

Elizabeth Coggeshall

UGS 302

5/8/2015

Dr. Bsumek

### German Immigration to Texas

The first German immigrants arrived in the early 1830s and established what is now known as Industry, Texas. This original settlement was led by Johann Ernst and inspired many future endeavors to the boggy coast and central plains of Texas for numerous German citizens. According to the Texas State Historical Association, by 1850, Germans represented the largest ethnic group of European descent in Texas, after the Mexican population. Germans composed 5 % of the total Texas populace. More than a century later, the 1990 state census approximated that 1,175,888 Texans identify as pure German descendants and an additional 1,775,838 claim partial German heritage making up 17½ % of the total Texas population.<sup>1</sup> These statistics bring certain questions to mind: Why are there so many German descendants in Texas? How did they get to Texas? Where in Texas and what was it like living in Texas in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century? What does historical knowledge tell us about these endeavors in settling Texas?

These questions can be framed and answered appropriately by starting at the beginning. Namely, why did Germans decide to leave Germany and why immigrate to the Republic of Texas? The Texas State Historical Association broadly states that,

---

<sup>1</sup> Terry Jordan, "GERMANS," *Handbook of Texas Online*, uploaded June 15, 2010, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/png02>

“In the late 1830s German immigration to Texas was widely publicized in the Fatherland. The publicity attracted a group of petty noblemen who envisioned a project to colonize German peasants in Texas. The nobles hoped the project would bring them wealth, power, and prestige. It could also, they thought, alleviate overpopulation in rural Germany.”

This group was called the *Adelsverein*<sup>2</sup>, which consisted of a group of nobles basically searching for a new land over which to rule after the political turmoil in the German states and the loss of their own empire. At the time, there was deep political turmoil in Germany because of attempts to unify all 37 independent German states. These German states had been adversaries for thousands of years but were attempting to unify to deter outside invaders, such as Napoleon, and the rising Austrian Empire. The Austrian Empire had taken over the German states in an attempt to unify all German-speaking peoples, an effort known as *Großdeutsche Lösung*. In the 1840's, revolts began in the Greater German Confederation, which were the 37 states without the Austrian Empire. The dissidents wanted a constitution without Austria known as the *Kleindeutschland*. The *Kleinedeutschland* without Austria was recognized by Prussia but not Austria until 1871 when the Franco-Prussian war ended and Kaiser Wilhelm was the first official leader of the new Germany.

During the creation of the confederation, the increasing instability in Germany due to the clashing cultural and political identity spurred emigration. “The

---

<sup>2</sup> According to the Texas State Handbook, *Adelsverein* also known as the Mainzer Verein, the Texas-Verein, and the German Emigration Company, was officially named the Verein zum Schutze deutscher Einwanderer in Texas (Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas). Provisionally organized on April 20, 1842, by twenty-one German noblemen at Biebrich on the Rhine, near Mainz, the society represents a significant effort to establish a new Germany on Texas soil by means of an organized mass emigration.

Germans who came to Texas during the 19<sup>th</sup> century sought economic betterment and escape from the threat of war and political discontent.”<sup>3</sup> Most of the German population who came to Texas immigrated in the 1840’s because of the German “rebellion and eventually revolution in 1848”<sup>4</sup> that sought to become a confederation without the Austrian Empire. In addition to political instability, the nascent Germany had economic instability as well.

“Before 1850 Germany lagged behind the leaders in industrial development, Britain, France and Belgium. However, the country had considerable assets: a highly skilled labor force, a good educational system, strong work ethic, good standards of living, and a sound protectionist strategy based on the Zollverein. In 1800 , Germany’s social structure was poorly suited to any kind of social or industrial development... traditionalism remained strong in most of Germany. Until midcentury, the guilds, the landed aristocracy, the churches, and the government bureaucracies had so many rules and restrictions that entrepreneurship was held in low esteem, and given little opportunity to develop.”<sup>5</sup>

Johann Friedrich Ernst could be considered one of the first German immigrants and the immigrant who began the wave of German immigration in the 1830’s – specifically to Texas.

