

Texas German Society

Organized September 6, 1983 ■ Witte Schmid Haus 1860

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REPORTER

Summer 2012

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2012 Convention, Yoakum



-Gray Westmoreland , Immediate Past President
-Robert Herridge, TGS President
-Charles Soehnge , Lavaca De Witt County Chapter President
-Klaus-Jochen Guehlcke, Deputy Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany



The President's Corner



Wie Gehts Ya'll!

As we approach the Fall season, we can start to plan our German activities.... such as, OktoberFests of all shapes and sizes, Thanksgiving celebrations, Christmas parties, Christkindlmarkts and of course, Christmas. German-American Day is October 6th of every year so think about helping your chapter get proclamations with your city or your community for your local newspapers. German-American Day celebrates German heritage and commemorates the date in 1683 when 13 German families from Krefeld near the Rhine River landed in Philadelphia. These families subsequently founded Germantown, Pennsylvania.. All of these special times lend themselves to putting in some German touch to the world around us. Begin to think of some ways you can tell your loved ones how their German ancestors celebrated these special occasions. Huuummm, I wonder, did they ever stuff sauerkraut in the Thanksgiving turkey? Some of you know how much I love sauerkraut!

At our TGS Executive Meeting this past Sunday (08/05/12) we discussed some ways to increase our membership in our organization. Please be on the lookout in the next few months as the Executive Board, Directors, and Chapter Presidents bring forth ways we can all pitch in on this effort. We have a wonderful and beautiful legacy being Texans of German/Swiss/Austrian decent. We have real and heartfelt stories of our past families and our present families. I keep feeling that more and more communities are embracing the German heritage again.

We will be able to embrace our German heritage in a huge way come April 13, 2013. That is the date chosen for our next TGS State Convention that will be hosted by the Galveston and South Belt Chapters. Planning got underway immediately after our last State Convention in Yoakum. I have noticed that we are on an excellent winning streak with our Conventions. Vielen Dank to the chapters that have work so diligently on these events! The 2013 will be in Galveston at Trinity Lutheran Church. The church and Galveston have an enormous German legacy.

I hope to see you at Das Haus on the first Sunday of December for our Weihnachtsfeier (Christmas Party)! Ich hoffe, jeden am Das Haus zu sehen! Dezember 2, 2012. Thank you to the chapters of Galveston, Heart of Texas, Lee County, and South Belt for your gracious hospitality extended to Marie and I on our recent visits. Bis Später, Robert



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CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Austin County

Bastrop County

Bluebonnet Chapter

January 2012: The Bluebonnet Chapter of the Texas German Society met at the Hill Center on January 25, 2012. Allene Porter led the pledge to the U.S. flag. President Herbert Schumann welcomed 40 members and 7 guests, Linda Knesek, Judy and Clarence Grisham, Barbara Reinhart, Robert Rash, and Milton and Clara Young. He stated that the purpose of the society is to preserve the German culture. New members were Clarence and Judy Fisher.

President Schumann said that Woodrow Woehst will be celebrating his 99th birthday.

The minutes of the November meeting were read and corrections made. The Lavaca-DeWitt Chapter of the Texas German Society will host the State Convention in March. The minutes were then approved.

Treasurer Ray Ledbetter gave the treasurer's report. He reported the chapter took in \$313 at the Christkindl Market. The chapter had donated \$200 towards the market and paid \$200 for the tent. He said there is a balance of \$1,194.95 in the Scholarship Fund. He asked members to pay their dues, which are \$8 per person or \$15 per couple.

President Schumann asked for the Committee Reports. He thanked Tillie Sell for heading the Refreshment Committee and recognized Allen Sell for his help. Mrs. Sell thanked Nelda and Delta Marburger, Betty Remmert and Vernell Dittert for providing the refreshments.

Elizabeth Remmert gave the Nominating Committee Report. Elizabeth moved that the Chapter keep the same officers for 2012, seconded by Karl Micklitz. Motion passed. Herbert recognized Marie Herridge for making the badges.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS: President Schumann said the Saengerfest will be on April 29 and advance tickets will be sold. Tickets will be handed out at the next meeting.

Robert Herridge, State President of TGS, reminded members to send in their money for the State Convention. The deadline for tickets is February 15.

Elizabeth Remmert made a motion to authorize President Schumann to purchase silent auction items for the state convention, and was seconded by Karl Micklitz. Motion carried.

President Schumann discussed having the May 23 meeting at Newman's castle. Gene Remmert made motion that members meet at the castle, with the Chapter paying \$7 and members paying \$8 of the fee for each person and was seconded by Karl Micklitz. Motion carried.

There was discussion of the Christkindl Market. It was suggested that it would be better to have the Market on the same weekend as the Small Town Christmas.

President Schumann then introduced Billy Jackson, a veteran of World War II. Mr. Jackson told of his experiences in the military and as a Prisoner of War in Germany. He received a standing ovation.

The meeting ended with the singing of Du, Du, Liegst Mir Im Herzen. The next meeting will be on March 28, 2012.

March 2012: The Bluebonnet Chapter of the Texas German Society met at the Hill Center on March 28, 2012. Allene Porter led the pledge to the U.S. flag. President Herbert Schumann welcomed 23 members and 9 guests, Billy Robins, Sue Martinez, Eric Selic, Devon and Hayden-----, Shelley Wong and Bryan McAuley and Jason Gilbo, in German and in English. He stated that the purpose of the Society is to preserve the German culture. The minutes of the January meeting were read and corrections made. New members Clarence and Judy Fisher's names were omitted. The minutes then approved.

Treasurer Ray Ledbetter gave the treasurer's report. He said there is a beginning balance of \$ 653.84, with a deposit of \$440.00 from dues, and a check for \$40.00 to Billy Jackson, which Mr. Jackson declined. The check was then put into the Scholarship Fund. That left a balance of \$1,053.84 in the Checking Account. There is a total of \$1,260.47 in the Scholarship Fund. The report was filed and approved for audit.

President Schumann informed Chapter members that Bruce Warburton had passed away.

President Schumann asked for the Committee Reports. Tillie Sell thanked Carrie Froebel, Elizabeth Remmert and Laura Schumann for providing refreshments.

Cheer Committee Chair Joyce Bullard said get-well cards were sent to Alisa Ledbetter, Joycine Hanath and to Herbert Schumann.

Grace Holtkamp gave the Scholarship Committee Report. She said scholarship application forms were taken to the high school. She read a letter from Dustin Wolf, which he had written in German.

Herbert said the State Convention was a good one. He suggested that a thank you note be sent to Bellville Meat Market to thank them for providing knockwurst to the Chapter for the silent auction.

OLD BUSINESS: The Fruehling Saengerfest, which is the only fundraiser, will be on April 29. Tillie Sell and Grace Holtkamp are co-chairs of the Cake Committee. Advance sale tickets were passed out. For extra tickets, call Ray Ledbetter, Herbert Schumann or Wayne Lessmann.

Robert Herridge, State President of the Texas German Society, gave a report on the state convention in Yoakum. He stated it would be good to plan the state conventions 3 to 4 years in advance. Posters and flyers for the Saengerfest were passed out.

Laura Schumann, Co-chair of the Saengerfest, explained about the meal, singers, vendors and booths. The cost for having a booth will be \$25.00. This will be the 10th annual fest.

Herbert said the May 23 meeting will be a Newman's Castle. The cost will be \$8.00 for each person. He will need a final count by May 21. We will meet at 5:45 pm at Newman's Bakery, have a meal and take a tour of the castle.

Robert Herridge gave the Audit Committee Report. Everything balanced.

Bryan McAuley, Site Manager at the San Felipe de Austin State park, gave an interesting presentation about the history of San Felipe and plans for the museum in the park.

The meeting ended with the singing of Du, DU Liegst Mir Im Herzen. The next meeting will be on May 23, 2012.

May 2012: The Bluebonnet Chapter of the Texas German Society met at Newman's Castle on May 23, 2012.

