



Or playing Tag on the bales of cotton that Papa brought home from the gin to save for a better price - that he rarely ever got.



Being with people and having fun. Notice them on pictures. Mama and Papa gave many nice dances for us.

Arno and Minnie Struve
from Abernathy, Texas -1965.





① Mamma,

② Elna Richter (3-10) Lois & Herbert von Roeder

③ Elna Richter (3-10) Lois & Herbert von Roeder (5-12) Agnes & Jim Sorrells

④ Opal & Helen von Roeder (5-12) Opal & Helen von Roeder (5-12) Agnes & Jim Sorrells

⑤ Vena & Benno von Roeder (3-15) Frieda & Ed Murphy (9-16) Elna & Nohm

⑥ Vena & Benno von Roeder (3-15) Frieda & Ed Murphy (9-16) Elna & Nohm

⑦ Vena & Benno von Roeder (3-15) Frieda & Ed Murphy (9-16) Elna & Nohm

⑧ Vena & Benno von Roeder (3-15) Frieda & Ed Murphy (9-16) Elna & Nohm

⑨ Vena & Benno von Roeder (3-15) Frieda & Ed Murphy (9-16) Elna & Nohm

⑩ Vena & Benno von Roeder (3-15) Frieda & Ed Murphy (9-16) Elna & Nohm

Frieda wrote this letter to Agnes in February 1919 from Sligo, Gaines County.

Dear Agnes - I guess I
can get this into the envelope
yet. We are always glad
to read any thing about
dear little Beukie

I dreamed of you all
and Irving etc last
night. My there sure was
a crowd there almost like
a swarm of bees. & I dreamed
the other night of you
getting married. I don't
know what your husband's
name was but he was
very wealthy and some
kin to the Longs

Well I got my yesterday
washing hung out this morning
before the wind got so high
there had a big washing some led
high spring would hurry & come
here sure it home sick, Ed wants
me to go now and plant up
a garden but gardening from there
is such a job so far to go
and I could not stay at
our place alone

I wish Bureau's car would
do better maybe then Vinard
could come if I'd pay expenses
and if Bill would help Ed
Take of the cows then he could
go back with her she might
not want to stay that long
this & there car is in an
awful fix Ed says

Besides we don't know whether
Bill will go with Ed.
Ed thinks it will take time
if they bring Nolan Carayard
He is talking of asking Bill
& Marshall to come or if
Bill would go maybe ask
Denny to come & go back with them

Well we don't know yet
just what and how
I guess we will decide that
all the last day or two
I wish the morning was over

Thursday - but did you ever
see anything equal to that 24 hour
sand storm. Ed was wishing you was
here to enjoy it but I guess you all had
all the sand there you wanted and
lots more too. I just covered up most
everything here. There are just two
little points visible of a road till
the stacks are also nearly covered up
and in the garden the east fence is
just a little higher than the sand

I thought the world was coming
to an end
The sand went into the top quilt here
so bad that I had to cut a corner
to let it run out and not over
things I believe there were from 10 to 15 ft
inside after we had looked off what
was on top of it.

I thought of you all so much
and hoped you were not in
Sligo or on the way somewhere
It started there as early as here
I don't guess you were
The night to have measured how
deep the sand was in the house
to see whether the sand storm
was worse here or there.

I believe there were about 4 gals
blowed into this little room
It started blowing hard
again this morning so I nailed
old sacks canvas & towels
over the doors and window and
pretty soon it almost quit
The sand I don't think is blowing
any more but its pretty dark
in here

Did you enjoy Erna Bartels
letters you need not return it
I've answered it.
Are there still some people
sick down there and did
Marie W. ever take the flu.

Well I hope we will have
some good long letters by the
Post tomorrow. After Mrs. Bartels
do better with the mail than she
does with her washing she exchanged
the flour sacks the last time and
slog clothes looked beautiful by the edge
of it. Well I didn't know to what
order folks had been in for
before hair trouble. Ed had
yuba in winter. Jim had
Jim had fat in winter. Ed had
and Jim had fat in winter.
Miss & hug and hug and write
often to your stylish sister
Frieda

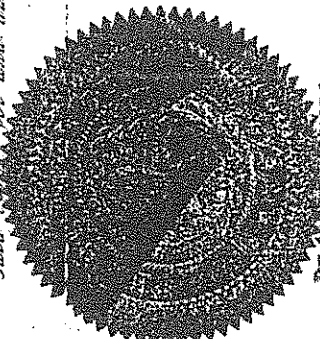
In the Name and by the Authority of
THE STATE OF TEXAS

To all to Whom these Presents shall Come, Greetings;

Whereas I have been made known to me that A. A. Walker of the County of Anderson has been duly elected to the office of Justice of the Peace for Precinct El Paso and has duly qualified by taking the prescribed oath and giving Bond.

Now, therefore, Know ye, That I, Richard Coke, Governor of the State of Texas, Do, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of said State, Commission the said A. A. Walker Justice of the Peace and Notary Public for Precinct El Paso Anderson County, in said State of Texas, giving and hereby granting to him, the said A. A. Walker all rights, privileges and emoluments appertaining to said office, for and during the term prescribed by law.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto signed my name and caused the great Seal of the State to be affixed, at the City of Austin, the 1st day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy first and the Independence of the United States of America the ninth September and of Texas the thirty seventh.



A. M. D. Davis
Secretary of State

Richard Coke
Governor of Texas

The State of Texas
County of Austin

Before me May Meifoner,
Justice of the Peace Prec. No 5 Austin County, this
day personally came Hermann Proeder, late Justice
of the Peace of this Precinct and now residing therein,
who desiring, to teach a public free school within
the County of Fayette, State aforesaid, and not being
personally known to the Honorable County Judge
of said Fayette County, desires a certificate, as con-
templated by Sec. 43 of an act entitled "An Act to
establish and provide for the support and mainte-
nance of an efficient system of Public Free Schools,
approved August 19, 1876. - I having personally
known the said Hermann Proeder for the last ten
years, cheerfully comply with his request and hereby
certify that he is a person of good moral character
and of correct exemplary habits.

In Testimony whereof I hereunto sign
my name this the 15th day of September
A. D. 1877.

May Meifoner
Justice Peace Prec. No 5 Austin Co.

Form C.—District.

OFFICE OF

PRESIDENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES,

School No. 4 in District No. 10 County of Austin
State of Texas, October 4th 1890

County Judge

This is to Certify, That the Board of Trustees of School District No. 10 of Austin
County, Texas, have employed Mr. H. Roeder holding a first
grade Certificate, to teach Public Free School No. 4 in said District, according to law and the regulations of the Super-
intendent of Public Instruction, and in conformity with the regulations of the County Judge and School Trustees of said District,
for the term of Three months & 2 days Seventy five Dollars
per month. For pupils over or under scholastic age, tuition at the rate of \$1.50 per month
has been agreed on by the Trustees. The same shall be paid to the teacher

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E. Wotipka.
John Kroulik

Trustees of
School District No. 10
Austin Co.,
Texas.

