

Pilgrimage to the Past

A History of the
Mentz-Bernardo Community
Colorado County



OVERVIEW

The original booklet, *Pilgrimage to the Past*, was compiled for the dedication of the Official Texas Historical Marker for the Mentz-Bernardo Community on August 14, 1982. Each donor – individual or family – was given a copy. It contained the documented history that was written as part of the marker application. Copies of some of the referenced German records were also included. Related material found after the application was complete was added along with photos and family records provided by the donors.

Research never ends. New sources are found so this version includes some material not found in the original. Technology has provided some possibilities to enhance and/or copy records and photos that were not possible thirty-four years ago. Photos loaned for the original booklet were returned to the owners. Copying capabilities have greatly improved so copies could be made of copies. In some cases different and/or additional photos are included.

Some pages may not have numbers or numbers are missing. The entire booklet would have to be renumbered with every addition or deletion. Hopefully, nothing of importance is lost.

Arliss Treybig, Researcher/Compiler
March 2016

**The History
of the
Mentz–Bernardo
Community
(Colorado County, Texas)**

**Including
Miscellaneous References
Photographs & Stories of People & Places**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview	
Title Page	I *
Table of Contents	ii
Introduction	iii
Map of Bernardo-Mentz Area	iv
Marker Dedication photo	
Marker Inscription	v
<i>History of Bernardo-Mentz</i> (Written for application for Historical Marker)	1-21
“Pilgrimage to the Past” (Presented at the marker dedication)	
“History of Mentz” (Presented at St. Roch Picnic October 1986, part of parish Texas Sesquicentennial Observance)	
“History of Mentz” (Presented at State Convention of Texas German Society, March 12, 2016)	
German News Article & Translation	
Portrait of a Descendant – John Henneke	22
Reminiscences of Isabel Weigel Woodruff	24
Mentz, Texas Memories – Marie Braden Meyer Whiteley	
Free Public Schools/St. Joseph’s School	26
Other References to Bernardo-Mentz Early Settlers and Their Descendants Miscellaneous Photographs	28
References from Germany	47-61
Marker Donors and Memorials	66
Acknowledgements/Credits	71

**Page numbers are from original booklet.*

INTRODUCTION

This booklet has been prepared for the dedication ceremonies of the Mentz-Bernardo Historical Marker. The material has been obtained from a variety of sources with the help of many people. The editor is grateful to each person who contributed in any way to the historical value of this booklet.

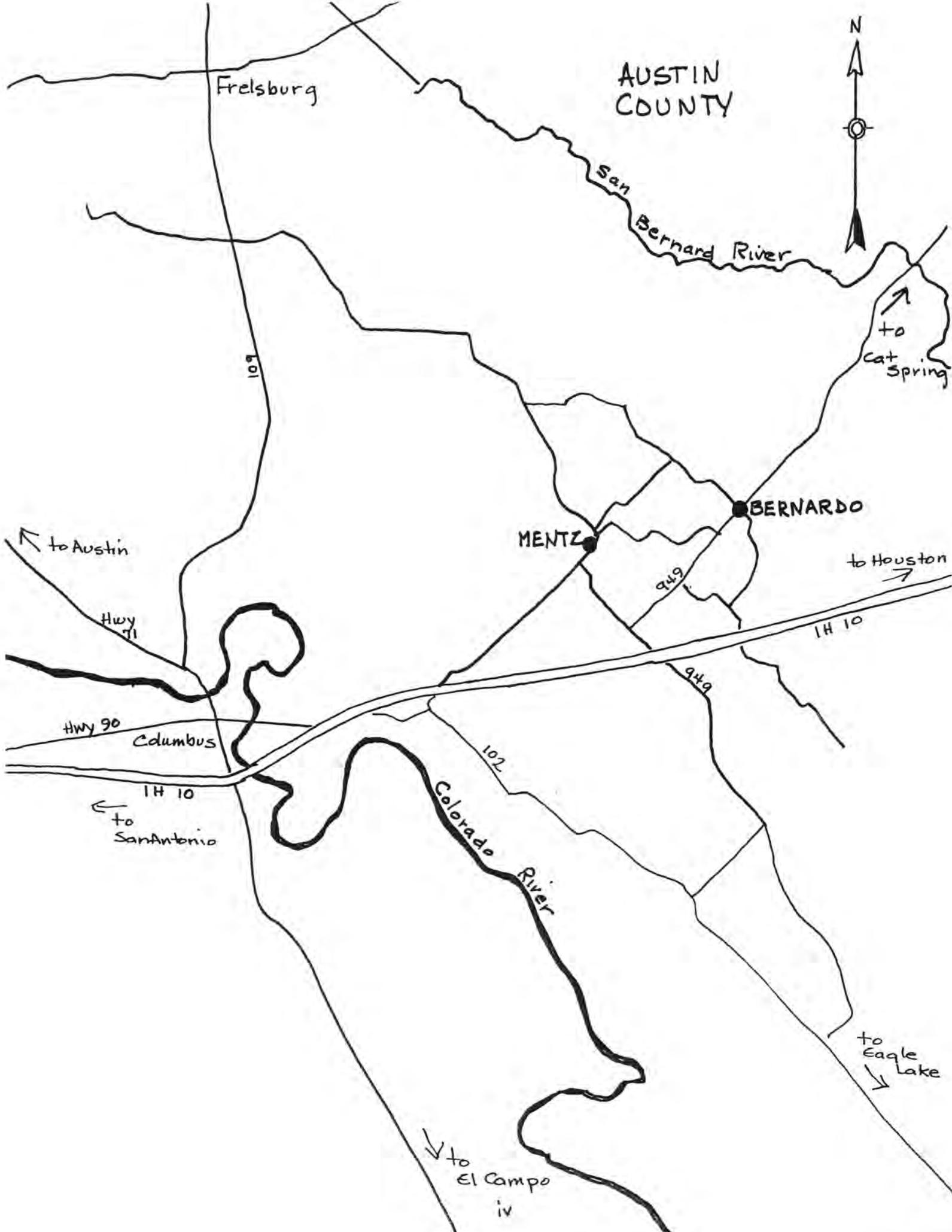
* * * * *

Not all early settlers of the Mentz-Bernardo community were German. Some were of Irish, Anglo, Czech, or Polish descent; a few were of Mexican descent. Not all of the Germans shared the Roman Catholic faith; some were members of the Lutheran congregation. Others may have been Evangelical or even freethinkers. However, a large number of families were German-Catholic. About twenty German Catholic families came to Texas during the period from 1846 to 1848 from Buedesheim, Hesse Darmstadt; at least ten of these families came to the Mentz-Bernardo area.