There was good attendance of members and guests. After a meal, President Herbert Schumann conducted a brief meeting. He said the advance ticket sale for the Fruehling Saengerfest was a success. He also said B.R. Taylor gave a \$250 donation with the firm matching the amount. President Schumann told the members that the next meeting will be the ice cream social and the 10th year anniversary of the Bluebonnet Chapter.

Grace Holtkamp gave the Scholarship Committee Report.

No other business was conducted.

Herbert then introduced Mike Newman, owner of the castle. Mr. Newman gave an interesting talk about the building of his castle. He said he did most of the work himself, which took several years, and is still in the process of building. Mr. Newman demonstrated the catapult in front of the castle. The chapter members then took an interesting tour of the castle, which also has a dungeon.

The next meeting will be on July 25, 2012.

Colorado County

Fort Bend County

On May 15, 2012, members of the Fort Bend Chapter of the Texas German Society toured the Czech Center Museum Houston. Robert Dvorak, a museum volunteer, gave the group a grand tour of the Museum showing the group quality craftsmanship in chandeliers, furniture, pottery, crystal and including playing on a Petrof piano. The group enjoyed lunch at the Museum.

Pictured are:

Front Row: Loyce Anderson, Irene Bohac, Winona Luedeke

Back Row: Delbert Niemann, Carol Niemann, Robert Dvorak, Dolores Kueck, Rev. Tom Schwartz, Cathy Hanzik



On May 15, 2012, members of the Fort Bend Chapter of the Texas German Society visited the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum on Southmore Street in Houston. Captain Paul (PJ) Matthews, founder of the Museum, gave the group a tour of the Museum. The nickname of buffalo soldier began with the Cheyenne Warriors in 1867. The nickname was given out of respect and the fierce fighting ability of the 10th Cavalry. There were two Cavalry units, the 9th and 10th Regiments and four infantry regiments that were later consolidated into two, the 24th and 25th. The Buffalo Soldiers were assigned to the harshest and most desolate posts. Specific duties included subduing Mexican revolutionaries, outlaws, comercheros, rustlers and hostile Native Americans.

Pictured are:

Front Row: Irene Bohac, Carol Niemann, Captain PJ Matthews, Winona Luedeke

Texas German Society Reporter

Back Row: Cathy Hanzik, Delbert Niemann, Dolores Kueck, Loyce Anderson, Rev. Tom Schwartz



Galveston Chapter

Golden Crescent Chapter

Robert Meyer, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Clifford Kunkle lead us in the prayer to bless our food for the evening, we then joined together for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasurer Report: Robert Meyer gave the treasurer report as Dorothy Boehm, Treasurer was not able to attend this meeting. There is a balance of \$5,986.47 in our operating account and a balance of \$8,026.86 in our scholarship account.

Minutes: Patricia P. Williams read the minutes from our February meeting, they were accepted and approved.

Old Business: Robert Meyer mentioned there was some discussion about the December Christmas party date, but it was resolved and the date for the Christmas party is December 07, 2012.

Dorothy Albrecht gave a report on the scholarships. She has send forms to ten different high schools and has received a response from four of them; Calhoun, Cuero, Goliad and St. Joseph. Dorothy has so far been sent eight applications for the scholarship fund. The deadline is April 15th, after which Dorothy's committee will be receiving the applications and choosing the winners.

New Business: It was mentioned that next year in April we do not want to have our meeting on Maundy Thursday, too many people have church obligations that night. Since Easter is a floating date, as that time approaches we will decide about changing that meeting date if it becomes necessary.

Program: Robert Meyer introduced Patsy Hand to present our program. Our original program was to be given by James Kearney on Nausau Plantation, due to family obligations he was forced to reschedule. Patsy was gracious enough to present her program on her Indianola Data Base this month instead of later in the year as planned. Patsy's program was very informative and well presented. She had some photos from the collection at the college archives showing Indianola after it was destroyed. She suggested a book which is in the local libraries and might interest the members, "Indianola – The Mother of Western Texas by M. Bronson". Patsy also shared her web site for anyone interested in viewing her Indianola Data Base – vrhc.uhv.edu/manuscripts/indianola/home.cfm. Patsy said if anyone knows their immigrants came in through Indianola they should get in touch with her and get them added to her data base. It is up to relatives to post this information onto the data base otherwise it will be lost in time as there no records concerning these immigrants.

Other Business: Robert reminded everyone our next meeting will be June 03, 2012, which is our picnic where fried chicken will be served, and we will play games.

Robert wants to start a web site for our society and asked for suggestions from the members on how he might get a web site started. He also wants some ideas on putting together a membership drive to attract new members.

Attendance: 22 members were in attendance, with 1 guest. Meeting adjourned: 7:50pm

Harris County Chapter

The **March 2012 Harris County chapter meeting** was well attended as Houston author **Lucinda Freeman** took us on an informal virtual tour of interesting historic sites, many of them associated with Texas-German history, in and around Houston. Freeman is the author of *Historic Houston: How to See It*. The book has a subtitle: *100 Years and 100 Miles of Day Trips*.

Freeman used a PowerPoint presentation along with her engaging approach of combining careful research, entertaining stories highlighting influential personalities, and day-trip itineraries. Her itineraries included historical markers, museums, plantations, battle sites, and historic buildings. She also included some of her personal experiences at these sites as well as anecdotes about colorful characters such as Sam Houston, Deaf Smith, and a legendary cattle rustler and oilman named Shanghai Pierce.

For our TGS chapter, she emphasized the German immigrant involvement with key time periods such as the Texas Revolution, Antebellum South, and the Civil War. Many of the Harris County members had seen the places she talked about and added their own commentaries as well, which made for an entertaining and educational evening.

Freeman is a native Houstonian and a fifth generation of Scots-Irish, Czech, and German immigrants. After a twenty-five year career as a money manager, she now wants to make history both fun and relevant. Both her parents have written books on Houston's history, so both history and writing are in her blood. And we could tell due to her passionate approach to telling our history.

Through slides, Freeman took us to Washington on the Brazos, where the Texas Declaration was signed. She also showed us Spindletop and the Spindletop Museum in Beaumont. One of her favorite day trips is her German and Czech tour that includes LaGrange and the painted churches near Schulenburg. She also included the town of Fayetteville.

The German-Texan sites she mentioned within Houston were fascinating to see and discuss. She mentioned Glenwood Cemetery in Houston's Sixth Ward; the German farmers who settled Germantown north of White Oak Bayou; the Berring family of Berrings Hardware; German Street, which later during World War I became Canal Street; and St. Marks United Methodist Church, which houses the old bell which reads: *Kommet heir su mir alla, die ihr muehselig und beladen sein, ich will euch erquicken*. (Mathew 11:28: Come unto me, all that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.)

As usual, the chapter members created an incredible pot luck dinner, many of the dishes from German recipes.

The **May 2012 Harris County chapter meeting** had forty-five members and guests attend a presentation by **Matthias Loebe, M.D., Ph.D.**, Chief Division of Transplant and Assist Devices, Methodist Hospital. His topic was “Dr. DeBakey and Heidelberg: German Influence in Texas Medicine.” Dr. Loebe chose this topic for our group to bridge German medical traditions with medicine and the city of Houston.

Dr. Loebe started by explaining how he first met Dr. DeBakey at a conference in Berlin when as a student, he heard that a renowned surgeon from Texas was coming to the event. At the time, the young Matthias could not understand his accent, except that Dr. DeBakey said, “Write to me.” He did write, and soon Matthias was in Houston to do a residency.

While doing the residency, he was told by several interns: “Never talk Dr. DeBakey.” But one day he saw DeBakey and stopped to talk to him. Matthias thanked DeBakey for the residency, and Dr. DeBakey told him about his time in training in Germany and how important it was for him. He found Dr. DeBakey to be “super nice,” and they would eventually become friends. Dr. Loebe returned to Germany after the residency, but came back to join the DeBakey team.