“He immigrated to America intending to settle in Missouri, but in New Orleans he learned that large land grants were available to Europeans in Stephen F. Austin’s colony in Texas. Ernst applied for and in 1831 received a grant of more than 4,000 acres that lay in the northwest corner of what is now Austin County. It formed the nucleus of the German Belt.”<sup>6</sup>

After Ernst wrote home and described how great the climate was, the practical absence of taxes, and ample game and fish, his countrymen were eager to come to

---

<sup>3</sup> Geue Collection, 3F401, German Records in Texas. Briscoe Center of History

<sup>4</sup> “Irish and German Immigration” *US History Online*, uploaded 2014, accessed May 2, 2015. <http://www.ushistory.org/us/25f.asp>

<sup>5</sup> Imanuel Geiss (2013). *The Question of German Unification: 1806-1996*. Routledge. Pp. 32-34.

<sup>6</sup> Terry Jordan, “GERMANS,” *Handbook of Texas Online*, uploaded June 15, 2010, accessed April 28, 2015.

<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/png02>

Texas. But like many other American writers he over exaggerated the positive points and failed to mention the negative. His letter was printed in a newspaper in Northwestern Germany and in an emigrant guidebook. As a result there was a small but steady stream of immigrants who settled around Ernst's rural community in Industry, Texas.<sup>7</sup>

Ernst's migration caught the eye of the *Adelsverein* or the German emigration company,

"...who began work in the 1840s. They chose Texas as the site for their colony, in part because of the favorable publicity surrounding the Ernst-inspired migration and perhaps because Texas was an independent republic where the princes might exercise some political control. Such as "Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels who sailed to America with three ships and 150 families to settle in Texas; the following year, New Braunfels was established" (Congress). Though the Mainzer Adelsverein was a financial disaster, it transported thousands of Germans, mostly peasants, to Texas. Between 1844 and 1847 more than 7,000 Germans reached the new land. Some of the immigrants perished in epidemics, many stayed in cities such as Galveston, Houston, and San Antonio, and others settled in the rugged Texas Hill Country to form the western end of the German Belt. The Adelsverein founded the towns of New Braunfels and Fredericksburg" (Germans).

Chester W. Geue explains that there were a select few immigrants who came to Texas and stayed in towns like Matagorda, Harrisburg, and Nacogdoches that became a pathway to the future Fisher Miller Land Grant.<sup>8</sup> The Fisher-Miller Land Grant was a large piece of land deeded by the Republic of Texas in 1842 and renewed by Henry Fischer, Buchard Miller, and Joseph Baker. Fisher and Miller had failed to completely in colonize the land so they asked the Republic for an extension as Fisher sought to increase interest by advertising in Germany. The men were unsuccessful in recruiting so they sold their contract to the *Adelsverein*. The

---

<sup>7</sup> Ibid

<sup>8</sup>Chester W. Geue, Geue Collection, 3F401, *Germans in Texas before the Mass Immigration of the Year 1844*. Briscoe Center of History.

*Adelsverein* were permitted to settle 6,000 immigrants of German, Dutch, Swedish, and Norwegian ancestry who were families or single men.<sup>9</sup> Those settlers joined forces with newcomers, “Germans already in Texas Joined Adelsverein Party of Colonists.”<sup>10</sup> Other than randomized settlers from pre-Ernst immigrations, the first German family that came to Texas was that of Friedrich Ernst [Johann] who founded the town of Industry in 1831 and operated a hotel there. <sup>11</sup>

Another reason why immigration came in a rush in the 1840’s can be attributed to the Frenchman, *impresario* Henri Castro, who founded the town of Castroville on his land grant West of San Antonio. Castro’s project led to “the establishment of several additional settlements, creating a major German core area.”<sup>12</sup> In total

“Castro brought over 2,134 settlers... The economic demise of the Verein and end of colonizing activities by Castro... did not halt or even diminish the flow of Germans to Texas... a decade after 1847 the annual numbers of German immigrants remained high. They came on their own initiative, attracted by books and letters written by their fellow countrymen and friends in Texas...” <sup>13</sup>

Previous to the mass immigration in the 1840’s the settlers who came to Texas were a sample of what was to come in the next decade due to the economic and political turmoil caused by the attempt to unify the German state.

