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German-Texan Annual Christmas Market

every 1st
Saturday in
December

10:00AM-4:00PM

Entertainment

Refreshments

Shopping

Raffles



Here's Where to Get Your Holiday Swag in Austin This Year

GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET

DOWNTOWN



The holiday season is upon us – and with it, the quest to find the perfect gift for everyone on our list. But why just head to the mall? Austinites generally like to do things a little bit different, and chain stores aren't really our thing. Even if you need to hit up a brand-name store, some spots are just more fun to do so – and offer dining, events or entertainment to keep you merry while filling your gift list.

While [Austin](#) might have a plethora of [retail shopping choices](#), these spots are all but guaranteed to help you find the right gifts for your family, friends, co-workers, holiday donations and anyone else on your shopping list. From uniquely Austin venues to upscale boutiques and fair trade stores, **our list of the 10 Best holiday shopping spots** can help you make the most out of your shopping excursions – and just might help save your sanity, as well.

BY **SHELLEY SEALE**

<http://www.10best.com/destinations/texas/austin/shopping/christmas-shopping/>

The German-Texan Heritage Society offers shoppers hand-made, imported crafts including plenty of Christmas themed decorations such as nutcrackers and ornaments. It is a festival atmosphere with traditional German Christmas music, tables full of hand-crafted items direct from the Erzgebirge region of Germany, a visit by both our historic American Santa Claus and the traditional German Sankt Nikolas with gifts for the children, a hospitality serving of Glühwein (hot spiced wine), coffee, apple cider/juice and gingerbread cookies and plenty of German style baked goodies for purchase. Lunch served by Frank-Purveyors of Artisan Sausage. All purchases are Sales Tax Free on this special day. The market will take place in 2015 on Saturday, December 5 from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Free Admission.



<http://www.10best.com/destinations/texas/austin/shopping/christmas-shopping/>

<http://www.10best.com/destinations/texas/austin/downtown/shopping/german-christmas-market/>

From: <http://www.usatoday.com>

Scenes from 2016 Oktoberfest!



Calling all Texans of German heritage!

The **Texas German Dialect Project**
at the **University of Texas at Austin**

NEEDS *YOUR* HELP

100 years ago, **Texas German**—a dialect of German completely unique to Central Texas—was spoken by over 100,000 Texas Germans. Now, with less than ~6,000 speakers, it is on the verge of dying out.

In an effort to preserve the language, history and culture of the Texas Germans for future generations, the **TGDP** at **UT Austin** is interviewing and recording Texas German speakers, and creating an online archive of their language and stories.

**Help us preserve this precious and unique
aspect of German culture in
Texas—BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE**

(512) 910-5047

texasgermandialect@gmail.com

<http://www.tgdp.org/support>

See Order Form below for this wonderful 34" by 28" map—proceeds benefit the Texas German Dialect Project headed by Hans Boas at the University of Texas

German TEXAS

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

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

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

Komm mit nach Texas!



The historic Luchsvater home in New Braunfels, established under the 1835-1837 law, is a historic, the first to clearly name.

New Braunfels

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

New Braunfels' *Neuzeitung*, the *Zitang*, was published in German from 1853 until 1957. Textiles, agriculture and the processing of flour were the town's main industries in earlier times, whereas today tourism is one of New Braunfels' most important sources of revenue. The city annually hosts the world famous *Wurstfest* and maintains a distinct German character.



The Weissenhof Church in Fredericksburg

Fredericksburg

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

Fredericksburg became one of the largest German towns in Texas. The first newspaper in town, the *Wochenblatt*, was established in 1873. Until 1896, almost all of the town's residents spoke Texas German. With the arrival of the rail system in 1913, the town became more cosmopolitan. Today, Fredericksburg, an important commercial center and tourism plays a large role in its economy.



The Truett DeLozier monument in Comfort

The Nueces Massacre

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

Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels

Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels (1812-1873), founder of the town of New Braunfels, grew up in Germany and had royal lineage linking him to the royal families of England, Belgium, and Russia. He was a general in the Austrian Army, and in 1841 he was promoted to captain of Cavalry in the Austro-Prussian War. He held assignments in Eastern Europe, Bohemia, and the Rheinland. While stationed at the garrison of Biberich, he read Charles Sebald's novel, *Blondes of Life in Texas*, and became enamored with the idea of German settlement in Texas. He took a year off from his army duties to direct German emigration to Texas as the commissioner of the *Adelsverein*.

Solms-Braunfels established *Colobania* as a port for German immigrants and named it after himself. He worked diligently to bring Germans to Texas and to shield them from what he viewed as the backwardness of the Republic's Anglo settlers. Subsequently, he founded New Braunfels, named after his ancestral hometown of Braunfels in Hesse, and returned to Germany in May 1846. He published a state guide, *Texas*. Solms-Braunfels continued his military career in Europe, serving in the Austro-Prussian War, and retired as a general in 1866. He died in 1873, and he is still remembered for his tireless promotion of German immigration to Texas.



Map of Indianola in 1853, courtesy of Texas State University

Indianola

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

Indianola developed into an important seaport and supplied German immigrants, US Army forts and Anglo farmers alike. Additionally, it was the closest Gulf port to San Diego, California, and became the eastern terminus of the shortest overland route to the Pacific Ocean. Indianola quickly became the second largest port in Texas after Galveston, and in the 1850s was selected as the terminus for Charles Morgan's steamship line. Indianola was so important in the Civil War that Union gunboats sailed west from New Orleans to occupy and loot the city in October of 1862. When results of a population numbering more than 5,000 in September of 1873, Indianola suffered a direct and catastrophic hit from a hurricane that killed much of the population and destroyed the city. It was rebuilt but then was again obliterated by a hurricane in 1886, and by 1890 the site of the city had been completely abandoned. It is remembered as an important site for Europeans who settled in Texas in the mid-19th century.

Bringing Music from Abroad

Though Germans' appreciation for music was common cultural knowledge, the immigrants' musical presence in their new home became noticeable relatively late. After the successful settling of the land by the *Adelsverein* in 1844, in the following years, singing and playing instruments in groups became popular. In 1853, the numerous organized German singing societies held a *Singerfest* (singer's festival) in New Braunfels and formed the *Texas State Singers' League* (singer's league), which consisted mainly of folk music. Also during this period, individuals and families often gathered around the piano at home to learn classical and operatic works. Among these were famous composers, musicians and teachers, including Julius Meiss of Searcy, who gave lessons to a young Scott Joplin in Texasiana.



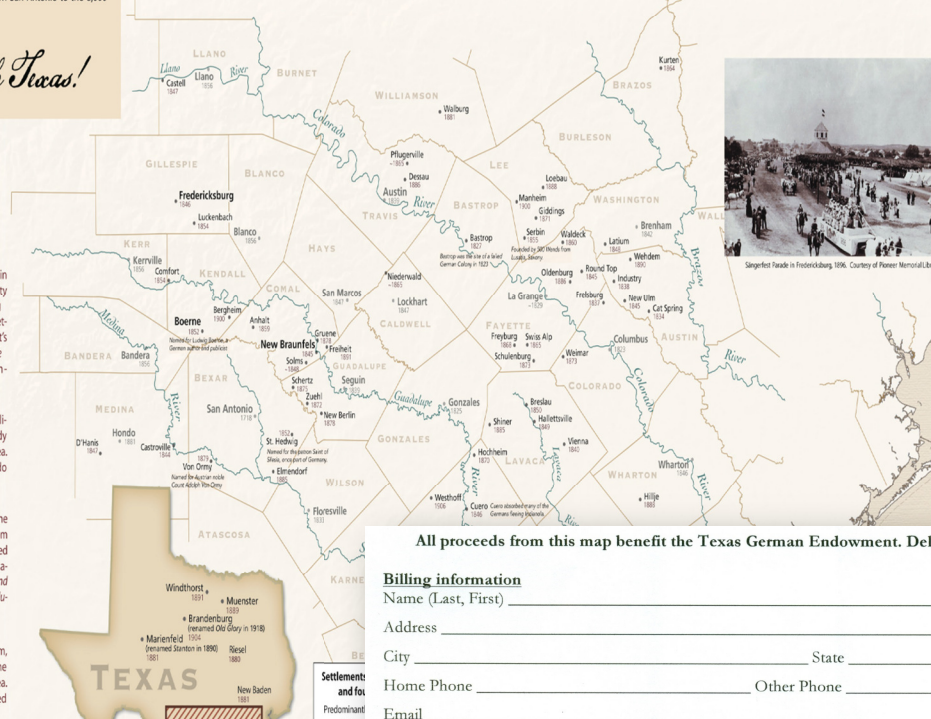
Singers' Festival in Fredericksburg, 1856. Courtesy of Pioneer Memorial Society

German music became less popular in Texas around the time of the first World War, marked especially by the discontinuation of the statewide *Singerfest* after 1916. However, many of the local singing groups have survived and still give regular performances, especially at festivals. *Wurstfest*, *Mallfest* and *Oktoberfest*, where dancers pack the floor for German folk tunes. Additionally, music of all sorts can still be heard at historic country dance halls founded by Germans, such as *Gauche Hall*.

Texas German

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

English Texas German Std. German



Timeline of German Texas

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

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

1836 Some Germans actively participated in the Texas Revolution, winning the state independence from Mexico. One of these, a Prussian surveyor named Herman Ehrenberg, was a survivor of the Goliad Massacre who wrote about his experiences in *With Milon and Fanning: The Adventures of a German Boy in Texas' Revolution*.

1838 Ernst established a settlement on his farm, which eventually became Industry. It is said the name was inspired by the hard working Germans in the area. Tobacco was an important crop; the town produced cigars and other goods.

1842 April A group of twenty-one noblemen in Germany set up the *Veren zum Schutz deutscher Einwanderer in Texas* (Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas) - also known as the *Adelsverein*. The major goal of the society were to acquire land in Texas for settlement and to create a German colony in the New World. They expected to make a profit as the land became populated and developed.

1842 Mai The *Adelsverein* sent two men, Counts Joseph Boos-Waldeck and Victor August von Leiningen-Westerburg-Altenleiningen to the Republic of Texas in order to purchase land for new settlements. The two men visited the coastal regions of Texas and navigated that the entire country was as it was there.

1844 Meanwhile, west of San Antonio, Henri Castro began settling his land with immigrants from Alsace. The town they founded, Castroville, was laid out like an European village. It soon became known as "Little Alsace."

1844 Juni The *Adelsverein* purchased rights to settle parts of the Fisher-Miller Grant in Central Texas. The mostly arid region between the Llano and Colorado Rivers and was never inspected by representatives of the organization, though it was touted as an advantageous investment. *Adelsverein* commissioner Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels began purchasing land and establishing the infrastructure necessary to transport settlers to Texas.

1844 Dezembere grants arrived in Carlshafen come by ship from Europe new communities in Texas.

1845 März Since settlement of the Fisher-Millers began building a town Braunfels named it after his of Neu Braunfels came into

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

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

THE JOURNAL OF
THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
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Vielen Dank to these contributors

Rodney Koenig, Houston
Dan Bode, Dayton
Angelina Kretzschmar, San Antonio
Anne & Mike Stewart, Comfort
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Lu Hollander, Brenham

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a'comin'love hearing from you! Mary

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This Space for Rent!

President's Notes

As we approach the end of the year and the holiday season our thoughts turn to holiday family gatherings and things that have become traditions over the years. After you have survived a big Thanksgiving turkey, be sure to make plans to come to the German Free School in Austin where you can visit St. Nikolaus at the GTHS annual Christmas Markt on Saturday December 3 from 10am until 4pm. We will again have live German Christmas music and various entertainment. The GTHS is also a great place to purchase imported German Christmas items to help support our mission. Items for sale include numerous glass ornaments, hand carved wooden decorations, and children's toys. Make sure you bring your kids or grandkids as the building will be decorated in traditional German Texan style. Also remember to be on your best behavior as we will be having St. Nikolaus stop by and visit with you again checking to see who has been good or bad.



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

I hope you were able to attend our annual meeting in LaGrange this year. I wish to express my thanks to the members and volunteers who helped make this a success. Next year's annual meeting will again be in Austin. If you have any suggestions for future annual meeting topics or locations and/or would like to volunteer to help host an annual meeting in your area please contact me.

I look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Markt. In the meantime, don't forget to tell your German friends about GTHS and invite them to come to one of our events.

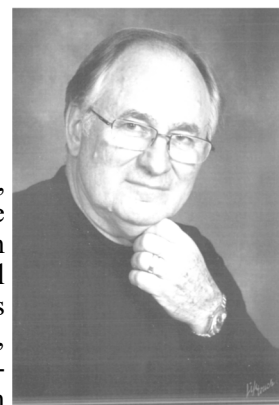
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Michael Krause

President, German Texan Heritage Society

LEAVE YOUR GERMAN MARK

By Rodney C. Koenig (past President of GTHS)



Recently on November 1, 2016, I attended an event of the University of Texas at Austin, being held in Houston, entitled The Texas Edge. The President of UT Austin, the Dean of the College of Natural Science, Professors from the McCombs School of Business, the Jackson School of Geosciences, the Cockrell School of Engineering, the Clements Center for National Security and other research scientists were there and spoke. We had University Professors and experts from the University on wide ranging topics, including talks on National Security, on extinction of Dinosaurs, on Entrepreneurship, and on other topics. Karl [Gebhardt](#), Astronomy Professor, is an expert in trying to measure the currently un-measurable. The Herman and Joan Suit Professor of Astrophysics in the [Department of Astronomy](#) has spent most of his career focused on understanding the role that black holes play in the formation of a galaxy. My early perception of a Black Hole was our muddy stock tank on the Koenig farm at Black Jack Springs, but I now know that it is much more serious. Karl [Gebhardt](#) is helping to lead a new scientific revolution: the quest to understand dark energy, a mysterious force that makes up 70 percent of the matter and energy in the universe. As you might expect from a project with such an ambitious goal, it (HETDEX) is a large collaboration. It involves astronomers, engineers, technicians, graduate students, and others from six academic institutions in the United States and Germany.

The project began at The University of Texas at Austin, when several faculty members and senior research scientists began discussing the possibility of using large arrays of spectrographs with the Hobby-Eberly Telescope. They realized that the technique was a natural fit for probing the nature of dark energy, and began assembling a team of theoreticians, instrument designers and builders, and others to develop the technology. Much of the observation is done through [McDonald Observatory](#), through a group called HETDEX. HETDEX is a collaboration of The University of Texas at Austin, [Pennsylvania State University](#), [Texas A&M University](#), [Universitäts-Sternwarte Munich](#), [Leibniz Institute for Astrophysics \(AIP\)](#), [Max-Planck-Institut für Extraterrestrische Physik](#), Institut für Astrophysik Göttingen, and University of Oxford. UT Austin says that what starts here changes the world. Dr. Karl Gebhardt is indeed leaving his German mark on our state, world and universe through his study of dark matter!



Dr. Karl Gebhardt, Professor of Astronomy, University of Texas

On the weekend of October 29, 2016, the La Grange High School Class of 1958 held a reunion, which was 58 years after graduation. I was part of that class and served as its Freshman President. We started with about 120 classmates as freshmen, with about 84 graduates as seniors in 1958. We lost eighteen of our classmates to death. We had a total of 32 classmates who attended the reunion, along with a number of spouses and other guests. It was a fun event held on the Square in La Grange, full of remembrances, stories and catching up. We realized that one special English teacher, Rosa Meinecke, who scared most of us, actually died at age 73, while most of our 1958 classmates are now age 75 or 76. Miss Meinecke seemed older than we currently are. We also were pleased that one of our

Band Directors, Ernest Clark, who was made a member of the TEXAS BANDMASTERS HALL OF FAME, was alive and living in Lake Jackson, Texas at age 92. I was pleased to act as Master of Ceremonies for the updating of our activities since our last class reunion. We heard stories of various activities, including those of NASA Engineer Hank Rotter, Builder David Tiemann, Architect Charles Sivek, Teacher Jewel Schulz Kay, Physician Elva Meiners Keilers, Musician Weldon von Minden, former Class Presidents Rodney Koenig, Lou Ann Birdwell Stephens and George Brandt, Coach and Athlete Butch Blume, Dairy Farmer Albert Kozel, Organizers Leon Mueller and Nancy Yates Kilty, among others. We learned that our classmate, Kay Hagler Pennington, whose family moved to Bolivia after our 11th grade, did in fact “graduate” from La Grange in absentia through correspondence work. Since our last reunion we have lost classmates Edwin Karstedt, , Edward Pietsch, Jan Thurman, Leslie Kleiber, Janice Pietsch Palm and Donald Zuhn. The first of our class was lost while we were still in High School, with Wayne Gene Anders having died at age 15 in 1955. The Class of 1958 was indeed a fine class which has left its Mark on our lives and on our communities.

Recently we also had a Koenig Family Reunion on October 22, 2016 at the K-Bar-K Ranch at O’Quinn, Texas, the home of Rear Admiral Weldon Koenig. A reunion of the family of John August Koenig and his wife Mary Klaevemann Koenig, and their ten children, Charles, Robert, Helen (Niemeyer), John Henry, Hermann, Hattie (Krischke), Willie, Paul, Walter, and Myrtle (Wessels) was held. The last surviving child of the ten children, namely Paul Koenig, had recently died on April 25, 2016, at 99 years, 7 months and 18 days. He had lived in Hallettsville for a number of years before his death. Stories were told of the family life on the farm at Black Jack Springs. Jon Todd Koenig discussed the ship (the SS Trave) on which the early Koenigs came to America and Texas and other topics on genealogy. Derek Abbott discussed having spent time on the John Henry Koenig Farm during summers helping with haymaking and cattle. We enjoyed visiting and discussing how our ancestors had left their German Mark!

How will you Leave Your German Mark? There are numerous ways in which you can leave your mark. Consider documenting your ancestor’s trip to Texas and their heritage. If you are not certain of the original location of your ancestors, please find out. Write an article about your ancestors and, the location in the old country from which your family originated and find the name of the ship on which they rode to come to Texas. My own family traveled on several different ships including The Trave, Ben Nevis and others. Records in Galveston, New Orleans, the state archives, immigration records and other places will disclose the name of the ship on which your ancestor traveled. Will you donate your family homestead to a German related charity? Will you give scholarships, or help restore historic buildings? Will you take the time to review your will or life insurance beneficiary designation to include GTHS or the German Department of your University? Will you check your IRA, 401(k) or 403(b) plan to include a German Charity as a named beneficiary? Of course you should take care of your family, but do consider leaving 10% of your estate or a fixed dollar amount to support the GTHS Journal or the outreach efforts of your favorite German cultural group. For assistance in leaving your German Mark, please call me at 713-651-5333 or email me at Rodney.Koenig@NortonRoseFulbright.com . You may also call any of our officers or Board Members shown in the inside covers of the Journal. In any event, you should Leave Your German Mark.

Genealogy Inquiries: Liz Hicks, Genealogy Editor

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

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



Rev. Heinrich Haas

Mrs. Anne Stewart, e-mail: mikeyjoe37@gmail.com, would like to find the date and place of Death for Heinrich Haas, an Evangelical Lutheran pastor. Rev. Haas moved to Comfort, TX in 1908/1909, suffering from respiratory problems, consumption (TB). His last known place of residence was Longworth, Fisher County, TX. He had moved there to answer the Geminde's Congregation call to serve as their pastor circa 1910.

Reply: There are too many Heinrich Haas listed in various records I've searched to be sure I have located the right one. Do you have an estimated date of birth? Have you found him on any censuses? I would use the tax lists for Comfort (Kendall County) and Longworth (Fisher County) to document dates of residence. I did not find Rev. Haas on Texas Deaths on Ancestry, nor on www.findagrave.com. Rev. Haas may be listed as Henry instead of Heinrich, or by initials, or even a variation of the spelling of his last name (Hass, Haase, Hase). Have you contacted the last church he was known to be at? How about the Archives at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin, TX. There may be some information on Rev. Haas in "The Lutheran World Almanac and Annual Encyclopedia" (yearly volumes), and "The Lutheran Standard".

There is a Heinrich Haas (born 1833, age 66) and wife, Wilhelmina Haas listed on the 1900 and 1910 Censuses of Comal County. Occupation for this person is not minister. Possibly, your Rev. Haas went to a TB treatment place. My aunt went to one near San Antonio in the 1930's.