Buedesheim is near the historic city of Bingen on the Rhine. Near Bingen is the Rochusberg on which stands the Chapel of St. Roch. For over three-hundred years pilgrimages have been made to this chapel on August 16 in thanksgiving for the end of the plague of 1666.

In August, 1982, we, too, make a pilgrimage to St. Roch. We make the pilgrimage in memory of all the early settlers of the area-whether German or not, whether Catholic or not. We remember those who left countries which prevented them from reaching their potentials as individuals and families. This "pilgrimage to the past" gives us an opportunity to share some of the memories of the difficult, early years of struggle which formed the beginnings of the vital, productive community of Mentz-Bernardo, Texas.

Summer, 1982



Frelsburg

AUSTIN COUNTY

San Bernard River



to Cat Spring

BERNARDO

MENTZ

to Houston

to Austin

Hwy 71

Hwy 90

Columbus

IH 10

to San Antonio

IH 10

949

948

102

Colorado River

to Eagle Lake

to El Campo
iv

MARKER UNVEILING – August 14, 1982



Mary Elizabeth Hopkins, Chm., Colorado County Historical Commission
John Henneke, oldest citizen
Jerome Wicke, County Commissioner

M A R K E R I N S C R I P T I O N

MENTZ-BERNARDO COMMUNITY

AS EARLY AS THE 1830s GERMAN IMMIGRANTS HAD BEGUN TO SETTLE IN THE GENERAL VICINITY OF CAT SPRING, THEY WERE SOON JOINED BY OTHERS WHO PREFERRED THIS REGION TO THE VARIOUS SITES THAT HAD BEEN DESIGNATED FOR FORMAL COLONIZATION EFFORTS. WITH THE AREA'S CONTINUED GROWTH, THE SETTLEMENTS OF BERNARDO (4 MI. E) AND MENTZ DEVELOPED AS EARLY FOCAL POINTS OF THE SURROUNDING AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY.

THE GERMAN SETTLERS WHO FOUNDED MENTZ NAMED THE PIONEER COMMUNITY FOR AN AREA OF THEIR HOMELAND. PREDOMINATELY ROMAN CATHOLIC, THEY ESTABLISHED ST. ROCH PARISH BY 1858 UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PRIESTS FROM FRELSBURG. THE CHURCH DEVELOPED AS THE RELIGIOUS, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CENTER OF THE AREA.

BERNARDO WAS BEGUN ABOUT 1845 ON AN IMPORTANT EARLY ROUTE FROM HOUSTON TO INLAND SETTLEMENTS. BECAUSE OF ITS LOCATION ON THE PRAIRIE LAND OF THE SAN BERNARD RIVER, THE RURAL COMMUNITY WAS FIRST KNOWN AS BERNARDO PRAIRIE.

ONCE IDENTIFIED BY SEPARATE SCHOOLS AND POST OFFICES, THE TWO SETTLEMENTS NOW SHARE A COMMON LIFESTYLE AND HERITAGE, WHICH REFLECT THE CONTINUED INFLUENCE OF THE EARLY GERMAN SETTLERS. THEIR DESCENDANTS STILL LIVE IN THE MENTZ-BERNARDO COMMUNITY.

(1982)

HISTORY OF BERNARDO AND MENTZ

BACKGROUND

Rivers, creeks, and springs supply water for crops and animals as well as for personal use. Sometimes they also supply food and a means for navigation. Therefore, throughout history, man has settled near these waterways. The post oak prairies and bottom lands between the Colorado and Brazos rivers lured settlers to Texas from the time of the Austin Colony.¹ "The first settlers, who came to be known as the 'Old Three Hundred,' selected the best lands along the Brazos, Colorado, and Bernard rivers, from present Navasoto, Brenham, and La Grange to the coast."²

The section of the level region lying between the San Jacinto and Guadalupe rivers, including the lower parts of the Brazos, San Bernard, Colorado, and La Baca rivers, extends into the interior about eighty miles from the coast, in a northerly direction. This beautiful and very valuable portion of Texas as far as the La Baca, is embraced in Austin's Colony. The land is sufficiently elevated to drain easily and rapidly after heavy rains. It is entirely clear of all marsh, lakes, and overflow. The supply of pure water is sufficiently abundant in the rivers and creeks, while excellent water for domestic purposes may be obtained from wells, at a moderate depth, in every part of this territory.

The alluvial bottom lands of the Brazos, San Bernard, and Colorado, are from three to twenty miles in width. They are heavily timbered with live oak, with red, black, and other species of oak, with cedar, pecan, elm, hackberry, mulberry, and all the other varieties of forest trees and³ undergrowth common in the rich alluvions of the Mississippi.

Some of the early settlers of Texas were Germans who emigrated for a variety of reasons. Many of these immigrants found their ways to the land between the Colorado and Brazos rivers which include the present counties of Austin,

Colorado, Fayette, and Washington.⁴ Early settlers traveled the Brazos to Austin's Colony.⁵ Later travelers came by way of Galveston and Houston, traveling on the bayou. From that point ox team and horseback were the method of transportation.⁶ As part of a later organized emigration effort, others may have traveled from Galveston to Indianola and then inland.⁷

Friedrich Ernst settled near Mill Creek in present Austin County in 1831; his letters to friends encouraged others to follow him.⁸ Robert Kleberg, Ludwig von Roeder, and others settled in the Cat Spring (a spring on the Bernard River) area of Austin County 1832-34.⁹ Germans were located in Washington County by 1836; Frelsburg in Colorado County was established about 1837.¹⁰ The individuals who settled this area had come on their own. However, in 1844 Germans began to immigrate to Texas as a result of an organized colonizing effort.

In April, 1842, a group of German princes and noblemen (the number varies in different accounts from fourteen to twenty-five) met at Biebrich on the Rhine (near Mainz).¹¹ They organized the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas (Verein zum Schutze deutscher Einwanderer in Texas) later known simply as the Verein or the Mainzer Verein (Mainz Society).¹² Emigrants signed an emigration contract, paid the designated fee, and were promised certain conditions as settlers in Texas.¹³ Immigrants began to arrive in Texas in 1844; because of poor planning, inaccessibility of the land (in the Fisher-Miller Grant), lack of transportation, and a number of other reasons, few of the settlers ever made it to their final destination (now west-central counties including Kimble, Llano, Mason, Menard, San Saba, McCulloch, and Concho).¹⁴ Therefore, many of the immigrants found their ways instead to

areas already settled by others of their countrymen. Otilie Fuchs recalled,

"After we had landed [1846], it was found that reports concerning conditions for the emigrants sponsored by the Society were so discouraging that Father decided to drop out of the Society and continue the voyage on his own."¹⁵

BERNARDO

Several groups of settlers made their ways to the south bank of the San Bernard River (between Colorado and Brazos rivers) in Colorado County about 1845.¹⁶ The settlement was located about ten miles west of Cat Spring.¹⁷ "A few of the early settlers came to Texas as colonists of the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas, but they preferred to remain in this section of the state where a good number of Germans had established themselves and where the frontier conditions were not as exacting as in the Fisher and Miller Grant."¹⁸ The settlement had nothing to do with their emigration contract; the immigrants chose the area on their own.