Approved this the 1st day of October 1890

Agreed to. H. Roeder
Teacher.

NOTE.—Salaries allowed by law:

1st	Grade Certificate, not exceeding \$75 per month, and not exceeding \$2.50 per registered pupil within scholastic age.
2d	" " " " \$50 " " " " " \$2.00 " " " " " "
3d	" " " " \$30 " " " " " \$1.50 " " " " " "

These salaries do not apply to districts levying local school taxes. The law does not prescribe maximum salaries in such districts.

Form C.—District.

CONTRACT

BETWEEN

Trustees of School District No. 10

For School No. 4

Austin County, Texas,

AND

H. Roeder
Teacher.

Note.—This contract should be made out in triplicate—one copy to be retained by the President of the Board of Trustees, one by the teacher, and one to be delivered to the County Judge.

47 children
School to begin middle
October

Knapp Scurry Co. Texas Oct 12, 1914

First Assistant Postmaster Genl
Washington D.C.

The undersigned herewith humbly files his application for the office of Postmaster of Knapp's, Scurry County Texas for the ensuing year or longer if permissible.

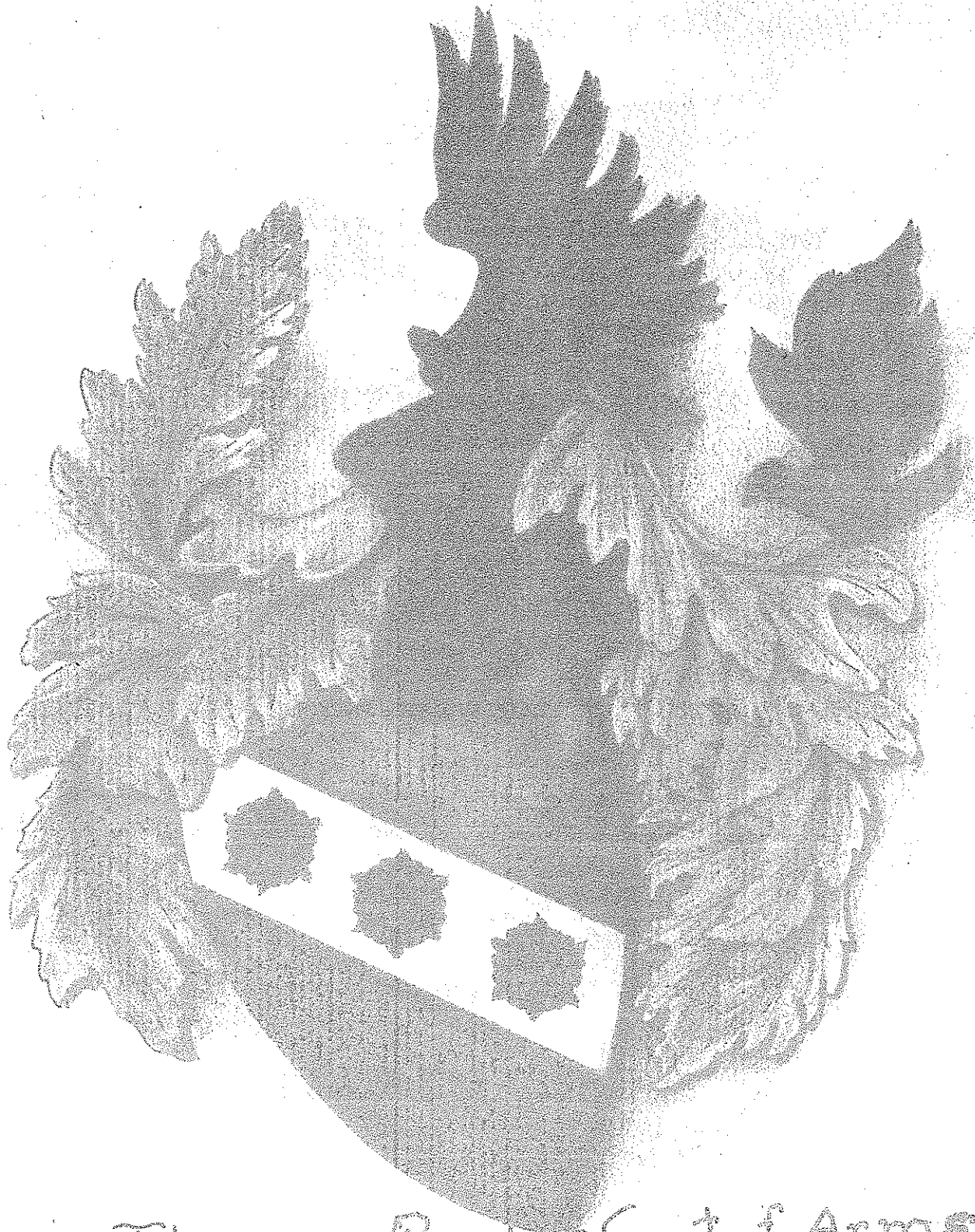
This applicant has been the incumbent of said office, a Post Office of the fourth class since Jan. 17, 1913. He does not claim a thorough acquaintance with postal affairs or a profound knowledge of Postal Laws and Regulations. But as to scholarly attainments might claim to be competent to fill the requirements of said Post Office.

He further desires to state that he has provided a suitable house in which to transact the official business and being a native citizen of this state and of the United States does not know of any legal objections why he should not hold the Office as Postmaster of Knapp, Texas