Internet Genealogy/Your Genealogy Today, Research Tips & More! Vol 4 #24
These tips are brought to you by Your Genealogy Today.

Searching for Naturalization Records—When looking for US Naturalization records, keep in mind that immigrants who filed the declaration of intention sometimes didn't complete the citizenship process before the declaration expired. Thus, you may find multiple declarations for one person. Also, an individual could file a declaration of intention (first papers) in one court but complete the petition and oath in a different county, or even a different state. Pay attention to the dates—before 1906, records are held primarily at the court or the state archive where the immigrant filed. After 1906, documents were filed at federal courthouses, and records are held by The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) <http://www.archives.gov>. Two excellent sites for learning more about naturalization records are Naturalization Records in the USA (Olive Tree Genealogy) <http://www.naturalizationrecords.com/usa> and Naturalization Records Research Guide (Joe Beine) <http://researchguides.net/naturalization.htm>. By Lisa Alzo, Internet Genealogy and Your Genealogy Today author

Check for Cadastral Maps Clues in Austro-Hungarian Empire Research From the 1700s to the 1860s, the Habsburg Empire created a series of detailed maps for taxation and agricultural reforms known as cadastral maps. These resources enable researchers to pinpoint the exact plot of land where the ancestral homestead was situated, and provide numerous details about eighteenth- and nineteenth-century life, including size and type of land, field plots and individual yards. The government created three versions of these maps (a field sketch, a draft, and a full-color version), so at least one iteration is available for most villages. A few online resources for these maps include: Cadastral records for Galicia Online <http://polishorigins.com/galician-cadastre/> (it explains how to access maps for some areas online through the Polish State Archives). Also, check the Library of Congress <https://www.loc.gov/maps/?q=Poland> and Geshher Galicia Map Room <http://maps.geshhergalicia.org> and its Cadastral Map and Landowner Records Project <http://www.geshhergalicia.org/projects/cadastral-map-and-landowner-records>.

Are You Looking For German Church Records? For those with German ancestors of the Protestant Evangelical faith, accessing church records from many areas of Germany has gotten easier. Today you can access: www.archion.de. It is a joint effort between multiple archives across Germany to digitize German and make them available online through a subscription website.

UNITED STATES – NATURALIZATION PETITIONS

Find My Past now offers more than 7.8 million digitized records for the U.S.

Naturalization Petitions collection. Records can be found as early as 1795, but may not hold much information other than a name and place of origin. Between the years of 1905-1950 however, the naturalization process asked many helpful questions for today's genealogist. Not only will you likely find your ancestor's arrival information and country of origin, but you will likely find a full name, birth date and place, name of spouse and their birth date and place, and names of children and their birth details. The best part is there may be a photograph included of your relative!

This collection includes the following publications from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA):

□NARA microfilm publication M1545, Index to Petitions and Records of Naturalizations of the U.S. and District Courts for the District of Massachusetts, 1906-1966 □NARA publication M1522, Naturalization Petitions for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania □NARA publication M1248, Indexes to Naturalization Petitions to the U.S. Circuit and District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, 1795-1951 □NARA microfilm publication M2081, Indexes to Naturalization Petitions for United States District Courts, Connecticut, 1851-1992 □NARA microfilm publication M1164, Index to Naturalization Petitions of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, 1865-1957 □NARA microfilm publication M1675, Alphabetical Index to Declarations of Intention of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, 1917-1950 □NARA microfilm publication M1676, Alphabetical Index to Petitions for Naturalization of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, 1824-1941

UNITED STATES – PASSPORT APPLICATIONS

The U.S. Passport Applications and Indexes can now be accessed on Find My Past. This collection currently covers records from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania. Records from others states will be added to the collection as they are obtained. Some records go back to 1795, however the most valuable in genealogical data will likely be those created in the 20th century and beginning in December of 1914, you may find a photograph of your ancestor as well. These applications are loaded with valuable genealogy information. Find out where your ancestors were going and who they were setting out to see!

ITALY – CIVIL REGISTRATIONS

Benevento, Civil Registrations for the years of 1810-1942 have been updated on FamilySearch.org. These civil records include births, marriages, and deaths.

Though the records are not yet indexed, you can browse the digital images. The records are in Italian of course, but don't let that stop you! Just use the handy Google Translate tool for Italian to English.

PERU – CIVIL REGISTRATIONS

The Peru, La Libertad, Civil Registration, 1903-1998 is a collection of digital images at FamilySearch. Some have already been indexed, but you can browse through the entire collection as well. Included within these civil registrations are birth, marriage, and death records. You will be delighted to find extra genealogically significant pieces of information like names of witnesses and parents, and even the ages of parents. [TIP: When you find the age of the parent, you can calculate the estimated birth year which will come in handy as you continue to fill your family tree.]

SPAIN – MUNICIPAL RECORDS

FamilySearch also offers the Spain, Province of Cadiz, Municipal Records for 1784-1956. Some of these digital images have been indexed, but it would serve you well to browse through the 1.6 million records. Remember, they are broken down into smaller locations which make searching over 1 million records do-able. The municipal records include what is traditionally considered civil records like birth, marriage, and death items. However, they go one step further and contain some interesting record sets such as censuses, military records, and nobility records.

WHY WE'RE HERE

Each week, we share what's new and updated in genealogical record collections. We hope you will feel inspired to dig with us as we flesh out our long, lost ancestors. For more helpful tips and tricks for your genealogy success, sign-up for our free weekly newsletter found at the top right of this page or by scrolling to the bottom if you are on your mobile device. Have a great weekend!

Helga's Corner

Das Löffelchen

Some babies are born with a *Silberlöffel* (silver spoon) in their mouth, or so the saying goes. Those poor mothers! I have never heard that said in Germany, but many babies in Germany are given a little *Silberlöffel* as a present, usually at their baptisms (*Taufe*) or at some other occasion early in life.

This *Silberlöffelchen* normally has the child's name on the handle and is a treasure to be kept through generations. I have by way of inheritance a *Silberlöffelchen* with the name "Rudi" on it. Rudi was paralyzed from the day he was born, but my father, who was Rudi's godfather (*Patenonkel*), gave him a silver spoon with his name on the handle, and it was used a few times to feed him. Whenever I see this little spoon in my display cabinet, I am so grateful for being born healthy.

Speaking of spoons, I am reminded that a German *Teelöffel* is a teaspoon, however, the spoon you use for eating soup (*Suppe*) is an *Esslöffel*, which is important to know when the *Rezept* asks for *zwei Esslöffel Essig* (vinegar). Germans don't measure in cups, but that is another story. *Zwei Tassen Zucker* means different amounts to different folks. They prefer *Kilo*, *Gramm*, *Pfund*, or fractions thereof. The German *Pfund* is about 10% more than the American pound and is the same as *ein halbes Kilo*. Go figure. If you are anxious to experience utmost frustration, try to bake a cake according to a German recipe. It is a collection of measurements that mean nothing to us here in the good old USA. Examples: My pound cake (*Topfkuchen*) contains *ein Päckchen Backpulver*, *ein Päckchen Vanillezucker*, *ein Fläschchen Mandelaroma* und *geriebene Zitronenschale nach Bedarf*. How much is *ein Päckchen*?

Back to *Löffel*. There are *Löffel* made of flesh and blood. They are the ears of hares. That leads to the expression *Du kriegst gleich was hinter die Löffel!* which a mother might yell at her misbehaving son threatening to slap him.

It bothers me that I can't think of a word that rhymes with *Löffel*. *Löffelchen*, however, has many rhymes because an *o* can change to an *ö*. *Kartoffel Kartöffelchen*, *Pantoffel Pantöffelchen*.

Silberlöffel have the disadvantage of having to be polished occasionally or stored in special ways. I have many drawers full of inherited silverware. Who wants to inherit it from me? One set has the family crest of the von Tresckow relatives on each piece, the one who tried to assassinate Hitler. That, at least, has historical value to a point. That, oh gosh, also reminds me that my children gave me almost a hundred little tags to attach to items of family history significance, because all my knowledge dies with me. I should begin tomorrow with the pretty porcelain bowl I won in a bicycle race in my home town when I wasn't expected to win, and the trophy was a soccer ball. The judges ran into a nearby store and bought that bowl for me, a girl, *um Himmels Willen*. This may not be family history, but to me it represents part of me, and it enforced my conviction, that I was somebody of significance. Two years later I was elected president of the student council without having campaigned for the office.

And now some serious advice: Don't eat a boiled egg with a *Silberlöffelchen*



Bulletin Board

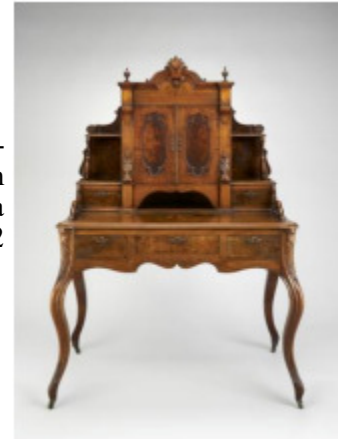
A Texas Legacy: Selections from the William J. Hill Collection

Through January 2, 2017 [Audrey Jones Beck Building](#) 5601 Main Street Houston, TX 77005

The exhibition brings together objects from the era of the Republic of Texas, when Texas was a sparsely settled territory (1836 to 1845); to the turn of the 20th century, when the oil boom resulted in the rapid expansion of the state's economy, transportation networks, and population. *A Texas Legacy* showcases the traditional craft practices employed by early settlers as they produced everything from utilitarian, stoneware pottery to highly accomplished, decorative pieces of furniture.

This presentation offers insight into the practices of early Texas artists and artisans. More than 65 works of art are on view, created for both personal and commercial use. Highlights include a one-of-a-kind, intricately carved desk by Adolph Kempen; a monumental wardrobe by Johann Michael Jahn; and early Texas silver by Samuel

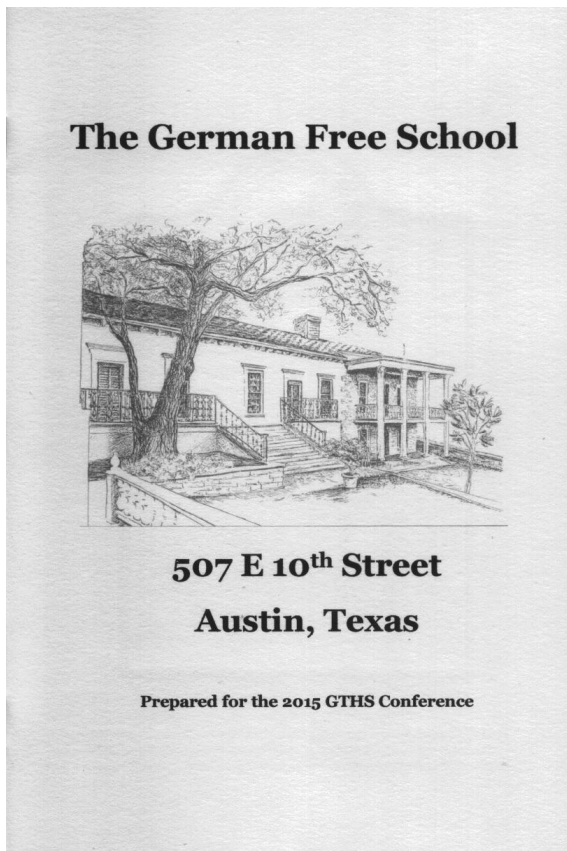
Created by Austin cabinetmaker Adolph Kempen, the *Houston Chronicle* called the circa-1875 desk the most significant portion of the donation. It is one of only few such desks documented by Kempen, who migrated to that city from Germany via Galveston a few years before crafting the desk. It appeared on *Antiques Roadshow* on July 2, 2012 where it was appraised at as much as \$12,000.



In reference to article found on p. 158, any info from members re "Hemme Milch" or "Henry Langehennig." *While I am writing, can you give me some advice? One of my cousins told me of a web site for a dairy called Hemme Milch in Wedemark, Germany, just north of Hannover and right where Google Maps take me when I input Hellendorf. Their web site claims that the family has been in the dairy business for 18 generations. A statement like that really piques the interest of anyone involved in genealogy. Do they have a tree going back 18 generations? What a find that would be! I have been told that Germans are very protective of their privacy, and to date my two attempts at contacting them have gone unanswered. Can you suggest a way to get a more productive response? Interestingly, Hemme Milch has a dairy tasting room (Do they mean that, when you've tasted milk, you haven't tasted it all?) It's only open about six months a year, but I may just have to drop in some time." Rex Hemme*

Newest Board Member: Please welcome Dr. Marc Pierce to the Board of Directors. Originally from Boston, after switching from French to German in high school he continued his study of German as an undergraduate culminating in a Ph.D. in German Linguistics from the University of Michigan. He is an associate professor of German at UT-Austin. His published works include studies of TX German as part of the TX German Dialect Project, in addition to his main area of interest, the history of linguistics. His areas of professional interests are historical linguistics, Germanic linguistics and philology, and Scandinavian studies. He teaches a variety of courses in German language, literature, and linguistics, plus various older Germanic languages. He also teaches courses in the history of linguistics, Scandinavian literature, and Great Books. He is a welcome addition to the leadership team of GTHS, further strengthening our ties to the UT German department. His expertise and connections to future teachers of German to high school and undergraduate students will aid our effort to attract younger GTHS members. His willingness to serve GTHS is appreciated.

Eddie Wolsch



Built in 1857, the German Free School is one of the “Hidden Gems of Downtown Austin.”

This booklet details the History of the School and Building as well as information on the Teachers, Trustees and students.

Originally printed to commemorate the dedication of the Texas Historical Marker in 2002, this reprint with additions was made for the 2015 GTHS Conference in Austin.

We currently have a few still available and one can be obtained by sending \$10.00 (Checks only)
(shipping & handling included).

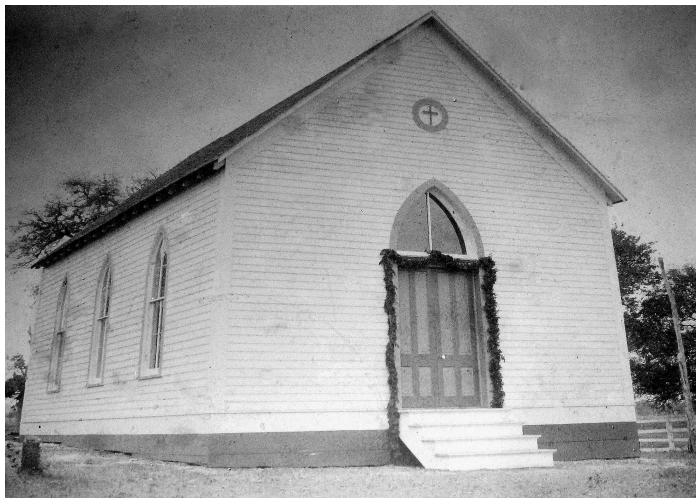
Let us know if you are a descendant of a Trustee, Teacher or Student, and we will include a free ribbon identifying you as a descendant of the historic GFS.

Please make Checks payable to GTHS and mail to:

GTHS
c/o Liz Hicks
746 Edgebrook Dr.
Houston, Tx 77034-2030

Community Events

Comfort's First Church: Der Deutsche Evangelische Kirche 1892 - 125th Anniversary



Immanuel Lutheran Church before Bell tower was added. Photo taken about 1892.

Comfort, founded in 1854 by Ernst Altgelt, evolved into a center for Germans emigrating in search of freedom. They longed for freedom from church and state where mandatory participation and taxation alienated them from their homeland.

These freedom focused individuals found a haven on the banks of the Guadalupe River in what would become the Texas Hill Country. Comfort was basically a shingle camp with ramshackle residences up an down Cypress Creek and 7th Street. Unlike Fredericksburg and New Braunfels, where the Germans first built a house of worship, Comfort people build their homes and businesses, leaving government and the church homeless. Neither entity had a place in their new town, Comfort was the second home on the Texas frontier for German freethinkers and intellectuals.

In 1891, a small and determined group of women decided enough was enough. After almost forty years, Comfort needed a church. They called on the Deutsche Evangelische (German Evangelical) Home Mission Board to find them a pastor. Thirty-three year old Frederick "Fritz" Bauer, his wife Marie and their two small children arrived that spring, via Gold Coast, Africa and a small church in Manchester, Missouri.

Pastor Bauer discovered that Comfort had no church building, no congregation, no committee to organize religious efforts and no funds. His work was cut out for him. Pastor Bauer proved to be the answer to the women's prayers. To begin with, he and the eight ladies formed a new organization, the Marie Martha Verein (club). These women would take care of the business of the new church a-borning.

Comfort's first church structure, built by Cristel Lindemann and funded by freethinkers and two saloon owners, slowly took shape. Across the street from Comfort's first rock school building to the west, the Treue der Union Monument to the south and behind the railroad depot, this small wooden Deutsche Evangelische Kirche surfaced on the edge of town. This new church, inhabiting an environment not particularly inclined to nurture a religious institution, was dedicated August 26, 1892.

The Christian population in Comfort now had a minister, a geminde (congregation) and a structure. All ten charter members were pleased with the progress. Mr. Lindemann, completing the church itself, went on to build pews and an altar for the new church. The geminde longed for a church bell to toll



Church pews and altar, 1892

the good news, but there had not been enough money to build a bell tower when the church was built. Time hopefully would fill this void.

The Marie Martha Verein's first project was to start a fund for the church needs. They bought Pastor Bauer a "slate for the church where he could write the song numbers" and six months later, a "chalk board for the Sunday School classes." They hired a "cleaning lady" for \$5.00 annually." They found and hired an organist who was paid by the worship service in which she played. The Verein held bazaars and moonlight picnics as fund raisers to buy a church bell. It wasn't until a year or so after Pastor Bauer's departure to a new church in Missouri, that enough money was earned to add a bell tower to the church and purchase said bell. The Verein cared for the church, contending with rousting bats in the belfry - cost not recorded, replacing a broken bell rope - \$2.75, clearing debris from the church yard - \$6.25, church lighting improvements -



Bell tower added 1900

\$12.00, ants and bugs-never ending and fresh fruit for Christmas presents to the Sunday School classes-\$5.00. A sturdy, handsome pastor's chair appeared in the church sanctuary, circa 1900, but no reference is found in the Verein's monthly meetings. The chair remains in the sanctuary to this day. Was it purchased by donation? Anonymous funding? Mystery unsolved.

The small church clung to life. Itinerant ministers rented it, advertising their service in *The Comfort News*. Other denominations, Episcopalian and Methodist, used the small church until they could build their own. This historic building hosts weddings, Sunday School classes, special meetings, historic tours and other events. Over the years, the *Deutsche Evangelische Kirche* became the Community Church, sometimes referred to as the Union Church, and in the 1950's the Immanuel Lutheran Church of Comfort, Texas. A new and larger church building was constructed at that time.



In 2012, the church council began planning for the 125th anniversary of Comfort's first church. Volunteers were sought and committees formed. The summer of 2016 found church members and others hard at work on the sturdy old building. The bell tower was refurbished and the foundation worked on. Old wood was replaced, termites eradicated, paint scraped and general over-hauling continues. Timbers in

the bell tower were discovered to be numbered in Roman Numerals.

Immanuel Lutheran will celebrate this 125th Anniversary on August 26, 2017. Mark and save this date on your calendar and plan to come. The church is located at 318 High Street. For more information, you are welcome to call the church office, 830-995-3756.

Submitted by Anne and Mike Stewart, ILC Archives Members, Comfort

Fayette County Cemeteries... Historic Resources That Should Not Be Forgotten

by Gesine (Tschiedel) Koether

There are 272 identified cemeteries in Fayette County and most likely more we have yet to discover. Some of these cemeteries cover many acres and some small plots, perhaps well-manicured or possibly neglected, some remembered and some totally forgotten. In writing the historical moments for this year's 150th anniversary of Round Top's Bethlehem Lutheran church, I took on the responsibility of updating our cemetery's index. I found myself drawn into trying to find out more about those found in our one acre cemetery.

There are 319 burials identified in our cemetery but 326 sites with strong indication that a grave exists. Cemeteries just like ours have both legible and illegible headstones.