Dr. Loebe gave us some background on 19th Century medical practices and education and how it differed from that in 19th century America. In 19th Germany, a medical education was an academic education. In early America, one would do apprenticeship to become a physician.

He next told us some early background on Dr. Michael DeBakey (1908-2008). Dr. DeBakey was born in Lake Charles, Louisiana, from Lebanese immigrant parents. His parents succeeded in business, and wanted to make sure their children had excellent educations. Dr. DeBakey received his B.S., M.A. and Ph.D. from Tulane University in New Orleans.

After serving an internship and residency in surgery at the Charity Hospital, he moved to France to complete a fellowship at the University of Strasbourg and then moved to Germany from 1936-1937 to complete a fellowship at the University of Heidelberg under the famous German Professor Martin Kirschner. He was in Germany at the height of the Third Reich. While in Germany he became aware of some German medical conventions that would influence his later work. One was punctuality; another was precise organization, yet another was discipline. He also learned the German hospital structure. In Strasbourg he studied vascular surgery; in Heidelberg he studied thoracic surgery. He would combine the two to invent modern heart surgery.

He returned to Tulane Medical School in 1938 and remained there until 1948. However at this time he also (1942-1946) was on military leave for the Office of the Surgeon General of the U. S. Army. Here he helped develop the Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) units and later helped the Veteran’s Administration Medical Research System.

With all this background, Dr. DeBakey moved to Houston in 1948 to join the Baylor College of Medicine where he served as Chairman of the Department of Surgery until 1993. Dr. DeBakey continued to practice medicine until his 90s. He died at 99.

Dr. Loebe told us about the time a student asked him when he decided to become a heart surgeon. His response was, “I didn’t decide to become a heart surgeon. I invented heart surgery.”

The July 2012 Harris County chapter meeting will be our movie night with pop corn and ice cream sodas. This year, our full screen movie will be *The Waltz to Westphalia*, a film by Joe Weed. As Weed says, the film reveals “the poignant evolution of the Westphalia Waltz from its Polish-American past to a fiddle standard named for a tiny hamlet in south Texas.” We invite any TGS members and their guests who would like to join us at 6:45 pm at the Trini Mendenhall Sosa Community Center located at 1414 Wirt Road at the intersection of Wirt and Westview in Spring Branch.

Heart of Texas Chapter - The HOT Chapter elected new officers. They are:

President, Van Massirer; Vice President, LaNell Mueller; Secretary & Reporter, Betty Hubbard; Treasurer, Erwin Abel; Programs, Helen Miller and Marianna Scheidler; Historian, Liesel Murray.

Feb – We sponsor an award for the Best German Subject at the Regional History Fair held at Baylor University. Waco High student Jameson White with his Senior Individual project was awarded our Special Award and the RHF Award ceremony on February 10th. He gave a fantastic summary of his project on “Bismarck.” Accompanying him was the RHF outstanding teacher, also from Waco High, Courtney Copas. She received the Calvin B. Smith Award for outstanding teacher in 2012 and also in 2009.

Presenting a 5th grade Group Project from Hillsboro were Alexis Nanny and Mary Pratt showing their project “Hitler’s Effect on Jewish Families.” Another member Regan Savage was unable to attend. Fidelia Nawar showed her Junior Individual project, “The Holocaust Genocide.” Each told about their projects and answered questions by members. They did an outstanding job and we are so proud of them.

We gave donations totaling \$1,000 to the following groups: Texas German Dialect Project, Whitney High School German Dancers group Das Haus, Regional History Fair, St. Paul Lutheran Church – Aleman and Trinity Lutheran Church.

We will have an Oktoberfest on September 29, 2012 at the Crawford Community Center beginning at 6 p.m.

Mar – The program was from the German Exchange Students and sponsors Christiane von Frieden and Christian Eissenlohr. These delightful German exchange students from Cologne, Germany, told about their families and talents. Corinna Saft sang a beautiful solo and Rebecca Vosseburger showed pictures of European landmarks and asked the German Society members to name the place, city and country. Sponsor Christiane von Frieden asked the German society members to each tell about their German ancestry. Two of our local members, JoAnn Fleetwood and John Biehl, attending the meeting were actually born in Germany. I think that was kind of a surprise to them. They teach many foreign languages in Germany and have many exchange programs. The sponsors have been bringing students to Texas for 25 years. They are at Waco High this year and Temple High on alternate years.



German exchange students: Corinna Saft, Daniel Reddig, Rebecca Vosseburger, and sponsor Christian Eissenlohr



Luisa Schraoeter, Annitta Melchert, Ann-Christine Henneke, Leabun Artman and sponsor, Christiane von Frieden

Apr – Van Massirer welcomed guests Norma and Paul Thronburg, Jean Hooten and Kay Rohre Wilson. They were interested in the program on “The Old German Scripts” given by Rita Abercrombie of the Baylor faculty. Rita was born in Heidelberg, Germany, and came to the U.S. in 1964. She came to Baylor to teach about 8 years ago. Rita told how German scripts have changed over periods of time. She gave handouts with German scripts to help us translate German papers or old letters. For a fun exercise she asked us all to write our names in a German script. This was a very outstanding educational program.

May - We met at the Radde Christmas Tree Farm near Clifton for a Maifest celebration on Tuesday, May 22, 2012. Twenty-two persons attended with Alvin and Annie Zuehlke of Clifton as guests. We had a fabulous potluck meal. We were happy to see Carol Moulton with the Clifton Record meeting everyone and taking photos.

Lisa Mays, German teacher at Whitney High School, brought a Maypole. It took several tries, but members finally learned the Maypole Dance. Our talented accordionist, John Biehl, entertained us and played for the Maypole Dance. Ken Radde told of the amazing history of the Radde Ranch and Kathy demonstrated how to prune and shape a Christmas tree. The group took a tour of the Christmas trees by means of a hayride. Members had been asked to decorate their cars for Maifest. Betty Hubbard took first place and Erwin Abel second.

June – We met at the Zion Church at Womack, just outside Clifton. Jay Thiele presented an interesting program about the Germans in Bosque County. In 1883, four families came to the county. Interesting stories about it being so cold that at a wedding the beer froze and a baby was born and the other children had to take turns sleeping with the baby to keep it warm. The church in Womack was organized in 1891. There were no roads in the county in 1902 and to get to town you had to go through eleven gates and peoples’ property to get to town. We toured the church and enjoyed the rich German history that has been preserved. One of our guests, Rudy Kittlitz, read the handwritten will of Herman Obelweiss. It really made us laugh and showed the strong will of “a German.”

Longtime member, Fred Ferguson died on June 30, 2012. Our condolences go out to his family.

July – We met in Harker Heights at the Zum Edelweiss, a German restaurant. We were excited to have our state president, Robert Herridge and his wife, Marie, as our special guests. Of course, Robert brought his accordion and violin with him. Member, John Biehl, an accomplished accordionist, and Robert grandly entertained us during the evening. We enjoyed wonderful German food and were pleased to have seven guests join us.

Katy Tri-County Chapter

The Katy Tri-County Chapter is looking forward to an exciting year with some new members and interesting programs.

In February we were visited by Ute Boese who co-owns the German American Connection travel group. They take small groups into Germany. Ute presented an interesting program on East Germany “between tradition and Modernity”. She was born in East Germany and attended the University in Berlin, being there when the “wall” came down. It was amazing to learn how many everyday items we use that were invented by Germans, especially East Germans.

In March our president, Linda Phillips, presented a DVD about Hitler’s “Eagle’s Nest” which she had the opportunity to visit on a trip to Germany.

Our group visited “Newman’s Castle” out of Bellville in April. It was built by the owner of Newman’s bakery in Bellville.

Then at our April meeting, we watched a DVD on the American Dust Bowl and its effect on the German immigrants to the US in the 1890’s.

In May we were visited by Eron Brimberry Tynes, Immediate Past President of the San Jacinto Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. She is a fifth generation Houstonian and has three ancestors who signed the petition to form Houston County, the first county in the new Republic. They came to Texas in 1825 as part of the Hayden Edwards colony. Eron presented a stirring account of the men, women and children of the Texas Revolution and the sacrifices they made for Texas.