---

<sup>9</sup> Terry Jordan, “GERMANS,” *Handbook of Texas Online*, uploaded June 12, 2010, accessed April 28, 2015.

<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/mnf01>

<sup>10</sup> Oscar Haas, *History of New Braunfels and Comal County, Texas, 1844–1946* (Austin: Steck, 1968). *New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung*, February 20, 1981.

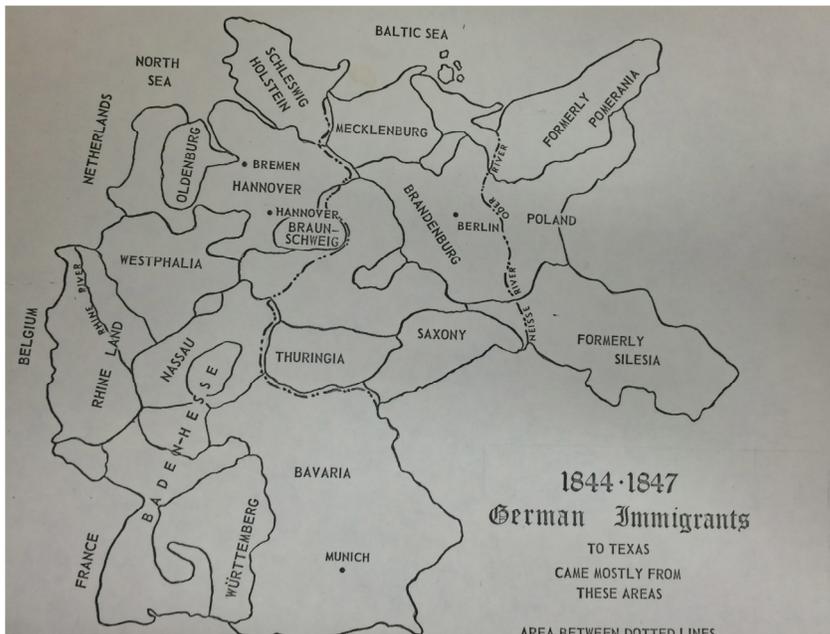
<sup>11</sup> Chester W. Geue, Geue Collection, 3F401, *The Germans in Texas Before the Mass Immigration of the Year 1844*. Briscoe Center of History

<sup>12</sup> Terry Jordan, “GERMANS,” *Handbook of Texas Online*, uploaded June 15, 2010, accessed April 24, 2015.

<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/png02>

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

Given the understanding that many Germans immigrated to Texas due to the economic and political turbulence of their homeland, it is also instructive to examine exactly the geographic origins of German immigrants. The map below represents the areas of Germany that had the most migration between 1844-1847.<sup>14</sup> The map shows the main eight states from which most Germans mass migrated from. Those states are between the dotted line that runs through Mecklenburg, Braunschweig, and Thungria.



Other sources confirm the main sources of German immigration,

“That the majority of the settlers brought to Texas came from Nassau, Southern Hannover, Upper Hesse-Darmstadt, Electoral Hesse, Brunswick, for western Thuringia, Waldeck, and the Heilbronn area of northern Württemberg.”<sup>15</sup>

The state of Hessen [Hesse] was the most common from which settlers originated and “It is reported with some exaggeration that in Hesse in the 1840’s ‘*Geh mit ins*

<sup>14</sup> Geue Collection, 3F401, 1844-1847 German Immigrants to Texas Map. Briscoe Center of History.

<sup>15</sup> Jordan, *German Seed in Texas Soil*, (University of Texas Press, 2010), 47.