Respectfully

46

W. Von R. 105.



The von Roeder Coat of Arms



The Sack Coat of Arms

One other brother besides the ones indicated came in 1832 -

No.	Ernestinische Linie.	Tag und Jahr	
		der Geburt	des Todes
	XXIV.	BORN	DIED
1513	<p><i>Papa's grandfather</i> (Rothenböfer Alt.) <i>grandmother</i> <i>Our great grandfather</i> Caroline Luise Sack mar.: 17/9 1798 Leutnant Ludwig Siegm. Ant. von Roeder, Erbherr auf Hoym (ist 1834 nach Amerika ausgewandert) † 30/II 1847.</p>	5/3 1782	?/2 1858
	davon:		
1514	1a. Daleska Ottilie Luise von Roeder . <i>came in 1832 & died before others arrived</i>	31/1 1801	?/12 1834
1515	1b. Johann Theodor Ludwig von Roeder, Ober-Grenz-Kontrolleur zu Högler ux.: Ottilie Auguste Arnoldine Ploeger (vergl. XXIX 1a).	22/4 1802	16/3 1834
1516	- davon: 2a. Siegmund Arnold Theodor von Roeder	19/7 1832	16/3 1860
1517	1c. Caroline Louise Charlotte Auguste von Roeder mar.: a) 2/10 1837 Ludwig Heberg † 1/7 1847 mar.: b) 16/4 1850 Ernst Heberg zu Hustin (Texas).	16/7 1804	6/2 1879
1518	davon: 2a. (I. Ehe) Dalesca Rosalie Heberg mar.: a) 28/9 1854 Gustav Langhammer zu Salveston (Texas) † 15/1 1860 mar.: b) Franz Dros zu Belville (Texas) † 23/1 1892.	8/9 1836	8/3 1892
1519	davon: 3a. (I. Ehe) Louise Langhammer mar.: 27/12 1873 Carl Engelking, Landgutsbesitzer zu Hustin (Texas), Nachficht. siehe II, 2c.	6/6 1855	
1520	3b. Marie Langhammer mar.: 17/12 1885 Friedrich Heinecke zu Belville (Texas).	1/11 1856	
1521	davon: 4a. Daleska Heinecke	10/3 1887	
1522	4b. Caroline Heinecke	1/1 1889	
1523	4c. Friedrich Heinecke	8/12 1890	
1524	4d. Gustav Heinecke	20/2 1894	
1525	3c. Louis Ernst Langhammer, Professor zu Brenham (Texas) ux.: 20/9 1881 Luise Engelking (vergl. II, 2f).	29/3 1858	
1526	davon: 4a. Rosalie Langhammer	6/1 1883	
1527	4b. Kleberg Langhammer	7/9 1884	
1528	4c. Delle Louise Langhammer	21/10 1886	
1529	3d. Caroline Langhammer	7/5 1859	13/6 1891
1530	3e. (II. Ehe) Philipp Dros	23/3 1881	
1531	2b. Caroline Heberg	?	
1532	1d. Ludwig Rudolph Wilhelm Georg Philipp von Roeder mar.: 24/12 1835 Antoinette von Donop.	4/2 1805	18/10 1839
1533	davon: 2a. Franz Joachim Anton von Roeder, Gutsbesitzer zu Norfstown (Texas) ux.: 4/11 1858 Josephine Caroline Luise Eckhardt.	9/11 1836	
1534	davon: 3a. Antoinette Emilie von Roeder mar.: 4/11 1890 Hermann Eduard Dahlmann, Schatzmeister der De Witt County zu Cuero (Texas).	28/8 1859	
1535	davon: 4a. Hermann Charles Joachim Dahlmann	27/8 1881	
1536	4b. Jane Louise Dahlmann	20/10 1882	
1537	4c. Elfrida Rosalie Dahlmann	27/9 1884	
1538	4d. Ludwig Wilhelm Dahlmann	8/10 1886	
1539	4e. Willie Eckhardt Dahlmann	24/2 1891	
1540	4f. Joachim Franz Dahlmann	10/8 1895	
1541	4g. John Caesar Dahlmann	28/9 1897	
1542	4h. Antoinette Emilie Dahlmann	17/10 1899	
1543	3b. Jane Pauline von Roeder	16/3 1862	
1544	3c. Mary Caroline von Roeder mar.: Francis Kirkland Gandy, Apotheker zu Hochheim (Texas).	13/3 1866	
1545	3d. Hermann Caesar von Roeder zu Norfstown (Texas) ux.: Ida Korth.	9/10 1868	
1546	davon: 4a. Robert von Roeder	7/1 1891	
1547	4b. Francis Josephine von Roeder	6/10 1898	
1548	3e. Mathilde Louise von Roeder	5/4 1872	
1549	3f. Wilhelm Ludwig von Roeder zu Norfstown (Texas) ux.: Louise Menu.	11/3 1874	
1550	davon: 4a. Antoinette von Roeder	19/2 1898	
1551	4b. Friedrich Wilhelm von Roeder	5/11 1899	

No.	Ernestinische Linie.	Tag und Jahr	
		der Geburt	des Todes
1552	3g. Ludwig Robert von Roeder, stud. med.	30/1 1876	
1553	3h. Louise Eleonore von Roeder	27/1 1879	
1554	3i. Rudolf Joachim von Roeder	12/12 1882	
1555	B ie. Carl Ludwig Socrates von Roeder <i>Grandmother's first husband came early</i> ux.: 21/5 1837 Caroline Ernst, wiederverheiratet mit 1h.	24/10 1806	19/7 1840
1556	davon: 2a. Louise Caroline von Roeder zu Chappell Hill (Texas) mar.: 19/3 1856 Carl Wundt zu Ervington (Texas) † 11/11 1861.	15/1 1838	
1557	davon: 3a. Carl Julius Wundt	26/7 1857	
1558	3b. Caroline Marie Wundt mar.: 4/5 1880 Otto Binz, Kaufmann zu Austin (Texas).	20/12 1858	
1559	davon: 4a. Anna Amalie Binz	5/1 1885	
1560	4b. Alwine Luise Binz	8/10 1888	
1561	4c. Julie Ottilie Binz	22/8 1890	
1562	B ii. Friedrich Arnold Otto Ludwig von Roeder ux.: a) Paulina von Donop † 1896 ux.: b) 5/1 1845 verwitwete Philipp Ferdinand Saß (vergl. XXVII 1b), geborene Adolphine Auguste Theodore Ploeger (vergl. XXIX 1b) † 1880.	29/10 1807	?/? 1878
1563	davon: 2a. (I. Ehe) Ludwig Joachim von Roeder zu Yorktown (Texas)	13/4 1836	
1564	2b. (II. Ehe) Caroline Antonie von Roeder mar.: 11/2 1872 Ruben Curtis Esqre., Wittwer sub. 2c zu Bradet Kinney County (Texas).	20/10 1845	20/11 1896
1565	davon: 3a. Dora Curtis	2/8 1873	
1566	3b. Ruby Curtis	27/7 1878	
1567	3c. Raudolph Curtis	4/11 1881	
1568	3d. Kate Curtis	4/11 1884	
1569	2c. Henriette Ferdinande von Roeder mar.: 15/10 1868 Ruben Curtis Esqre., wiederverheiratet mit 2b.	21/6 1847	7/11 1869
1570	davon: 3a. Ida Curtis mar.: 4/10 1868 Robert C. Ballantyne zu Bradet Kinney Cty. (Texas).	2/11 1869	
1571	davon: 4a. Caroline Antonia Ballantyne	?	
1572	4b. Roberta Ballantyne	13/9 1895	
1573	2d. Arnold Ludwig von Roeder	29/9 1848	
1574	2e. Georg Otto von Roeder ux.: 9/2 1878 Emilie Miller.	29/6 1850	8/3 1893
1575	davon: 3a. Samuel von Roeder	13/10 1878	
1576	3b. Frederic von Roeder	13/8 1881	
1577	3c. Wilhelm von Roeder	11/4 1884	
1578	3d. Emma von Roeder	19/2 1889	
1579	3e. Georgina von Roeder	29/3 1891	
1580	2f. Otto von Roeder ux.: 18/10 1877 Mary V. Miller.	23/3 1852	13/4 1888
1581	davon: 3a. Olga von Roeder mar.: 1/10 1866 Franz von Hagen zu Nsalam (Texas).	1/10 1879	
1582	B ig. Friedrich Anton Joachim Ludwig von Roeder <i>did before father arrived 1837</i>	26/10 1809	?/? 1834
1583	B ih. Franz Ferdinand Albrecht Ludwig von Roeder <i>Papa's father came in 1835</i> 6/8 1841 verwitwete Carl Ludwig Socrates von Roeder, geborene Caroline Ernst (vergl. 1e). <i>early</i>	31/7 1811	11/6 1857
1584	davon: 2a. Rosalie von Roeder zu Meyersville, Dewitt Cty. (Texas) <i>Tante Röschen.</i>	29/5 1842	3/12
1585	← † 2b. Ludwig August von Roeder fiel im Kriege	30/3 1844	?/? 1864
1586	2c. Johanna Clara von Roeder <i>Tante Hannchen.</i> mar.: 22/11 1886 Chr. F. Greffer zu St. Antonio (Texas), Wittwer ad 2g.	20/3 1845	
1587	Papa 2d. Hermann Friedrich Albrecht von Roeder, Gutsbesitzer zu Lockhart (Texas) ux.: 23/5 1876 Emilie Ohlendorf, geb. 26/8 1857. <i>dead 1-27-1952</i>	6/4 1846	1-23 1926
1588	davon: 3a. Richard Oskar von Roeder, Kaufmann zu Lockhart (Texas) ux.: 1/1 1868 Helene Frida Voefel.	19/4 1877	
1589	davon: 4a. Manfred Bremond von Roeder	13/11 1898	
1590	3b. Bemio Gilbert von Roeder, Kadett	23/8 1880	
1591	3c. Reese James Arno von Roeder	25/8 1882	
1592	3d. Ella Pauline von Roeder	30/7 1884	
1593	3e. Ida Caroline von Roeder	16/9 1886	
1594	3f. Clemens Nelson von Roeder	18/12 1888	
1595	3g. Frida Eivige von Roeder	28/7 1890	
1596	3h. Herbert Spencer von Roeder	19/2 1893	