Cemeteries might have an index that states the name of a burial, but its site is unknown.

And there are graves without names, and names without grave markers. Details were hard to find on some the burials as it was not until the establishment of the State Department of Public Health and Vital Statistics in 1903 that births and deaths were required to be recorded. Still it was years before filing these documents became normal for our families.

Details I found in our cemetery are most likely found throughout the Fayette county cemeteries. For instance, we thought we had three Civil War veterans. With research, I found nine. There are at least 90 children buried throughout our cemetery. Some were born and died on the same day. Some lived a few months or perhaps a few years but these children never



reaching puberty. Of those 90 children identified, approximately 20 of them are buried alone. As far as my research has found, no other family members of these children are in our cemetery.



On the other side of our loss of the young, there are ten or more burial sites for those who made it to 90 or more years of life. Such longevity is a blessing and a rarity in their time in history. How many veterans, children and centenarians are in your cemetery?



Cemeteries often have a number of embellished gravesites worth mentioning. Personal photos on the headstone, ornate headstones such as tree trunks, wrought iron fence surrounding the gravesite and engravings of quotes, poetry and religious sayings are most commonly found. In addition, small stones left on a headstone, flowers embellishing burial sites, flags, sea

shells, and wooden crosses are some of the ways the living have honored the dead at our cemetery. Walk your cemetery and see what you find.

There are tragic stories of murders, suicides, accidents and illnesses. My search found that just when our ancestors were arriving, so were cases of pneumonia, cholera, scarlet fever, smallpox, yellow fever and measles. Some of these followed our ancestors from Europe to Galveston and other ports and then on to Fayette County. Some were caused by unsanitary conditions, some passed from person to person, and some diseases were caused by a bite from a mosquito. It isn't surprising that we find so many children buried here in Fayette County – one cannot imagine the grief of their parents, who did not have an easy life.

Cemeteries belong to all of us and are a valuable historic resources that should not be forgotten; the final resting places of our forefathers need to be maintained. My plans are to continue to give cemeteries the attention and time they need to NOT be forgotten. My hope is that you too will find it in your hearts as well. R.I.P. can still be found on many tombstones in our cemeteries. May we all understand those letters and may our buried **Rest In Peace and Be Not Forgotten**.

Bibliography

Ancestry.com
Fayette County Cemetery Map as of March 2015 by Fayette County
Obst, Reverend Martin H. and Banik, John G. "Our God is Marching On", Von Boeckmann-Jones, Austin, Texas, 1966

Submitted by Gesine and David Koether

This Week in Germany Editorial

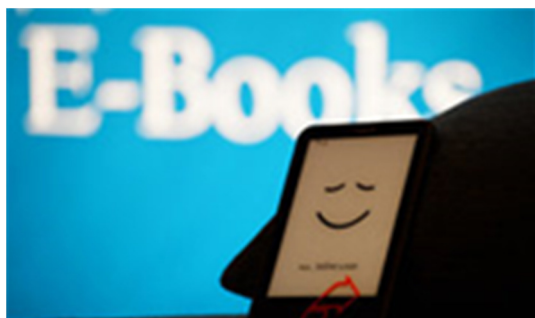


Israeli author Noga Pessso wears a sticker reading 'I'm a writer - ask me about my books' at the Frankfurt Book Fair in Frankfurt. ©dpa

Dear TWIG Readers

Literature and books have long been important to Germans. Germany consistently ranks among the top ten countries that produce the most books (in 2014, Germany released 87,134 new titles). Although the numbers fluctuate (with 2015 seeing fewer new book productions than the previous year), Germans continue to read, with books ranking No. 15 in a list of Germans' most frequent leisure activities.

But the way Germans are reading - and where they get their books - is changing. Last year, there was a 6 percent increase in online sales of books in Germany, according to the *Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels*. The market share for e-books also increased slightly from 4.3 percent in 2014 to 4.5 percent in 2015, but that has remained relatively stable over the past few years. But the digital age will likely change the book market even more in the long run - and publishers are preparing for it.



The new Tolino Vision 3 HD e-reader is presented at the book fair in Frankfurt. ©dpa

The Frankfurt Book Fair is in full swing - and part of it is dedicated to digital media. The digital revolution is changing the publishing industry and on Wednesday, the fair featured a one-day program called The Arts+, which focused on the business of creativity in the digital world. One of the speakers was David Hockney, a 79-year-old British artist who creates art with only his fingertip - using an iPad. The artist is about to release a sumo-sized book (20 by 28 inches) with his life's works in it - including his recent iPad art. The multi-day event also features the works of other artists and even musicians, thereby bringing together content rather than just paperbacks. Also on display are an interactive classroom, 3D printer art and Virtual Reality experiences that allow visitors to live in a story by interacting with characters and developing the plot themselves, thereby taking storytelling to a whole new level!

The Frankfurt Book Fair will run until October 23. Take a look at this week's Culture section to read more about it! Nicole Glass, Editor,
The Week in Germany, Webteam, Germany.info

Submitted by Charles Locklin, Austin

Fachwerk houses and pewter plates by Allan Turner, *Houston Chronicle*

There wasn't much about the antebellum South that didn't make touring journalist Frederick Olmsted cranky.

"They work little, and that little, very badly," he groused of his back-country hosts. "They earn little, sell little, buy little and they have little—very little-of the common comforts and consolations of civilized life. Their destitution is not material only, it is intellectual and moral."

Imagine then, the delight of the future designer of New York's Central Park, when, in the mid-1850's he visited the German hamlets in the Texas Hill Country. There he found art-and book-filled houses and conversation "worthy of golden goblets." He waltzed, quaffed wine and marveled at Mozart flawlessly played on a "fine piano."

What might be not immediately apparent, though, was that Olmsted's brush with high culture occurred in the most primitive setting. His hosts lived in log cabins. Their furniture was made by their neighbors, their wine,



"The Material Culture of German Texans" photos
The Heinrich and Johanne Lindig house, built about 1877, is a double-pen log house with a dogtrot. It was built in the Pedernales settlement, which is near Stonewall.

fermented from their own grapes. Just about everything the settlers possessed was fashioned from the materials at hand.

Texas Germans' "material culture" - the houses, churches, public buildings, furniture and tombstones-is the subject of a 516 page lavishly illustrated book by Kenneth Hafertepe, museum studies department chairman at Baylor University.

Twelve years in the making, "The Material Culture of German Texans" likely will take its place beside Houston architect Gerald Moorehead's "Buildings of Texas" and Lonn Taylor and David Warren's two-volume "Texas Furniture: The Cabinet-makers and Their Work" as a foundational study of Lone Star life in the 19th century.

The German cultural impact on Texas was very large in the 19th century in terms of painting, literature, music and cultural things, "Hafertepe said. "But it also was manifest in turnvereins (gymnastic societies), singing societies and beer gardens. There was a whole set of ways the Germans were distinctive."

German immigrants to Texas came from a variety of locales and circumstances. Most were middle-class peasants, but among them were intellectuals fleeing Old World restrictions on political or religious liberty. First arriving in the 1830, they poured into Texas by the tens of thousands until, by century's end, they represented at least 5 percent of the state's population. Today, roughly a million Texans-more than 10 percent of the state population-claim German ancestry.

The pioneers' homes were situated in the so-called "German Belt" arcing from Galveston, through Austin and Fayette counties, to Mason in the Texas Hill Country.

Galveston, Houston and San Antonio all had sizable German populations, and they are represented in the new study. But most of the substantial volumes is devoted to life in the small towns and rural areas—farms in the lower counties, proto-ranches in the Hill Country

In meticulous detail, Hafertepe chronicles the building techniques and floor plans of buildings-many



'The Material Culture of German Texans'
By Kenneth Hafertepe.
Texas A&M University Press,
516 pp., \$50.

still standing—in the German counties. The earliest settlers mimicked their Anglo neighbors, erecting log cabins, many with two rooms separated by an open “dogtrot” hallway.

Some of the counties in which some were available, alternated layers of mortared rock between the logs for increased sturdiness. Hafertepe call the hybrid homes “log cabins on steroids.”

“Fachwerk” structures, featuring a stone-or brick-filled wooden frames, also were common in the German settlements, as were rock houses in the Hill Country, a region bereft of substantial timber

Beyond chronicling the earliest architectural stylings, Hafertepe details how those styles changed. By the 1870’s Victorian architecture—sometimes designed by British-born architect Alfred Giles—began appearing in San Antonio’s stylish King William neighborhood.

Built of limestone—like their Hill Country antecedents—the new mansions emulated Yankee fashion, albeit with modifications to accommodate a Texas climate.

Hardscrabble as the early settlers’ existence may have been, the Germanic newcomers nonetheless were attuned to the styles of the Old Country.

“There was a crazy story of a German family living near Burnet who were using pewter plates,” Hafertepe said. Gossip buzzed among their less-affluent Anglo neighbors that the family was dining off “silver plates.”

“Some of them brought nice stuff from Germany—silverware, linen—but they used it up pretty quickly,” he said. “That was part of the story in terms of rough conditions.”

Among the newcomers, though, were artisans able to produce wares that reflected the neo-classical styles of Europe. Johann Michael Jahn of New Braunfels produced furniture in the Biedermier style that has found its place in collections and museums throughout the state.

“He created some pretty sophisticated furniture,” Hafertepe said. “In a sense it would have been considered out of date. He was making furniture in the 1850s and ‘60s that had been popular in

Germany in the 1830s.”

Other craftsmen fashioned furniture for themselves or their neighbors with varying degrees of skill, but—in toto—the quality of their handiwork belies the idea that the artifacts of pioneer life uniformly were primitive.

As with his treatment of houses and their furnishings, Hafertepe offers new insights into public structures—churches, courthouse, jails and social halls—and religious and secular cemeteries. The latter work builds on the seminal investigations by the University of Texas cultural geographer Terry Jordan, offering new interpretations of the emblems incised on stones.

“The Material Culture of German/Texans” comes at a time when the material past is both revered and threatened.

Tourism trading on Germanic—if generic—culture has become pervasive in New Braunfels, Fredericksburg and other communities were German openly was spoken as recently as the early 1960s.

Shops and restaurants reliant on the tourist trade—Hafertepe said he ate countless pork “schnitzel burgers” during his research—sometimes parody the culture they purvey.

The hills are peppered with Porsches as urban expatriates in search of old-time “gemutlichkeit” buy up historic properties. Some revere the historic patina, then inadvertently deface it as they adapt often tiny residences for modern life.

Still, Hafertepe said he was surprised at how intact the built environment of some of the old communities—especially Fredericksburg—remains.

“I was more overwhelmed,” he said. “A lot of the 19th and early 20-century buildings remain. It’s a pretty impressive testament. These structures were built well. The old Germans weren’t going to waste money. They were going to do it right the first time.” *Houston Chronicle*, Sunday, August 14, 2016

Allan Turner is a senior reporter for the *Chronicle*.

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Submitted by Charles Thompson, Liz Hicks and Rodney Koenig, Houston



This walnut sofa, made about 1861, has been attributed to settler Wilhelm Arhelger.



The Heinrich and Margarete Bierschwale house in Fredericksburg, finished in 1873, is one of the best-documented German-Texan houses in the state.



Painted decorative details — found frequently in these homes — appear on the ceiling and walls of the Lewis-Wagner house in Winedale.

People

Bar-B-Que in the Hill Country by Elmer Burow

As far back as I can remember when there was any kind of a celebration the first thing you thought about was Bar-B-Que. Any time there was something to celebrate an old mutton sheep was in danger of losing his life. After shooting it, you had to make sure to bleed him good because that took some of the strong smell away and the second thing was to make sure not to let any of the wool touch the meat because it would give it a bad taste. After taking the entrails out, you washed it out with water and hung it up in a cool place, making sure to cover it with a sheet to keep the flies off.

The next morning the fire was lit (live oak or mesquite was preferred because it made the best coals). While the fire was going, it was time to cut up the meat and get it salted and peppered and on the pit. It was a good idea to keep the pit hot because you wanted to cook as much of the fat out as you could. Anyway, the meat was served and everybody swore it was the best they ever had, while they were scrapping the fat off their mouth.

I never could figure out why they always had mutton but at that time this was what they had when they made Bar-B-Que. At later times things changed but when I was young that was all they ever had or that was what it seemed like to me. I still remembered those days and then things changed and I found out that there were all kinds of good things out there to Bar-B-Q. As I got older I got to where I liked to Bar-B-Q more and more and got to do quite a bit of it. One of the first things I remember was with a group of men from the Lutheran Church that decided to have a fund raiser so they decided to have a Bar-B-Q. People were asked to donate meat so you never knew what you were going to get. Some beef showed up, along with several goats and even a hog showed up. Since the church didn't have a pit yet we went down to the Bowling Alley and used theirs. It turned out to be quite a challenge with all of the different kinds of meat and the ages of the meat, but we got it done and the fund raiser was quite a success

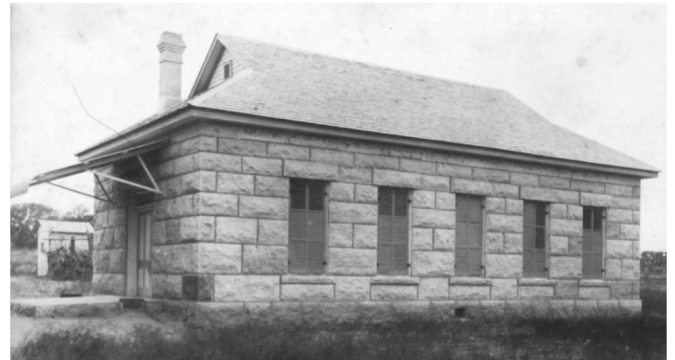


Comfort's Turn Verein Hall and Bowling Alley

so they have had it every year since. Of course, they built a pit that will hold about five hundred pounds of meat and buy their meat so it will be easier to work with. They still have their Bar-B-Q every year but I still remember that first one.

Through the years the favorite meat was always changing. Brisket was always a favorite but there was always a lot of waste because of the fat but had a really good taste. Beef ribs and roast were always good but expensive. Turkey thighs were real popular when they had the turkey plant in Fredericksburg but you had to be really careful to keep it moist and there was always chicken that is always good.

The Cypress Creek community had a chicken Bar-B-Q every year to keep up the old school house. One year my friend and I were fixing them when a big black cloud came up to the southeast and looked really bad. About that time one of our old timers came by and told us not to worry because we never got rain from the southeast. Well, about two hours later the bottom fell out of that cloud and all we had to cover the pit was a sheet and all that did was make a pool for the water to stand in.



Cypress Creek School

We sat in the truck for a while and watched the sauce I had made wash out of the top of my pot. I decided we better get our chicken off the pit and get on the right side of the creek. With water running out of the top of our boots we got the chicken into containers and got on the right side of the creek. Luckily the man with the lockers in town let us put them in the freezer for a week. The next week we got them out of the freezer and got them back on the pit and with a little loving care they were delicious.

One time I barbecued for the Comfort stock show and they told me they would get me some help. I got there plenty early because we were going to have turkey thighs and you really don't want to crowd them or they get dry. My help showed up a while later and the first thing I saw was his big shovel and that gleam in his eye. I explained that we sure didn't want too much heat but every time I turned my back, he would be busy

with his big shovel saying that was the way they did it at the big Bar-B-Q that he helped with. I tried to explain that this was a little Bar-B-Q and we didn't want that much heat while I was scratching his coals but it didn't do any good. We spent the morning with him putting coals in on one side and me scratching them out at the other side. Luckily it turned out good but I told them if they wanted me to do it again the next year, please don't send any help.

I guess the one I remember most is the one at the Lutheran Church. My brother, Arthur, was in charge of it for years with help from Carl Rechintine, Clarence Burrow, Johnny Baron and Elmer Burrow, along with their boys as soon as they got to be old enough.

Some of the people didn't think that it was right to drink beer on the church property but were told to stay on the other side of the building and they would never see it. Most of them thought this was alright. There were lots of 42 games played while the meat was cooking and of course, lots of bragging going on by the winners.



B-B-Q site located in the shade at front of Old Church

The whole congregation got in on the deal with the women fixing all the rest of the meal, the men putting up the tables borrowed from Mr. Below. The tables were set up under the big live oaks that were there at the time. It seemed like there was always a breeze under those trees and everybody had a good time.

Through the years they found enough money to buy our own tables and chairs but had to borrow big tents from the funeral home because the trees died and there was no more shade. Through the years, the church built a pit and the celebration was held at the church, at the park and finally in the new annex at the church.

With old age getting the best of them the Bar-B-Q Crew moved on too. When my brother had to give it up because of age, I took over being in charge and like the rest of the old-timers I had to give it up last year (2015) and my oldest brother's boy, Darrel, took over so I am sure they will keep it going.

During all of this, my sister had a café called The Rathskeller, in the early 1980s and it had a pit so I decided to make a little money selling Bar-B-Q on Sunday mornings. I would make enough for my sister to have it on her lunch and sell the rest. Of course, it meant I had to get up early and get everything ready so the meat would be done by noon. People would come by during the morning and I would mark their pieces of meat with an



Elmer Burrow, Clarence Burrow and Carl Rechintine at the Comfort Park



Lutheran Church BB-Q crew hard at work (L-R) Elmer Burrow, Clarence Schaeffer, Clarence Burrow, Carl Rechintine

an ice cream stick and they would come by about noon and pick it up.

This worked really good but this one lady didn't trust my stick so she brought some copper wire and tied it on her meat to make sure that she got the right meat. The sticks were alright with the rest of the people and usually I was sold out by 11:00 o'clock. I had several people where I would mark their meat when I put it on because you knew they would be there at noon.

There was one morning where I really made good money. At that time, they were still taking these big



The Rathskeller Restaurant in Comfort, Texas

flatbed trucks, load them up with people and head down the country to pick cotton. Well, they stopped under some big pecan trees across the road and as luck would have it, the smoke from the pit was blowing directly toward them, It was not long before one of them came over and wanted some Bar-B-Q. I tried to explain that it had just been on for a few hours and didn't have any sauce or anything but he wanted a pound and acted like it was awful good when he ate it. The first thing I knew there was a line wanting a pound each. I knew I was in trouble with my regular customers so I sent my wife after more meat and kept selling mine a pound at a time.

They almost sold me out and they must be used to half raw meat but they left with a smile on their faces. While I was selling my meat a pound at a time, my wife got the new meat on the pit and with a little bit of rushing, my regular customers got their meat just a little bit after noon.

The reason I said that I made money was because the meat usually shrinks at least twenty per cent and the sauce is pretty expensive, so I saved all of that when they bought the Bar-B-Q early. I sold my Bar-B-Q there several years and people were unhappy when I stopped but it just got too hard after a while.

If you drive through the Hill Country during the weekend I bet you will find all kinds of people making their own kind of Bar-B-Q and if you will stop and ask them, you will find that they have the best Bar-B-Q in the whole Hill Country.

Elmer Burow, Cypress Creek, October, 2016

Illustrations:

1. Barbeque photos extracted from the ILC Barbeque Scrapbook, Courtesy of The Immanuel Lutheran Church Archival Collection. Harry Seidensticker, Church Historian and Archives Coordinator.
2. Comfort Historic Structure Photos: The *Rathskeller* Restaurant (The Town Cellar), The *Turn Verein* (*Athletic Club*) and The Cypress Creek School, Courtesy of Comfort Heritage Foundation Archives, Margaret Kutzer Morries, Archivist Coordinator. Desktop editing, Mike Stewart.

Submitted by Elmer Burow via Mike Stewart

Coming in the Back Door to My Family History by Suzanne Gage Faught

Both of my parents, and their parents, were native Austinites so I grew up hearing stories about our family members and visiting their homes. On my mom's side, I knew that her grandmother's grandfather established one of the first stores in Austin. We often visited Mom's great-uncle (Herman Reissig), next door to the then-closed-up store building located at Third and Red River.

Uncle Herman sold the property in 1966 to Cleigh Nease and Thom Cowley, who restored the complex of



...the little girl standing in front of the store is my grandmother, Lillian Agnew Boyd, and her grandparents are behind her (Adolph and Catherine Reissig, owners of the store). I estimate the date of the photo at around 1905, based on my grandmother's age.