*Texas*' ('go with us to Texas') was heard as frequently as '*Guten Tag*'.<sup>16</sup> Emigrant Henri Castro also brought settlers from other Germanic regions to Texas, mainly "Alsace, with lesser numbers from Swabia, German Switzerland, Baden, and Münsterland [and] some French immigrants"<sup>17</sup>.

Just who were these migrants? By and large, they were farmers or other agriculturists, leaving their homeland. "Farmers and artisans who believed their futures were cramped by the social and economic system at home."<sup>18</sup> "The attention of the German Farmer was drawn to Texas by a great volume of literature that was, for the most part, full of praise... such books not infrequently emanated from persons who were involved financially in Texas colonization"<sup>19</sup>. Most of the German immigrant population was farmers but there was a section of nobility, the *Adelsverein* group, who came because of the volume of cheap land publicized by the Mexican government and aforementioned circulating letters from Johann Ernst. Germans of all types came but the main reason behind the migration was a shared similar belief that the new Confederation was too unstable in which to reside.

"The Germans who settled Texas were diverse in many ways. They included peasant farmers and intellectuals; Protestants, Catholics, Jews, and atheists; Prussians, Saxons, and Hessians; abolitionists and slave owners; farmers and townfolk; frugal, honest folk and ax murderers. They differed in dialect, customs, and physical features. A majority had been farmers in Germany, and most arrived seeking economic opportunities. A few dissident intellectuals fleeing the 1848 revolutions sought political freedom, but few, save perhaps the Wends, went for religious freedom."<sup>20</sup>

---

<sup>16</sup> Terry Jordan, "GERMANS," *Handbook of Texas Online*, uploaded June 15, 2010, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/png02>

<sup>17</sup> Ibid

<sup>18</sup> Ibid

<sup>19</sup> Ibid

<sup>20</sup> Ibid

How did the German immigrants travel to Texas? Until the 1850's immigrants traveled simply on sailing ships, "with an average voyage lasting 43 days"<sup>21</sup>. Before even boarding a ship immigrants had to take on many daunting tasks. For instance, prior to even consider traveling the people had to have a fair amount of money.<sup>22</sup> Most immigrants therefore, were not destitute or necessarily rich, though many German noble families were part of the migration. Another factor potential migrants needed to consider before embarking was the limitation on cargo: what items would be most essential to start a new life in Texas? Usually the necessities were basic or very personal such as clothes, tools, a Bible, and family heirlooms<sup>23</sup>. There was one last obstacle before stepping on the ship a series of exams to,

"prevent the spread of disease while on board as well as to prevent diseases from being carried to the destination country. Physical exams and eye exams (to make sure travelers did not have trachoma, a chronic conjunctivitis) sometimes held emigrants up for days or even an entire week."<sup>24</sup>

The experience for most immigrants who crossed the ocean was unpleasant and practically unsustainable due to the conditions they endured aboard ship.

Christina Eudora von Scholl writes to her Oma<sup>25</sup> of her journey over the Atlantic to Houston, Texas in 1847.

"The ship was so overcrowded and I [was] cramped with six others into a tiny cabin. Papa and the boys slept in bunks high up near the ceiling between decks. The food was miserable... Many passengers became very sick, some dying. We

---

<sup>21</sup> Leslie Albrecht Huber, *Understanding Your Ancestors*, (Web, 2008).

<sup>22</sup> Ibid

<sup>23</sup> Ibid

<sup>24</sup> Ibid

<sup>25</sup> Oma means Grandmother in German

went to the funerals, where bodies were given to the sea, of people we had come to know quite well. Several were little babies..."<sup>26</sup>

Other accounts include my maternal family's voyage add to the dismal accounts of immigrants.