The settlement was first known as Bernardo Prairie for its location on prairie land on the San Bernard; later it was called Bernardo.¹⁹ It was on the main road from Houston to towns and settlements inland.²⁰ As one writer describes it,

"... we lived on a small and rather secluded farm in Colorado County, Texas, at a point called Saint Bernardo (named after a river which was noted chiefly for an abundance of water when it was not needed and none at all when it was)."²¹

He also describes the Saint Bernardo with its "banks of clean white sand, set off by picturesque cottonwood trees."²² Many animals inhabited the area: ducks, geese, catfish, bear, panthers, deer, squirrels, rabbits, coons, opossum, skunks, rattlesnakes, mocassins, copperheads, scorpions, tarantulas, razorback (pigs), turkeys, prairie chickens, partridge, blackbirds, swallows, mocking birds, "Kardinals," larks, owls, crows, hawks, buzzards, bats, doves,

pigeons, and humming-birds.²³

The Bernard Prairie extending from the Brazos to the Colorado and from Catspring to Brazoria County was a ranch free for cattle and horses. Therefore, many settlers were cattle and horse raisers. Corn bread, bacon, molasses and coffee, occasional fish and venison, were the principal food of the pioneers. In 1856 the settlers had better vegetable gardens and orchards and more milk, butter, and cheese.²⁴

"The various German settlements between the lower Brazos and Colorado rivers were little more than loose agglomerations of farms, with unpopulated areas between the various communities."²⁵ "We lived far apart [1855]; there was neither school nor church, and indeed, but little chance for communication or association of any kind."²⁶ The homes of the time and area were those generally described as "dog-run" houses.

There was an old double log house reenforced with clay, and without windows. There was the usual passage between the two doors opening into the two rooms, if they may be so dignified.

The walls were made of clay and straw and gravel, probably of the adobe character, with porches, no doubt to protect the walls rather than the inmates from wind and weather. Perhaps two bed rooms and a common sitting and dining room, with a fireplace large enough to take the common hickory or oak logs, of which we had an abundance; and, finally, a board lean-to kitchen.

Later we used the house for storing corn on one side and as shelter for horses on the other.

From it [the house] opened out the customary cornfield, just beyond the very rare, but rather complete vegetable garden, all surrounded with the old-fashioned and picturesque zigzag rail fence, which has played so unique a part in the romance of our political history.

The well under the trees from which we drew our water supply looked cool and fresh in its natural setting.²⁷

Bernardo had its own post office from 1875 to 1917. Postmasters and dates of service are as follows:²⁸

Bernardo Prairie

Antone Braden Jr., January 7, 1875
Andrew McBride, August 13, 1888
Anton Braden Jr., June 17, 1889
Andrew McBride, March 8, 1890
Discontinued August 20, 1898, papers to Mentz

Bernardo

Emilie Franz, December 13, 1898
Shad T. Colley, September 13, 1900
Herman Weigel, December 10, 1909
Willie L. Reitz, August 29, 1912
Louis Witte, April 26, 1913
Eddy A. Hemske? Jr., October 29, 1915
Discontinued January 31, 1917, moved to Cat Spring

The 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses of Colorado County list many German family names in the Bernard Prairie area. The 1850 census shows no distinction between the various settlements; the designation "Colorado sub-division" is used throughout. In the later census records the post office or sub-division is indicated: Bernard Prairie, Frelsburg, Alleyton, Eagle Lake, etc. The sub-division varies for the same family even though it may not have moved because of the change of post office and/or justice precinct.²⁹ Names appearing on the 1850 census include

Berchhel (Burtschell)
Broad (Brod)
Braden
Calden
Fichen
Frey
Henneke
Hageman
Heinsohn
Himli (Himley)
Kuhn
Meismer
Miller
Norndorf (Neuendorff)
Nagel
Oker
Ramsel
Rhode
Spink
Stole
Walter
Wisehuhn (Weishuhn)
Weigel
Wink

Biesele, in his book The German Settlements in Texas, 1831-1861, lists the following as living in the Bernardo area at the time of the 1860 census:³⁰

Charles Benzung [Belsung?]
A. Braden
Robert Denisch (Dehnisch)
Anth. Geistmann
Wm. Goedke (Gaedeke)
F. W. Hengst
Alex Himley
H. E. Jordt
Franz Kortzbue (Kotzebue)
F. Kornsteiner (Kansteiner)
Ludwig Litzmar [Litzmann?]
Jacob Marz (Merz) [Maerz?]
J. B. Neihus (Neihaus)
Franz Ordner
F. Pesserchek
Charles Reichard (Reichart)
B. Schiller
F. Schiller
Stephen Schimera
John Schaberda
John Weigel
J. Wilburg

Charles Nagel, in his book A Boy's Civil War Story, mentions Himley, Litzman, and Reichart as neighbors.³¹ The 1860 and 1870 censuses list other family names in addition to those on the 1850 census: Barton, Bertram, Dorea, Elberfelt, Franz, Frick, Grabow, Miekow, Stock, Wendel, Becker, Foster, and Tanhauser.³²

Many of the settlers from the Bernardo area are also named in the history or minutes of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society established in 1856. Early members included the following with the year of settlement in the area:³³

Andreas Braden (Bernardo) 1848
Georg. Brune (Bernardo) 1840
Dittman (Bernardo) 1849
Henry Dittmar (Cat Spring-Bernardo) 1851
Adolf Fuchs (Cat Spring-Bernardo)
Alexander Himley (Cat Spring-Bernardo) 1848
Carl Johse (Cat Spring-Millheim-Bernardo) 1840's
Franz Koy (Bernardo) 1853
Kretzschmar (Bernard area) 1857
Herman Nagel (Cat Spring-Bernardo) 1847
Arnold Prause (Bernardo) 1860

Reibenstein (Cat Spring-Bernardo) 1859
Carl Reichardt (Bernard area) 1850
John Salomon (Cat Spring-Bernardo) 1855
Trenckmann (Cat Spring-Bernardo) 1853