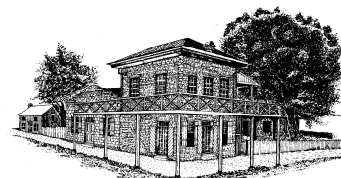
buildings to become the Waterloo Compound. They also provided information for the Hofheintz-Reissig Store to be a Texas Historical Landmark and National Register Property. The limestone store later housed Emilia's Restaurant and has been the home of Moonshine Patio Bar and Grill since 2003.

Henry Hofheintz, a widower, came to Texas and operated a freight-hauling business until he decided to remarry and settle down in Austin. In 1852, he built a log cabin for his new family and used a pushcart to sell dry goods door-to-door until he could afford to build a combination house and store in 1854. He also built a "Sunday House" so that rural German families could come to Austin and purchase provisions, spend the night, and attend church before returning home. The Sunday House still stands on the northwest end of the Waterloo Compound property, the last one remaining in Austin.

Hofheintz's daughter, Catherine, married Adolph Reissig and they made several additions to the store including a domino parlor and saloon with a wine cellar stocked with wine made from grapes grown on the property. They had several children and I was fortunate to know two of them...my great-grandmother and Uncle Herman, who married but never had children.

When Hofheintz died in 1880, the Reissigs purchased the property from the estate. Family members continued operating the dry goods store until 1952 when Uncle Herman closed it. My mom told me that he had a short career as a printer but was forced to return to managing the store when his mother, Catherine, was no longer able to do so. Mom said that Uncle Herman resented having to give up his printer's job and refused to be buried in Oakwood on the Hofheintz-Reissig family plot.

The Hofheintz-Reissig Store was in continuous operation for 98 years and one of Austin's oldest businesses. Thanks to Cleigh and Thom, we have a wealth of family information and the beautiful pen-and-ink print of the renovated building.



Waterloo Compound
1854

From the Texas Historical Commission Website: **The Marker Maker's Marker**
By Andy Rhodes, Managing Editor The Medallion



Brothers Scott and Billy Southwell admire the freshly minted THC historical marker honoring their family's company.

Y'all are lucky—you're getting to see the process of a marker being born."

With these words, Shannon Disney welcomed a crew of Texas Historical Commission (THC) staffers to witness the birth of not just any marker, but the Official Texas Historical Marker for the [Southwell Company](#)—the 150-year-old San Antonio foundry that has created more than 16,000 THC markers over the past six decades.

By the time the Southwell marker was ready to enter the world, a small crowd had eagerly gathered around its molding encasement. An acrid metallic smell permeated the air and steam rose from the mold as it slowly opened to reveal the freshly minted aluminum marker. A round of applause erupted from the group upon seeing the text honoring The Southwell Company. And the biggest smiles were on the faces of brothers Billy and Scott Southwell—great-grandsons of company namesake George Southwell.

"We finally got our marker!" beamed Scott, vice president of the company. "It was so surreal to see, and I even learned something from reading it. We're in the history business, but it took us making our own marker for me to learn some of the details about my own family's history."

Scott explains that a marker originates with a historical inspiration that eventually becomes the text, which is then transposed to a large plastic sheet called a negative (formerly created with photography equipment). Computers have replaced many of the manual tasks previously handled by employees, says company president Billy Southwell, who remembers painstakingly setting the text with individual letters.

"Back then, there was a guy from the THC who would come in here, and every once in a while he'd say, 'Wait—we need to put a comma in this spot.' Then we'd have to start all over again," he recalls.

Scott adds, "When I was a kid, it was my job to work with all those letters. I had to clean the paint off of them

individually with thinner and place each one back in the appropriate drawer section. I don't miss doing that at all."

The brothers explain that the next step involves a trade-secret technique of developing plastic-like impressions for the molds. Employee Cruz Urtado creates them with a mysterious chemical mix and a few large pieces of machinery.

"This whole process is awesome," he says. "I was in the military, so I'm used to working with my hands to build and fix things. I've also learned a lot of history while working here."

The marker's final impression is created with a special blend of sand and clay that becomes the basis for the metal mold. Bars and scraps of aluminum are heated to 1400 degrees in a barrel-shaped container until the metal becomes a molten glowing-orange liquid. It is then carefully poured into a small hole in the mold, where the liquid metal spreads throughout channels inside. After about 30 minutes, the mold is opened, resulting in a distinctive sensory blend of clanging metal equipment, pungent smell, and gleaming fresh aluminum product.

Several steps still remain: metal sections are cut, ground, and polished, and small remnants in the letters and graphics are removed with a hammer and specialized chisels. The marker's final stop is the painting area, where it's colored entirely black before the top layer of text is shaved off to reveal the shiny aluminum letters beneath.

Scott Southwell explains that the company's history dates to 1866, when it produced stencils for many of San Antonio's wool and cotton shipments. In 1914, George Southwell purchased the business, when its primary focus was manufacturing rubber stamps.

"We've always been some sort of marking device company—from wooden stencils to rubber stamps to metal signage," he says.

Billy Southwell adds that in 1936, his grandfather Wilson helped create the Texas Centennial markers' bronze stars and wreaths with Gutzon Borglum, who designed Mount Rushmore.



A sand-based mold is developed from a chemical-based impression.

In the early 1960s, Billy and Scott's father Bill worked with then-Texas State Historical Survey Committee Chairman John Ben Shepperd and Gov. John Connally to develop what would become the THC's historical markers.

"I remember being a little kid and seeing them sitting around our kitchen table discussing the marker design plan," Billy says. "I woke up at 3 a.m. and they were still at the table talking about it. They were all brilliant, hard-working men."

By the time Billy took over operations in the 1980s, he shifted the company's focus from smaller items like decals and stamps to larger-scale projects like plaques and signage.

"It's hard to believe there are more than 16,000 of those historical markers across Texas now," he says. "It seems like we've always been working with the THC. It's not even like they're customers—they really feel like family."

Submitted by Van Massirer via Liz Hicks

Recognition sought for Moulton physician

Moulton Eagle, Sept. 1, 2016

Rose Marie Forbrich, daughter of Moulton native Dr. Hugo John Strieder, is seeking recognition for her late father's accomplishments. Forbrich will be presenting council with a request to name a street in town in his memory.

Forbrich says that her father was born in Komensky on March 21, 1907, the son of John and Otillia Strieder. He attended Komensky School through eighth grade, after which he either walked or rode a horse to Moulton High School, graduating in the Class of 1926.

His dream was to become a Doctor of Medicine in order to take care of the people in Moulton.

Knowing he would have to work to pay for the schooling, he studied at Baldwin's Business College in Yoakum for one year, then entered St. Edwards University in Austin where he received his pre-medical training before attending the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. He graduated with his MD Degree

in 1934. His Baldwin's Business College experience gave him a chance to work, typing class papers and working for his teachers. His parents only gave him \$200 for medical school, which he wound up repaying. His mother said he would never be a doctor, that he was "putting on airs," but he was determined to fulfill his dream of caring for the people of Moulton. Strieder interned at Brackenridge Hospital in Austin for 1 year, then as Resident Physician for 8 months.

In 1936, he entered private practice, opening his first office for general practice in Rowena, where his mother's relative lived.

On June 29, 1936, Dr. Strieder married Lillian Migl in the Shiner Catholic Church. To quote from the *Moulton Eagle*:

"Dr. and Mrs. H. J. Strieder arrived in our city and are domiciled at the present at the Frank J. Migl home. Dr. Strieder has done general practice in Rowena for the past 2 years and has met with success. Louella Jo, his first daughter was born there.

He speaks and writes German and comes highly recommended. He will be associated with Dr. Wagner and Boyle. Dr. Strieder is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Strieder of Moulton."

He practiced in Shiner with Dr. Frank Wagner briefly, and in 1940 moved to Moulton, living in the two-story Biehunko home at Arnim and Elm Streets. The downstairs was the medical clinic and the upstairs served as the family living area. For years he faithfully served the people of the Moulton community, answering calls at any time, day or night. His practice was interrupted by WWII. He attempted to join the Navy before Pearl Harbor, but was told that he was too short. However, after Pearl Harbor, the Navy called him to ask him to enlist. He said to the family "What happened ... did I suddenly grow because of the war?" He answered his country's call, serving in the Medical Corps in San Diego about 16 months. To quote from the *Moulton Eagle*:

"Dr. Hugo J. Strieder left for San Diego, CA, on Thursday to report for duty to the Medical Corps of the United States Navy. Dr. Strieder has been commissioned a Lieutenant. Mrs. Strieder and the two girls will remain here." Dr. Strieder served for 18 months on a transport ship in the South Pacific area, and then 6 months at Gulfport Naval Training Station in Gulfport, Miss. He designed the sewer system for the entire base. After 42 months in the Navy, he received an honorable discharge while holding the rank of Commander.

After his release from active duty, he returned to Moulton and built his hospital "up on the hill," about a mile and a half northwest of Moulton, as he had always dreamed. Much of the medical equipment, including operating room equipment, beds, and sterilizers, were war surplus. His family home was about 50 yards west of the 10 bed hospital. There he kept a menagerie of animals. At the hospital there was an efficient staff of nurses, and Dr. Strieder tended to the sick in every capacity, performing everything from operations to house calls in his Jeep or Model-T. He was even the ambulance driver. He kept long office hours and lent a helping hand whenever was needed.

In the early fifties, polio became an epidemic in the county. Dr. Strieder needed an extra hand, but couldn't find one, a frequent problem in rural areas. He could not get a good night's sleep with the phone ringing all the time. He began to have chest pains, and by 1952, Strieder was forced to take a year of complete rest.

He went to visit his cardiology professor at UT for a medical opinion, and was told he'd have to change his



DR. HUGO JOHN STRIEDER

lifestyle for his health. So, on March 30, 1952, he closed the hospital and the family moved to New Orleans. The hospital and house were just left as is.

On Sunday evening, Dec. 11, 1955, tragedy struck the Strieder home. The Strieders' TV was out, and while trying to repair it, Dr. Strieder received a fatal electric shot. His body was returned to Moulton, and he is buried just 500 feet from his beloved "hospital on the hill." He was 48 years old. Strieder's hospital died with him.

Strieder was a member of several civic and medical Associations. Forbrich says that Dr. Strieder is still remembered by many in Moulton as "their doctor." She will make her presentation to the city council in October.

Submitted by Angelina Kretschmar, San Antonio

Professor Wilhelm H. Von Streeruwitz, Clements' Corner, Washington Cemetery Historical Trust, August 2016

Professor Wilhelm H. Von Streeruwitz, prominent civil and mining engineer, geologist, metallurgist, and chemist, was born on July 16, 1833 (or December 31, 1835; both dates are in his passport applications), in Mies, Bohemia (now Stribro, Czech Republic), about 80 miles southwest of Prague.

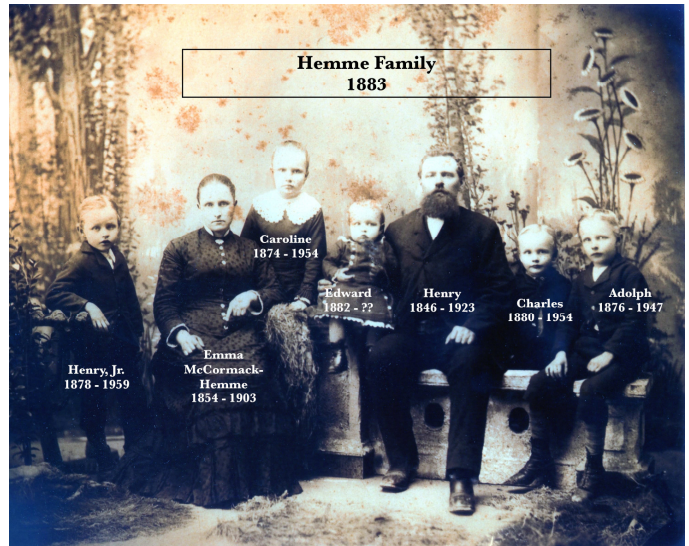
He arrived in New York in June 1868, and soon moved to Pittsburgh, PA, where he taught engineering from 1874 to 1876. He became an American citizen in Houston in November 1877, and over the next several years was a mining engineer on various projects ranging from geological surveys of the Chenati region near Big Bend to the salt mines at Avery Island, Louisiana. He lived in Houston from about 1881 to 1887 and again from 1901 until his death in 1916. In the early 1890s, Streeruwitz was based in Austin, as the state geologist in charge of describing the basic geology of the Trans-Pecos District. Streeruwitz Hills, a geological feature in Hudspeth County, roughly 100 miles southeast of El Paso, is named for him.

He spoke four languages, was a fellow of the Texas Academy of Science from 1892 to 1899, became a member of the Houston Natural History Society, and was a charter member of the Texas Geological and Scientific Association. He traveled extensively for his work, and spent the years 1896-1901 in Europe.

About March 1887, Prof. Streeruwitz prepared the Plan of the Deutsche Gesellschaft of Houston Cemetery (now Washington Cemetery) that is still used today. He was devoted to his work, and never married. When he died on April 19, 1916, he was buried in Lot C-086, belonging to a late business partner, Erich F. Schmidt; however, after the Schmidt family were all moved to Glenwood in 1921, Streeruwitz was moved to Strangers Rest, where his remains lie today in an unmarked grave.

Submitted by Liz Hicks, Houston

The Short Life of Emma McCormack by Rex Hemme



My great-great-grandmother, Emma McCormack, was born in Jefferson County, Mo. on 7 Dec 1854. I choose to dedicate this article to her, even though there will be much mention of her husband and children, because women were largely marginalized in nineteenth century culture, beginning with their almost universal listings as "housekeepers" in census records. Nevertheless, one can be certain that in nineteenth century farm life, the wife's role was substantial and not totally house-bound. There would have been a vegetable garden to be tended, and milk-cows to be milked in addition to the more "mundane" housekeeping tasks we might assume, but without the benefit of washers, dryers and dishwashers. Oh, yes, how about canning the home-grown vegetables and churning butter. So, for all these men that we like to write about, there is likely a female life partner without whom they could not have been so successful. Emma was born to Phebe Herrington. Presumably, her father (perhaps not Phebe's husband) was a McCormack. I have found no evidence of a husband for Phebe, even though a sizable McCormack family lived in Jefferson County at the time with several eligible males among them. Like the Herringtons, the McCormacks arrived in what is now Jefferson County around 1800. [The author would be most appreciative of any clues any reader might have as to the identity of Emma's biological father.]

On 16 Oct 1856, Phebe married Henry Langheny (actually, Langehennig), a widower with two living daughters, Dora and Sophie, three other children had died very young. A surprising record is an incoming passenger manifest dated 8 Sep 1857 listing as passengers Heinrich Langehennig and three young females named Fibe (Phebe), Dora and Sophie. They are listed as Missourians. There is no evidence that three-year-old Emma was taken on this voyage. This might have been a honeymoon trip to show off Henry's young wife and by then nearly grown daughters who would have grown up since their emigration from Hanover with their father. For Phebe, a third-generation Missourian, this must have seemed an unimaginable adventure. The rail (wagon?)

and ship journey! The half-timbered houses and village-centered, rather than farm-centered, life style! Who besides the very wealthy even dreamed of such an experience? How did a farm family take several months in the middle of summer to make such a trip? And how Phebe must have missed her Emma!

But the thrill was of short duration. On 13 Dec 1857, only three months after docking in New York, Phebe died, apparently in childbirth. The child, a girl, was lost as well. Was Phebe's pregnancy near full-term? Had she actually undertaken a round-trip honeymoon trip by train and ship while in a family way, or was the child conceived while the family was in Germany?

Emma turns up in the 1860 Census on the farm of H. Longahany and his third wife Lana along with Lana's 10-year-old daughter Mary, 4-year-old Catherine and 1-year-old Henry. I surmise that Mary and Catherine were Lana's children from a previous marriage. Little Henry was a joint product of Henry and Lana.

I have a copy of an 1870 law suit for custody of Emma with Henry Langheny as the plaintiff and a John Yeide (actually Jeude in the original German) as the defendant. John was the husband of Phoebe's sister, Margaret. According to this suit, Mr. Yeide had somehow been awarded custody of Emma sometime previously, and Mr. Langheny was suing to get her back. For pages, he plaintively claims to have treated Emma as his own child since her mother's death.

I do not know what the outcome of this suit was, but Emma is not listed in John Yeide's household in the 1870 Census. More interesting is that Henry Langehenig is not listed at all in the same census. Had Henry left Jefferson County with Emma? Or, did the census enumerator, Samuel Reppy, who also happened to have been the attorney for John Yeide in the suit, conclude that perhaps it would be healthier for him not to approach Henry's house?

All this legal activity seems to have been of little import, since, in 1873 Emma married a recent (1867) immigrant from the Kingdom of Hanover, Heinrich (Henry) Hemme, who acquired two adjacent pieces of land in the same year. It seems likely that it was no accident that Henry Hemme found Henry Langehenig when he immigrated. They both came from the village of Hellendorf in the Kingdom of Hanover; and there had even been some intermarriage between the two families in the old country. Mr. Hemme's great grandmother had been a Langehenig. One might even wonder if nine-year-old Hemme had been infected with the emigration bug upon possibly meeting Langehenig when the latter journeyed back to Hellendorf on his honeymoon. What a story! Cheap land! Private land ownership! No noble class interfering with your personal affairs! No petty military squabbles! (The Civil War had not yet occurred in 1857.) Success determined by your personal industry and thrift! And a German-speaking population! Almost like home, but better!

Emma's and Henry's lives seem to have settled into that of a fairly normal farm family, hardscrabble to be sure, but certainly more stable than her childhood. They had five children: Karolina (1874), Adolph Louis (1876), Henry (1878), Charles (1880) and Edward (1882). According to the 1900 Census there was a sixth child who

did not survive.

In the 1880 Census the Hemme family appeared in Jefferson County as a farm family. This was not unusual for the time. The 1880 Census is an interesting case study in genealogy. Henry and Emma, along with their oldest two children, are listed at the bottom of page seven of the Rock Township census book. However, I could not explain why Henry, Jr. (born in 1878) was not listed on the next page. I fretted over this for some months.

Then the magic of Ancestry leaves took over. Ancestry turned up a hint for Henry, Jr. and his younger brother Karl, an infant. These younger sons turned up in the extracts as sons of another family, the Schwahlas. Relying on these extracts, I had all kinds of doubts about my great-great grandmother's qualities as a mother. What economic or health condition would permit or require a mother to give up her youngest two children to the custody of another family?

Then I learned the lesson we all must learn at some point: Don't rely on extracts; always go to the original when you can. When I got into the original 1880 Census, I found that the Schwahlas were listed on the bottom of page eight and their two "sons", Henry and Karl Hemme, were listed at the top of page nine. Evidently the census book was too bulky; so the enumerator removed blank pages from the book and put them in his saddle bag. When he finished page seven, he didn't turn the page over and enter the younger sons on page eight. Rather, he seems to have pulled the next page out of his saddlebag and started entering names on page nine. At some point he saw a blank page eight and filled in names, fouling up the Hemme family record. It is clear the enumerator himself was confused, because there are cross-outs in the page numbering of pages 6 and 7. So, human error, not a failure of maternal instinct, seems to be the solution to this genealogical riddle.

During the 1880s and 1890s Henry acquired additional tracts of land. Possibly, he was looking to the day when his sons would be grown and need farm land on which to raise their own families. At any rate, that is what ultimately happened. Otherwise, there were no notable events; so one can only surmise that they lived a stable, if routine, life for those twenty years. One might suspect that Emma's health declined later in this period, because ...

On 10 Jun 1903 Emma succumbed to asthma, at the age of 48. I am sure that Emma's presence on the farm was sorely missed by Henry and his remaining sons, Catherine and Adolph having already started their own families by this time.

As was common at the time, Henry surely found that he needed a life partner to "keep the house" and remarried on 23 May 1905. He didn't have to look far. His new spouse, Catherine Yeida (nee Herrington), was Emma's aunt, Phebe's youngest sister. Catherine's previous husband's name had been Ludwig (Louis) Yeida, not the John of the same last name who appeared earlier in this article. Since the Yeida (Jeude) name was fairly uncommon, I assume the two were related but have not established this.

Catherine died in 1916, and Henry moved in with his daughter's family. He died of gangrene associated

with diabetes in 1923.