"Grandma's Father, Christopher Ludwig and – Ludwig and three boys left Hessin, Germany Sept. 1845. There was one of Grandma's Aunts was 11 yr. old when they came over. Board the ship taken sick and died on the way and was buried at sea. I think was about 300 grants aboard the ship, they encountered a storm in the English channel and had to be locked in the cabin for 3 days. They was so crowded had to sit up and sleep- was delayed a week. They carried burning Tar Pots through the ship to fumigate after the storm and dropped one of the pots and liked to have a big fire. I think it taken 160 days to make the trip over. Landed at Indianola 1846. Grandpa Ludwig dies with Cholera a year or so later after coming over."<sup>27</sup>

After a long trans-Atlantic journey, what was it like stepping off their ship into a new land? The first sight Christina Eudora von Scholl saw of Texas was, "at Galveston, a seaport of over five thousand people, the largest city in Texas. All we saw of it was a group of weathered, gray cypress warehouses along the waterfront between Main Street and the shoreline."<sup>28</sup> The Von Scholl family's true destination was to Industry, Texas where Friedrich Ernst had started a town. The Scholl family came over sea with the help of the *Adelsverein*<sup>29</sup>, who helped more than 7,000 Germans reach the new land between 1844 and 1847.<sup>30</sup> By the

---

<sup>26</sup> Gurasich, *Letters to Oma*, (Texas Christian University, 1989), 7.

<sup>27</sup> Alice Smith, prior to 1937, collection of the author.

<sup>28</sup> Gurasich, *Letters to Oma*, (Texas Christian University, 1989), 8.

<sup>29</sup> According to the Texas State Handbook, *Adelsverein* also known as the Mainzer Verein, the Texas-Verein, and the German Emigration Company, was officially named the Verein zum Schutze deutscher Einwanderer in Texas (Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas). Provisionally organized on April 20, 1842, by twenty-one German noblemen at Biebrich on the Rhine, near Mainz, the society represents a significant effort to establish a new Germany on Texas soil by means of an organized mass emigration.

<sup>30</sup> Terry Jordan, "GERMANS", *Texas State Historical Association*, uploaded June 12, 2010. <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/png02>.

end of this time period the *Adelsverein* was out of money and had little support to offer the immigrating Germans, and

“The Verein did not keep its promises. The only land to be had was far, far away in Comanche territory. There were no log homes or the materials with which to build them; no plows or oxen; nor any transportation; nothing, not even seed for the crops. The Verein, it seems, had nearly run out of money and hundreds who came here were left on their own. Many people, sick and dying of fever, waited for the wagons to take them inland, wagons that never came or came too late.”<sup>31</sup>

In fact, when Prince Karl zu Solms-Braunfels arrived in Texas in 1844,

“He was thunderstruck and wholly unprepared when the brig *Weser* arrived at Galveston in July 1844, with the first group of colonists. There was no land on which he could place them. A permanent port for disembarkation had not even been considered. Prince Karl left his bewildered countrymen to fend for themselves at Galveston and hurriedly began the task of finding a more desirable place for the reception of future shiploads.”<sup>32</sup>

The *Adelsverein* left the immigrants to fend for themselves and reach the land grant. Indianola, the new port for which Braunfels and the *Adelsverein*, was not much better. Indianola, located between current day Houston and Port Lavaca, had seriously intimidating terrain just a few miles inland from the coast. Surrounding Matagorda Bay, in which Indianola is situated within, “the prairies bordering Matagorda Bay were thinly populated.”<sup>33</sup>

Where did the settlers go after they got off the ship and realized their situation would be nothing like that of which they had read in the letters of Johann Ernst in newspapers or traveler’s guides? Their expectations would have been what Johann Ernst describes such as,

“The land is undulating and alternates between woodlands and native grass

---

<sup>31</sup> Gurasich, *Letters to Oma*, (Texas Christian University, 1989), 12.

<sup>32</sup> Marek, Nelson. "Indianola and the Chihuahua Road." Indianola and the Chihuahua Road. January 1, 2006. Accessed May 1, 2015.

[http://www.indianolatx.com/Chihuahua\\_Trail.html](http://www.indianolatx.com/Chihuahua_Trail.html).