Lavaca/DeWitt County

Lee County

The Lee County Chapter meets the first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at First National Bank meeting room, and we enjoy a snack supper.

North Harris County

North Harris County Chapter of The Texas German Society Roger Wunderlich, President 281-353-4616
Meetings on the 4th Monday of Jan, March, May, July, September, and November at 7:00 pm
Trinity Lutheran (**Klein**) Family Life Center Building -room #116, 5201 Spring Cypress Road @ Klein Church Road, Spring, Texas (77379).

November, 2011 The group heard a wonderful account of the experiences of Jan Roland in organ building both in Germany and in the USA. His wife Hanne accompanies Jan on the ISO (International Society of Organ builders) Congress trips. Jan also explained how the AIO American Institute of Organ builders was established. Jan Roland gave a slide program on the beautiful organs of Germany and USA. The Rolands’ have seen wonderfully build organs throughout their travels. Mel Schiwart stood up at the meeting and praised Jan’s knowledge of organ building and gave an account of Jan’s help with the installation of the organ at Trinity Lutheran Church’s (Klein). Mel also related to the group that Jan was a smart man and that he had invented some ingenious things. Mel Schiwart was the organist for Trinity for many years and has now retired. However Mel does special events ever so often. The group thanked Jan for the great program. The organ music soothes our moods.

January 2012, Brent Laswell exhibited part of his collection of beer mugs. Each beer mug had a story behind it and the mugs were used as promotional objects by proprietors’. Mugs varied in size from very small to very huge. The mugs became a way to control the spread of the bubonic plague in the 14th century. It was a law in German that all beer served would have a lid on it The group were impressed by the many different stories of beer mugs, the origin, and the beer mug societies, that are part of the market today. The mugs are sold and/or traded.

March 2012, Eve Holloway gave a presentation that included a slide program of The Houston Saengerbund performing throughout Germany. The group has practice sessions and travels together to perform at different locations. The program covered Stuttgart, Ulm, Lake Constance, Baden-Baden/Black Forest, Strasbourg, Trier/Mosel, Assmannshausen, Wiesbaden/Rhine, Frankfurt, etc. The scenery was outstanding and the assembly enjoyed the entire presentation.

May 2012, The program was presented by Flora von Roeder the great great granddaughter of Friedrich Ernst, officially named by the Texas Legislature as the “Father of German Immigration to Texas” and his wife, Louise

Gesine Ernest nee Weber of Duchy of Oldenburg. They immigrant to Texas in 1831. Her program was centered around her family history and the story titled, "The Bride of The Brazos," a tale that appeared in the Comfort, Texas News on March 2, 1942, relating the story of a man who gambled his bride away. The story also appears in a book by University of Texas Professor and Author J. Frank Dobie who published his own version which he called, "The Planter "Who Gambled Away His Bride," in a book on OLD TIME TEXAS.

July 23, 2012 we will have the honor of hearing Ms. Jane Ledbetter of the Cypress Historical Society present the history of Cypress from the 1800 s to present. We will also hear Karen McGilvery give highlights of the things available to the public in Cypress Top Historic Park today.

September 24, 2012 NHCC of The Texas German Society will celebrate its 17th birthday with music and entertainment presented by the Houston Liederkrantz house band Jaegermeister. Refreshments will be served celebrating the birthday. Visitors are welcome at all of the meetings

Southbelt Chapter

We meet at Mount Olive Lutheran Church on Scarsdale every third Thursday at 5:30 pm. Our meetings begin with food and fellowship.

Tarrant County

Washington County

At the February meeting the Washington County Chapter of the Texas German Society welcomed long- time Brenham resident, Evelyn Klausmeyer, speaker for the evening. Evelyn has had a lifelong love for genealogy. She said that once you get interested in your family's history, it's contagious. She shared with our group her research into her family's genealogy, and she brought with her several lengthy books that she has had published. During this meeting we also became very involved in making plans for Maifest to be held at Brenham's Fireman's Park and our participation in the German Village.

Due to the convention in Yoakum, we decided not to have a meeting in March. We were very pleased to have 11 members attend this convention. Many positives were shared about this convention.

Another long-time Brenham resident, James Rothermel, was our speaker in April. He shared with us his memories of Burton where he grew up. Some of the stories he told had everyone in stitches, but they were stories to which most could relate. Several of our members live in Burton. In fact, two of our members, Georg and Lucia Zaranovic, are the owners of the well-known old Burton Café which they have made into a wonderful restaurant serving delicious German dishes in addition to American dishes. Anyone who hasn't been to this restaurant needs to try it. Even the specialty desserts are worth the visit!

Our president, Al Fischer, gave a short lesson on popular German expressions at the April meeting getting members to participate. Because of our participation in Maifest, we did not have a formal meeting in May. We will also be taking off for June through August. However, in June we will have our annual picnic. This year we decided to take a field trip, and we will be carpooling to Shiner to tour the brewery, have lunch, and visit other sites that are of interest to the group.

Please! Support the Texas German Society Scholarship Fund by subscribing or renewing your subscription to GERMAN LIFE. 50% or 1/2 of the subscription money stays in our scholarship fund **ONLY if you send your renewal to the address below – not directly to German Life. You will receive your renewal from German Life but please make your check payable to TGS and mail to the address below.**

German Life
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2012
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Please mail to:

TGS Scholarship Fund
 13730 Hambleton Circle
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www.texasgermansociety.com

Name _____ 1-yr. Subscription \$24.95 (save 23%)
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Payment:
 Cash Check # _____
(make checks payable to TGS)

REMEMBER – YOUR RENEWAL PAYMENT MUST BE MAILED TO TGS FOR US TO RETAIN MONEY FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Texas German Society 2013 State Convention

Mark your calendars **NOW for April 13, 2013**. This will be an event you won't want to miss! There will be more information to come. Our hosts, Galveston Chapter & South Belt Chapter TGS, is looking forward to and working hard on the next State convention to be held **April 13, 2013** in Galveston at First Trinity

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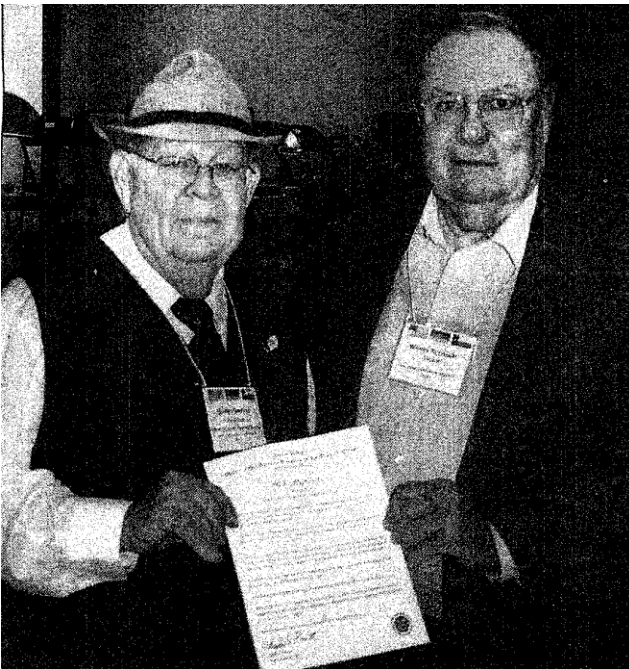
Texas German Trails Project

A joint project of the Texas German Society and the German-Texan Heritage Society will soon get underway to identify and locate on a state map or in a guide all of the more significant communities and towns that were settled by German immigrants. If you would like to see your area represented and are willing to help or would like additional information, please contact Van Massirer at (254) 486-2366 or vmassirer@yahoo.com as soon as possible. We hope to begin work on the project in mid-June. Electronic mail capability will be a necessity.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL?