Arthur L. Schuette taught in the Bernardo school (he uses the term San Bernard) from 1913-1915. He later taught at Bachelor Hill (in the Mentz area) and Cat Spring. He kept written records of his experience including the names of his pupils at each school. The following names appear on his record for the years at Bernardo: Prause, Reinhardt, Reichardt, Uhlig, Tipp, Kveton, Bubak, Kansteiner, Meissner, Sens, and Eckardt.³⁴

MENTZ

Mentz is a rural community in Colorado County which was settled by German immigrants who named the settlement for their former homeland in Germany.³⁵ It was evidently first named Neu or New Mainz as this name appears on some of the tombstones in the St. Roch Catholic cemetery and on some church records. Many of the settlers came to Texas under the auspices of the Mainzer Verein (Mainz Society).³⁶ At least two groups of these settlers came from the village of Buedesheim (now Bingen-Buedesheim) near Bingen on the Rhine.³⁷ Bingen is about fifteen miles west of Mainz (also called Mentz).³⁸ At the time of emigration, Buedesheim was in the grand-duchy of Hesse-Darmstadt.³⁹ It is now in Rhineland Palatinate.⁴⁰

Many of these early settlers were of the Roman Catholic faith. Some of their early records have been located in the Catholic church of Bingen-Buedesheim and in the records of the Diocese of Mainz, Germany.⁴¹ Early Texas church records for the Catholic families in the Mentz, Bernard, and Cat Spring areas are located in the Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Frelsburg, Colorado

County, which dates back to 1836.⁴² A small log church had been constructed and services were held by a visiting missionary priest, Father J. A. Jacob, until 1847.⁴³ The parish was established in 1847 under the guidance of Father Jacob. Father T. Anstalt succeeded him the following year.⁴⁴ In February, 1854, Father Victor Gury was appointed to take charge and he remained until April 1887.⁴⁵ Father Gury also filled the office of Vicar-General of the Galveston Diocese, with Father Peter Tarrillian assisting him in his many and various duties.⁴⁶ The names of Father Jacobs, Father Joseph Anstalt (Anstaett), Father Gury, and Father Tarrillian (Tarrillion) appear on the records of those Bernardo area settlers.⁴⁷

As early as 1850 (some records are dated 1847) the Very Reverend Victor Gury and Father Charles Tarrillion came through the woods on horseback from Frelsburg to tend to the spiritual needs of the settlers of Mentz.⁴⁸ Holy Mass was first said in private homes, but the people, ever mindful of their spiritual needs, built a small church which was completed in 1858.⁴⁹ Families in the vicinity of Cat Spring were also involved in the formation of the church. One family history includes the following paragraph:

They [Franz Glueck family] settled and farmed in Austin County, about one half mile north of what is now the site of the old town of Cat Spring, Texas. Shortly after they came [1853] they were instrumental in starting the first Catholic Church in their community, by holding services in their home. The church building⁵⁰ was later erected at Mentz Settlement, near Alleyton, Texas.

The same history also mentions that one daughter of the Franz Glueck family, Pauline, and her husband Andreas Braden, Jr., "helped to build the first St. Rochus Church at Mentz and were charter members there."⁵¹

The settlers had named their community for their homeland; they also named

their church with the homeland in mind. Near Bingen, Germany, to the south-east, is the Rochusberg on which stands the celebrated chapel of St. Roch.⁵² The Mentz church is also named St. Roch (also called St. Rochus and St. Roche's). St. Roch, Confessor, was a citizen of Montpellier in France in the 14th century. He devoted his life to the service of the plague-stricken. He was a pilgrim who laboured for the sick, especially in Italy. St. Roch, whose feast day is August 16, is invoked as a protector against pestilence. The Latin form of his name is Rochus.⁵³

In 1857 Franz Burtschell, one of the early settlers from Buedesheim, deeded to R. R. Bishop John M. Odin, Roman Catholic Bishop of Galveston, a parcel of land containing 4 3/4 acres.⁵⁴ For this land Burtschell received one dollar. The condition: "that the tract of land is to be used for the purpose of erecting a church thereon as also with the privilege of erecting a parsonage & school buildings on the same for the use and benefit of the Roman Catholic community residing in the Bernard settlements in said county [Colorado County]."⁵⁵ The tract was part of the Frank Burtschell home-stead tract.

Frank Burtschell had immigrated to Texas in 1846 with his parents, brothers, and sisters. As one of the pioneers of Colorado County,

"he took up a tract of wild land in the vicinity of Mentz, and at once began the task of clearing and improving a homestead. ...he suffered the hardships and privations of life in a new country.... There being no railways in this section of the state, all of the surplus products of the little farm which he improved had to be marketed in Houston or Brownsville, the round trip often taking several weeks to accomplish. He made the journey with ox-teams, going heavily loaded, and coming back with a large stock of goods for home use, and also for the merchants of the town. A man of industry and perseverance, he was exceedingly prosperous...."⁵⁶

The Catholic community of Mentz grew so rapidly that in 1867 plans were under way to build a larger church.⁵⁷ The people themselves built most of the church, giving of their spare time and hauling stone on wagons drawn by oxen.⁵⁸ The report of Claude M. Dubuis, Bishop of Galveston, to Archbishop Odin on January 2, 1866, refers to this new church.⁵⁹

At New-Mentz in Colorado County I blessed the cornerstone of a new stone building to be seventy-six by forty feet. The people had collected one hundred and fifty dollars in cash.

When the stone church was completed in 1871, the parish received its first resident pastor, Father John Neimer (Weimer?).⁶⁰ The parish prospered until the stone church was destroyed by fire in 1940.⁶¹ The present church was built in 1941 under the leadership of Father Francis Klass.⁶²

Early records of the parish include the following priests's names: Rev. James Dum, 1888; Rev. A. Heuchemer, 1889; Rev. C. Preis, 1890-91; Rev. Simon Spinneweber, 1892-94; Rev. C. Preker, 1895-96; and Rev. Simon Spinneweber, 1897-99.⁶³ The church report for 1875-76? was signed by John Neimer; the church is identified as New Mainz, St. Roche.⁶⁴ There were seventy-one families of 375 members.⁶⁵ In 1884 the church is identified as St. Rochus Church I, Bernardo, Colorado Co., Tex; there is no signature.⁶⁶ Part of the report accounts for 368 bushels of corn for the horse which had been given by the congregation from 1876-1884.⁶⁷

