for the 2014 annual meeting. Much discussion had about excursions at the 2014 annual meeting. MK tasked the BOD to gather ideas for next year's annual meeting in 2015 (possibly for Schulenburg, La Grange or Austin). LH asked that GTHS sponsor a vendor table at the National Genealogical Conference in San Antonio. This was agreed to by all

German Free School Facility – CL spoke to the numerous rentals which have occurred thus far this year. He spoke to the maintenance which was taking place of the building, grounds and gardens.

Book Inventory / Library –CL stated that the library's holdings were inventoried by Pam / Anne (?). JK asked about putting the library's holdings list on the website. CL stated that the library's holdings were on the Library computer and that Melanie would get it off there and put it on the website. Pam / Anne had not been involved much and a possible new librarian should be found. Book donations were discussed and any donations should be made to the same places we donated those which were gathered as a result of the recent cleanout of the piles of books in the basement. CL was nominated in the past BOD meeting as the "book" manager to help plan what should be done. On the subject of buying more "new" books, CL continued to work with MK and CK to look into buying more new books like "Roemer's Texas".

Texas Trails – LD again spoke to the full BOD about the project, the pending grant applications and potential funding sources. The Humanities of Texas grant was not given to us. LD asked for an additional 4K to add to the prior approved 5K for contingencies. CL moved to do this, JKearney seconded. All then approved. JKearney then alerted BOD that Hans Boas's website on Texas German Dialect Project is very similar to Texas trails app and that we needed to speak with him about possible overlap. JKearney will coordinate this discussion with LD in August.

JG then left the meeting at 12:20

Memorial Brick Project – MK & CL discussed what they had found in their investigation on the project, and asked whether we should move forward with such. JK moved to do so, and JKearney seconded. All approved.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

German Texan Heritage Society – Annual Membership Meeting

August 9, 2014 – VFW Hall – Comfort, Texas

Meeting called to order at 11:45 a.m. by Michael Krause

Minutes prepared by JT Koenig, Secretary

Board Members present:

Michael Krause, President

Charles Locklin, Vice President

Jim Gudenrath, Treasurer

JT Koenig, Secretary

Connie Krause

Larry Dueser

Liz Hicks

Board Members Absent:

Jim Kearney

Introduction of Executive Board Members – MK, CL, JG and JK

Introduction of Board Members – CK, LD, LH

Introduction of Past Board Members – Mary Whigham, Rod Koenig

Introduction of Journal Editor – Mary Whigham

Thanks Given to Meeting Coordinator - Liz Hicks

Topics:

Activities Committee – Location of 2015 Annual meeting – Discussion was had on possible locations for next year's annual meeting of the GTHS. Candidate locations were Indianola, Austin and La Grange. Significant support was given to La Grange as being centrally located and having lots to do. No final decision was made. Continuing activities of GTHS were then discussed and examples given of the benefit of GTHS membership including German language class sponsorship in Austin, Round Rock and San Antonio, annual Maifest / Kinderfest celebration in Austin, annual Oktoberfest celebration in Austin, annual Christmas Market in Austin and San Antonio, weekly Stammtisch in Austin, Annual Membership Meeting, GTHS Journal, and GTHS reference library.

GTHS Break-in – MK told the membership of the break-in into the GTHS's German Free School in Austin and the damage that was done to the patio outside the office and the destruction of the office copier. It was further explained by CL that the insurance covered the damage.

Declining Membership – The subject of GTHS's membership was discussed and the fact that its membership base was aging and thus the overall membership roster was declining. MK and JG urged the membership to invite their friends and family to join to provide for younger members and to make membership gifts as Christmas presents. LH had attempted to do personal appeals to non-renewing members, as did MK.

GTHS Journal – Discussion was had re: making the Journal electronic only, or at least provide the journal in electronic format to those who would / could accept it in that format to save on publication and mailing costs. A straw poll was taken and roughly ½ of the members present liked this idea. CL explained that many of the past journals were already in electronic form and that a CD existed with the journals in that format which could be sold to generate revenue and / or serve as a bonus which could be added to the benefits of membership. MW urged members to submit stories and articles.

Finance Committee Report – JG presented in general format the current state of GTHS finances, explaining that GTHS financial assets were stable but that they would not keep up with the also growing expenses of GTHS and that new revenue sources needed to be found to keep GTHS on a positive course financially. Expenses exceeded income again in fiscal 2014.







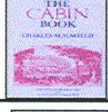

Office Management / Staff – CL explained his current role as office manager and building supervisor for the German Free School headquarters in Austin. CL also explained the current staff situation with Doris and Melanie and his work in providing the staff guidance and support through the remainder of 2014. CL advised that his work this year has been financially positive with regard to leases of the German Free School as a venue for weddings.

Statewide German Contest – CL then took the opportunity to talk about the German Statewide Contest which was begun by our founder Mary El-Behari. He then introduced Jennifer Christiansen, the director of the Contest which grants [prizes to the winners; \$500.00 to first place, \$400.00 to second place and \$300.00 to third place. All the essays which are presented go into the GTHS Journal. There are three contests statewide in Dallas, San Antonio and Houston and it takes place on the first Saturday in February each year. They frequently need judges and Jennifer asked the membership to volunteer for such. CL asked for the membership to consider taking an active part in the contests. Over 500 students take part every year and they need upwards of 30 volunteers for each of the three contests.

Current Board of Directors – MK presented several candidates for confirmation as new members of the BOD including JT Koenig, and Jim Gudenrath. Motions were entered and seconded and all approved. MK also asked that the membership consider nominations for new Board members, Connie Krause, and Kristi Lee Norton (who was a long-term HTHS member and who worked in the non-profit industry). These nominations were moved, seconded and accepted. MK then presented several Board of Directors members for renewals of their existing position as second terms including Jim Kearney, Michael Krause and Liz Hicks. Liz Hicks declined to serve again, however Michael asked for his recommendation on her to be deferred to a later date which was accepted. The other two board members positions for a second term were moved, seconded and accepted.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 a.m. after a motion, a second and all in favor for such. The membership then sat down to dinner, during which LD spoke briefly to the membership about the Texas Trails App project.

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A Sojourn in Texas, 1846-47		ISBN 1-57168-237-6, 400 pp, 6 x 9, hardback. Illustrations, maps, index. Edited by W.M. Von-Maszewski. A. Sörgel's Texas Writings. This dual-language edition is filled with observations, advice, and warnings for those who chose to come to Texas.	\$21.00
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Texas in 1848		ISBN 1-57168-242-2, 240 pp, 6 x 9, hardback. Bibliography, index. By Victor Bracht. Originally published in German in 1849, this book has been described as a "treasure of German-Texan history." Filled with early Texas observations.	\$21.00

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