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please send me an email at marie@herridgeconsulting.com and you will be added to the database. The newsletter will be sent in a PDF format, which if you do not have Adobe Reader on your computer it is a free program to download and I will include instructions for you. If you are willing to receive it by email, it will be helpful on the cost of printing and mailing our newsletters. Let me know if you have any questions or suggestions. Thanks.

If you do not have a computer or do not wish to receive it by email, you will still receive a printed newsletter by US mail. Please do not worry, as the newsletter will always be available in printed form for all who want to receive printed.



Hermann Sons salutes Texas German Society

The Texas German Society recently held its state convention in Yoakum. Wilburn Pargmann, right, a member of Hochheim-Prairie Lodge No. 90 and the Grand Finance Committee, presented a proclamation to the group on behalf of Hermann Sons. Accepting was Charles Soehnge of Yoakum, president of the DeWitt/Lavaca chapter of the society. The proclamation reads in part: WHEREAS, the Sons of Hermann continues to celebrate the German heritage of its founders and many of its members while offering Texans from all backgrounds life insurance and annuity products as well as fraternal benefits such as a youth camp, dance program, retirement home and community service opportunities, and WHEREAS, the Texas German Society was established in Texas in 1983 to preserve and encourage the German heritage, culture and language of German-Texans, and; WHEREAS, many members of the Sons of Hermann also are members of the Texas German Society, NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Grand Lodge of the Order of the Sons of Hermann does hereby salute the Texas German Society and congratulates it on the occasion of its State Convention being held March 2 and 3, 2012, in Yoakum, Texas. The proclamation was signed by Grand President/CEO Stephen R. Prewitt.



86 YEARS OLD

– Johanna Quaas is a true inspiration to all of us as she is spending her days tumbling, spinning and twirling on the gym floor and on the parallel bars no less!

Just recently, Cottbus, Germany hosted the 2012 Cottbus World Cup where Quaas performed her exhibition routine on the floor and on the parallel bars. Although the 86 year old has won 11 medals in senior gymnastics competitions, she ultimately just continues to practice “for fun.”

We doubt that this lovely white-haired athlete sat around at home watching TV all day when she was younger. In fact, in 1954, Quaas was a member of the handball team that took the Eastern German Championship! Today, she continues to astonish audiences in events across the globe.

Quaas, a former sports teacher who comes from the eastern German city of Halle, first gained public attention when she appeared on a health program by local German television MDR in early March. She says she now does gymnastics “just for fun” and that she has stopped participating in regular competitions. Maybe it’s

because she hardly has any competition in her age group. The only other athletes in her senior category are in their mid-70s. "I want to give the others a chance too. And to perform against 70-year-olds all the time is no fun after a while," Quass told MDR television. Stories like these that make us feel like we should detach ourselves from our computer screens and go outside and do some push-ups or something!

From: Fayette County Record

Mueller Graduates at A&M

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mueller announce the graduation of their son, Brendan, from Texas A&M University during their May 2012 commencement exercises.

Mueller received a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science, with an academic certificate for Leadership Studies and Development.

He was also a member of the Corps of Cadets and the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band.

He plans to attend the Texas A&M Health Science Center

School of Rural Public Health to pursue a Master's of Public Health in Epidemiology.

While in college, he participated in multiple student organizations; volunteered for Southern Care Hospice, and currently works as an animal caretaker at the Veterinary Medical Park at Texas A & M.

He is a 2008 graduate of La Grange High School.

He is the grandson of Jo Ann Mueller of La Grange and the late Carl Mueller and Mr. and Mrs. Theo Svec of La Grange.



Brendan Mueller

Brendan Mueller was a 2007 Scholarship winner



Thanks to the Texas German Society.

As one of the recipients of the 2008 TGS State Scholarship I would like to express my gratitude to the Texas German Society for awarding me this scholarship.

I have just completed my formal education and graduated summa cum laude this May from Texas A&M University with a major in chemical engineering and a minor in German. In the summer of 2010 I was awarded a grant through the RISE program in conjunction with the DAAD –Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst, the German Academic Exchange Service to do research on solar energy technology at the University of Mainz in Mainz, Germany. I was able to see a lot of Germany that summer. Last summer I attended the University of Tianjin, in Tianjin, China. This experience in China and my summer in Germany earned me this year's International

Engineering Certificate from Texas A&M. I will be returning to Germany this summer to do more traveling and visit friends before beginning my job at BP in Houston, Texas as a completions engineer this August. Once again, I want to thank the Texas German Society for awarding me the state scholarship in 2008. I appreciate and applaud its efforts in promoting the German language and culture and encouraging and rewarding young people with its financial support.

Vielen vielen Dank fuer Ihre Hilfe und Unterstuetzung.

Lehron Brune

2012 TGS Scholarship Presentation



Ruth Froebel of the Scholarship committee announced the winners of the essay contest. First place went to Kallie Kothmann of LaGrange High school , second place went to McKenna Lynn Sodolak of LaGrange High school and third place to Sydney Weyand of the Charter School in Denton ,Texas. Kallie was present with a \$1,000.00 scholarship and she and her parents , aunt, teacher and friend from Germany were all in attendance. Second and third places receive \$750.00 and \$500.00

Lasting Friendship by J. Hester — Pioneer Garden —

Inscription.

John O. Meusebach, German settler and founder of Fredericksburg, and Penatuka Comanche chief, Santanna share a peace pipe on May 7, 1847, at the signing of the treaty between the People of Fredericksburg and the Comanche Nation. The standing Comanche represents more than twenty other chiefs also participating in the treaty. This treaty is the only known peace treaty with Native Americans in United States history thought never to be broken. The spirit of this treaty continues in Fredericksburg today.

This bronze was presented to the City of Fredericksburg by the Fredericksburg 150th Anniversary Committee, dedicated May 24, 1997.



By Richard E. Miller, August 8, 2010
1. Lasting Friendship Marker

Erected 1997 by Fredericksburg 150th Anniversary Committee



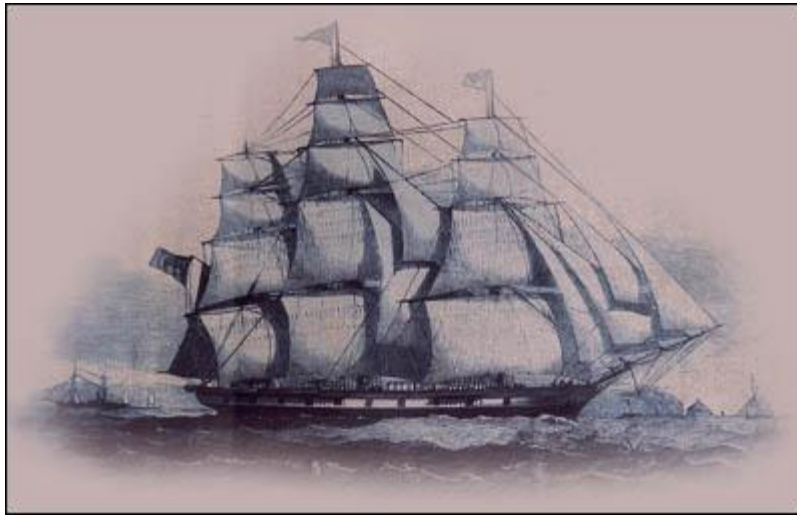
By Richard E. Miller, August 8, 2010

2. "Lasting Friendship" by J. Hester

Marker is in Fredericksburg, Texas, in Gillespie County. Marker can be reached from West Austin Street. [Click for map.](#) Marker is in the Pioneer Garden (in Market Square Park) south of Austin Street. Marker is in this post office area: Fredericksburg TX 78624, United States of America.

Who Are the Wends?