Rev. Geo. Berberich was pastor in 1911 and 1915.⁶⁸ His 1911 report identifies the church as St. Roche's, (Mentz), Cat Springs, Texas.⁶⁹ In 1915 the heading was St. Roch Church, Mentz, Texas.⁷⁰ In 1911 the congregation numbered ninety-three families with 369 members.⁷¹ There was also a St. Rochus society with forty-five members and an Altar Society with forty-three members.⁷² Catechism was taught at both Mentz and Bernardo each week.⁷³ The congregation numbered

291 communicants in 1915.⁷⁴ St. Rochus Society had forty-three members, and the Altar Society had thirty-five members.⁷⁵

For a period of time, there were Catholic schools at both Mentz and Bernardo. The history of the schools is found in the archives of the Sisters of Divine Providence who staffed both schools as well as in the church reports.⁷⁶

In 1872, Reverend Father Gury, missionary of the district, in which Bernardo or Mentz is located, applied for Sisters to teach a parochial school at Bernardo, now called Mentz. With the sanction of Right Reverend Claude M. Dubuis, Bishop of Galveston, Reverend Mother St. Andrew sent two Sisters from the Mother House then located at Castroville, Texas, to open school, October 1872 [at St. Roch's, Mentz, Texas].

This was one of the oldest schools of the Sisters of Divine Providence, but owing to the moving of many of the settlers, the school had a poor attendance.

The school was under the direction of the parish priest, and the property and building was owned by the parish. It was closed in June 1916, on account of the small Catholic population.

Bernardo Prairie, Texas is a German settlement four miles from Mentz, Texas. As early as 1872, Sisters were sent there to teach by Mother St. Andrew, Superior General of the Sisters of Divine Providence. Sister Mary Paul Keller was the foundress of this school.

In 1911, the school [St. Joseph's School] was annexed to Mentz; the latter becoming a Local House.

Since the church was located at some distance from the school and the Catholic population was small, Rt. Rev. Nicholas A. Gallagher, Bishop of Galveston, advised Reverend Mother Florence to recall the Sisters from Bernardo Prairie, for they were deprived of daily Mass and Holy Communion. They were recalled in the spring of 1912.

The number of students at St. Roch's School averaged about seventy from the opening until about 1907. From that date until it closed, the school had an average of thirty pupils.⁷⁷ St. Joseph's School had about the same number of students (seventy) until 1906. Until its closing in 1912, it averaged about

forty.⁷⁸ According to the parish report for 1884, the "new Schoolhouse in the prairie 3 miles from Church" was built at a cost of \$350.00 and paid by congregation from private Collection.⁷⁹ The lumber for "a new Schoolhouse on the church ground 24' x 40' ten feet gallery" cost \$300.00 of which \$200.00 was paid by the sisters of Divine Providence.⁸⁰ The number of sisters stationed at Mentz varied from three to four in the early years with two sisters in charge 1899-1916.⁸¹ St. Joseph's had three sisters during four school terms; the other years two sisters were stationed at Bernardo.⁸²

The first baptism record in the books of the St. Roch Church is dated 26 Feb. 1860. The baptism is that of Peter Mertz, son of Jacob Mertz and Caroline Schittn?. The first marriage listed is that of Max Kuh (Kuhn?) and Rosina Vink (Wink?). It was performed by (Rev. Peter) Tarrillion on 28 May 1860. The first death record is that of Johannes Brod. The date is not clear; it appears to be 21 May 1861.⁸³

The following families were named in parish records 1860-63:⁸⁴

Mr. and Mrs. John Braden
Mr. and Mrs. Anton Brod
Mr. and Mrs. Franz Burtschell
Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Jakel
Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Mertz
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Stock

The names of Adam Braden, Anton Braden, Jr., and Jacob Brod appear as witnesses to the erection of the crossway of the church with its indulgences according to the rites of the Roman Rituale on May 18, 1872, by John Neimer.⁸⁵ The parish location is given as New Mainz, Bernarde, Colorado County, Texas. The notation "St. Rochus (commonly called Bernard)" is included.⁸⁶

The large crucifix statue in the cemetery includes a list of fifteen names

with the inscription Er Starb Fuer Mich Gegrundet in Jahre 1906 (He died for me Founded in Year 1906).⁸⁷

Joh. Braden Sr.
And. Braden
J. Wicke
L. Rolf
Ant. Burtschell
L. Wink
F. Wendel
F. Weber
H. Witte Jr.
J. O. Reitz
H. F. Reitz
F. M. Burtschell
P. B. Wendel
J. A. Mertz
F. Kainer Sr.

Mentz had its own post office for a short period of time. Joseph Burtschell was postmaster beginning January 17, 1889; the post office was discontinued and moved to Alleyton December 29, 1896.⁸⁸ Anton Burtschell was postmaster beginning December 4, 1897.⁸⁹ The post office was discontinued January 15, 1913, and moved to Alleyton.⁹⁰ The post office was in a store owned by Anton Burtschell which was near the church.⁹¹

Some of the students living in the Mentz-Bernardo area attended school at Bachelor Hill (between Mentz and New Ulm). Names of students of Arthur L. Schuette from 1915-17 and 1918-1921 were Braden, Dunlevy, Meyer, Williams, Berger, Shamberger, Hennecke, Brod, Streicher, Hill, Kuhn, Grabow, Schmidt, Ritter, Iselt, Buecherman, and Gruesen.⁹²

Many descendants of the original settlers still live in the Bernardo-Mentz area, some on or near the land of their forefathers. Farming and cattle raising are still the main businesses of the German-Texans. The German language can still be heard in some conversations.

FOOTNOTES

¹Terry Jordan, German Seed in Texas Soil, pp. 22-24; Institute of Texas Cultures, The German Texans, not numbered; National Genealogical Inquirer (Vol. 3, No.4) p. 220; Lonn Taylor, Texas Germans-A Bibliography, not numbered; Lonn Taylor and David Warren, Texas Furniture, p. 30.

²Carlos E. Castenada, Our Catholic Heritage in Texas, Vol. VI, p. 195.

³Mattie Austin Hatcher, Letters of an Early American Traveller, pp. 126-127.

⁴Robert Shook, "German Migration to Texas," Texana (Vol. X, No. 3, 1972) p. 230; Lonn Taylor and David B. Warren, pp. 30-33; Taylor, Texas Germans, not numbered; Jordan, pp. 41, 52-54; John Williams, "The German Experience," Lower Colorado River Review (2nd. Qtr., 1978) p. 14; Otto Tetzlaff, The Emigrant to Texas, p. 58; Institute of Texas Cultures, not numbered; Glen Lich and Dona Reeves, German Culture in Texas, Chronology, not numbered, p.204; The Texas Almanac for 1859, "Colorado County," pp. 170-171.