Editor's Note: Rex is a member of the Jefferson County (Missouri) Genealogical Society. He is the only Texas resident of The JCGS. **See Bulletin Board for his query.**

While the material is based in Jefferson County Missouri, there is a tangential connection to Texas. The Henry Langehennig mentioned in the article was the older brother of a Henry Langehennig, who immigrated to Gillespie County in the 1850s.

Submitted by Rex Hemme via Liz Hicks, Houston

Abbott's Grove School, Fayette County Record

By CAROLYN HEINSOHN

Lancelot Abbotts, an emigrant from England who achieved considerable prominence in the early days of Texas history, arrived in Texas in January 1835. He first worked as a printer and clerk for the Borden and Baker newspaper in San Felipe and drew the first map of Austin's Colony. Soon he was in the middle of an uprising by the Texians against Santa Anna and the Mexican government. Abbotts joined the Texas Army, serving from February to September 1836, marching with them to the Battle of San Jacinto, where he served as a rear guard. For his service during the Mexican War, Abbotts was awarded a donation certificate of 640 acres of land in Austin County.

In March 1849, he purchased the Toy League in Fayette County and proceeded to divide the league into numerous parts, conveying it to early settlers as they arrived between the years of 1855 to 1868. In circa 1857, Abbotts built a large three-story sandstone home high on a hill between Hostyn and O'Quinn about a mile south of where FM 609 crosses the O'Quinn branch. He raised sheep and planted a sizeable fruit orchard, which was called Abbotts' Grove. Abbott returned to England with his wife, Elizabeth, for a temporary visit between the years of 1868 to 1870, leaving his estate to be managed by his cousin, Thomas Carter. However, his wife died in England in late 1870 prior to their planned return a few months later. Abbotts then gifted his land and home to his cousin and never returned to Texas. He married a second time in October 1888, but died a year later in Warwickshire, England.

Thomas Carter eventually sold the majority of the property. There were additions and subtractions made to Abbotts' home throughout the years by subsequent homeowners, but finally the remaining one-story dwelling fell into ruins.

A part of Abbotts' land was purchased by Hermann Ahrens in 1890. When the community realized the need for a school, Ahrens allowed the old fruit grove site to be used for a school building; hence the name Abbotts' Grove School. The school building, which was in Common School District No. 76, was erected in 1893. It was a very small structure - only 18 feet square. In 1901, it was enlarged and extra windows were added, which provided more light for the interior. The grades were separated first by a curtain and later by a moveable wooden partition. The subjects taught were typical of most one-room schools at the time: grammar, composition, spelling, reading,



Abbotts' Grove School, 1921; top row from left: Werner Bauch, George Stoever, Elmo Roitsch Ervin Bauch, Oscar Kaase, John Ahrens, Felix Oeding, Albert Hahn; 2nd row: Ida Roitsch, Christine Dittrich, Velma Naumann, Adela Foerster, Linda Kaase, Stella Getschmann, Hugo Dieringer, Arthur Getschmann, Paul Stichler, Willie Dietrich, Adolph Roeder, Frank Dieringer, Walter Roeder; 3rd row: Hattie Roitsch, Ella Naumann, Frances Niesner, Louise Stoever, J.M. Frierson, teacher, Frieda Hahn, Elsie Schilhab, Elva Oeding, Grace Naumann, Hildagard Nollkamper, Erna Kaase; bottom row: Mathilda Ohnheiser, Pearl Foerster, Wilma Nollkamper, Kermit Roitsch, Rudolph Roeder, Herbert Dieringer, Mae Oeding, Esther Roitsch.

Photo courtesy of J. T. Koenig.

penmanship, arithmetic, history, geography and health.

In the early days of rural education, many of the teachers were single females, and it was customary for them to board with area residents. Many of the teachers at Abbotts' Grove roomed in the homes of Rudolph Miksch and Paul Jaenichen. Some of the teachers who taught at the school were Tillie Fisher (Stavinoha), Irene Fmka (Meyer), Rosie Jecmenek, Amalia Lueders, Annie Mazoch (Pfertner), Viola Raeke and Dolores Teltschick.

The 1934-1935 school survey done for the Texas Board of Education shows that the school had an enrollment of 41 students with two teachers. Some of the surnames of the students who attended this school were: Dittrich, Foerster, Heinrich, Hengst, Hertel, Kleiber, Knappe, Krischke, Miksch, Oeding, Ohnheiser, Roitsch, Stoever and Ulrich.

The school eventually closed in circa 1953 due to the common school districts being consolidated into the larger independent school districts. The school building was sold to John Krhovjak in 1961. Its ultimate demise is unknown. Many of the old schools were either used for some type of farm storage, or they were dismantled so that the wood, doors and windows could be reused in another building. The only remaining evidence of the school is a sign erected by the county that identifies its location on Abbotts' Grove School Road.

Sources:

Krischke, Norman C. "Abbotts' Grove Public School", *Schulenburg*; 1993

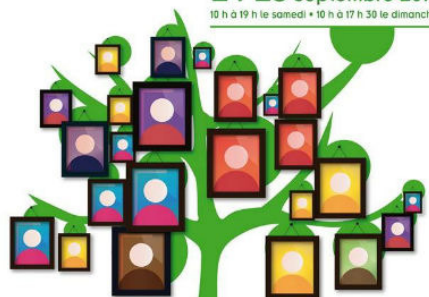
"Lancelot Abbotts". Fayette County Archives Staff for "Footprints of Fayette", September 3, 2001

Per Rodney Koenig, Houston—mother Elva Oeding is 4th from right in 2nd row, her brother Felix Oeding is on back row and her sister, Mae Oeding is on the front row!

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My visit to Paris

September is the traditional month for genealogy and for our Deutsche Genealogentag in Germany. It is the same in France. Sunday late evening I returned from my trip to Paris and visit Géné@2016 – the biggest meeting on genealogy on the national level in France.



Dirk Weissleder

After RootsTech in Salt Lake City, WhoDoYouThinkYouAre? – Live! in Birmingham and the International Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry in Glasgow now this was my 4th genealogy event in different countries to visit in 2016 – and here is so much to learn from our close or distant neighbours. It was fantastic to visit the French capital, to see this beautiful city (of love!) and to deal with genealogy, of course. My trip started in Hannover with a very convenient seven hour transfer via Karlsruhe by the ICE train but I also could use the French TGV on my way back (from Garde de L'Est

to Karlsruhe) which was breath taking at a speed of 320 kilometers per hour. I have always dreamed to go to Paris by train and to arrive right in the heart of the city.



Paris today of course has to deal with security questions after the terrible terroristic attacks more than any other European country: armed policemen and soldiers could be seen in public places – but altogether nothing can bring Paris out of its ease. And I have never seen a city like this with more kissing people in public than here in Paris. People sitting in cafés, the atmosphere and everything I could see in this metropole I just can describe as it is called “savoir vivre“.

Quite shortly after arriving Paris I had the chance to talk Dr. Alexandre Beider who is a distinguished international expert on (Jewish) surnames. After having read so many of his publications on surnames in East Europe I needed to see him. He was born in Moscow and now lives in Paris. It was a pleasure to meet you!



Friday evening I had the privilege to be invited to take part at a board meeting of the Fédération Française de Généalogie (FFG) which is the national umbrella organization in France. I was welcomed by its president Thierry Chestier who – which was of course very helpful – speaks perfectly German so that we could discuss things of interest very intensively. After getting to know Christophe Drugy as Secrétaire-Général in Glasgow last month now after having met all of his colleagues I must say these are great French genealogists and I do hope that we can intensify our exchange and cooperation in the upcoming future. It was a great pleasure to meet you all!

Saturday and Sunday there was the Géné@2016 at the National Archives as biggest nationwide genealogy event in France. The concept is totally different from what I have seen before. Lectures have been given with the National Archives buildings but the exhibition of societies, firms and institutions took place within the atrium and the walkabout. Here there was not only enough space to show and to have personal conversations but also a brilliant and creative atmosphere to do genealogy – this all was outside of any building. The weather was fine (some small rain was on Sunday noon) so everyone could walk around and get in contact with other researchers. You should not think that this “outside“ concept brought less attendees than any other genealogy event you should know – it was the reason why



some thousand guests came here (I do not have any confirmed number but it was about 3.000 individuals only on Saturday). It actually became a “garden of genealogy“.

It was interesting that the event just started by opening the front gate to the National Archives without any official welcoming but long queues of genealogists who waited to get in. The only official part of Gén@2016 was the Saturday night reception within the great Hotel de Soubise itself where the director of the National Archives and Thierry Chestier as FFG president welcomed a group of distinguished guests in the grand salon. And I had the great pleasure to give a very short address in French language and I hope that besides my non-perfect grammar everyone could understand what I wanted to say: I would like to see

a close cooperation between FFG and DAGV and their member societies and individual exchange.

I was very touched and moved at the Gén@2016 by the great interest in genealogical research in Germany – going back not only to the 20th or 19th century what I expected but also back to the 18th and even 17th century. I actually got in contact by attendees who asked for “L`Allemand“ (the German) after I was announced in the program in advance. It means so much to me that people want to learn about Germany and their German ancestors in areas that are or used to be German in former times.

I got to know people from all over France, from the U.S., from Belgium and Canada (Quebec). As mentioned the whole atmosphere was very motivating for conversations that have been continued in wonderful cafés around the National Archives. Together with Thierry and others we had the great chance to talk about concrete steps and common projects in the future that might bring researchers in both countries closer together than today.

Of course I took the chance to do my own research in France and after having found WEISSLEDER ladies in the 19th century been married to French husbands in Paris and Metz. I learned so much from my French colleagues!



By visiting Paris you know from the first second on that you cannot see everything, not even what you think must be seen at least. I am very grateful to have seen so many incredible places like Sacre Cour, the Eiffel Tower, the Saine, Le Louvre, the Arc de Triumphe, streets, gardens, houses, the Metro and many many things more.

I am very grateful to have a fantastic photographer Michael Wallmüller at my side who could keep the very moment so brilliantly. Sorry to my dear French colleagues I wrote this in English, but I want to share my magnificent experiences also with my English-speaking colleagues in America, Great Britain, Australia and Europe. And to be honest my French is not good enough though.

Merci Thierry, merci Christophe, merci beaucoup pour tous à mes collègues Francais!



Dear colleagues and friends,

I am very grateful to send you the following link about my visit in Paris for networking between France and Germany at Gén@2016 at the last weekend.

There is big interest in both directions of this neighbour nations especially for those areas with historical change of the political map like Elsass-Lothringen etc. I would like to see a close exchange between France and Germany and also with all our other friends in genealogy and heraldry worldwide.

The blog post - in English language - can be found at <http://www.forum-familiengeschichte.de/my-visit-to-paris/> I hope you like it.

Warmest greetings from Germany to all of you in North and South, East and West.

The Unbroken Peace Treaty

by Tim Dasso, *True West Magazine*, November, 2016 TWMag.com

After Texas gained statehood, Penatekas stayed true to a treaty negotiated with German emigrants.

The young warriors of the Penateka Comanche tribe, several hundreds of them, lined up on one side of their camping ground along the San Saba River in Texas, opposite the women and children on the other. In the center of this array, the three head chiefs, Buffalo Hump, Santa Anna and Old Owl, sat on buffalo robes.

John O. Meusebach rode down both sides of those assembled who watched the six-foot-two redhead, with reddish-blond beard, a newcomer they had nicknamed Sol Colorado ("Red Sun"). Then he and his aides emptied their firearms into the air. Some historians believe this act exhibited foolhardiness; others state the gesture showed confidence in the Penatekas.

Consistently exhibiting nerves of steel in dangerous situations, Meusebach took exception to rumors spread by his adversaries: "The childish idea that I fled or absconded in fear of the excited emigrants, is simply ridiculous," adding, "I never fled before anything or any danger that I can recollect."

Germans Colonize Texas

Three years prior to the peace council, Meusebach was not even on this continent. His predecessor had led a German emigration company, the *Adelsverein*, on a mission to colonize Texas. Organized on April 20, 1842, the company guaranteed each adult male 160 acres of land and every family 320 acres. The largest ethnic group emigrating from Europe, Germans would comprise five percent of Texas's population by 1850.

Six years earlier, on June 24, the company purchased the colonization contract for land between the Llano and Colorado Rivers, a parcel known as the Fisher-Miller grant. The region was home to the Penatekas who hunted on the Balcones Escarpment and camped in the winter along the San Saba River. Texas stipulated that the Germans had to settle and survey the land by the fall of 1847. This proved difficult, as the government could not assure military assistance, leading surveyors to refuse to enter the region in fear of being attacked by the Penatekas.

The company leader, Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels, resigned in light of these difficulties. Baron O. von Meusebach of Potsdam was appointed his successor. Arriving in the Republic of Texas that summer of



1845, the baron dropped his title of nobility and adopted the first name John. Under his administration as general commissioner of the emigration company, between May 1845--seven months before Texas gained admission into the United States--and July 20, 1847, a total of 5,257 German emigrants settled in Texas. But at first, Meusebach thought German settlement might not happen at all.



Stranded on the Gulf

Hundreds of German emigrants were stranded on the Gulf Coast in Indianola and Lavaca as the emigration company struggled to provide transportation to the promised land. The United States was at war with Mexico.

During the winter of 1845 and spring of 1846, U.S. Army Gen. Zachary Taylor's soldiers, equipment and provisions were shipped to Lavaca and moved by land from there to Mexico. The U.S. government easily outbid the emigration company's offers to freight wagon owners. With the company unable to contract for transportation and lacking the funds to buy their own wagons and teams, emigrants could not depart from the unhealthy conditions of their coastal camps. An extraordinarily wet winter at the coast brought sickness to Lavaca and Indianola. Almost 850 people died.

During the spring of 1846, Meusebach again tried to secure provisions and transportation for the stranded emigrants. He was followed everywhere he went--Galveston, Houston, New Braunfels--by creditors of the company and by emigrants. In one of the strangest incidents, a teamster, brandishing a pistol, confronted the administrator, demanding payment for services rendered. Meusebach suggested they settle the issue in a match of target shooting. Meusebach's first shot hit the bull's eye. At breakfast the next morning, the

teamster extended the credit. Meusebach could talk down one man or a crowd of angry men, like the emigrants he subdued in New Braunfels on New Year's Eve.

A Fiery Start

Meusebach must have gotten his new year's wish. In January 1847, twenty men and three wagons set out from Fredericksburg to the Fisher-Miller grant. Meusebach followed them three days later.

Challenges began from the start. The party's best hunter was severely wounded on the first day and sent back to Fredericksburg. While building a campfire, the emigrants ignited a prairie fire that burned for 36 hours, destroying all forage for the horses for many miles.

In mid-February, Meusebach and his crew came across western bands of Comanches. Rather than war cries, Meusebach received an agreement to meet for a peace council, at the next full moon, at the lower San Saba River.

Meusebach used the interim, seven days, to explore an old Spanish fort. To lighten the load of a pack mule, the crew drank from the wine supply. Sympathy for the poor mule increased until the travelers emptied the last bottle.

On February 1, the men reached the ruins of Presidio de San Saba, established by Spanish authorities in 1750 near present-day Menard. Carved on the portals of the main entrance were names of previous visitors, including that of famed Alamo defender Jim Bowie.

The next day, the crew searched for a lost silver mine the Spaniards had supposedly worked near the fort. To resolve the insufficient funding for colonization, Meusebach hoped to find the silver, but alas, found none.

A Lasting Goodwill

Having just emptied his firearms in a show of goodwill upon his arrival at the Penateka camp, Meusebach was ready for the peace council.

Negotiations took place on March 1-2. Months later, on May 9, the Germans and the Penatekas signed a treaty in Fredericksburg. The Penatekas collected \$3,000 worth of presents.

The treaty allowed both Meusebach's settlers and the Penatekas unfettered access to the territory. It also promised mutual reports of wrongdoing and provided for a survey of land in the area with a payment of at least \$1,000 to the Penatekas. The treaty opened more than three million acres of land to settlement.

Despite minor infringements, including Comanche raids into Mexico that violated the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, overall, the Penatekas and the



John O. Meusebach's daughter, Lucy; depicted the March 1847 peace treaty with the Penateka Comanches, and the oil (below) hangs in the Vereins-Kirche in Fredericksburg, Texas. John is shown (opposite page), at age 40, after having moved to Texas from Dillenburg, Germany, where he was born on May 26, 1812. The Meusebach-Comanche treaty document, also shown, was returned from Europe in 1970 by Mrs. Irene Marschall King and Dr. Cornelia Marschall Smith, John's granddaughters, and presented to the Texas State Library in 1972.

IMAGES COURTESY GILLESPIE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY; TREATY DOCUMENT COURTESY TEXAS STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMISSION.

German settlers upheld the peace treaty. Years later, in 1858, former Texas Ranger Jack Hays told Meusebach how astonished he was that the Penatekas were honoring the treaty. Hays said that he "was never molested nor lost any animals during his travel within the limits of the colony, but as soon as he passed the line he had losses."

The Penatekas even helped German settlers when a cholera epidemic in Fredericksburg took the lives of three of every five settlers. Santa Anna and his men rode into town with bear meat and herbs to nourish settlers who were trying to regain their health. Santa Anna, unfortunately, contracted the illness and died. By late December 1849, he was one of the roughly 300 Penatekas killed in the epidemic.

In August 1859, the U.S. Army moved the band north of the Red River to Indian Territory. By 1875, the entire Comanche tribe had been reduced to 1,597 members. Some Penatekas may have been among the survivors. At Fredericksburg's annual Founders Day, Comanches occasionally join in, demonstrating that some of them have not forgotten their German allies.

Perhaps one of the reasons the peace treaty was upheld in 1847 was because of Meusebach's attitude toward the Penatekas. During negotiations, he said to them, "My brother speaks of a barrier between the red men and the palefaces. I do not disdain my red brethren because their skin is darker, and I do not think more of the white people because their complexion is lighter."

Tim Dasso is a freelance writer in central Texas, where he observes Texas historical sites and researches historical events. He is writing a historical fiction based on events that occurred in Texas's early years.

Submitted by Lu Hollander, Brenham

The Family of Christoph and Dorothea Luddemann Friedrichs

By their great-great-grandson, Daniel R. Bode

Johannes Christoph Friedrichs was born 9 Dec. 1840, in Hakenstedt, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany; he was the son of Johann Heinrich Friedrichs (born 11 April 1811, in Ummendorf, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany; died 18 Jan. 1894, in Ummendorf, Saxony-Anhalt) and Marie Catherine Ulrich (born 5 July 1813, in Hakenstedt, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany; died 2 April 1888, in Ummendorf, Saxony-Anhalt). Christoph's parents were married 20 April 1835, in Hakenstedt.

Christoph Friedrichs' siblings were:

1. Marie Elisabeth Friedrichs born 27 Nov. 1835, in Hakenstedt. She was baptized 6 Dec. 1835, in the Lutheran Church in Hakenstedt, and confirmed 7 April 1850, in the Lutheran Church in Ummendorf. Elisabeth Friedrichs married Heinrich Friedrich Mensch on 25 April 1859, in Ummendorf.
2. Johann Heinrich Friedrichs born 13 Sept. 1837, in Hakenstedt. Heinrich was baptized 24 Sept. 1837, in the Lutheran Church in Hakenstedt, and he was confirmed 4 April 1852, in the Lutheran Church in Ummendorf. Johann Heinrich Friedrichs married Henriette Steinemann on 27 Sept. 1863, in Belsdorf, Saxony-Anhalt.
3. Anna Marie Friedrichs born 28 Jan. 1839, in Hakenstedt. Marie was baptized 10 Feb. 1839, in the Lutheran Church in Hakenstedt, and she was confirmed 27 March 1853, in the Lutheran Church in Ummendorf, Germany. Anna Marie Friedrichs married Wilhelm Gottfried Pirner on 2 Nov. 1862, in Ummendorf, Germany. Wilhelm Gottfried Pirner was born 19 May 1838.
4. Wilhelmine Friedrichs born 14 July 1845, in Klein Ottersleben. She was baptized 20 July 1845, in the Lutheran Church in Klein Ottersleben. Wilhelmine died 31 August 1849, in Ummendorf, at the age of 4 years. Wilhelmine was buried 3 Sept. 1849, in Ummendorf.
5. Wilhelm Andreas Friedrichs born 10 Dec. 1848, in Ummendorf, Germany. Wilhelm was baptized 24 Dec. 1848, in the Lutheran Church in Ummendorf. Wilhelm Friedrichs married Dorothea Anna Kampe on 10 July 1870, in Ummendorf. Dorothea was born 14 Oct. 1847. Wilhelm and Dorothea Friedrichs emigrated from Germany to the United States in 1881. They settled in West Salem, Edwards County, Illinois. Wilhelm Friedrichs' occupation was a stone mason. Wilhelm Friedrichs died in West Salem, Illinois on 27 January 1934. Dorothea Kampe Friedrichs died in West Salem, Illinois, on 14 June 1936. Wilhelm and Dorothea Friedrichs are buried in the Moravian Cemetery in West Salem, Edwards Co., Illinois.
6. Friederike Elisabeth Friedrichs born 12 Sept. 1851, in Ummendorf. She was baptized 21 Sept. 1851, in the Lutheran Church in Ummendorf. Friederike died 30 March 1853, in Ummendorf.

