

they now live in Cuero, Texas. The Muellers have three children. Marcus Ray and Melissa Kay, adopted twins, were born on May 25, 1954. Suzanne Beth was born June 7, 1961. Marcus married Renee' Stewart in 1975 and they have one son, Joshua Ray, born November 24, 1985. Suzanne married William Mitchell Adams on July 18, 1981 and they have one son William Mitchell Adams II, born May 26, 1983. Curtis graduated from Cuero High School in May 1950. On April 30, 1951, he joined the U.S. Navy, and served on the aircraft carrier USS Valley Forge during the Korean War.

After returning to civilian life he married Myra Beth Arnold of Yoakum, Texas, on December 31, 1955. Curtis was employed by Southwestern Bell Telephone Company for 30 years before retiring in 1986.

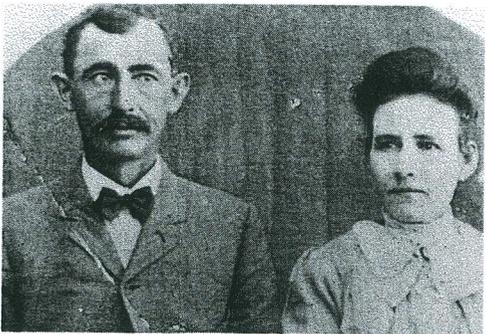
Curtis and Myra have one son, Kenneth Wayne, born January 8, 1960, in Cuero. Kenneth was married to Terri Hilbrich of Westhoff, Texas on October 9, 1982.

Most of this family still live and work in De Witt County.

by La Merle Boothe Goode

BRADEN, GEORGE AND CECILIA WEIGELT

F94



George Braden and Cecilia (Weigelt) 1899

George Joseph Braden, a tall, thin man with piercing blue eyes, was born September 10, 1865 in Colorado County, Texas to **John Baptiste Braden and Julia Pieper**. He was the fourth of six children, the other being John Jr., 1858; Elisabeth, 1860; George, 1865; Adolph, 1867; and Frances, 1869.

George's father immigrated to Texas from the town of Bingen, Germany, which is situated on the South side of the Rhine River, not far West from Mainz, Germany. Most think of the Braden name, especially in Texas, as being German, but in fact it is known that the Bradens from Bingen, Germany had actually emigrated from England to Germany during the 1600s' the name being Braddon or Bradon.

George's mother, Julia Pieper, was born in the Republic of Texas in 1840 to Peter Pieper and Elisabeth Koetter, both from the Munster, Westphalia area in Germany. Peter Pieper had immigrated to Texas in 1833 and received a league of land from the Mexican Government; his land being situated on Cummings Creek in Colorado County.

George Braden lived with his parents and his brothers and sisters on their farm in Colo-

raden, and school at Bernardo. When George was 7 years old his mother, Julia Pieper Braden died, leaving her husband with 6 children to raise; three of them being not more than babies. George's father was married again, to a woman from home town of Bingen in Germany. Her name was **Theresa Schmitt, the widow of Samuel McBride**, a shipbuilder at Indianola. Theresa was living in Indianola with several of her children, who soon became part of the Braden household in Colorado Co.

When George was quite young he worked for the Stafford Brothers, cattle barons of the Colorado Co. area, as a wrangler. Later in life George regaled his grandchildren with stories about his "wrangling days". George soon had enough cowboying and at age 16 went to San Antonio to work for his cousin, Edward Braden. Edward was a great deal older than George and was already well established in San Antonio, Texas, **operating a hotel, called the "Braden House", a livery stable and a growing construction company.** The Braden Construction Company built many commercial buildings of note in San Antonio. George, knowing much about horses and their antics, was put in charge of the livery stable and the draft horses used in the construction business.

On October 27, 1891, George Braden married Cecilia Weigelt at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Victoria, Texas. Cecilia was the daughter of John Weigelt and Margaret Wendel. Cecilia was born of German immigrant parents on Christmas Eve, 1870, in Colorado County, Texas. In 1875 the Weigelt family, that is Cecilia, her parents and her sister, Magdalena, moved to Victoria County, Texas. Cecilia and her sister attended Nazareth Academy in Victoria and Cecilia's two brothers, Phillip and Frank, born after the Weigelts moved to Victoria County, attended another parochial school.

Soon after George and Cecilia were married, her father, John Weigelt, decided it would be advantageous to move from the Victoria prairie to a location with more trees for wood and better farm land. John Weigelt purchased 600 acres of land in 1892 in the Daniel Davis League on the West side of the Guadalupe River at Hochheim. The first few months were spent building a house for Cecilia's parents. George Braden and Cecilia Weigelt would spend the next fifteen years in a small house already on the place.

The first child, Magdalena, was born to George and Cecilia in July, 1892. Julia was born Jan. 5, 1895, followed by Phillip in 1896. Anne was born May 15, 1898, then John in 1900 and Joseph in 1902. The last child was George Sylvester, born in 1905.