No.	Ernestinische Linie.	Tag und Jahr	
		der Geburt	des Todes
1597	3i. Agnes Wilhelmine von Koeder	19/7-1897	
1598	3k. Nohing Carl von Koeder	20/10 1899	26-9-1963
1599	2e. Siegmund Otto von Koeder zu Chappell Hill, Wash. Cty. (Texas) <i>Uncle Sigmund</i> ux.: 11/4 1894 Albertine Feist geb. 12/5 1874.	9/3 1848	
1600	davon: 3a. Bruno Herbert von Koeder	21/4 1894	
1601	3b. Arthur Hugo von Koeder	1/10 1897	
1602	3c. Friedrich Wilhelm von Koeder	1/3 1899	
1603	2f. Albrecht Wilhelm von Koeder zu Meyersville, Dewitt Cty. (Texas)	23/7 1849	
1604	2g. Caroline Emilie von Koeder <i>Aunt Lina Gresser</i> mar.: 7/9 1869 Christian Ferdinand Heinrich Gresser zu Galveston (Texas).	14/4 1851	19/5 1880
1605	davon: 3a. Heinrich Gresser	20/8 1871	
1606	3b. Pauline Gresser mar.: 26/1 1835 Franz H. Duran zu Houston (Texas).	14/10 1872	
1607	3c. Fritz Gresser	16/10 1874	
1608	3d. Uli Gresser	1/8 1876	
1609	3e. Rudolph Gresser	23/8 1878	
1610	3ig. Philippine Sophie Caroline Luise Rosalie von Koeder <i>Aunt Rosa Kleberg</i> mar.: 1834 Robert Steberg, zuerst O.E.-Gerichtsreferendar zu Bredenburg, 1834 ausgewandert nach Amerika, dort Chief Justice zu Meyersville und Northton geb. 10/9 1803 † 30/10 1888.	20/7 1813	
1611	davon: 2a. Clara Siegmunde Kleberg mar.: 27/1 1853 Heinrich Hillebrand, Professor und Schachmeister zu San Francisco (California) † 24/4 1881.	29/11 1835	
1612	davon: 3a. Caroline Louise Rosalie Hillebrand mar.: 4/9 1872 Kaufmann Eduard Hohfeld.	3/1 1854	
1613	davon: 4a. Clarence Heinrich Hohfeld	8/6 1873	
1614	4b. Eduard Hohfeld	9/5 1875	
1615	4c. Rosa Hohfeld } Zwillinge		
1616	4d. Lilia Hohfeld }	7/3 1877	
1617	4e. Wesley Newcomb Hohfeld	18/8 1879	
1618	3b. Louise Pauline Hillebrand mar.: 20/5 1887 Henry R. Franz, Gutsbesitzer zu Turlock, Stanislaus Cty. (California).	1/6 1861	
1619	3c. Franz Joseph Hillebrand	1/5 1866	
1620	2b. Caroline Louise Kleberg mar.: 14/10 1858 Christ. Robert Eckhardt zu Northtown Dewitt Cty. (Texas) geb. 17/3 1836 † 28/2 1887.	15/1 1840	
1621	davon: 3a. Johanna Clara Eckhardt mar.: 20/4 1887 Dr. J. J. Atkinson zu Northtown (Texas) † 28/7 1891.	28/10 1859	
1622	davon: 4a. Elisabeth Nelson Atkinson	9/8 1888	
1623	4b. Helene Louise Atkinson	1/11 1889	
1624	4c. John Joseph Atkinson	14/8 1891	
1625	3b. Otto Ludwig Eckhardt zu Northtown (Texas) ux.: Jnez Wallace Blackwell.	28/5 1861	
1626	davon: 4a. John Robert Eckhardt	22/6 1884	
1627	4b. Lina Rosa Eckhardt	20/8 1886	
1628	4c. Robert Christian Eckhardt	15/4 1888	
1629	4d. Sarah Bell Eckhardt	18/1 1890	
1630	4e. Zorah Louise Eckhardt	2/9 1895	
1631	4f. Jnez Ollie Eckhardt	1/10 1897	
1632	3c. Wilhelm Rudolph Eckhardt, Dr. med. zu Houston (Texas) ux.: 30/4 1890 Iris Dee Kent.	15/9 1865	
1633	davon: 4a. Francis Irene Eckhardt	19/3 1891	
1634	4b. Wilhelm Rudolph Eckhardt	3/12 1892	
1635	4c. Carl Kleberg Eckhardt	3/2 1895	
1636	4d. Clarence Kent Eckhardt	17/9 1897	
1637	3d. Helene Emilie Eckhardt mar.: 25/1 1899 Charles Frederic Hoff, Kaufmann zu Tucson (Arizona).	19/1 1868	
1638	3e. Robert Joachim Eckhardt, Kaufmann zu Taylor (Texas) ux.: 8/6 1892 Azubah Josephine Mansford.	9/11 1869	
1639	davon: 4a. Dorothy Eckhardt	1/10 1893	
1640	3f. Lina Mathilde Eckhardt mar.: 8/5 1895 R. D. Bourquevan, Kaufmann zu San Marcos (Texas).	1/9 1871	

(Petition for a Post-Office.)