Christoph Friedrichs' paternal grandparents were Christian Friedrichs (born 5 Dec. 1780, in Germany; died 10 Nov. 1852, in Ummendorf, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany) and Catharine Maria Bremer (born in 1783; died 16 Nov. 1818, in Ummendorf, at the age of 35 years). Following the death of his first wife, Christian Friedrichs married Maria Elisabeth Luddemann on 31 Jan. 1819, in Ummendorf. Maria Elisabeth Friedrichs nee Luddemann was born 15 Feb. 1788, and she died 27 March 1851, in Ummendorf.

Christoph Friedrichs' maternal grandparents were Johann Heinrich Ulrich (born and died in Germany) and Marie Christiane Catharine Regener (died in Hakenstedt, Germany, on 14 July 1848, at the age of 63 years). Christoph Friedrichs was baptized 20 December 1840, in the Lutheran Church in Hakenstedt, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany. Christoph's father, Johann Heinrich Friedrichs, was a farmer and shepherd. The family moved from Hakenstedt to Ummendorf where Christoph reached manhood. Christoph was confirmed 1 April 1855, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ummendorf, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany.

Christoph Friedrichs married Marie Dorothea Elisabeth Luddemann on 1 April 1861, in Siegersleben, Saxony-Anhalt. Dorothea Luddemann was born 22 January 1838, in Ovelgunne, Saxony-Anhalt; she was the daughter of Johann Friedrich Christoph Luddemann (born 3 Aug. 1805, in Ovelgunne, Saxony-Anhalt; died 23 Nov. 1877, in Ovelgunne, Saxony-Anhalt) and Marie Elisabeth Assel (born 16 Nov. 1808, in Siegersleben, Saxony-Anhalt; died 30 Jan. 1858, in Ovelgunne, Saxony-Anhalt). Dorothea's parents were married 8 April 1833, in Siegersleben, Saxony-Anhalt.

Dorothea Luddemann Friedrichs had five sisters:



Dorothea Friedrichs and her oldest daughter, Marie, in Helmstedt, Germany

1. Marie Elisabeth Luddemann born 21 June 1834, in Ovelgunne, Saxony-Anhalt. She was baptized 29 June 1834, in the Lutheran Church in Eilsleben, Saxony-Anhalt. Elisabeth married Heinrich Friedrich Rohloff on 10 Nov. 1861, in Ummendorf, Saxony-Anhalt. Marie Elisabeth Luddemann Rohloff died in Ummendorf, Saxony-Anhalt, on 21 Oct. 1869.
2. Marie Sophie Luddemann born 9 Sept. 1836, in Ovelgunne, Saxony-Anhalt. She was baptized 25 Sept. 1836, in the Lutheran Church in Eilsleben. Marie Sophie Luddemann died in Ovelgunne on 3 March 1837.
3. Marie Sophie Elisabeth Luddemann born 8 Aug. 1840, in Ovelgunne, Saxony-Anhalt. She was baptized 16 Aug. 1840, in the Lutheran Church in Eilsleben. Marie Sophie Elisabeth Luddemann married Heinrich Friedrich Andreas Keindorf on 12 Nov. 1871, in Ovelgunne.
4. Marie Elisabeth Luddemann born 12 Aug. 1846, in Ovelgunne, Saxony-Anhalt. She was baptized 23 Aug. 1846, in the Lutheran Church in Eilsleben.
5. Sophie Elisabeth Luddemann born 7 Nov. 1848, in Ovelgunne, Saxony-Anhalt. She was baptized 19 Nov. 1848, in the Lutheran Church in Eilsleben.

Dorothea's paternal grandparents were Christoph Luddemann and Erna Maria Mueller. Dorothea's maternal grandparents were DUKE Lorenz Assel (he was of noble birth) and Maria Elisabeth Kohler (she died 16 Nov. 1808, in childbirth, in Siegersleben).

Dorothea's father, Johann Friedrich Christoph Luddemann, was a hired hand in Ovelgunne. Dorothea was baptized 4 Feb. 1838, in the Lutheran Church in Eilsleben, Germany, and she was confirmed in the same church on Palm Sunday, 1852.

Dorothea Luddemann was 23 years of age when she married 20-year-old Christoph Friedrichs in 1861. Christoph and Dorothea made their home in Ummendorf where Christoph's occupation was a farmer and a shepherd. Christoph and Dorothea were the parents of nine children: four daughters, Marie, Alwine, Emilie, and Elsbeth; and five sons: Hermann, Otto, Franz, Wilhelm, and an unnamed infant son. Out of the four sons, only Hermann lived to adulthood. Their son, Otto, died in a wagon accident, and their twin sons, Franz and Wilhelm, both died at the age of 20 months. The twin boys died only three days apart. In 1882, Christoph's and Dorothea's oldest daughter, Marie, left Germany for Texas to marry Gottfried Blankenstein. The Blankenstein Family had emigrated from Germany to the United States in 1870 where they settled in Defiance, Ohio. In 1878, the Blankenstein Family moved to Texas in a covered wagon train. Gottfried Blankenstein began writing letters back to friends and family in Germany to find him a bride. Gottfried's mother had a sister, Sophie Herbst Behrens, who lived in Ummendorf, and was well-acquainted with the Friedrichs Family. Sophie and her husband, Jacob Behrens, connected Gottfried with Marie. After more than a year of correspondence, Gottfried Blankenstein sent a letter of marriage proposal to Marie. Christoph and Dorothea tried to persuade their daughter not to accept the proposal; however, Marie had heard stories of rich Americans, and she believed that everyone in America was living the "good life". Against her parents' wishes, Marie accepted Gottfried's marriage proposal. Marie began her voyage to America on the SS Donnau in Nov. of 1882, believing she would be coming back to Germany soon for a visit. However, when Marie arrived in Texas and met Gottfried Blankenstein, she found him to be a poor musician who made his living by playing in local bands and by giving violin lessons. Christoph and Dorothea Friedrichs never saw their oldest daughter again. Christoph and Dorothea Friedrichs observed their 25th wedding anniversary in April of 1886. Two months later, Christoph Friedrichs died of blood poisoning at the age of 45 years. Christoph died in Ummendorf, Germany, on 25 June 1886. His funeral and burial took place in Ummendorf on 28 June 1886. Dorothea Luddemann Friedrichs was widowed at the age of 48 years. Dorothea lived her remaining years in Ummendorf. Dorothea kept in contact with her oldest daughter Marie, and Marie informed Dorothea of the details of her family in Texas. Dorothea also saw her daughters, Alwine and Emilie, and her son, Hermann, all marry their respective spouses. Unfortunately, Dorothea did not live to see her youngest daughter, Elsbeth, marry. After being widowed 17 years, Dorothea Luddemann Friedrichs died in Ummendorf, Germany, on 25 Oct. 1903, at the age of 65 years. Dorothea's funeral and burial took place on 28 Oct. 1903, in Ummendorf.

The family of Christoph and Dorothea Luddemann Friedrichs:

1. Marie Dorothea Elisabeth Friedrichs born 10 May 1861, in Ummendorf, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany. Marie was baptized in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ummendorf, but, unfortunately, the record book for 1861 is missing from the church parish records. Marie was confirmed 21 March 1875, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ummendorf. Her confirmation text was St. Luke 10: 42. As mentioned earlier, Marie began corresponding with Gottfried Blankenstein in Texas when she was about 19 years old. Marie accepted Gottfried's marriage proposal. Marie's ship, the SS Donnau, left from the port of Bremen, Germany, and arrived in New York City on 27 Nov. 1882. From New York, Marie's ship went to Galveston. From Galveston, Marie rode a train to Temple, Texas, where she met Gottfried for the first time. Marie was shocked to realize life in Texas

would not be as she expected, and she realized with an even bigger shock that she would not be making a visit to Germany anytime in the near future. Gottfried took Marie back to Marlin, Texas, where they were married 14 Dec. 1882, by Rev. Hermann Franz. Gottfried Blankenstein was born 18 June 1855, in Barby, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany; he was the son of Gottfried Conrad Blankenstein and Dorothea Sophia Friedericke Herbst. After their marriage, Gottfried and Marie lived in Marlin, Texas. In the early years of their marriage, Gottfried Blankenstein tried to support his family by giving violin lessons and playing in local bands, but he had a problem with the parents of many of his students not paying for the lessons, so he announced in church one Sunday that there would be no more music lessons. Early in 1889, Gottfried and Marie moved into Waco where Gottfried went to work for his brother-in-law, John Baade. John Baade owned a construction business in Waco. In 1896, Gottfried and Marie moved to Temple, in Bell County, where Gottfried's younger brother, Ernest Blankenstein, had started his own construction business. Gottfried worked with his brother until he and Marie moved back to Waco. Gottfried went to work again for his brother-in-law, John Baade. John owned a truck farm near Elm Mott, and Gottfried hauled the vegetables to market until John Baade sold the farm shortly after the turn of the century. Since Marie had grown up a farmer's daughter in Germany, she began to convince Gottfried that he should take up farming to support his family. Gottfried's family had always been "townspeople", and Gottfried did not know how to farm. However, he gave into Marie, and they rented a farm in the Ross Community, near West, in northern McLennan County. On 1 Dec. 1905, Gottfried and Marie purchased an



My great-grandmother, Marie, at 19 years of age. This was about the time she began corresponding with my great-grandfather, Gottfried Blankenstein, in Texas.



Gottfried and Marie Blankenstein in 1891

88.36-acre farm in the Gerald Community, in northeastern McLennan County, from C.B. and Lena Chase of Waco. They purchased the farm with the assistance of George Kramer, who was known as the "Father of German Immigration in McLennan County." Gottfried made a \$50.00 down payment on the farm, and agreed to make 10 annual payments of \$260.00 with 8% interest. Gottfried and Marie settled here to make a living farming cotton and corn. Times were quite tough and sometimes lean. Gottfried would go to Temple to work in his brother Ernest Blankenstein's construction business to help make ends meet while Marie held the family and farm together. A story was told that one year, cotton had reached the price of 32 cents a pound. Marie urged Gottfried to go ahead and sell their cotton, but Gottfried held out. He believed cotton prices would continue to go higher; however, overnight, cotton prices plunged to 8 cents a pound. Gottfried never lived that down! Marie never realized her dream of making a trip to Germany to visit her family, and she carried this longing in her heart until the day she died. The story was told that when the letter arrived from Germany announcing the death of her mother, Marie sat on the front porch for most of the afternoon and mourned the loss of her mother. Marie wrote letters to her brother and sisters on a regular basis, but she never encouraged any of her family to come to Texas. In addition to her longing for a visit to Germany, Marie also suffered the grief of losing three of her ten children. Gottfried and Marie were the parents of five sons: Herman, Richard, Paul, Freddie, and Siegfried; and five daughters: Mamie, Rose, Elsie, Alma, and Elfriede. Because of the drastic drop in cotton prices after World War I, Gottfried and Marie sold 55.2-acres of their

farm to Otto Warneke on 29 Dec. 1919. The Blankensteins kept 26.1-acres for themselves. Gottfried made seven bales of cotton on his small farm in the year of 1920. Gottfried died of pneumonia at his home in the Gerald Community on 22 March 1921, at the age of 65 years. Gottfried was buried 23 March 1921, in the Gerald Cemetery of McLennan County. Gottfried and Marie Blankenstein were married 38 years at the time of his death. Marie would be a widow for three years until she died of a stroke on 20 Oct. 1924, at the home of her daughter, Elsie Blankenstein Forkel, in Waco, Texas. Marie died at the age of 63 years. Marie's funeral was held at the home of her daughter, Elfriede Blankenstein Bode, in the Gerald Community on 22 Oct. 1924. Marie was buried in the Gerald Cemetery next to the grave of her husband, Gottfried.

Gottfried and Marie Friedrichs Blankenstein's Family:

1. Herman Otto Blankenstein born 3 Oct. 1883, in Marlin, Falls County, Texas. Herman was baptized 22 Sept. 1887, in his parents' home by the pastor of the Perry German Methodist Church of Perry, Falls County, Texas. Herman died at the age of five years on 10 January 1889, in Marlin, Texas.

2. Marie Caroline "Mamie" Blankenstein born 26 Feb. 1885, in Marlin, Falls County, Texas. Mamie was baptized 22 Sept. 1887, in her parents' home by the pastor of the Perry German Methodist Church of Perry, Falls County, Texas. Mamie was confirmed on 12 April 1903, at St. Peter's Evangelical Church near West, McLennan County, Texas. Mamie Blankenstein married Paul Albert Lehmann on 4 Dec. 1906, in Gerald, Texas. Paul Lehmann was born in Neukirch, Saxony, Germany, on 23 May 1881; he was the son of Ernest Wilhelm Ehr Gott "Ed" Lehmann and Christiane Carolina Hultsch. Mamie and Paul Lehmann farmed nearly all their married life in the Gerald and Ross Communities in McLennan County. Paul A. Lehmann died at his home in the Ross Community near West, Texas, on 31 May 1962, at the age of 81. Mamie Blankenstein Lehmann died in the Windsor Estates Nursing Home in Waco, Texas, on 12 Aug. 1968, at the age of 83 years. Paul and Mamie Lehmann



Marie Blankenstein with her sons: Paul (left), Siegfried and Richard



Members of the Blankenstein Family in 1917, Gerald, Texas: From left: Marie Blankenstein, Elsie Forkel, Alma Banik, Elfriede Bode, Gottfried Blankenstein, Siegfried Blankenstein, Paul Blankenstein with his wife, Anna, and their children, Herman and Lucille.

and Mamie Lehmann are buried in the Gerald Cemetery in the Gerald Community of McLennan County, Texas. Paul and Mamie Lehmann were the parents of seven children: Marie Christine Lehmann Drews Brady (born 2 Jan. 1908, in Gerald, Tx; died 24 Jan. 1997, in Waco, Tx); Hedwig Helen



Marie Blankenstein with three of her daughters: Elfriede Bode (left), Mamie Lehmann, and Alma Banik (right)

Lehmann Leuschner (born 17 Nov. 1909, in Fisher Co., Tx; died 7 Aug. 2005, in Waco, Tx); Gertrude Pauline Lehmann Drews (born 7 Oct. 1911, in Elk, Tx; died 6 May 1997, in West, Tx); Bertha Alma Lehmann Vahrenkamp Dawson (born 26 Nov. 1913, in Gerald, Tx; died 3 Aug. 2002, in Waco, Tx); Clara Elfriede Lehmann Wedeking (born 1 Jan. 1916, in Gerald, Tx; died 17 Nov. 2001, in Mineola, Tx); Minnie Anna Lehmann Spurgeon (born 5 Aug. 1918, in Ross, Tx; died 10 Feb. 2006, in Temple, Tx) and Paul Albert Siegfried Lehmann (born 3 Jan. 1921, in Ross, Tx; died 17 Dec. 2009, in West, Tx).



My great-grandmother, Marie Blankenstein, and my grandmother, Elfriede Bode. This article is dedicated to their memories.

3. Richard John Blankenstein born 19 April 1887, in Marlin, Falls County, Texas. Richard was baptized 22 Sept. 1887, in his parents' home by the pastor of the Perry German Methodist Church of Perry, Falls Co., Texas. Richard learned the construction and plastering trade from his uncle, Ernest Blankenstein, in Temple, Tx. Richard Blankenstein married Ella Gabriella Bayer on 16 Dec. 1911, in Waco, Texas. Ella was born in Elgin, Bastrop Co., Texas, on 25 March 1889; she was the daughter of Carl Bayer and Marie Gruener. Richard and Ella Blankenstein lived most of their married life in Fort Worth, Texas. Ella Bayer Blankenstein died in Fort Worth, Texas, on 18

Jan. 1974, at the age of 84 years. Richard J. Blankenstein died in Fort Worth on 9 July 1977, at the age of 90 years. Richard and Ella Blankenstein are buried in the Shannon-Rose Hill Memorial Park in Arlington, Tarrant Co., Texas. Richard and Ella Bayer Blankenstein were the parents of two children: Ione Blankenstein Taylor Brown Head (born 16 Dec. 1912, in Temple, Tx; died 30 Sept. 2003, in Fort Worth, Tx) and Robert John "Bob" Blankenstein (born 11 Sept. 1915, in Waco, Tx; died 4 Nov. 1951, with his wife and five-year-old son, in an automobile accident near Deming, New Mexico).

4. Rose Blankenstein born 10 Dec. 1888, in Marlin, Falls County, Texas. Rose died at the age of five months on 8 May 1889, in Waco, Texas. It is believed Rose is buried in an unmarked grave in the South First Street Cemetery in Waco.

5. Paul John Blankenstein born 18 March 1890, in Waco, McLennan County, Texas. Paul was baptized 22 Feb. 1891, in Zion Evangelical Church in Waco. Paul was confirmed on 24 March 1907, at St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed Church of Gerald, Texas. Paul's confirmation text was Romans 5:8. Paul Blankenstein married Anna Karolina Kreder on 15 Sept. 1915, in Gerald, Texas. Anna was born 19 May 1896, in Ross, McLennan Co., Texas, she was the daughter of Ernst Hermann Kreder and Martha Minnie Hessel. Paul and Anna Blankenstein farmed in the Gerald Community until the late 1930s when they moved into Waco where Paul worked in the construction and plastering business. Paul J. Blankenstein died in Waco, Texas, on 1 April 1976, at the age of 86 years. Anna Kreder Blankenstein died in Waco on 24 Aug. 1981, at the age of 85 years. Paul and Anna Blankenstein are buried in the Gerald Cemetery in Gerald, McLennan County, Texas. Paul and Anna Blankenstein were the parents of six children: Herman Henry Blankenstein (born 9 May 1916, in Gerald, Tx; died 3 Aug. 2005, in Waco, Tx); Lucille Alma Elsie Blankenstein Petty (born 24 May 1917, in Gerald, Tx; died 27 April 2002, in Temple, Tx); Margaret Annie Pauline Blankenstein Nix (born 8 Oct. 1918, in Gerald, Tx; died 2 May 1997, in Waco, Tx); Rose Marie Blankenstein (born 15 July 1920, in Gerald, Tx; died 16 Feb. 1922, in Gerald, Tx); Paul Orvel Blankenstein (born 26 Oct. 1925, in Gerald, Tx; died 12 Feb. 2014, in Waco, Tx) and Harvey Friedrich Blankenstein (born 31 July 1931, in Gerald, Tx; died 3 May 2009, in Longview, Tx).

6. Elsbeth Emilie "Elsie" Blankenstein born 16 August 1893, in Waco, McLennan County, Texas. Elsie was baptized 18 March 1894, in Zion Evangelical Church in Waco, Texas. Elsie was confirmed 5 April 1908, at St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed Church in Gerald, Texas. Her confirmation text was II Corinthians 12: 9. Elsie Blankenstein married Carl Emil Forkel on 10 Nov. 1915, in Waco, Texas. Carl Forkel was born in Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa, on 5 January 1885; he was the son of Emil Robert Forkel and Johanna Ernestine Caroline Rebekah Nietzold. Carl and Elsie Forkel lived most of their married life in Waco where Carl worked as an accountant. Carl Forkel died of a heart attack in Waco, Texas, on 20 Nov. 1950, at the age of 65 years. Elsie Blankenstein Forkel died in Waco on 29 April 1977, at the age of 83 years. Carl and Elsie Forkel are buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Waco, Texas. Carl and Elsie Forkel were the parents of two children: Carl Emil Forkel, Jr. (born 21 Oct. 1916, in Plains, Tx; died 29 July 1984, in Bourdeaux, France) and Genevieve Elfriede Forkel Schmidt (born 21 May 1920, in Waco, Tx. Genevieve is living today in Columbus, Ohio, at the age of 96 years!).