<sup>33</sup> Ibid

expanses. Great variety of trees. Climate as in Sicily. The soil requires no fertilizer. Almost constant east wind. No winter, merely like March in Germany. Bees, butterflies, and birds throughout the entire winter... Farmers who have seven hundred head of cattle are common... abundant hunting booty, exquisite roasts. Meadows with the most gorgeous flowers."<sup>34</sup>

But that reality did not entirely pan out. The settlers tried to settle around the previous German town that Ernst created, Industry. Or in the Adelsverein case, they tried to settle the land that they secured in the Fisher-Miller Land Grant. The general area of Central Texas in which they settled became known as the German Belt. The German Belt is located in the Southern Central part of the state, stretching from Houston to Indianola to Fredericksburg and New Braunfels, all which surround



Industry, Texas.

35

What was it like trying to live and settle in Texas? Life was not easy for these German settlers due to inadequate supplies, hurricanes, disease, and the general climate to which the immigrants had to acclimate. Most of the immigrants who arrived were lacking the tools and supplies that were promised to them and the climate of Texas was extreme in the summer compared to the more traditional

---

<sup>34</sup> Detlef Dunt, *Journey to Texas With Information About This Country; For Germans Intending to Go to America*, eds. Geir Bentzen and James Kearney (unpublished manuscript), 137.

<sup>35</sup> Google maps, accessed April 30, 2015.

temperate seasons that Germany experienced, but most managed to endure.

“Although Germans blamed hot summers for affecting work cycles and endangering health, the other seasons allowed relatively stable work hours and supposedly encouraged good health. In other words, although summers were a miserable experience and warranted complaint, the perceived economic and health benefits of the annual climate as a whole gave Germans the courage to rally through summers.”<sup>36</sup>

For the thousands of German farmers, this seasonal stability (other than summer) permitted hope for their new farming life style, but every season seemed to come with all their consequences. Summer had its intense heat, which is followed by the fall hurricane season. Hurricanes ravaged the Texas coast in the mid-nineteenth century and was what essentially led to the abandonment of the town Indianola. But even winter was not without hardships and random tragedy,

“So it was Grandpas mother and her family of three girls and 2 boys came over with lots of other people on the ship. Grandpa was a bout about 16 years old when they came out. They lived at Old Town and his mother froze to death on the 19<sup>th</sup> of Dec. 1849. Was an awful warm day. She was thinly dressed and the calf got out with the milk cow so she taken a little rap and went out to get the calf and got so far out to get it and all of a sudden it camp up a fog and cold freezing norther a regular blizzard and she got lost out over the se high ridges. So where they found her she was lying there with a little hole dug in the ground and her head in it for protection and she was frozen stiff. Was so terrible cold they took a wagon out to get her but couldn’t stand it so had finally taken blankets out there to wrap her in and bury her out there.”<sup>37</sup>

Another problem that occurred while living in early settlement was a serious outbreak of different diseases such as Cholera, dysentery, yellow fever and more.

“Disease did break out among German populations in lower elevations during the

---

<sup>36</sup> John David Dickinson III, “Theorizing Environmental Confrontation: German Settlement in the Mid-Nineteenth Century Texas”, May 2, 2014.

<sup>37</sup> Alice Smith, prior to 1937, collection of the author.

mid-1800s, including a strain of yellow fever in the summer of 1844.”<sup>38</sup> In attempt to escape the various diseases that were occurring in the populated areas such as Houston and Galveston, people tried to evacuate to higher elevations.<sup>39</sup> Their thinking was that less humid and wet areas at higher elevations would not carry or be affected by diseases to the same extent as the towns with condensed populations. A deadly outbreak of dysentery ravaged New Braunfels in the summer of 1846, killing both newer immigrants and older settlers.<sup>40</sup>

“Galvestonians experienced at least nine yellow fever epidemics between 1839 and 1867. The events of a yellow fever epidemic terrified everyone... Though cholera appeared in 1833 and caused some deaths, it was far more destructive during an epidemic in 1849. Approximately 500 deaths from cholera had occurred in San Antonio by May of that year.”<sup>41</sup>

