

## Ludwig Family

Christopher Ludwig, born in 1805, and his wife left Hessin, Germany in September 1845, with three boys and one girl. According to one source, Josephine and John Richard were twins. The twins were born June 8, 1835, Christopher, Jr. was born in 1840, and Conrad was born in 1844 in Nason, Germany. The family was among 300 immigrants on the ship, which was so crowded they had to sleep sitting up. They were locked in their cabin for three days while crossing the English Channel, where a storm was encountered. Disease was wide spread aboard ship and some were buried at sea. In an attempt to fumigate the ship with tar pots, a fire was started when one of the burning pots was dropped. It was extinguished and a near tragedy was averted.

Their new home was established at Old Town, near Indianola, after 160 days at sea. A year or so later, Christopher Ludwig died of cholera. It is believed that Mrs. Ludwig, Catharin, remarried and lived in Victoria, where she died on October 6, 1896, and is buried in the Old Catholic Cemetery there. It is presumed that she married a Mr. Shook, although Shook could have been her maiden name.

Little is known about the three boys. One older descendant remembers "Uncle Dick" and "Uncle Coon" visiting the family in Port Lavaca occasionally, and that two of the boys fought for the South and one for the North in the Civil War. It is thought that none of them ever married.

Josephine married Henry Smith in the Spring of 1851 on Matagorda Island. The couple had sixteen children, ten of whom lived to

adulthood. The family lived in or near Indianola until after the 1886 storm, when they moved to Port Lavaca. Most of the children married and lived in the area, but two children, Josephine Walker lived in San Antonio and John P. Smith lived in Sequin. They were a devoted family who enjoyed reunions and their visits with each other, as told by their children and grandchildren, as well as seen in letters and notes to each other that have been preserved through the years.