7. Alma Dorothea Blankenstein born 10 November 1895, in Waco, McLennan County, Texas. Alma was baptized 5 July 1896, at First Lutheran Church in Temple, Texas. Alma was confirmed on 20 March 1910, at St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed Church in Gerald, Texas. Alma's confirmation text was Ephesians 4: 15. Alma Blankenstein married Albert Gustav Banik on 3 Oct. 1918, in Gerald, Texas. Albert Banik was born at Round Top, Fayette County, Texas, on 27 Oct. 1886; he was the son of August Banik and Augusta Drews. Albert and Alma Banik farmed in the Gerald, Ross, and Hoen communities of McLennan County. In 1929, they moved to Dayton, in Liberty County, where they operated a blacksmith shop for three years before moving back to McLennan County to the Tours Community (east of West). In 1939, the Baniks moved to the Eastgate Community in western Liberty County where they farmed. From Eastgate, they moved to Crosby, in eastern Harris County, Texas. Albert Banik died in Baytown, Texas, on 5 Sept. 1968, at the age of 81 years. Alma Blankenstein Banik died in Baytown on 15 Oct. 1978, at the age of 82 years. Albert and Alma Banik are buried in the Magnolia Park Cemetery in Dayton, Texas. Albert and Alma Blankenstein Banik were the parents of four children: Theodore Fritz Banik (born 11 Sept. 1919, in Ross, Tx; died 14 Sept. 1987, in Crosby, Tx); Dora Elfriede Banik Matocha (born 17 Feb. 1931, in Dayton, Tx; died 3 Aug. 2007, in Highlands, Tx); Henry Banik (born 3 Sept. 1934, in Tours, Tx; died 21 Sept. 1934, in Tours, Tx) and Leona Wilma Banik (born 20 Aug. 1936, in Tours, Tx; died 31 Oct. 1936, in Tours, Tx).

8. Elfriede Louise Blankenstein born 30 March 1898, in Temple, Bell County, Texas. Elfriede was baptized 20 July 1902, at the home of her uncle, Ernest Blankenstein, in Temple, Texas, by the pastor of the St. Peter's Evangelical Church of Coupland, Tx. Elfriede was confirmed 2 April 1911, at the St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed Church in Gerald, Texas. Elfriede's confirmation text was Matthew 7: 13-14. Elfriede Blankenstein married Henry Friedrich Daniel Bode on 2 Aug. 1922, in Gerald, Texas. Henry F. Bode was born in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas, on 16 June 1897; he was the son of Friedrich Carl Daniel Bode and Anna Margaretha Louise Haferkamp. Henry and Elfriede Bode farmed in McLennan County until 1940 when they moved to the Eastgate Community, west of Dayton, in Liberty County, Texas. Henry F. Bode died of a heart attack in Dayton, Texas, on 13 June 1961, at the age of 63 years. Elfriede Blankenstein Bode died in Liberty, Texas, on 19 January 1979, at the age of 80 years. Henry and Elfriede Bode are buried in the Magnolia Park Cemetery in Dayton, Texas. Henry and Elfriede Blankenstein Bode were the parents of six children: Henry F. Bode, Jr. (born 12 Sept. 1923, in Gerald, Tx; died 16 Sept. 1923, in Gerald, Tx); two more infant sons were born in the 1920's, but both died as unnamed infants; Marveline Gabriella Bode Smesny (born 29 July 1932, in Gerald, Tx. Marveline is

living today in a nursing home in Humble, Tx); Orvel Carl Bode (born 16 Feb. 1937, in Gerald, Tx; Orvel is living today in the Eastgate Community near Dayton, Tx) and Lois Henriette Bode King (born 8 Sept. 1938, in McGregor, Tx. Lois is living today in the Eastgate Community near Dayton, Tx).

9. Freddie Blankenstein born and died 12 October 1900, in Waco, McLennan County, Texas. It is believed Freddie is buried in an unmarked grave in the South First Street Cemetery in Waco, Texas.

10. Siegfried Richard Paul Blankenstein born 12 October 1904, in Ross, McLennan County, Texas. Siegfried was baptized 21 October 1906, at St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed Church in Gerald, Tx. Siegfried was confirmed 6 April 1919, at St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed Church in Gerald. Siegfried Blankenstein married Noda Mae Inglis on 14 Dec. 1926, in Fort Worth, Texas. Noda Mae was born 3 March 1909, in Fort Worth, Tarrant Co., Texas; she was the daughter of Charles Richmond Inglis and Lou Ella Johnson. Siegfried and Noda Mae Blankenstein lived most of their married life in Fort Worth where Siegfried worked in the construction and plastering business that he learned from his older brother, Richard. Siegfried Blankenstein died in Fort Worth, Texas, on 7 June 1985, at the age of 80 years. Noda Mae Inglis Blankenstein died in Fort Worth on 4 June 1994, at the age of 85 years. Siegfried and Noda Mae Blankenstein are buried in the Bluebonnet Hills Memorial Park in Colleyville, Tarrant Co., Texas. Siegfried and Noda Mae Blankenstein were the parents of five children: Bettie Marie Blankenstein Fielder (born 9 Jan. 1928, in Fort Worth, Tx; died 16 Jan. 2005, in Euless, Tx); Billy Joe Blankenstein (born 30 July 1930, in Fort Worth, Tx; died 25 Jan. 2003, in Fort Worth, Tx); Doris Jean Blankenstein Hightower (born 20 July 1934, in Fort Worth, Tx. Doris is still living today in Fort Worth); Mary Arlene Blankenstein Wilson (born 8 Feb. 1938, in Fort Worth, Tx; died 7 Dec. 2004, in Azle, Tx) and Sheron Ann Blankenstein Shaw Drake (born 17 Oct. 1945 in Fort Worth, Tx; died 30 Oct. 2009, in Burleson, Tx).

- II. Ida Alwine Friedrichs born 27 February 1863, in Ummendorf, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany. Alwine was baptized 15 March 1863, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ummendorf, and she was confirmed 26 March 1877, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ummendorf. Alwine's confirmation text was Psalm 18: 2-3. Alwine Friedrichs married Karl Domke in Ummendorf, Germany, on 5 June 1887. Karl Domke was born 30 May 1853, in Seehof bei Teltow, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany. Karl Domke was a farmer and a shepherd. Karl and Alwine lived in Ummendorf, but by 1912, they were living in Helmstedt, Germany. Karl and Alwine were the parents of three sons and two daughters. Karl Domke's date of death is not known, but he died in Helmstedt during the time period of World War I (1914-1918). Tante Alwine Friedrichs Domke died in Braunschweig, Germany, on 24 Oct. 1925, at the age of 62 years. Tante Alwine's funeral and burial took place on 27 Oct. 1925, in Helmstedt, Germany. The burial records of St. Marienberg Evangelical Lutheran Church in Helmstedt state that Tante Alwine's funeral and burial "took place at 2 p.m., and was public, with the ringing of the church bells." The family of Karl and Alwine Friedrichs Domke:



Tante Alwine Domke nee Friedrichs as a young lady

1. Elisabeth Alwine Domke born 28 Feb. 1888, in Ummendorf, Germany. Alwine was baptized 2 April 1888, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ummendorf. Alwine was confirmed 23 March 1902, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ummendorf. Alwine Domke married Friedrich Gottlieb "Fritz" Bock on 10 Oct. 1909, in Ummendorf. Fritz Bock was born 15 June 1881, in Lochtum near Goslar, Germany; he was the son of Wilhelm Bock and Sophie Fulst. Fritz and Alwine Domke Bock lived their married life in Helmstedt where Fritz's occupation was a tailor. Fritz and Alwine Bock had no children. Alwine Domke Bock died in Helmstedt, Germany, on 7 March 1937, at the age of 49 years. Alwine's funeral and burial took place on 10 March 1937, in Helmstedt. Fritz Bock died in Helmstedt, West Germany, on 10 Nov. 1950, at the age of 69 years. Fritz Bock's funeral and burial took place on 14 Nov. 1950, in Helmstedt.

2. Hermann Karl Domke born 31 Oct. 1889, in Ummendorf, Germany. This child was baptized 26 Dec. 1889, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ummendorf. Hermann Karl Domke apparently died as a young child as no other information has been found of him.

3. Hermann Karl Domke born 10 May 1891, in Ummendorf, Germany. Karl Domke, Jr., was baptized 18 May 1891, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ummendorf. Karl was confirmed 16 April 1905, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ummendorf. Karl Domke, Jr., was in the German military. He was stationed in Danzig, in Posen. Karl served in the Danzig Infantry Regiments, No. 128. Karl Domke, Jr., died in Danzig, Posen, Germany, on 5 Oct. 1912, at the age of 21 years.

4. Emilie Erna Domke born 5 Dec. 1893, in Ummendorf, Germany. Erna was baptized on 11 Feb. 1894, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ummendorf. Erna was confirmed on 12 April 1908, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ummendorf. Erna Domke married Melchoir Josef Klatt on 1 Oct. 1921, in the St. Marienberg Evangelical Lutheran Church in Helmstedt, Germany. Melchoir Klatt was born 6 Jan. 1875, in Krumfleiss, Germany; he was the son of Josef Klatt and Justina Ruffneck. Erna and Melchoir Klatt lived their married life in Helmstedt. Erna Domke Klatt died in Helmstedt, Germany, on 12 April 1927, at the age of 33 years. Erna's



Erna Domke Klatt in 1913



Emmi Nahrstedt Domke—wife of Otto

funeral and burial took place on 16 April 1927, in Helmstedt. Erna and Melchoir Klatt were the parents of one son: Adalbert Melchoir Otto Klatt born 21 Jan. 1921, in Helmstedt. Adalbert was baptized on his parents' wedding day, 1 Oct. 1921, in St. Marienberg Evangelical Lutheran Church in Helmstedt. Adalbert was confirmed 7 April 1935, in St. Marienberg Evangelical Lutheran Church in Helmstedt. No other information is known of him.

5. Gustav Otto Domke born 10 Feb. 1895, in Ummendorf, Germany. Otto Domke was baptized 29 March 1895, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ummendorf. Otto was confirmed 4 April 1909, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ummendorf. Otto Domke married Emmi Nahrstedt on 18 Jan. 1920, in Mahlwinkel, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany. Emmi Nahrstedt Domke was born 30 April 1894, in Mahlwinkel. Otto and Emmi Domke lived their married life in Stendal, Germany. Emmi Nahrstedt Domke died in Stendal, East Germany, on 25 July 1955, at the age of 61 years. Otto Domke died in Stendal, East Germany, on 11 January 1969, at the age of 73 years. Otto and Emmi

Nahrstedt Domke were the parents of one daughter: Lucie Domke born in Tangerhutte, near Stendal, Germany, on 18 Nov. 1920, and she died 11 Sept. 2011, in Stendal. Lucie Domke married Wilhelm "Willi" Schlieker on 11 May 1940, in Stendal. Willi Schlieker was born 21 March 1915, in Stendal, and he died 28 July 2002, in Stendal. Willi and Lucie Domke Schlieker had no children.



Otto Domke—son of Karl and Alwine Friedrichs Domke

III. Heinrich Hermann Friedrichs born 5 October 1865, in Ummendorf, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany. Hermann was baptized 20 Oct. 1865, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ummendorf. Hermann was confirmed 6 April 1880, in the

confirmation text was St. Luke 11: 28. Hermann Friedrichs married Auguste Friedericke Starker on 17 January 1897, in Hildburghausen, Thuringia, Germany. Auguste was born 1 Sept. 1874, in Hildburghausen, Thuringia; she was the daughter of Johann Starker and Marie Vogel. Hermann Friedrichs trained to be a machinist, and he worked as a machinist at a factory in Braunschweig, Germany, and later, at a factory in Magdeburg, Germany, that employed over 8,000 workers. Hermann and Auguste Friedrichs were the parents of six children, including a set of twins. They had four sons and two daughters. Hermann Friedrichs died in Magdeburg, Germany, on 16 May 1925, at the age of 59 years. Onkel Hermann's funeral and burial took place in Magdeburg on 19 May 1925. Tante Auguste continued to live in Magdeburg following Onkel Hermann's death. Auguste had the heartbreak of losing three of her children within a short time span in the years of her widowhood. Tante Auguste also lived through World War II, and saw the Russian occupation of Magdeburg at the end of the war. Tante Auguste Friedrichs died in Magdeburg on 12 February 1946, at the age of 71 years.



Hermann Friedrichs Family in Magdeburg, Germany. Sitting is Tante Auguste and Onkel Hermann Friedrichs. Their youngest son, Herbert, is standing between his parents. Standing from left, Erna, Richard, Hans, Willi and Grete.

The family of Hermann and Auguste (Starker) Friedrichs:

1. Erna Friedrichs born 22 April 1897, in Braunschweig, Germany. Erna never married. Erna Friedrichs died at the age of 32 years on 14 August 1929, in Magdeburg, Germany.

2. Grete Friedrichs born 26 Oct. 1898, in Braunschweig, Germany. Grete first married Paul Bohm, and after his death, Grete married Hans Schafer. Grete Friedrichs Schafer died in Magdeburg, East Germany, on 24 Feb. 1971, at the age of 72 years.

3. Hans Friedrichs born 26 Oct. 1898, in Braunschweig, Germany. Hans married Else Sommer on 20 Sept. 1924, in Magdeburg, Germany. Else geb. Sommer was born in Magdeburg on 13 May 1903. Hans Friedrichs served in the German military in both World War I and World War II. He served in Belgium, the Netherlands, and France. Hans, like his father, was a machinist, and Hans worked at the same factory in Magdeburg where his father, Hermann Friedrichs, also worked. Hans and Else Friedrichs lived in Magdeburg until 1973 when they moved to Hamburg, in West Germany. In the late 1980s, Hans and Else moved to Neu Wulmstorf, near Hamburg, where they lived with one of their granddaughters. Hans Friedrichs was born during the reign of Kaiser Wilhelm II. Hans saw the division of Germany after World War II, and he lived to see the reunification of Germany in 1990. Hans and Else Friedrichs were married 67 years when Hans died in Neu Wulmstorf on 22 January 1992, at the age of 93 years. Hans' funeral took place on 27 January 1992, in Neu Wulmstorf. Else Sommer Friedrichs died in Neu Wulmstorf on 22 December 1999, at the age of 96 years. Hans and Else were the parents of one daughter,



Hans Friedrichs with his wife, Else, and daughter, Gerda. Picture taken on Hans' 93rd birthday, Oct. 1991, in Neu Wulmstorf (near Hamburg), Germany.

Gerda Friedrichs, who was born 16 Feb. 1927, in Magdeburg. Gerda married Peter Dany in 1942. They were the parents of two daughters, Christa and Doris. Peter Dany was born 6 March 1924 in Trier, Germany, and he died 6 Jan. 1978, in Hamburg, West Germany. Gerda Friedrichs Dany continues to reside today in Neu Wulmstorf, Germany.

4. Wilhelm "Willi" Friedrichs born 2 January 1903, in Braunschweig, Germany. Willi Friedrichs married Leni Vakle. They had no children. Willi Friedrichs died in Magdeburg, East Germany, on 14 April 1961, at the age of 58 years.

5. Richard Friedrichs born 26 April 1905, in Braunschweig, Germany. Richard died in Magdeburg, Germany, on 8 April 1934, shortly before his 29th birthday.

6. Herbert Friedrichs born 10 Oct. 1909, in Magdeburg, Germany. Herbert died on his 21st birthday, 10 Oct. 1930, in Magdeburg.

V. Otto Friedrichs born in 1867 in Ummendorf, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany. Otto died as a boy when he was run over by a wagon. More research is being conducted on Otto.

ing conducted on Otto.

VI. Anna Emilie Friedrichs born 16 March 1870, in Ummendorf, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany. Emilie was baptized 1 April 1870, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ummendorf. Emilie was confirmed 6 April 1884, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ummendorf. Her confirmation text was Psalm 103: 1. Emilie Friedrichs married Gustav Voigt on 20 Oct. 1895, in Ummendorf. Gustav Voigt was born in Germany on 5 March 1867. Gustav and Emilie Voigt lived their married life in Braunschweig, Germany, where Gustav's occupation was a piano builder. Gustav and Emilie were the parents of two sons and one daughter. Gustav Voigt died in Braunschweig, Germany, on 2 June 1943, at the age of 76 years. Onkel Gustav and Tante Emilie were married 47 years. Tante Emilie lived through the horrors of World War II. During the war, Tante Emilie was going down her basement stairs when she slipped and fell, and, as a result, she was confined to her home as a shut-in the remainder of her life. Tante Emilie Friedrichs Voigt died in Braunschweig, West Germany, on 4 Sept. 1950, at the age of 80 years.

The family of Gustav and Emilie Friedrichs Voigt:

1. Gustav Voigt, Jr. born 11 May 1896, in Braunschweig, Germany. Gustav, Jr. married, but he and his wife had no children. Gustav's wife died during World War II. Gustav Voigt, Jr., died in Braunschweig, West Germany, on 5 Sept. 1956, at the age of 60 years.

2. Emilie "Emmi" Voigt born 26 Nov. 1897, in Braunschweig, Germany. Emmi never married. Emmi Voigt died in Braunschweig, West Germany, on 28 March 1970, at the age of 72 years.

3. Ernst Voigt born 20 March 1900, in Braunschweig, Germany. Ernst Voigt married, but do not have his wife's name, or any information on their family. Ernst Voigt died in Braunschweig, West Germany, on 11 May 1970, at the age of 70 years.

VI. Infant Friedrichs. This baby boy was stillborn on 5 Sept. 1871, in Ummendorf, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany.

This baby was buried 6 Sept. 1871, in Ummendorf.

VII. Christoph Wilhelm Friedrichs born 6 Sept. 1872, in Ummendorf, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany. Christoph Wilhelm was baptized 22 Sept. 1872, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ummendorf. Christoph Wilhelm Friedrichs died 3 June 1874, in Ummendorf. This child was buried 6 June 1874, in Ummendorf.

VIII. Carl Franz Friedrichs born 6 Sept. 1872, in Ummendorf, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany. Carl Franz was baptized 22 Sept. 1872, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ummendorf. Carl Franz Friedrichs died 7 June 1874, in Ummendorf. This child was buried 10 June 1874, in Ummendorf.

IX. Alma Elsbeth Friedrichs born 12 January 1879, in Ummendorf, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany. Elsbeth was baptized 20 February 1879, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ummendorf. Elsbeth was only seven years old when her father, Christoph Friedrichs, died in 1886. Elsbeth was confirmed 2 April 1893, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ummendorf. Her confirmation text was Isaiah 40: 31. Elsbeth Friedrichs married Otto Emmer in Ummendorf on 16 April 1906. Otto Emmer was born 24 April 1874, at Bornim bei Potsdam, Germany. Otto and Elsbeth Emmer lived their married life in Helmstedt where Otto was a locomotive driver. Otto and Elsbeth were the parents of two sons and one daughter. Onkel Otto and Tante Elsbeth lived through the devastation and the aftermath of World War II, and like millions of other Germans, they suffered personal losses. After the war, Tante Elsbeth wrote letters to her nieces and nephews in Texas and asked if they could send care packages to her family, as her



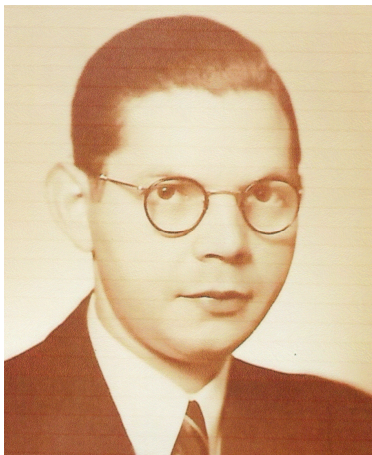
Tante Elsbeth Emmer and her daughter, Gertrud



Tante Elsgeth Emmer geb. Friedrichs—the youngest sister of my great-grandmother, Marie Blankenstein. Elsbeth was only three years old when her oldest sister left Germany for Texas to marry Gottfried Blankenstein



Peter Emmer and his wife, Rosemarie Schriebke Emmer, and Peter's mother, Erna Bauer Emmer, in 1989, Helmstedt, West Germany



Hans Emmer, the second son of Tante Elsbeth and Uncle Otto

family had little to eat. Many of the family in Texas responded to Tante Elsbeth's request. Tante Elsbeth's granddaughter, Rosmarie, remembers that there was always great joy when a care package arrived from Texas. Onkel Otto Emmer died in Helmstedt, West Germany, on 31 July 1951, at the age of 77 years. Onkel Otto and Tante Elsbeth were married 45 years. Tante Elsbeth Friedrichs Emmer died in Helmstedt, West Germany, on 18 December 1953, at the age of 74 years. Tante Elsbeth was the last surviving child of Christoph and Dorothea Friedrichs.