Each newly settled town shared customs from their home country, such as building Gothic style churches that mimicked the cathedrals in Germany, speaking a specific German dialect, eating sauerkraut, spiced sausages and brewing their own beer such as Shiner and Pearl.<sup>42</sup> The different occupations that German settlers acquired greatly affected their daily life activity, whether it was farming, cattle herding, town jobs, or the random occupations that settlers could find to make

---

<sup>38</sup> John David Dickinson III, “Theorizing Environmental Confrontation: German Settlement in the Mid-Nineteenth Century Texas”, pg. 67. May 2, 2014

<sup>39</sup> Ibid

<sup>40</sup> Roemer, *Texas*, 179.

<sup>41</sup> Chester R. Burns, "EPIDEMIC DISEASES," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/sme01>), accessed May 01, 2015. Uploaded on June 12, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

<sup>42</sup> Terry G. Jordan, "GERMANS," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/png02>), accessed May 03, 2015. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

money. Heinrich Conrad Kothmann and his son Heinrich Friedrich, along with other pioneer settlers, faced many privations and, at times, near-starvation. During this time Heinrich Friedrich and his son set out by foot and walked 80 miles to Austin to find jobs. At first, the father and son procured work splitting rails at twenty-five cents a day. After this they became land surveyors for a Frontier Home-Guard Company and then patrolled the Texas Frontier.<sup>43</sup> Many settlers became cattle herders like John W. Kothmann who “often guarded one of his uncle’s large herds, which sometimes consisted of as many as one thousand sheep.”<sup>44</sup> Or William H. Kothmann who spent summers mostly herding sheep along Devil’s River.<sup>45</sup> Many settlers worked in town. Such as Walter Tips in 1876 who founded the Walter Tips Company, Jobbers of Hardware, Machinery and Sporting Goods, in Austin.<sup>46</sup> Another example is the establishment of the Gramann Grocery Store in Victoria, that sold staples and imported goods.<sup>47</sup> The most frequent occupation was that of farming. Many families such as the Smith family who lived in were subsistence farmers.<sup>48</sup> Others such as the Kothmann family grew crops to help maintain the community of Fredericksburg and these family farms eventually grew into successful businesses.<sup>49</sup>

This paper has attempted to answer the main questions of where the German immigrants came from, where they settled, how they arrived to Texas, what it was

---

<sup>43</sup> “The Kothmanns of Texas”, *Firm Foundation Publishing House*, 1952, 53-54.

<sup>44</sup> “The Kothmanns of Texas”, *Firm Foundation Publishing House*, 1952, 29.

<sup>45</sup> “The Kothmanns of Texas”, *Firm Foundation Publishing House*, 1952, 32.

<sup>46</sup> Henry J. Hauschild, “The Runge Chronicle A German Saga of Success”, *The Whitley Company*, 1990, 68.

<sup>47</sup> “H.C. Gramann Dealer in Staple and Fancy Groceries”, May 1, 1912, collection of the author.

<sup>48</sup> Alice Smith, prior to 1937, collection of the author.

<sup>49</sup> “The Kothmanns of Texas”, *Firm Foundation Publishing House*, 1952.

like living in Texas, what does historical knowledge tell us about these endeavors in settling Texas, and why are there so many descendants in Texas? Due to the multiple attempts to unify the German states, economic and political instability motivated Germans of all types to make the journey to Texas. They chose Texas largely because Johann Ernst advertised and exaggerated the good qualities that Texas offered. This led to other German parties, such as the *Adelsverein*, to help carry over thousands of settlers despite being bankrupt almost from the beginning of the migration period. Despite the terrible living conditions endured by the settlers they adapted to their conditions. The 19<sup>th</sup> century German settlers came in masses about two decades after the original group, which numbered in the thousands. The settlers were diversified in occupation as well as skill and expanded in the central area of Texas, creating many settlements that still are lasting until today. These immigrants helped contribute to the unique culture of Texas, whose German influences still exist in their descendants and culture of today.