The Braden family, like most families living in the lowlands along the river, was plagued by mosquitos. If not mosquitos, it was floods or droughts. After the death of their first child of typhoid fever and Julia's contracting Malaria, George and Cecilia decided enough was enough. George Braden bought land on the high side of the Guadalupe River at Hochheim and moved his family there, into an old house built many years earlier. The house was not so fine, but it was high and dry and the threat of mosquito-borne disease was lessened somewhat. The Braden family lived in this old house several years until Cecilia declared that they needed a larger house. The last residence of the George Braden family is still standing in Hochheim where the road to Dreyer intersects Hwy. 111. The old house the Bradens first lived in at

decendants, the last Bitterly. The old house make way for a new

George Braden came in and around here enough so that each had a sizeable plot. The logging and the development of orchards in the bottom of the River.

George and Cecilia St. Ann Catholic Church prairie. They had been living it and both are buried beside the Church.

Julia Braden married had four children; Cecilia, Lucille Marie and Braden married Ma they had five children and twins, James and married Curtis Johnson died in infancy. John Onhaizer and they had Jr. Joseph Braden Sylvester Braden married and had four children and a son who died in children continued to purchased by their father has lived most of his a George Braden, who was by asthma, died January Weigelt Braden died early 27, 1958.

BRAEUER, AND E

Reinhold W. Brauer 2 June 1853, the son of Henrietta (Freitag) Brauer came to Texas about 1854, settling in Fayetteville. He had a sister Catherine Kruse (lived at Runge who married Theodorville, TX.). His mother and his father married children were: Emma, Annie, Bertha, and Emilie Goebel, the daughter of Elise (Wied) Goebel, married in February 1877, near Shelburne, Texas. Her sisters and brothers were: Gustav, William, and Lina, and Mar

On 18 October 1881 purchased 45 acres in they lived when they born. This property was 1881. 155 acres were County in July 1880 for area. (Emilie's father her family also lived in there until 1890 when of land, located on County line (acreage in Cheapside Community residing in DeWitt County Ella was born. By Emil was born. they v

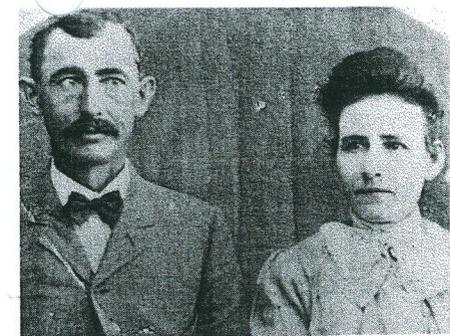
*Source: The Victoria Advocate
Our Part of Texas - Texas & Place
150 yrs. (1996)*

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Hochheim was home to several more Bra- decendants, the last being Donald and J. Bitterly. The old house was finally torn down to make way for a new one in 1966.

George Braden continued to purchase in and around Hochheim, accumulating enough so that each of his children would have a sizeable plot. The Bradens engaged in farming and the development of several large peach orchards in the bottomlands of the Guadalupe River.

George and Cecilia were faithful members of St. Ann Catholic Church on the Hochheim prairie. They had been instrumental in organizing it and both are buried there in the cemetery beside the Church.

Julia Braden married Charles Bitterly and had four children; Charles Braden, John William, Lucille Marie and Donald George. Peter Braden married Maggie Mae Callihan and they had five children; Patricia, Frances, Cecilia and twins, James and Jerome. Anne Braden married Curtis Johnson and had one son who died in infancy. John Braden married Mary Onhaizer and they had one son, John Braden Jr. Joseph Braden never married. George Sylvester Braden married Willie Mae Schaefer and had four children; Ann, Faye, Margaret and a son who died in infancy. All the Braden children continued to live at Hochheim on land purchased by their father except Joseph, who lived most of his adult life in Austin, Texas. George Braden, who was bothered many years by asthma, died Jan. 31, 1953 and Cecilia Weigelt Braden died five years later on January 27, 1958.

by Jeane Bitt

BRAEUER, REINHOLD AND EMILIE

Reinhold W. Braeuer was born in Germany on June 2, 1853, the son of Rudolph Adolphus Henrietta (Freitag) Braeuer. He and his parents came to Texas aboard the ship Neptunus in 1854, settling in Fayette County on Ross Prairie. He had a sister Clara who married John Kruse (lived at Runge) and a brother Henry who married Theodora Schulz (lived at Newville, TX.). His mother died 25 September 1854 and his father married Victoria Knezek. Their children were: Emma Josephine, Henry, Annie, Bertha, and Adolph Victor.

Emilie Goebel, the daughter of Johann Elise (Wied) Goebel, married Reinhold, 3 February 1877, near Shelby in Austin County. They had several sisters and brothers were Adolph, Henri Gustav, William, and Emma. Half sisters were Bertha, Lina, and Maria.

On 18 October 1877, for \$550, Reinhold purchased 45 acres in Fayette County where they lived when their daughter Selma was born. This property was sold for \$800 in 1881. 155 acres were obtained in La Fayette County in July 1880 for \$1275 in the Wier area. (Emilie's father and other members of her family also lived in this area) They remained there until 1890 when they purchased a plot of land, located on the Gonzales-De Witt County line (acreage in both counties) in the Cheapside Community, for \$4150. They