The family of Otto and Elsbeth Friedrichs Emmer:



Onkel Otto Emmer—the husband of Tante Elsbeth

1. Friedrich Paul Georg Otto Emmer born 26 Nov. 1907, in Helmstedt, Germany. Otto Emmer, Jr., was baptized 5 Jan. 1908, in the St. Stephani Evangelical Lutheran Church in Helmstedt. Otto, Jr., was confirmed 5 April 1922, in the St. Stephani Evangelical Lutheran Church in Helmstedt. Otto Emmer, Jr., married Erna Bauer in 1937 in Schonningen, near Helmstedt, Germany. Otto Emmer, Jr., died in Helmstedt, West Germany, on 24 Oct. 1957, just a month before his 50th birthday. His wife, Erna nee Bauer, died in Helmstedt, Germany, on 5 Aug. 1995. Otto and Erna were the parents of two children: Peter and Uta. 1

-a). Peter Emmer was born 23 March 1938, in Helmstedt, Germany. Peter married Rosemarie Schriebke in 1960, and they have two daughters: Claudia and Birgit. 1-b). Uta Emmer was 13 May 1943, in Helmstedt, Germany. Uta married Hennig Rode. Uta and Hennig have no children.



Otto Emmer, Jr., the oldest son of Tante Elsbeth and Uncle Otto Emmer

2. Hans Wilhelm Heinrich Emmer born 22 June 1909, in Helmstedt, Germany. Hans Emmer was baptized 15 Aug. 1909, in St. Stephani Evangelical Lutheran Church in Helmstedt. Hans was confirmed 25 March 1923, in St. Stephani Evangelical Lutheran Church in Helmstedt. Hans married Dora Lehmann in 1941 in Dessau, Germany. Hans studied to be an engineer. After World War II, Dessau was located in the Russian zone of occupation, and Hans and his family were forced to go to Russia to help rebuild that country. They were later allowed to return to East Germany. Hans Emmer died in Dessau, East Germany, on 21 March 1958, at the age of 48 years. His wife, Dora nee Lehmann, died 28 Dec. 1995. Hans and Dora were the parents of one daughter, Inge Emmer, who was born 27 Aug. 1942, in Dessau, Germany. Inge married Lutz Benndorf (now divorced), and they have five children: Sybill, Olaf, Elvira, Regina, and Michael.

3. Else Charlotte Gertrud Emmer born 8 Nov. 1914, in Helmstedt, Germany. Gertrud was baptized 25 Jan. 1915, in St. Stephani Evangelical Lutheran Church in Helmstedt. Gertrud was confirmed 25 March 1929, in St. Stephani Evangelical Lutheran Church in Helmstedt. Gertrud Emmer married Ewald Danker on 3 April 1937, in Helmstedt. Ewald Danker was born 19 Jan. 1909, in Helmstedt. During World War II, Ewald served in the German Army, where he was stationed on the Eastern Front. In 1943, Ewald was reported missing in the war in Russia, and he was never heard from again. Gertrud never remarried. In her life, Gertrud was born in the Kaiser's Germany shortly after the outbreak of World War I; she grew up under Germany's Weimar Republic, and she was a



Gertrud Emmer at the age of six years. It was her first day of school.



Ewald Danker, the husband of Gertrud. Ewald was reported missing in 1943 in Russia during World War II, and was never heard from again.

young adult when the Nazi Party took control of Germany in 1933. Gertrud lived through the devastation of World War II, and she felt the grief as a young war widow. Gertrud saw the division of Germany after World War II as Helmstedt became a major border crossing between West and East Germany. Like her cousin, Hans Friedrichs, Gertrud lived to see the reunification of Germany in 1990. Gertrud Emmer Danker died in a hospital at Wendhausen, near Helmstedt, Germany, on 21 March 1992, at the age of 77 years. Gertrud was the last surviving first cousin in Germany of my grandmother, Elfriede Blankenstein Bode. Gertrud was also the last surviving grandchild of my great-great-grandparents, Christoph and Dorothea Friedrichs. Gertrud’s funeral took place in Helmstedt on 26 March 1992. Gertrud and Ewald Danker were the parents of one daughter, Rosmarie Danker, who was born 13 April 1938, in Helmstedt. Rosmarie married Klaus Stube on 6 Aug. 1965, in Helmstedt. Klaus Stube was born in Helmstedt on 13 May 1941. Klaus and Rosemarie had no children. Klaus Stube died in Helmstedt on 28 Aug. 2005, at the age of 64 years. Rosemarie Danker Stube lives today in Helmstedt, Germany.



Gertrud Emmer Danker in 1985. Picture was taken in Braunschweig, Germany.



Rosemarie Danker Stube (left) and her cousin, Uta Emmer Rode, granddaughters of Tante Elsbeth Emmer.

Sources: Hans Friedrichs, Gertrud Emmer Danker, Rosmarie Danker Stube, Lucie Domke Schlieker, Dianne Blankenstein, Records of the Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Ummendorf, Hakenstedt, and Eilsleben, Germany. German research also obtained with the help of Wilhelm Niermann of Stenwedde-Wehdem, Germany, and of the Church of Latter-Day Saints. Memories of stories told to me by my grandmother, Elfriede Blankenstein Bode; my great-aunt, Alma Blankenstein Banik; and my great-uncle, Siegfried Blankenstein.

Submitted by Daniel Bode—a great-grandson of Marie Friedrichs Blankenstein. This article is dedicated to the memories of my great-grandmother, Marie (nee Friedrichs) Blankenstein, and my grandmother, Elfriede (nee Blankenstein) Bode.

The following is a translation of a letter written by Elsbeth Friedrichs Emmer in 1947.

Helmstedt
27 May 1947

Dear Loved Ones,
Haven't heard any news from you in a long time. Hope you are all well and alive. We outlived the terrible war. It is like a wonder that we all made it through. I am so glad that my dear mother did not live to see this. We have three children: Otto, Hans, and Gertrud. Hans lives in Dessau, in the Russian zone. Hans, with his wife and child, was sent to Russia to help rebuild it. Hans is an engineer. Gertrud's husband is missing four years now in Russia. She has one daughter that is nine years old. She is very tall, but very thin. We have very big hunger here, and hunger hurts. If you ever donate a package to Germany, think of us. We would be very thankful and joyous. That will be all for today.

Hearty greetings from your
Aunt Elsbeth Emmer geb. Friedrichs

OPERATIONS

GTHS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

28 August 2016

The regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the German Texan Heritage Society was held on 28 August 2016 in the German Free School headquarters of the Society with the President in the chair and the Secretary being present.

Meeting Attendees: Michael Krause, Charles Locklin, Richard Gruetzner, Connie Krause, Dr. Larry Deuser, Janis Gonser, Chris Markley

President Krause called the meeting to order at 11:25 am and it was established that a quorum was not yet present as of that time.

With the delayed arrival of Janis Gonser and Chris Markley, a quorum was not established until 12:05 p.m.

Prior to a quorum, informal discussions were held regarding the position of editor for the Journal and the concerns expressed by some Board and Society members. Clarification on the editor's position is needed. Ideas for enhancing the Journal content were also discussed. No official actions were taken. In addition, there were discussions regarding ideas for future cultural events and a short briefing on the recent City of Austin Grant for our Oktober Fest event. It was noted that Manuela Markley will work on the creation of rack cards paid for with grant money. There was a recommendation that the President should consider appointing Eddie Wolsch to the Publications Committee.

Following the quorum being established:

The minutes of the previous meeting of 1 May 2016 were reviewed. They had previously been approved electronically and printed in the Journal. The minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of 28 July 2016 were reviewed and copies distributed.

Finance Committee Report – Larry Deuser discussed the financial statements that have been sent electronically to the Board. It was noted that while we did suffer a small loss at Mai Fest, it was not a lot considering the terrible weather disrupting the event. There was a consensus that we should continue with Mai Fest events as they support our cultural education mission with families. Our 2016 Budget was just a simple transfer over of our 2015 budget. There were concerns that our income this year will not be as great as last year, but our expenses have not been as great either.

GFS Committee Report – Charles Locklin discussed various items relating to activities at the GFS including possible expansion of our events and negotiations with the German Haus people for use of the facility for SXSW. Foot traffic inside the facility during Christmas Market will be slightly different in order to handle the crowds better. Various issues regarding the Christmas Market planning were discussed. Larry Deuser discussed a grant that has been applied for with the Junior League of Austin for both money and volunteers to assist us with the GFS grounds and with marketing of our event rentals.

Activities Committee Report – Richard Gruetzner discussed preparations for the annual meeting. It was mentioned that we are needing sponsors for the event. Everything is basically set for the event, schedules posted, speakers determined, caterer determined and so forth. Charles Locklin also brought up ideas regarding planning for the 2017 annual meeting. The idea of using the Callaway House which would provide meals on site as well as rooms for overnight stays by visitors and a parking garage. It would be in close proximity to the University, the Ransom Center, and other venues of interest. Ideas were mentioned about getting German language teachers involved.

Publications Committee Report – President Krause will advise Eddie Wolsch of his appointment to the Publications Committee. It was mentioned that Charles and Connie will be meeting in September with the steering committee of the Texas Historical Commission regarding the Travel Guide and possible phone application. Charles also mentioned that the GTHS is overstocked on books for sale. Connie Krause will be promoting book sales in the Journal and on the website.

Membership Committee Report – Charles Locklin mentioned the idea of working with German classes in the schools in an effort to gain younger members. He also spoke to the idea of going to electronic Journals instead of printing and mailing hard copies which cost a great deal of money. Hard copies could still be mailed to persons unable to receive electronic copies. Also discussed was placing other information on our website available to members only. Janis Gonser discussed software options for electronic handling of the membership database (and other items) such as Member Planet. Janis will proceed with investigating the benefit of going with Member Planet and possibly make a formal recommendation at the next Board meeting.

Development Committee Report – Larry Deuser reported that he is cleaning up the PayPal account and who has administrative rights on the account. He also wants to focus on a greatly expanded 2017 Oktober Fest. The suggestion was made to look into the idea of Society organized trips to Germany for members. He also thinks we should look at ideas for different uses for our lot next door.

Administrative Planning and Actions –

Advisory Board Charles Locklin reported on his concept about the Advisory Board and how it could be revised. The idea was brought up for regional representatives who could help us with social connections with members in other areas of the state. They could identify people who can write articles for the Journal or local events which we could help promote. They could report on things in their regions and recruit new members from the area. Connie Krause mentioned that some people have requested exactly what our expectations of Advisory Board members are. Various ideas were discussed.

Advisory Council Charles Locklin spoke about creating a group of persons with special skills/talents as an Advisory Council. He mentioned various people in the areas of marketing, computer skills, heritage related music skills and so forth. They would act as consultants or experts to be contacted when we have a need in the subject area. Larry Deuser made a suggestion that the group be called something along the lines of “Friends of the GTHS” rather than Advisory Council. They could be recognized on the website.

Additional informational item – King’s Restaurant sent another proposal regarding a restaurant on our property. After review by the Executive Committee, a decision was made to decline this offer as it would not meet our needs.

Schedule of next Board meeting – The next Board meeting will be 6 November 2016 at the German Free School.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Minutes were approved by electronic vote on 2 November 2016.

GTHS Annual General Business Meeting Minutes

24 September 2016

The regularly scheduled annual general business meeting of the German Texan Heritage Society was held on 24 September 2016 in the Hanslik Hall of the Texas Czech Heritage & Cultural Center located in La Grange, Texas with the President in the chair and the Secretary being present.

Meeting Attendees: Michael Krause, Charles Locklin, Richard Gruetzner, Connie Krause, Larry Deuser, Eddie Wolsch, and Barbara Berthold

President Krause called the meeting to order at 11:20 am and it was established that a quorum was present. He then welcomed the membership in attendance and made introductions of the Board members present at the meeting.

President Krause then gave special recognition and thanks to the members of the Activities Committee (Chair Richard Gruetzner, Eddie Wolsch, Barbara Berthold) for organizing and putting on the annual meeting.

Financial Report – Treasurer Larry Deuser reported that for the first time in four years, the GTHS finished in the black by \$2,700 for last year. He stated that for this year both our income and our expenses are running behind. Part of the lower expenses is due to one staff member being absent a good deal due to health reasons. We hope to finish the annual conference in the black as well. President Krause also recognized the volunteer work done by Charles Locklin as acting executive director without pay which enables us to avoid paying that salary. Larry also mentioned some of the advertising done to promote the Society's events. He pointed out that USA Today has recognized our Christmas Market as one of the top December cultural events.

Membership Report – Membership in the GTHS is declining (now just under 500) and we need to increase the number of young members. He commented that the membership should consider how they can recruit additional members, perhaps giving gift memberships, making sure to renew existing memberships and so forth. The Board is considering new additions to the Journal which may be of interest to younger people, without eliminating existing content.

Administrative Planning and Actions –

By-Laws Amendment regarding term limits of directors being waived for approved individuals if the 15 designated positions cannot be filled. Charles Locklin was approved by the membership at the 2015 annual meeting to serve on the Board, but it was later determined that he fell into the term limit category, so a confirmation of his service continuation is requested from the membership. A motion was made by Weldon Mersevsky to waive the term limit for Charles Locklin. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote. **Motion adopted.**

Confirmation of interim appointments for Board Members positions:

Janis Gonser Position 6 2016-2019 appointed at the 7 February 2016 BOD meeting

Chris Markley Position 3 2015-2018 appointed at the 1 May 2016 BOD meeting

A motion was made by Beverly Locklin to approve the appointments Janis Gonser and Chris Markley. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote. **Motion adopted.**

Nomination of current slate of expiring positions beginning 2017:

Position 8 Eddie Wolsch

Position 9 Richard Gruetzner

Position 15 Dr. Larry Deuser

A motion was made by Rodney Koenig to elect the slate consisting of Eddie Wolsch, Richard Gruetzner and Dr. Larry Deuser to the indicated positions for the terms beginning in 2017. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote. **Motion adopted.**

Currently positions 5, 7, and 13 remain open on the Board.

Nominations were then requested to fill the vacancies from the floor. Rodney Koenig made a motion to elect Dr. Marc Pierce to the Board. The motion was seconded. President Krause stated that he would determine the vacant position with the longest term of office from the three vacant positions and that Dr. Pierce would be placed in that position if elected. It was confirmed that Dr. Pierce was willing to serve and the motion to elect was approved by a voice vote. **Motion adopted.** No other nominations were presented for consideration.

Employee update

A general report was made on GTHS employee status and a discussion was held. No actions.

GTHS Facility Report & Other Information – Charles Locklin reported on the improvements to the grounds at the German Free School and all the new construction in the area. He spoke about the Red River Cultural District activities and the opportunities that this brings to us.

Next Annual Meeting – As voted by the Board, our annual meetings will alternate between Austin and outlying cities. The 2017 annual meeting will be in Austin. The date for the meeting will possibly in the summer timeframe as we have an opportunity to use a facility which will decrease the cost for attendees, but the facility is only available during the summer. Discussion of the facility and parking availability was held.





Other Business – Connie Krause reported on and discussed our efforts in cooperation with the Texas Historical Commission to develop a German Heritage Travel Tour Guide and possible future phone application. Rodney Koenig made comments on membership and efforts which could be made to increase our membership. Liz Hicks commented that the Journal is seeking articles from the membership. Please send in anything you can. Larry Deuser mentioned the rack cards that are available for distribution and requested assistance in getting them placed around the state.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Minutes approved by electronic vote on 2 November 2016.

BOOKS PUBLISHED BY THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Journal		ISSN 0730-3106, 4x per year, 8½ x 11, paperback. Since 1978. Each issue of this member publication contains over 100 pp of German-Texan genealogy, history and related info in English, with occasional German articles translated.	\$5 members \$6 non-GTHS members
Diary of Hermann Seele		ISBN 1-57168-238-4, 504 pp, 6 x 9, hardback. Illustrations, bibliography, index. Translated and edited by Theodore Gish. Gives a revealing and intimate picture of 19th century Texas. Includes Seele sketches from Texas.	\$27.50
A Sojourn in Texas, 1846-47		ISBN 1-57168-237-6, 400 pp, 6 x 9, hardback. Illustrations, maps, index. Edited by W.M. Von-Maszewski. A. Sorgel's Texas Writings. This dual-language edition is filled with observations, advice, and warnings for those who chose to come to Texas.	\$35 signed by author, \$30
Roemer's Texas		ISBN 1-57168-043-2, 308 pp, 6 x 9, hardback. Bibliography, index. By Dr. Ferdinand Roemer, translated by Oswald Mueller. Long considered one of the best narrative accounts of life in early Texas.	\$35.00
GTHS German Immigrant Ancestors		ISBN 1-57168-240-6, 292 pp, 8½ x 11, paperback. Index and maps. Edited by Christa Prewitt. Genealogical records.	\$15.00
Handbook and Registry of German-Texan Heritage		ISBN 1-57168-239-2, 192 pp, 8½ x 11, paperback. Index. Edited by W.M. Maszewski. Contains information on early German-Texan businesses, churches, cemeteries, schools, etc. Currently out of Stock	\$22.95
History of the German Settlements in Texas, 1831-1861		ISBN 1-57168-236-8, 280 pp, 6 x 9, NEW edition, paperback. Maps, illustrations, appendix, index. By Rudolf Biesele. Covers the actual founding and history of many German settlements and towns in Texas prior to the American Civil War.	\$35.00
The Cabin Book		ISBN 0-89015-525-9, 296 pp, 6 x 9, hardback. Illustrations. By Charles Sealsfield. Sealsfield's hopes about America focused on Texas when he wrote this in 1841. This novel, in part about Texas life in the 1830s, became a best-seller.	\$20.00
Texas in 1848		ISBN 1-57168-242-2, 240 pp, 6 x 9, hardback. Bibliography, index. By Victor Bracht. Originally published in German in 1849, this book has been described as a "treasure of German-Texan history." Filled with early Texas observations.	\$30.00

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Mary's Moving Once More for the Last Time!!!

Send materials for the Journal (announcements, articles, news of reunions, clippings, and other information to GTHS Journal, c/o Mary Whigham, 7529 Eagle Ridge Circle, Fort Worth, Texas 76179 or email to mjwhig@gmail.com.

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING MATERIALS TO THE JOURNAL?

NEXT ISSUE

Spring 2017
Summer, 2017
Fall, 2017
Winter 2017

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

February 1, 2017
May 1, 2017
August 1, 2017
November 1, 2017

POLICY STATEMENT

Materials sent for *The Journal* will not be returned. All materials must include the contributor's name, a source and a date. All submitted manuscript articles must be typed single-spaced on 8 ½ x 11" white paper with right, left, top, and bottom margins no less than .7 inches. Electronic versions are preferred. Newspaper clippings should NOT be cropped closely. This can be done more accurately with our computer. All German materials must be accompanied by an English text. All submissions will be reviewed by the *Journal* editor and the Publications Committee. They have the right and responsibility to refuse materials that may not be in accordance with GTHS policies. The German-Texan Heritage Society, its volunteer *Journal* editors and its paid office staff are not responsible for errors or misinformation in submitted articles. All editors are volunteers, and are not paid for their services.

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