To the Third Assistant Post-Master General.
Post-Office Department... Washington D. C.

We, the undersigned residents of Schoenau
Settlement Austin Co. Texas, would most
respectfully ask and pray for a bi-weekly mail
connection with either of the surrounding

Post-Offices; i. e. either with Rockhouse P. O.
Fayette Co. 4 miles westward; Industry 4
miles southward, or Shelby 4 miles northward.

We leave it to your department, to make the
proper selection. And to establish a P. O. at or
near the store of J. Schmidt & Bro's of Schoenau,
Austin Co. Texas, under the name of "Schoenau
Post-Office." This would gratify a long felt
desire and be a public commodity for which
we would humbly pray.

Yours respectfully

Following are papers provided by Earline Griffin, a distant cousin.

Fritz Ernst wrote to relatives in Germany about this glorious Country.

The other was written by Caroline Ernst when she was young.

FRIEDRICH ERNST'S LETTER TO GERMANY¹

From a plantation on Mill Creek in Austin's Colony in the state of Texas in the New Mexico.

My letter as well as the travel report which I sent to my brother-in-law immediately after my arrival in New York, and which contained everything that I felt necessary to say, will have been communicated to you in accordance with my request. At that time I could not say anything about America, but now that I have lived in this part of the world for over two years, and where I have traveled over 1400 miles during that time, I can communicate to you at least that which must be of very special use for the immigrant. This sheet of notepaper does not allow me to write more and for this reason I will have to be brief; therefore, without further ado, I'll come to the point. I only want to mention briefly here that we traveled by way of Múnster, Wesel, Maastricht, Brussels, Ostend, Dunkirk, Abbeville, and Dieppe to Harve de Grace and from there, on a mail ship, we crossed the Atlantic Ocean in four weeks to New York and arrived at this immense city with its 200,000 inhabitants. The United States, in the northern part, however, does not offer the former advantages to the immigrant. We found the winter here to be just as severe as in Germany, and so we decided to go further south. Thus we embarked in February and went on a brig to New Orleans. Although the winter was severe when we left from New York, four days after our departure mild spring breezes were blowing already, and three

days later, between Cuba and Florida, we had regular summer weather just as during the entire voyage of 1000 nautical miles across that part of the ocean and across the Bahama Bay into the Gulf of Mexico up to the mouth of the Mississippi River. Our brig was towed the 120 miles up to New Orleans by a steamship which already had two brigs and one schooner in tow. In New Orleans we received favorable news about Texas and Austin's colony that was located there; so we embarked on a schooner of 37 tons that had already over 100 persons on board and landed after a voyage of 8 days at Harrisburg in this colony. Each immigrant who wants to farm receives one league of land if he comes with a wife or a family; or a single person receives a quarter of a league; sons over fourteen years of age have equal rights for obtaining land. It takes one hour to walk the length of a league and it is just as wide; you have to pay \$160, in fees for surveying and registration costs; you have to take the citizenship oath; and after one year you are a free citizen of the free United States of Mexico. As Europeans, who are welcomed with preference, we received in such manner a good league of land and settled here from where I am writing this letter. The state of Texas, of which our colony makes up almost 1/6 part, lies in the south on the Gulf of Mexico between latitude 27 and 31 north. Supporters of Napoleon had formerly settled in this area. The Trinity, Brazos and Colorado rivers stream through Austin's colony which contains the capital of St. Felipe de Austin and the places of

Harrisburg, Brazoria and Matagorda. You can sail in three or four days to Tampico and Veracruz. The land is hilly and woods interchange with natural grassy plains. They are resplendent with the most beautiful flowers and blossoms, like, for instance, the magnolia. The meadows have the most abundant growth of grass; I could have sold several thousand loads of hay if there had been customers for it; but instead of mowing, the grass is burnt off in late summer. The ground is so rich, that it never needs fertilizer. The climate is like that of lower Italy; of course, in the summer, it is warmer than in Germany because the sun stands almost right above our heads, but it is not at all as hot as you might think because a constant fresh east wind cools the air; also there is not much to do during the summer, and you go about dressed lightly in white cotton trousers and a little jacket. Now, in the winter, the weather is usually like that in Germany during the fourteen spring days in March. Until now we have had ice only twice along with strong northwest winds, but, the sun melted the ice right away. In an entire month, the weather prevents work in the fields only for a couple of days; there is always calm air and sunshine; you see bees and butterflies the entire year round, birds sing in the shrubs that remain partially green, and the cattle, on their own, look for their food in the winter as well as in summer. The cows give birth without assistance and, in the evenings, they come to the house in order to suckle their calves which are kept during the day in a place closed off with wooden rails. This way the cows

are made to return to the house. The calves are never slaughtered. One cow with a calf costs ten dollars. One dollar has 100 cents, thus the cent is approximately equal to the Groten of Oldenburg. Horses cost a bit more and are used only for riding. Everybody rides horses, the men as well as the women. We use oxen for hauling and tilling. There are colonists here who own more than 700 head of cattle. Their increase is really extraordinary and young cows at the age of 1 3/4 years already give birth to calves. Pigs multiply in such an astonishing way, that from six to start with, you get 100 the following year; they, too, cost no maintenance, because they find plenty of food in the forest and only once in a while receive some kernels of corn in order to get them used to the house. At that, pork sells at a good price, four dollars for 100 pounds. A local immigrant bought six sows two years ago; from breeding them he now has sold 80 fat pigs, each one weighing over 200 pounds. In general, all of the products of my fellow countrymen are selling at a good price, much to their great advantage. The corn, that is, the Turkish wheat, costs 75 cents to 1 dollar per bushel and is as good as cash, which, by the way, is seldom circulated, because everything is done by trading. On one acre of good land, thirty to forty bushels of corn grow, for which the seed kernels can be put out by children. The fields are fenced in by split wooden rails, so that the cattle, which run about freely, do not ruin anything. The products which are raised here are sugar cane, cotton of the best quality, tobacco, rice, indigo, the latter grows wild