⁵Hatcher, p. 176.

⁶Charles Nagel, A Boy's Civil War Story, p. 72; Otilie Goeth, Memoirs of a Texas Pioneer Grandmother, p. 19.

⁷Chester W. and Ethel H. Geue, A New Land Beckoned, pp. 6-7; Ethel H. Geue, New Homes in a New Land, p. 15.

⁸Shook, p. 230; Francis E. Abernathy, "A Look at Texas-German Folklore," German Culture in Texas, p. 204; Gilbert Benjamin, Germans in Texas, pp. 16-17.

⁹Benjamin, pp. 16-17; Geue, New Homes in a New Land, p. 3; Abernathy, p. 204.

¹⁰Geue, New Homes, p. 3; Rudolph Bieseles, The History of German Settlements in Texas, 1831-1861, p. 51; Shook, p. 242; Abernathy, p. 204.

¹¹Geue, New Homes, p. 12; Tetzlaff, p. 2; Institute of Texas Cultures; Benjamin, pp. 31-33; Shook, p. 230-231; Glen E. Lich, "Goethe on the Guadalupe," German Culture in Texas, p. 35; Otto Tetzlaff, "A Guide for German Immigrants," Rice University Studies (Summer, 1977) p. 13.

¹²Geue, New Homes, p. 12; Institute of Texas Cultures; Benjamin, pp. 31-33.

¹³Geue, A New Land Beckoned, pp. 3-15.

¹⁴Geue, A New Land, pp. 3-15; Tetzlaff, The Emigrant to Texas, pp. 2-3; Jordan, pp. 41-47.

¹⁵Goeth, p. 19.

¹⁶Shook, p. 242.

¹⁷Bieseles, p. 55.

¹⁸Ibid.

- ¹⁹ Handbook of Texas, Vol. I., p. 150.
- ²⁰ Crystal Ragsdale, The Golden Free Land, p. 84, #14.
- ²¹ Nagel, p. 1.
- ²² Ibid.
- ²³ Ibid., pp. 14-17.
- ²⁴ Adalbert Regenbrecht, "The German Settlers of Millheim Before the Civil War," The Southwestern Historical Quarterly, Vol. XX (July, 1916) No. 1, pp.29-30.
- ²⁵ Jordan, pp. 94-95.
- ²⁶ Nagel, p. 35.
- ²⁷ Nagel, pp. 19-20; the same type of house and fence is described by Louise Romberg Fuchs in The Golden Free Land, pp. 66-67; the Romberg family lived on the Austin County side of the Bernard River.
- ²⁸ Jim Wheat, Postmasters and Post Offices of Texas, not numbered; Karl M. Conrad, Postmasters and Post Offices of the Tenth Congressional District of Texas, p. 68. (some dates vary in the two sources)
- ²⁹ Microfilm census records, Colorado County, Texas, 1850, 1860, 1870.
- ³⁰ Biesele, p. 55.
- ³¹ Nagel, pp. 39.
- ³² Census, Colorado County, Texas, 1860, 1870.
- ³³ Cat Spring Agricultural Society, Cat Spring Story, pp. 28-84.
- ³⁴ Hand written report by Arthur L. Schuette, in possession of Mrs. Arthur L. Schuette, El Campo, Texas. *
- ³⁵ Handbook of Texas, Vol. II., p. 174.
- ³⁶ Emigration records of Lucas Burtschell and others; Geue, A New Land, passenger lists.
- ³⁷ Passenger lists from Archives of Koblenz, Germany; passenger lists in Verein Collection, University of Texas; correspondence with Diocese of Mainz; correspondence with Catholic priest of Bingen-Buedesheim; current map of area. The following sailed from Buedesheim in 1845: C. Deutsch, J. Frey, P. Frey, P. J. Frey, C. Rothemer, J. Rothemer, J. Schmitt, III, Lud. Wink, P.J. Wendel, L. Burtschell, Ant. Braden, Ad. Braden, J.B. Braden. These sailed in 1848: G. P. Wink, Jean Wink, P. Frey, A. Schmitt, G. J. Braden, A. Lamby, R. Poth, And. Braden, P. Maerz, L. Wink.
- ³⁸ New-Americanized Encyclopedia Britannica, p. 964.

- ³⁹Ibid.
- ⁴⁰Current map of Germany.
- ⁴¹Correspondence with Diocese of Mainz and Catholic priest in Bingen-Buedesheim.
- ⁴²Copies of selected pages from church book of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Frelsburg, Colorado County, Texas; original in Catholic Archives, Austin, Texas; copies in Colorado County Archives, Courthouse, Columbus, Texas, and in possession of Mrs. James Hopkins, Garwood, Texas.
- ⁴³Diocese of Galveston, Centennial Book, Sts. Peter and Paul, Frelsburg, not numbered.
- ⁴⁴Ibid.
- ⁴⁵Ibid.
- ⁴⁶Ibid.
- ⁴⁷Copies of Frelsburg church books.
- ⁴⁸Diocese of Galveston, Centennial Book, St. Roche, Mentz, not numbered.
- ⁴⁹Ibid.
- ⁵⁰David Smalley, Glueck Family Record, p. 6.
- ⁵¹Ibid., p. 37.
- ⁵²New-Americanized Encyclopedia Britannica, p. 964.
- ⁵³Benedictine Monks, The Book of Saints, p. 611; Rev. Alban Butler, Lives of the Saints, p. 937.
- ⁵⁴Deed, Franz Burtschell to John M. Odin, Colorado County, Deed Book J, #1234, 22 July, 1857.
- ⁵⁵Ibid.
- ⁵⁶Twentieth Century History of Southwest Texas, Vol. II, pp. 366-367.
- ⁵⁷Diocese of Galveston, St. Roche.
- ⁵⁸Ibid.
- ⁵⁹Sister M. Generosa Callahan, C.D.P., The History of the Sisters of Divine Providence, p. 6.
- ⁶⁰Diocese of Galveston, St. Roche.
- ⁶¹Ibid.