By: Ron Lammert



Drawing of the *Ben Nevis*

In December of 1854, an English sailing vessel, the *Ben Nevis*, docked in Galveston harbor loaded with some 500 immigrants from Lusatia, an area in Germany comprising parts of Saxony and Prussia. These immigrants were not the typical lot of Germans, Swedes, Czechs, and Poles who flocked to Texas in the 1850's seeking cheap land and economic opportunity. This group was different. It brought a strange new language to the frontier state --- the Wendish language. And even more striking, these Slavic pioneers who were to settle in Lee County made the journey from their homeland, not in search of prosperity, but rather in search of religious liberty and the right to speak their Wendish tongue. The Wends were descended from a group of Slavic tribes that had developed a common language, and, in the tenth century, occupied much of central Europe. By the 19th century, the Wends had been decimated by conquest and assimilation with other cultures until only a small area along the River Spree was inhabited by true Wends.

The Wendish migration to Texas was impelled, in part, by the Prussian insistence that the Wends (or Sorbs, as they called themselves) speak and use the German language, even to the extent of Germanizing their names. The oppression of the Wendish minority extended to working conditions, with Wends being denied the right to do the skilled labor for which they were trained. If they were hired at all, they received less pay than their German counterparts. Prussian agrarian reform laws of 1832 dispossessed the Wends of their real property so they were, in effect, vassals to their Prussian lords. But most intolerable was the requirement that the Lutheran Wends join the Evangelical Reform churches in one state-regulated Protestant body. The Wends believed this action would dilute their pure Lutheran faith and, rather than accept this decree, they made plans to immigrate to the New World



Johan Kilian 1876

The Wends organized the journey under the leadership of their Pastor, The Reverend Jan Kilian. Rev. Kilian was a scholar and prolific writer who translated from German into Wendish many books, such as Luther's Large Catechism and the Augsburg Confession. He also wrote Wendish prayer books, sermons, and tracts, as well as hymns and poems. Years later, Rev. Kilian was known to preach the same sermon in Wendish, German, and English on a Sunday morning. Kilian, a graduate of Leipzig University, was a strong leader and a logical choice to be the Moses of this 19th century Exodus.

On March 25, 1854, a new Lutheran congregation was organized at Dauban, to become the cornerstone of a large Wendish emigration. Rev. Kilian was called as Pastor. Most likely, the group chose Texas as its destination because of glowing reports returned by several families of Wends who had previously settled in Central Texas. Other smaller groups of Wends also departed during this period to find new homes in Australia.

Knowing that the odds favored many losing their lives on the journey, almost 600 Wends left their homes and loved ones in the first week of September, 1854, bound for Texas. The group traveled to Liverpool, England, where they boarded the three-masted *Ben Nevis*. They soon encountered their first tragedy as the dreaded cholera epidemic struck. Fifteen died before the ship reached Ireland. At Queenstown, Ireland, the ship was quarantined for three weeks and thoroughly fumigated. Twenty-three more succumbed to cholera during this time.

At last, on October 22, 1854, the Wends again boarded the *Ben Nevis* bound for Galveston. Although the cholera had somewhat abated, another eighteen died at sea during the Atlantic crossing.

The decimated congregation arrived at Galveston in early December, only to be faced with another scourge, yellow fever. Many contracted the disease, but only one died before the Wends could flee inland to Houston. From Houston, the Wends journeyed further inland by oxcart in early January 1855. Two men had been sent ahead to find a place where they could settle. The epic migration to a new homeland ended on the banks of Rabbs Creek in what is today Lee County, near Giddings. Here, the Wends purchased a league of land for \$1.00 per acre. The first winter was hard and food was scarce. Many Wends lived in dugouts and log cabins until proper homes could be built.

The newcomers set aside 95 acres of the land for the Lutheran church and school. About one mile northwest of the church property, the colonists began work on their town, which they named Serbin. This was to be the capital of their "Wendenland" in Texas, where they could continue forever their Wendish language and cultural traditions.

One of the first acts accomplished by Rev. Kilian was to apply for membership in the fledgling Missouri Synod Lutheran Church. St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Serbin became the first of many Missouri Synod churches in Texas, and it had the only Wendish school in America. The present St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Serbin was completed in 1871. It is a beautiful, yet simple, structure, the obvious product of pioneer craftsmanship. The unique interior includes a balcony extending around the interior with a pulpit nearly 20 feet above the lower floor. Originally, the men sat in the balcony, while the women and children occupied the floor level pews. St. Paul's is one of the oldest churches in America in continual use since its construction. Many groups of Wendish colonists struck out for other parts of Texas in the latter 1800's. Wends formed sub-colonies in such places as Austin, Houston, Warda, Fedor, Swiss Alp, Giddings, Port Arthur, Mannheim, Copperas Cove, Vernon, Walburg, The Grove, Bishop, and the Rio Grande Valley. In each case, the Wends built a new church and affiliated with the Missouri Synod, thus helping spread Missouri Synod congregations throughout Texas.

In the new congregations, the Wendish language and culture soon died out. Only in Serbin did it survive, where Wendish services continued to be held until 1921. Today, only a few elderly Wends still know the language.

The great irony of the Wendish emigration was that in the effort to establish a pure Wendish colony where the language and culture could be preserved, these very things were lost due to the economic and social realities of the frontier.

Throughout Texas, particularly on the church rolls of Missouri Synod Lutheran Churches, can be found Wendish names from the passenger list of the *Ben Nevis* - names like Lehman, Moerbe, Schatte, Fritsche, Becker, Schubert, Dube, Teinert, Wukasch, Kiesling, Prellop, Kasper, Zoch, Miertschin, Urban, Wenke, Knippa, Noack, Groeschel, Wuensche, Melde, and many more. Strong emphasis on biblical religious faith and basic education is evident today in family's descendant from the Wendish pioneers.

Today, thousands of Texans and other Americans, many unaware of their background, can lay claim to the courageous and fascinating heritage of the Wends.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Serbin is one of the oldest churches in America in continual use since its construction.

The Apron Story by Carol Lindell

More than one year prior to hosting the Texas German Society Convention, the Lavaca-DeWitt chapter began making plans for this event. There was much to be done.



One of the members of this chapter, Wilma Lucko Hoerig, had some special ideas in mind. She wanted to make the hand-made slip that her mother, Natalia Fiedler Lucko, had worn on her wedding day into an apron for her daughter, Carol Hoerig Lindell, to wear for this occasion. This slip worn on Natalia's wedding day was over one hundred years old! This meant that Wilma had to treat it with lots of tender loving care. She carefully washed it by hand, mended a few holes, replaced the bodice, and added ties for the apron. Only the bodice needed to be replaced. The remainder of this beautiful slip with embroidery above the hem was kept intact. Carol who is also a member of the Lavaca-DeWitt chapter wore the apron with great pride on the day of the convention. Wilma and Carol received lots of compliments as many in attendance admired this beautiful apron.

This story is a reminder to all of us to continue to retell stories about our heritage. Share those stories about that

Summer 2012

special recipe that has been handed down through the generations. Remind those seated at your table that the meat platter was brought over from Germany. Relive those stories about planting and harvesting cotton by hand. Tell about the young children having to chase the prairie chickens out of the corn patch. Remember to talk about the faith of our ancestors and how this abiding faith provided them with the strength, courage and perseverance to deal with the uncertainties in this new land. Whatever your family's story is, remember to share it with those you love!

FRUEHSCHOPPEN IM LIEDERKRANZ

5100 Ella Blvd., Houston, Tx 77018 - 713 957-9004

Sunday, August 12, 2012 - 11:30 am - 3pm

A Traditional German Gathering

"Members Free Event"

Guests: \$ 5.00 at the door



LIVE MUSIC

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Bar Open - Cold Beer, and more - and Mimosas, too
Heringsbroetchen, Schinkenbroetchen etc available

Let Rosie Heuer know you are coming - 281-367-0275

**Houston Liederkranz and Houston Saengerbund are
celebrating Oktoberfest 2012!**

September 22, 2012

**-The same day as the largest Festival in the world starts in
Munich/Germany!**

5100 Ella Blvd. , Houston , TX 77018 (2 miles north of N Loop 610)



Texas German Reporter



Summer 2012





Calendar of Events 2012

OCTOBER

October 14, 2012 – Austin County Fair Polka Party 12:00pm to 6:00pm.