around here, corn, patatas or sweet potatoes, melons of special quality, watermelons, pumpkins, wheat, rye, a number of herbs and vegetables, peaches in large amounts; furthermore, the following are growing wild around here in the forest: mulberries, several varieties of walnuts, persimmons as sweet as honey--grapes in large amounts, but not of special flavor. You can frequently find honey in hollow tree trunks, where swarms of bees settle; birds of all kinds from pelicans to hummingbirds; and game, such as stags, bears, raccoons, possums, wild turkeys, geese, ducks and partridges. The latter are as big as chickens and are abundant (these are actually our grey pheasants): From our house, especially, we can watch herds of game grazing everyday. At that, there is free hunting everywhere; the fish are very tasty, some of them forty pounds in weight. Also, wild horses and foxes roam around in herds, the former can be caught as foals and can be tamed. There are, however, also wolves here, but of such a weak kind that they flee from my smallest children. Generally, no beast of prey is dangerous, although, at times, you can also catch sight of a panther or leopard. And I have wandered around alone for entire days in the deepest thicket that a man ever stepped into, without ever catching sight of such an animal. On the other hand, the spoils of the hunt are always plentiful and furnish us with the most delicious roasts. The meadows are decorated with the most beautiful and splendid flowers, which in Germany can be grown only in a hothouse and some of which I had never seen before. And I was ashamed to sow the flower seeds

that I had brought with me in a place where the carpet of the meadows presents an uninterrupted show of flowers. There are also many kinds of snakes here, among them the rattle snake, several of which I have killed; that little attention is paid to them, however, is proven by the fact that many a hunter or herdsman walks barefoot through the high grass or brush in the summer without even thinking about snakes. Anyway, everybody knows of medicines against the bite of such animals; three times I have seen persons that were bitten without dying from it. It is easy to understand that the inhabitants cannot live close together given the large properties; my next door neighbor, however, lives only ten minutes away because both of us established ourselves close to our property line. One league of land contains 4444 acres or one Morgen, consisting of hills and valleys, forests and meadows, crossed by small brooks; and due to several settlements in one place, the value of the land has risen in price so that an acre is already selling for one dollar. The constitution of the country is as liberal as that of the United States of North America and political quarrels are unknown to us here. But we learn about every event in the world by way of a newspaper which is published regularly in San Antonio on the Rio del Norte. You learn the English language quickly, my wife and I and especially the children, can handle it quite well already, and I read the newspaper as easily as the German one. Although the introduction of slaves is forbidden, the holding of them is quietly tolerated because there would be a lack of

laborers, since it is so easy to obtain food. The laborers earn seventy five cents to one dollar and meals daily. All clothing and footgear cost a lot of money, therefore almost everybody makes his own; in general, everybody lives alone by himself in the free air so that he has little need for cash. I am thus really happy to see my wishes fulfilled finally and to be able to do everything myself the way I like. Everybody builds himself a house, either alone or with the help of his neighbors. Not much effort is expended on its beauty, rather it is built of dressed tree trunks. With the help of Fritz who already fells trees of two feet diameter I have built mine in the style of my former summer house in Oldenburg, but larger. The regular work in the free air has made me healthier and stronger than I ever was in Germany; my wife, also, is blooming like a rose, as are also the children. My Hermann is growing remarkably and is turning into a regular Mexican; they all have their farm chores: Lina already milks her three cows, Fritz and Louis help me with the plantation, the little ones look after other work, such as the planting and collecting of cotton which is extremely easy because it grows like weeds. We bake daily fresh corn bread, in a big iron pot with a fireproof lid and it tastes like the finest ricecake. The corn is of much finer quality than in Germany; I pound it myself in a simple way and it not only furnishes flour but also shelled groats, like rice. The meat, from each animal, is much tastier than in Germany and we eat it for breakfast in the morning as

well as roasted at noon and in the evening. There are mosquitoes here just as in all warm environments, but whoever gets stung by mosquitoes in the swamps in Germany experiences this American plague worse over there than here. They are more numerous at the coast; since we live about 100 miles inland, where it is more hilly and airy we experience little of that. Generally, I cannot think of any misfortune, only the long distance separating me from my friends; could I, by magic, transport them over here, then I would be in Eden already on earth. From the above accurate description, you can see what advantages our countryman has here in comparison to the one over there; liberal constitution and so far no taxes and later on only an insignificant communal tax, easy breeding of cattle, barely three months of real work, no fertilizing of the fields, no collecting of fodder for the winter time, no need for money, easy fabrication of the houses and clothing, and free hunting and a lot of game, everywhere freedom of religion, all of this along with the best market for products, makes him happy and in a few years well-to-do, which all those prove who have been here four to six years. Farther inland, on the rivers, there are beautiful areas and much silver has been found there; that only depends on displacing an Indian tribe which fends off individual visitors. Several Indian tribes roam about peacefully like the Cossacks and hunt stags from which they sell the skins. Should one of you, my friends, or anybody else, decide after reading this letter, to enjoy an undisturbed freedom here and to look forward to a

rather comfortable future instead of waiting so long that his few belongings disappear completely, leaving him without means for the passage, I will provide the following advice for the trip. Get a place in the hold of a ship going from the Weser to New Orleans. I do not know the exact price but it cannot be more than forty five dollars per person, because, otherwise it would be preferable to go to New York (which costs thirty five dollars and from there to New Orleans ten dollars, belongings go free). From New Orleans to Texas (Harrisburg) ten dollars. Belongings have to be paid separately. Families need to try to make a deal together, children generally pay half price. You have to buy your own food. The trip to New Orleans can take place, with favorable wind, in five to six weeks and from there to Harrisburg in four days. You need to embark in such a way that you do not arrive in New Orleans between July and October because then yellow fever rages there. After you arrive in Harrisburg rent a cart to St. Felipe, where you need to register with the land office. The safest way is to undertake the trip with several others, one of whom understands a little of the English language or who has learned it before his departure. You have to help each other, and if you only bring enough money to be able to pay for the first, most urgent purchases, then, whatever one person advances, can be repaid soon. Thus, the father of a family has to consider that the league of land which he receives is like an earldom, and has the value of six to eight thousand dollars, at which price it has already

frequently been sold. The expenses for the land, by the way, do not have to be paid immediately, and many a person pays them off in cattle that he breeds. For the moment I have enough room on my property for my friends and other acquainted countrymen until they see fit to look for a vacant league which does not happen so fast; Colonel Austin promised just recently, however, that eventual German arrivals will be placed with preference. Whoever is not married should bring with him a woman who is not attached to outward appearance and fashion. You, my dear C., have already experienced many adversities in the world which should let you want to discard all of the memories of them. Thus, if you can make it possible, do not tarry a moment to come over with your family; your brother Hermann, also, who knows agriculture from scratch, would soon be in his true element here. For professionals, however, a special future does not yet exist. Bring along your sister, young women especially can find their good fortune over here. All of you, whom I called friends in the past, come, nobody will lose from the exchange. I am growing fruits and am building a house next summer for eventual arrivals; I am hoping soon to enjoy watching my friends make use of them; how happy I would consider myself. I am not expecting an answer to this letter. The communication from here is too difficult and uncertain; come yourself and bring me letters from those remaining behind; this would be the greatest joy for me. After you have arrived in St. Felipe, ask for Friedrich Ernst on Mill Creek and you will find me; it is thirty miles from there. From Harrisburg

to St. Felipe it is fifty six miles. You do not need passports anywhere. My wife asks yours not to shy away from the voyage; in the beginning she had such a fear that she did not want to go aboard, but now, since she has made two voyages with me, she would certainly travel with me around the world. Further, with the exception of a few storms, we have never had a single misfortune and have hardly been seasick. Our hopes are set on next August when possibly somebody from over there can arrive and we will imagine finding dear friends in each arriving vehicle. Although the ocean and unexpected bitter events are separating us, I have never ceased to think of you friends with emotion, and daily I remember you, and daily you live in my heart.