- ⁶²Ibid.
- ⁶³Sister M. Dolores Kasner, O.P., Archivist, Catholic Archives, Austin, Texas, summary report from St. Roch records.
- ⁶⁴Copy, 1875-76? parish report, St. Roch Church, Galveston Diocese Archives.
- ⁶⁵Ibid.
- ⁶⁶Copy, 1884 St. Roch Church report, Catholic Archives.
- ⁶⁷Ibid.
- ⁶⁸Copies, 1911 and 1915 church reports, Galveston Archives.
- ⁶⁹1911 church report.
- ⁷⁰1915 church report.
- ⁷¹1911 church report.
- ⁷²Ibid.
- ⁷³Ibid.
- ⁷⁴1915 church report.
- ⁷⁵Ibid.
- ⁷⁶Archives, Sisters of Divine Providence; Archives, Galveston Diocese, church report; Catholic Archives, Austin, summary and church report.
- ⁷⁷Ibid.
- ⁷⁸Ibid.
- ⁷⁹1884 parish report, Catholic Archives, Austin.
- ⁸⁰Ibid.
- ⁸¹Archives, Sisters of Divine Providence.
- ⁸²Ibid.
- ⁸³St. Roch Church books, Father Bernard Snock, Frydek, Texas; copies of first page of baptism, marriage, and death.
- ⁸⁴Sister M. Dolores Kasner.
- ⁸⁵St. Roch Church Book I. The term "crossway" refers to the Way of the Cross.
- ⁸⁶Ibid.

⁸⁷ Personal visit to cemetery to copy names; photograph.

⁸⁸ Wheat, not numbered; Conrad, p. 69.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ Personal recollection of Mrs. W. P. Treybig (Pauline Hennecke) who grew up in the Mentz-Bernardo area, presently living in El Campo, Texas.

⁹² Schuette.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Published Material

- Abernathy, Francis E., "A Look at Texas-German Folklore," German Culture in Texas. Boston: Twayne Publishing Co., 1980.
- Benedictine Monks of St. Augustine's Abbey, Ramsgate. The Book of Saints. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, Co., 1966.
- Benjamin, Gilbert Giddings. The Germans in Texas. Austin: Jenkins Publishing Co., 1974. (original copyright, 1910)
- Biesele, Rudolf L. The History of German Settlements in Texas, 1831-1861. Austin: Von Boeckmann-Jones, 1930.
- Butler, Rev. Alban. Lives of the Saints. Chicago: The Catholic Press, Inc., 1956.
- Callahan, Sister M. Generosa. The History of the Sisters of Divine Providence. Milwaukee: Bruce Press, Catholic Life Publications, 1955.
- Castenada, Carlos E. Our Catholic Heritage in Texas. New York: Arno Press, 1976.
- Cat Spring Agricultural Society. The Cat Spring Story. San Antonio: Lone Star Printing Co., 1956.
- Conrad, Karl M., ed. Postmasters and Post Offices of the Tenth Congressional District of Texas. Bicentennial Post Office Historical Advisory Commission, 1976.
- Diocese of Galveston, Centennial Book, 1947.
- DePuy, W.H., ed. New-Americanized Encyclopedia Britannica. Chicago: Geo. M. Hill Co., 1899.
- Geue, Chester W. and Ethel H. A New Land Beckoned. Waco: Texian Press, 1966.
- _____, Ethel Hander. New Homes in a New Land. Waco: Texian Press, 1970.
- Goeth, Otilie. Memoirs of a Texas Pioneer Grandmother. (trans. by Irma Goeth Guenther) Austin, 1969.
- Hatcher, Mattie Austin. Letters of an Early American Traveller. Dallas: Southwest Press, 1933.
- Institute of Texas Cultures. The German Texans. San Antonio: Encino Press, 1970.
- Jordan, Terry G. German Seed in Texas Soil. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1966.
- Lich, Glen E. "Goethe on the Guadalupe," German Culture in Texas. Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1980.

- Lich, Glen E. and Dona B. Reeves, eds. German Culture in Texas. Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1980.
- Nagel, Charles. A Boy's Civil War Story. Philadelphia: Dorrance and Company, 1937.
- National Genealogical Inquirer, Vol. 3 (Winter, 1979).
- Ragsdale, Crystal Sasse. The Golden Free Land. Austin: Landmark Press, 1976.
- Regenbrecht, Adalbert. "The German Settlers of Millheim Before the Civil War," The Southwestern Historical Quarterly, Vol XX (July, 1916) pp. 28-34.
- Shook, Robert W., "German Migration to Texas," Texana Vol X (1972) pp. 226-243.
- Smalley, David. Glueck Family Record. 1953, privately published.
- Taylor, Lon, compiler. Texas Germans--A Bibliography. Round Top: The University of Texas at Austin Winedale Museum, 1974.
- Taylor, Lon and David B. Warren. Texas Furniture. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1975.
- Tetzlaff, Otto, ed. The Emigrant to Texas. Burnet: Eakin Publishers, 1979. (translation of 1846 Handbook and Guide)
- _____, "A Guide for German Immigrants," Rice University Studies (Summer, 1977) pp. 13-19.
- Twentieth Century History of Southwest Texas. Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1907.
- Webb, Walter Prescott and H. Bailey Carroll, eds. The Handbook of Texas. Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1952.
- Wheat, Jim, compiler. Postmasters and Post Offices of Texas, 1846-1930, n.p., n.d.
- Williams, John, "The German Experience," Lower Colorado River Review 2nd. Qtr. (1978) pp. 13-20.

Archival Records

- Kasner, Sister M. Dolores, O.P., Archivist, Catholic Archives of Texas, Summary Report of St. Roch Catholic Church, Mentz.
- Catholic Archives of Texas, Church books, Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Frelsburg, Texas.
- Catholic Archives of Texas, 1884 St. Roch Church Report.
- Galveston Diocese, St. Roch Church Reports, 1875-76?, 1911, 1915.

Koblenz, Germany, Archives, Emigration records for Buedesheim.

Sisters of Divine Providence, History of Schools staffed by the order,
San Antonio Archives.

University of Texas, passenger lists in Verein Collection.

Miscellaneous Records

Cemetery-St. Roch Catholic Church, Mentz, Texas.

Census records-microfilm, Colorado County, 1850, 1860, 1870.

Church books-St. Roch Catholic Church, copies, first page of baptisms,
marriages, and deaths.

Correspondence with Diocese of Mainz, Germany, Braden and Burtschell records.

Correspondence with priest in Bingen-Buedesheim, Germany, Braden and
Burtschell records.

Deed Book J, Colorado County, No. 1234, Franz Burttschell and wife to
John M. Odin.

Maps of Buedesheim area, Germany.

Personal recollection: Mrs. W.P. Treybig, El Campo, Texas, 1981.

Schuette, Arthur L., Handwritten record of teaching experiences in Bernardo-
Mentz area.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE PAST

In order to help a younger person to appreciate what he or she has now, we often tell him or her about the difficulties of the "old days." Sometimes we even exaggerate a bit in order to make a stronger impression. This afternoon I want to talk briefly about the "old days." Since I have been reading about the settlement of this area, I have gained a better understanding and appreciation of my heritage.