DECEMBER

December 4 – Das Haus Christmas Party

December 10 - German Christmas Market “Weihnachtsmarkt Texas Style”, Tomball, TX The Market is sponsored by the City of Tomball, Tomball Sister City, and German Heritage Festival

www.tomballsistercity.org . www.myspace.com/tgchristmas

2013 – April 13, 2013 TGS Convention, Galveston, TX hosted by Galveston Chapter & South Belt Chapter

Be sure to submit any activities in your area. The next newsletter will be in **June** so start submitting your articles and information now. The deadline for the **October 2012** newsletter is **September 30, 2012..**

Obituary – FRED LEE FERGUSON



Fred Lee Ferguson went to be with the Lord and Savior, June 30, 2012, at home with his family by his side. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. July 5, at Trinity Lutheran Church at Badger Ranch.

Fred was born Oct. 25, 1935, in Waco, to John William (JW) and Gertie Ozell Ferguson. He married his high school sweetheart Betty Jane Vorderkunz on Jan. 7, 1955. Early in life he served in the US Naval Reserve. Fred was employed at Waco Cameron Mills then went onto work at O-I Glass Plant where he retired after 34 years. He enjoyed attending the different sporting events when it came to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He enjoyed working with Baylor Athletics' Concessions when called upon during his retirement years. Fred was a very active member and served as an elder of Trinity Lutheran Church, Waco.

Fred and his wife, Betty, were long time members of the Heart of Texas Chapter of the Texas German Society. Fred is survived by his devoted wife of 57 years, Betty Jane Ferguson; a son, Dennis Lee Ferguson and wife, Melanie, of Lorena; a daughter, Pamela Jane Gajdosik and husband, Louis Charles, of West; two sisters, Francis Hoffman of Buffalo, Texas and Darlene Grigsby and husband, Ronnie, of McGregor; a brother, John Burnette Ferguson of Waco; grandsons, Jeremy Ferguson and wife, Jennifer, of Lorena, and Joseph Ferguson and wife, Chelsea, of Richmond, Va.; and granddaughter, Amanda Gajdosik of Baltimore, Md.; great-granddaughters, Jaynie Ferguson, Jentry Ferguson, and Harper Ferguson; brothers-in-law, Jim and wife, Jean Vorderkunz, of Robinson, Tom and wife, Melinda Vorderkunz,

of Woodway, John and wife, Nancy Vorderkunz, of Robinson; sisters-in-law, Mildred and husband, Paul Kunze, of Waco, Alice Nussman of Waco, Edna and husband, Marvin Kunze, of Robinson; and many loving nieces and nephews.
October 25, 1935 - June 30, 2012.

GLADYS PREISS ARNOLD



VICTORIA - Gladys Preiss Arnold, 81, of Victoria passed away on Sunday, July 1, 2012. She was born on February 19, 1931 in Victoria to the late Herbert and Lenora Maurer Preiss. She was retired from Alcoa and was a member of Martin Luther Lutheran Church in Coletoville.

Gladys is survived by her daughters, Kay (Harry) Erikson of Schroeder, Karen (Ron) Kramer, and Karol (Allen) Slavik, both of Victoria; sister, Lillie Mae Duran of Victoria; grandchildren, Sherry Reiley, Stephanie Luco, Jared Erikson, Brande Rangnow, Tabitha and Chris Slavik; and 7 great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husbands, Edgar Faltysek and Easie Arnold, and grandson Chad Allen Slavik.

Funeral services will be Tuesday, July 3, at 10:00 a.m. at Martin Luther Lutheran

Church in Coletoville, with Pastor Paul Muehlbrad and Pastor C.B. Suggs

officiating. Burial will follow at Coletoville Cemetery. Pallbearers are Jared Erikson, Chris Slavik, Justin Reiley, Arthur Luco, Colin Rangnow, and Doug Duran. Honorary pallbearer is her grandson, (the late) Chad Allen Slavik. Memorials in Gladys' name may be directed to the Sunday School Building Fund at Martin Luther Lutheran Church. The family would like to express a special thank you to the Victoria Fire and EMS, Quail Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Excel Complete Home Health Care, Citizens Medical Center ER Staff, Dr. Cindy Zimmerman, Dr. Khiem Q. Vu, and the 6-North Nurses. Grace Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Published in Victoria Advocate from July 2 to July 3, 2012

PAUL HRBACEK

July 02, 2012

Paul Raymond Hrbacek was called to his heavenly home on July 2, 2012 in Austin, Texas at the age of 85 years. Paul was born on January 15, 1927 to Anton and Emile Ernest Hrbacek in Waco, Texas. Paul was a member of Queen of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Hostyn; He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, KJT, AARP and Seniors Fayette County. He is survived by three daughters; Linda Anderson of Burlington Wisconsin, Candice Barth of Eagle Wisconsin, and Emily France Hrbacek of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Two step sons: Brad Ardeson of Marshfield, Wisconsin, Rodney Ardeson of Burlington, Wisconsin. Two step daughters; Candy Smelser of Harker Heights, Texas and Cheryl Jones of Dale, Texas. Seven grandchildren, three great grandchildren, seven step grandchildren along with four great step grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents Anton and Emile Hrbacek, first wife Beverly Hrbacek, and second wife Eva Yeager Arneson Hrbacek. Step-son Woodrow Ardeson. Visitation will be held one hour prior to service time. Funeral mass will be held on July 5, 2012 at 2:00 PM at the Queen of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Hostyn. Interment will follow at Sacred Heart Cemetery near Franklin, Wisconsin. Memorial contributions may be made to the Holy Rosary Columbarium Fund or the charity of one's choice. Fayette Memorial Funeral Home

JAMES O. KLEB

JAMES O. KLEB , 84, went to be with his Lord and Savior on July 18, 2012. James was a lifelong member of the Klein Trinity Lutheran Church where he was also a member of the Trinity Men's Club, serving as President for 25 years. He was elected Lutheran Layman of the Year in 1976 and 1998.

James worked alongside his mother and brother operating Kleb Grocery on FM 1960 for almost 30 years and finished his retail career at K-Mart where he worked for an additional 10 years. Outside of work, James was an avid fisherman and hunter and loved watching baseball. At his home in Houston, he was also a very special friend to all his backyard critters that he kept supplied with food. James was preceded in death by his loving wife, Louise Richey Kleb, his parents Ervin and Theresa Schultz Kleb, sisters Ervamay Schindewolf, Velora Benfer, Leona Benfer, and Florine "Mopsy" Niehouse and their spouses and brother Vernon Kleb. He is survived by his four step-children, numerous step-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and many friends.

The family will receive friends from 4:00-6:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 22 at Klein Funeral Home in Tomball. The funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, July 23 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 5201 Spring Cypress Rd. The interment will follow in the Lutheran Church Cemetery, Klein Cemetery Rd. off Spring Cypress. In lieu of customary remembrances, memorial contributions may be directed to the Trinity Men's Club Herman Schaefer Scholarship Fund, or to a [charity of your choice](#) .

James O. Kleb was a TGS charter member. Klein Tomball Funeral Home Published in Houston Chronicle on July 21, 2012

Clarence Milton Weiser

(July 21, 1939 - June 10, 2012)

Funeral services for Clarence Weiser, 72 of Giddings, are scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 13, 2012 at St. John Lutheran Church in Lincoln, Texas with Rev. Dale Bohm officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, June 12, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. and Wednesday, June 13, 2012 from 7:00 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. at Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home in Giddings. The family will be present for visitation Tuesday evening from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Clarence passed away suddenly the morning of Sunday, June 10, 2012 at his home in Giddings.