Your

Fritz.

GARDEN CROPS AND PRODUCE

As soon as the Ernsts arrived in Texas and gained possession of the land grant, Ernst began immediately to till the soil and plant crops. It was very hard work as he did not have any implements except a hoe. He cleared two to three acres of land with a hoe, with occasionally a neighbor lending him a team of oxen. It was three years before he could afford a yoke of oxen of his own.¹

The earth was fertile, virgin soil. There was an abundance of water, and the climate afforded long growing seasons. The Ernst family had to set to work to plant and grow their food.

At first the Ernsts had only corn or game as their main diet. Caroline Ernst related that the family had nothing to eat but corn bread until they were able to raise cow peas. On one occasion, Mr. Ernst gave a thick woolen mantle in exchange for 20 bushels of corn, it was reported.² At first the only crop that could be sold was tobacco, or the manufactured cigars. Later cotton was a crop that would bring in a return, whether in money or merchandise. Wild game was abundant, and the main staple of corn, wild game, and other garden produce, as well as milk and butter made the meals more enjoyable.

Corn was brought to Texas in the 1820's. It was a new food to the Europeans. It was grown by the settlers and soon became their basic food. It was readily grown by the Ernsts and became a mainstay of their diet. Cotton became the exchange crop

that the settlers could barter for other necessities. As early as 1828, 500 bales were exported from the lower Brazos River area.³ It was one of the main crops at Ernst's farm in Industry and was planted in the second year of settlement by the Germans at Cat Spring in the summer of 1835.⁴

Frederick Law Olmsted noted in the mid 1850's that all German farmers near San Felipe cultivated cotton. Tobacco was grown in the 1830's by Ernst and other Germans at Cat Spring. They made cigars and sold them in San Felipe and Houston. By 1850 one third of the Germans were growing tobacco.⁵

Potatoes, particularly sweet potatoes, were grown by the Germans. They liked to eat them baked. White potatoes were also grown in Austin County. In later years, the German agricultural society at Cat Spring promoted the growth of the white potatoes among its members.⁶ Sorghum cultivation was also a crop for the source of molasses as well as a fodder crop.

The Ernsts soon after their arrival in Texas traded 1/4 of a league of land for 10 to 12 cows so that they could have milk and butter.⁷ Too, they were able, then, to raise some of their own cattle. By 1840, the Germans all were raising hogs and poultry.

In the article that Ernst wrote to the Texas Telegraph and Register, April 30, 1845, he refers to the growing of vegetable plants such as red beets, egg plants, cabbage, lettuce, and sweet potatoes in his vegetable garden.⁸ Caroline had reported in her account that her father was able later to grow a fine

vegetable garden. Visitors to Industry were impressed with the garden produce as well as the cotton and tobacco that was grown, but the first years were difficult.

Ernst also had a good orchard of fruit trees particularly peaches and figs. In Memoirs of a Texas Pioneer Grandmother, Ottilie Fuchs Goeth stated that Mr. Ernst sent her family some fig trees which grew well and provided the family with figs.⁹ The forests were filled with mulberries, persimmons, and grapes.

Samuel Wood Geiser said that Friedrich Ernst was the first able botanist and horticulturist of the Colony of Texas.¹⁰ Having worked in the gardens of the Duke of Oldenburg, he was able to put into use many of the skills learned there. He lacked good equipment at first, but later better tools were used. He also learned to adapt to the different climate and seasons. His tobacco crops of Havana tobacco were noted for the lush plants with large leaves. (See Tobacco Production).

Friedrich W. von Wrede in his sketches of Texas stated that his son had learned to make cigars from a friendly Mexican. The property he owned was well suited for tobacco, and a business could be established. He said he had seen a gratifying example of that at Ernst's farm.¹¹

Thus from the soil, Ernst was able to cultivate the land with the help of his family and produce the needed crops to feed them and to produce some crops that he could sell or trade on the market, one of the most important challenges of the new land.

LIFE OF GERMAN PIONEERS IN EARLY TEXAS

Caroline Von Hinueber

When my father came to Texas, I was a child of eleven or twelve years. My father's name was Friedrich Ernst. He was by profession a bookkeeper, and emigrated from the duchy of Oldenburg. Shortly after landing in New York he fell in with Mr. Fordtran, a tanner and a countryman of his. A book by a Mr. Duden, setting forth the advantages of the new State of Missouri, had come into their hands, and they determined to settle in that state. While in New Orleans, they heard that every settler who came to Texas with his family would receive a league and labor of land from the Mexican government. This information induced them to abandon their first intention.

We set sail for Texas in the schooner Saltillo, Captain Haskin's. Just as we were ready to start, a flatboat with a party of Kentuckians and their dogs was hitched on to our vessel the Kentuckians coming aboard and leaving their dogs behind on the flat boat. The poor animals met a grievous fate. Whenever the wind arose and the waves swept over the boat, they would howl and whine most piteously. One night the line parted, and we never saw them again.

We were almost as uncomfortable as the dogs. The boat was jammed with passengers and their luggage so that you could hardly find a place on the floor to lie down at night. I

firmly believe that a strong wind would have drowned us all. In the bayou, the schooner often grounded, and the men had to take the anchor on shore and pull her off. We landed at Harrisburg, which consisted at that time of about five or six log houses, on the 3rd of April, 1831. Captain Harris had a sawmill, and there was a store or two, I believe. Here we remained five weeks, while Fordtran went ahead of us and entered a league where now stands the town of Industry. While on our way to our new home, we stayed in San Felipe for several days at Whiteside Tavern. The courthouse was about a mile out of town, and here R. M. Williamson, who was the alcalde, had his office. I saw him several times while I was here, and remember how I wondered at his crutch and wooden leg. S. F. Austin was in Mexico at the time, and Sam Williams, his private secretary, gave my father a title to land which he had originally picked out for himself. My father had to kiss the Bible and promise, as soon as the priest should arrive, to become a Catholic. People were married by the alcalde, also, on the promise that they would have themselves reunited on the arrival of the priest. But no one ever became a Catholic, though the priest, Father Muldoon, arrived promptly. The people of San Felipe made him drunk and sent him back home.