Clarence Milton Weiser was born on July 21, 1939 in Lincoln, Texas to Oscar & Elsie (Schewart) Weiser. He was baptized on July 30, 1939 by Rev. R. Osthoff and confirmed on March 29, 1953 by Rev. HA. Stroebel at St. John Lutheran church in Lincoln. While growing up in Lincoln, he attended St. John Lutheran School where he played baseball and was a member of the Walther League. He attended Concordia University in Austin for two years and graduated from Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska. He received his Masters of Education Degree from the University of Texas in Tyler. Clarence married Helen Jenke on June 17, 1961 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Giddings. He was a Lutheran Church Missouri Synod teacher having served at Mt. Calvary Lutheran School in Denver, Colorado, Trinity Lutheran School in San Angelo, Trinity Lutheran School in Tyler and retired as principal from Grace Lutheran School in Brenham. Clarence also taught in the Brenham ISD and had been employed with Brenham Memorial Funeral Home and was currently employed with Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home in Giddings. He enjoyed spending time with his family and going fishing, hunting, gardening and playing dominoes and bridge. He enjoyed his time spent with the Boy Scouts in a leadership role with troops in Tyler and in Brenham. He had fond memories of his time hiking and training at Philmont. Clarence loved all of the various churches he had served and held many offices and positions in them throughout the years.



He was preceded in death by his parents, Oscar & Elsie Weiser and a son, Samuel Weiser.

Clarence is survived by his wife of 50 years, Helen Weiser of Giddings; son and daughter-in-law, Douglas & Kimberly Weiser of Bryan; two grandsons, Samuel Weiser of Bellville and Keaton Weiser of Bryan; sister and brother-in-law, Eleanor & Alton Mutschink of Austin; two brothers-in-law, Victor & Sandra Jenke of Giddings and Erwin & Ruth Jenke of Coppell as well as numerous other relatives, friends and former students. Memorials may be made to the Class of 1962 church work scholarship endowment Concordia University Nebraska, 800 N. Columbia, Seward, NE 68434, the St. John Lutheran Church 125th Anniversary Fund, 1012 Private Road 8012, Giddings, Texas 78942 or the charity of one's choice. Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home in Giddings, TX

John Alvin Schmidt

(June 30, 1929 - February 2, 2012)



Funeral services for John Schmidt, 82 of Giddings, Texas, are scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 4, 2012 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Serbin, Texas with Rev. John Schmidt officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. Visitation will be held on Friday, February 3, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, February 4, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home in Giddings. The family will be present for visitation Friday evening from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Schmidt passed away during the early morning hours of Thursday, February 2, 2012 at the Country Care Plex in Giddings.

John Alvin Schmidt was born on June 30, 1929 in Serbin, Texas to Bernhardt & Emma (Jurk) Schmidt. He was baptized on July 7, 1929 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Serbin by Rev. Herman Schmidt and confirmed by Rev. Herman Schmidt on April 18, 1943 also at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Serbin. John was united in marriage to Anna Schulze on November 8, 1953 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Fedor, Texas by Rev. Theodore Schmidt. John was a retired carpenter and had volunteered with the Lutheran Braille Center for over 20 years. He enjoyed woodworking, refinishing furniture and playing dominoes.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Anna Schmidt; sisters, Erna Mersiovsky, Alice Schmidt, Ruth Lehmann and Clara Schmidt and brothers, Rudolph Schmidt, Theodore Schmidt, Carl Schmidt and Martin Schmidt.

John is survived by his son, James & Brandy Schmidt of Dayton; daughter, Nancy Schmidt of Austin; four grandchildren, Taylor Diaz, Sidney Diaz, Adriana Diaz and Alen Diaz all of Dayton; great grandson, Lieum Aungiano of Dayton; sister, Renata Mersiovsky of Temple; brother, Edwin & Gertrude Schmidt Sr. of Northrup; sister-in-law, Gertrude Schmidt of College Station as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Serving as pallbearers will be Edwin Schmidt Jr., Kenny Mersiovsky, Dwayne Schulze, David Schmidt, Jack Montgomery and Alen Diaz. Memorials may be made to the St. Paul Lutheran Church Restoration Fund, 1572 CR 211, Giddings, Texas 78942. Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home in Giddings, TX

Walter "Moose" Martin Schautschick

(September 28, 1935 - June 16, 2012)



Walter Martin Schautschick was born on September 28, 1935 in Giddings, Texas to Martin & Amanda (Berger) Schautschick. He served in the U.S. Army from 1958 until 1960 and in the U.S. Army Reserves from 1960 until 1968 having obtained the rank of Staff Sergeant E6. Walter was an excellent, self-taught mechanic and was employed by Gulf Motor Company in Giddings, Ken's Chrysler in Giddings and City Garage in Carmine. He was a lifelong member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Giddings where he was a member of the Singles Group and served as an Elder for many years. Walter was always an active member of the community and had served as Lodge President for the Giddings Sons of Hermann Lodge 54 for many years, was the former president of the Schutzen Verein Carmine Hall in Carmine, participated in the Lee County Senior Citizens Center and was a member and held several positions with the VFW Post 4475 in Giddings.

Walter passed away on Saturday, June 16, 2012 at the Country Care Plex in Giddings. He was preceded in death by his parents, Martin & Amanda Schautschick; an infant brother; a special friend, Sylvia Sanders; sister-in-law, Betty Schautschick and a brother-in-law, Leroy Pietsch. Walter is survived by his sister and brother-in-law, Edna & Melvin Houston of Giddings; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Delward & Betty Schautschick of Giddings, Alvin & Marilyn Schautschick of Giddings and Martin & Ginny Schautschick Jr. of Tanglewood; nephews and nieces, Jeff & Angela Pietsch of Taylor, Kelly Pietsch of Hemet, California, Becky & Gilbert Proske of Giddings, Sandra & Dale Tomanetz of Giddings, Randy Schautschick of Giddings, Rocky Schautschick of Giddings, Scott & Holly Schautschick of College Station and Stacy & Daryn Gisclair of Lake Charles, Louisiana; uncle, David & Margie Berger of Gulfport, Mississippi; aunt, Meta Schautschick of Houston as well as several great nieces and great nephews and many cousins and friends. Serving as pallbearers will be Jeff Pietsch, Scott Schautschick, Gilbert Proske, David Berger Jr., J.D. Symmank and Steven Schautschick. Honorary pallbearers will be Ralph Mutscher, Calvin Hannes, Randy Schautschick, Rocky Schautschick and Dale Tomanetz. Memorials may be made to Immanuel Lutheran Church's Christ Our Cornerstone Fund, 300 North Grimes, Giddings, Texas 78942 or to the charity of one's choice.

MONROE D.M. RATHKAMP

YOAKUM - Monroe Diederich Meinert Rathkamp, age 82, of Yoakum, formerly of Houston, passed away on Wednesday, February 08, 2012 at Memorial Hermann Hospital in the Houston Medical Center. As was so typical with Monroe, his whole family was by his side.

He was born on December 17, 1929 near Concrete, Texas to Otto and Alma Frels Rathkamp. After graduating from Yoakum High School and Baldwin Business College, Monroe moved to Houston to study drafting at the University of Houston. There, he met Betty Lou Pearson from Old Bridge, New Jersey; a young nurse at Texas Children's Hospital. They were married over 50 years ago on September 20, 1959. After building a family, careers, and a German Folk-dancing group in Houston, Monroe and Betty joyfully moved back to Yoakum after retirement.

He is survived by his wife, Betty; daughter Karen and her husband Erich Wolz; sons Karl and his wife Vinette, Kris and his wife Diana, Erik and his wife Angie; and his brother Leroy. Monroe also currently has four grandchildren; grandsons, Erich Wolz, Christian Wolz and Kurt Rathkamp; granddaughter Johannah Rathkamp and another granddaughter is on the way.

Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. Friday, February 10 at Thiele-Cooper Funeral Home and Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, February 11, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, both in Yoakum with Rev. Jonathan Mielke officiating. Interment will follow in the Hochheim Prairie Hermann Sons Cemetery. Online guest book may be signed at www.thielecooper.com Arrangements by Thiele-Cooper Funeral Home in Yoakum, 361-293-5656. Published in Victoria Advocate on February 10, 2012

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