My father was the first German to come to Texas with his family. Hertzner, a tailor, and Grassmeyer, a young German, at Matagorda both unmarried, were in Texas when my father came. There was also a Pennsylvanian, whom they called Dutch Henry,

and a Dr. Adolph V. Zornow, had traveled through Texas but did not stay long. My father wrote a letter to a friend, a Mr. Schwarz, in Oldenburg which was published in the local paper. This brought a number of Oldenburgers and Munsterlanders, with their families to Texas in 1834.

After we had lived on Fordtran's place for six months, we moved into our own house. This was a miserable little hut, covered with straw and having six sides, which were made out of moss. The roof was by no means water proof, and we often held an umbrella over our bed when it rained at night, while the cows came and ate the moss. Of course, we suffered a great deal in the winter. My father had tried to build a chimney and fireplace out of logs and clay, but we were afraid to light a fire because of the extreme combustibility of our dwelling. So we had to shiver. Our shoes gave out, and we had to go barefoot in winter, for we did not know how to make moccasins. Our supply of clothes was also insufficient, and we had no spinning wheel, nor did we know how to spin and weave like the Americans. It was twenty eight miles to San Felipe, and, besides we had no money. When we could buy things, my first calico dress cost 50¢ per yard. No one can imagine what a degree of want there was of the merest necessities of life, and it is difficult for me now to understand how we managed to live and get along under the circumstances. Yet we did so in someway. We were really better supplied than our neighbors with household and farm utensils, but they knew

better how to help themselves. Sutherland used his razor for cutting kindling, killing pigs, and cutting leather for moccasins. My mother was once called to a neighbor's house, five miles from us, because one of the little children was very sick. My mother slept on a deer skin, without a pillow, on the floor. In the morning, the lady of the house poured water over my mother's hands and told her to dry her face on her bonnet. At first we had very little to eat. We ate nothing but corn-bread at first. Later we began to raise cow peas, and afterwards my father made a fine vegetable garden. My father always was a poor huntsman. At first, we grated our corn until my father hollowed out a log and we ground it, as in a mortar. We had no cooking stove, of course, and baked our bread in the only skillet we possessed. The ripe corn was boiled until soft, then grated and baked. The nearest mill was 30 miles off.

As I have already said, the country was very thinly settled. Our three neighbors, Burnett, Daughterty, and Sutherland, lived in a radius of seven miles. San Felipe was 28 miles off, and there were about two houses on the road thither. In consequence, there was no market for anything you could raise, except for cigars and tobacco, which my father was the first in Texas to put on the market. He sold them in San Felipe to a Frenchman, D'Orvanne who had a store there, but this was several years afterwards.

We raised barely what we needed, and we kept it. Around San Felipe certainly it was different, and there were some beautiful farms in the vicinity.

Before the war, there was a school in Washington taught by a Miss Trest, where the Daughertys sent their daughter, boarding her in the city. Of course we did not patronize it.

We lived in our doorless and windowless six-cornered pavillion about three years.

When the war broke out, my father at first intended quietly to remain at his home. But the Mexicans had induced the Kickapoo Indians to revolt, and he was warned by Captains Lester, York, and Pettus against the savages. We then set out with the intention of crossing the Sabine and seeking safety in the States. When we arrived at the Brazos, we found so many people assembled at the ferry that it would have been three days before the one small ferry boat could have carried us over the stream. The roads were almost impassable. So my father pitched his camp in the middle of the Brazos bottom near Brenham. Here we remained until after the battle of San Jacinto.

Thirteen men with their families, mostly Munsterlanders and Oldenburgers from Cummins Creek, were in our party. They were Amsler, Weppler, Captain Vrels, Bartels, Damke, Wolters, Piefer, Boehmen, Schneider, Kleekemp, Kasper, Heimann, Grunder, and Witte.

Some of the Germans fared ill on account of their tardy flight. Mrs. Juergens and her children were captured by the Indians and taken to the border of Texas, where American traders ransomed the lady, but had not sufficient money to purchase the children. These remained with the Indians. The Mexicans captured Stoehlke and intended to hang him. Upon his using the name of Jesus Christ, they released him. Kaspar Simon was also made a prisoner, but released upon exhibiting his ignorance of the whereabouts of the Texan Army.

After the war, times were hard. However, my father had buried a good many things and had in this way succeeded in keeping them from the Mexicans. He had placed two posts a considerable difference apart, and had buried his treasures just midway between them. The posts had both been pulled out and holes dug near them, but our things had not been found. Our house and garden had been left unharmed, though those of our neighbors had been destroyed. The explanation of this is probably to be found in the fact that the Munsterlanders, who were Catholics, had brought all their holy relics to our place and had set up several crosses in our garden.

Just as we had returned from the "runaway scrape," and had scarcely unhitched our horses, Vrels came running up and told us that a party of Mexicans had taken his horse. Ellison, York, and John Pettus, who had just returned from the army, galloped after the robbers, and, after York had killed one of them, recovered the horse.

We had plenty of corn and bacon. My brother and John Pettus brought back a few of our cattle from Gonzales. Before the war, there had been very little trouble; but afterwards, there was a good deal of fighting in the neighborhood, especially about election time.

A short time afterwards, my father began keeping a boardinghouse and had a large building constructed for that purpose. He tore down the six-cornered pavillion, over the protest of my mother, who wanted to keep it as a sort of memento of former days. Many German immigrants accordingly came to our house. Nearly all managed very badly at first, using all their money before they had learned to accomodate themselves to their new surroundings.

Industry was founded about this time and named by Benninghoffer after a lively dispute. My father was Justice of the Peace for quite a time, and later was engaged in general merchandising.

I remember very well the coming of the German colonists who founded New Braunfels and Fredericksburg. My brother Fritz accompanied Solms in the capacity of interpreter and guide. The prince had a considerable retinue of horsemen, dressed mostly like himself, after the fashion of German officers. Among the company were an architect, a cook, and a professional hunter (jaeger). Whenever they came to a good piece of road, the prince would say, "Now let us gallop," and then the whole party would charge down the prairie. The

hunter was commanded to kill a deer, but did not succeed, and my brother rode out and killed one, causing much pleasure to the prince.

While on the same journey, the party stopped at a farmer's who brought out watermelons and told them to help themselves. My brother cut a watermelon in two, took a piece, and went out into the yard to eat, whereupon one of the officers rebuked him severely, asking him how he could dare to eat when His Highness had not yet tasted.

When the prince was endeavoring to establish the Karlshafen (Indianola), and he and his party were making soundings, the boat grounded. The prince was in great distress and insisted that the only thing to do was to wait for the tide. My brother then took off his clothes, got out, and pushed the boat off the sandbank.

I also remember that the prince's cook came to my mother for information in regard to Texas dishes.

I lived in Industry until I married Louis von Roeder. Nearly all my time was spent in attending to our household, and I had little opportunity for traveling about. I was not in San Felipe after the war.