We often base our picture of the past on movies, TV, or adventure stories. We may think how thrilling everything was and how great it must have been to have lived in the early days. Generally these images are only of the exciting times and not of the day-by-day struggles of the individuals and families. I would like to share with you some of the struggles described in accounts of individuals and groups in the 1830's and 40's. My own ancestors did not leave written records-or at least I have not found any. These reflections are based on writings of others who lived in this general area during the period in which some of our ancestors settled here. Some of you may have heard the same kinds of stories from your parents or grandparents. Since stories like these appear in many sources, I am afraid they are not exaggerations.

To understand their struggles in Texas, we need to consider the life our ancestors left. The large central European area we think of as Germany consisted of villages, towns, and cities that were hundreds of years old. Some families had lived in the same area for generations; perhaps they had never traveled more than ten miles from their home. Most of the towns and cities had public buildings of some kind, schools, churches, and shops. The larger cities also had universities, theaters, and factories; there was rail travel in some areas. Many of the people were very educated and cultured-speaking and reading several languages, playing musical instruments, and enjoying the theater.

There were many reasons why people emigrated-but basically for personal freedom and a new and better life for themselves and their children. Even though their society was an old, developed one, it had many problems. So, hearing and reading that Texas was a great, golden land, they left the life they had known and understood for generations, traveled to a sea port, and boarded a sailing ship. The trips to Texas usually lasted two to three months, or more, depending on the weather. A hundred or more people, perhaps a third of them children, spent most of the time in the steerage of the ship; some were seasick the entire time. Some died and were buried at sea.

In the early 30's Galveston island was still inhabited by Indians or otherwise unsuitable for landing so the ships usually landed first at New Orleans. From there the emigrants boarded another ship for Brazoria or Velasco, or they may have traveled up the Buffalo Bayou to the small settlement of Harrisburg. Houston did not exist until after the Texas Revolution. The emigrants then sailed up the Brazos or traveled by ox-cart from Harrisburg to the Austin Colony area-a distance of about fifty miles. San Felipe (near Sealy), was the center of Austin's Colony and was then at the edge of civilization. In later years ships landed at Galveston and Indianola; from those ports the immigrants traveled inland.

The emigrants had left an old, settled society and found themselves on a frontier still inhabited by Indians, buffalo, and other wild animals. There were few roads, almost no bridges, great distances between inhabited areas, and few population centers. If they traveled during a rainy season, they were slowed down for days or weeks by muddy trails and swollen rivers. In the winter time, the immigrants were often surprised and hampered by the "northers." Because of the great distances between settlements, they had to take with them the goods, food, and implements they needed for survival.

These pioneers had to secure and clear land, build shelters, hunt for meat, and use native plants until they could obtain seed to plant. Some of the settlers were trained in other professions than farming so they did not have the skills needed for this kind of survival. They did not know how to build a log house or make any of the items they needed; some had never done any manual labor. Since many of the emigrants had come from a different climate in Europe, the clothing they had brought with them was not suitable for the hot, humid summers and generally mild winters. Cloth was expensive, if available, and many women did not know how to spin and weave. If shoes wore out, the people went without shoes or wore moccasins. One family in the early 30's lived in a straw and moss hut for three years, afraid to light the fire inside for fear the hut would burn. They held umbrellas over their heads at night when it rained; the animals ate the moss and straw. Some early log houses had no ceilings or floors. Even the emigrant farmers had to adjust to different kinds of farming methods and different kinds of crops. Their home in Germany may have been several generations old so that they had never built a house of any kind themselves, much less a log cabin.

There were few if any mills for making flour; corn bread became the daily bread stuff. In Germany corn had been considered food for the livestock. In Texas some of the earliest German settlers ate dry corn bread three times a day for months-cooked in an iron skillet over an open fire. Black coffee completed the meal; there were few cows for milk, cream, and butter.

Doctors and medicines were scarce also. Accidents, illnesses, and epidemics took many lives. A close study of names and dates on tombstones or a reading of the church burial records tells of several deaths in the same family only days apart. In one family three sons died in five days. In another family the father, mother, and a daughter died in a two month period.

Many had left Germany to escape the wars and military conscription. Some settlers had just begun to become adjusted when the Texas Revolution began. They left everything to flee before the invading Mexican army and the marauding Indians. When they returned months later, they found most of their possessions burned or destroyed. They had to start all over again with less than they had before. In 1846 the United States entered into a war with Mexico; the wagons and teams that were to be used to carry immigrants to new homes were used by the United States army. As a result, immigrants were stranded at Indianola; many died.

When the War Between the States broke out, some settlers had been in Texas for twenty years or more. The Mentz-Bernardo voting precinct voted against secession, but the issue carried in the state. The settlers had left a Germany that was divided into many kingdoms, duchies, and principalities; they felt a unified country was necessary. They had pledged loyalty to the United States government when they became citizens and feared separation from the federal government. However, they had also helped to settle Texas and considered themselves loyal to their state so many of the men fought for the South. Others made their ways to the North and fought for the Union. Still others were able to maintain some kind of neutrality. They lived through the difficult days of Reconstruction and were prospering when WWI broke out. Again they had to prove that their loyalty to their state and country was not divided even though they still spoke the German language and followed German traditions.

The settlers had left a civilized world and had come to a frontier. They had left a life with wars and military duty and lived through more wars. They faced

daily challenges that were entirely new to them. To our benefit, however, they had courage and determination or, at least, a need for survival. They built homes, schools, and churches. They organized bands and social clubs. They acquired land, raised cattle, and developed prosperous farms. They remained loyal to their new home, and we now enjoy the great, golden land that they had sought.

I think it is appropriate that many of the early settlers lie in the cemetery nearby. In this way they remain a part of the community which they settled but probably wouldn't quite recognize and would certainly marvel at. They might regret that the school is gone, but I have a feeling they would be proud of the Bernardo Bears baseball team. I think that they would enjoy the crowds and excitement of the church and Firemen picnics and that they would appreciate the fact that their descendants still attend St. Roch's church. Most of all, I think many would enjoy the music from the dances in the hall.

So, when you visit the cemetery or visit the old "home place," remember some of the struggles as well as the good times. The historical marker we dedicate today is one way we can say "thank you" for both.

HISTORY OF MENTZ

(Prepared for St. Roch Church picnic, October, 1986)

By the end of the 1830's, three small German settlements formed a triangle around this area: Industry, Frelsburg, and Cat Spring. They were settled by individuals or family groups. The first large group of settlers came to the Mentz area about 1846. They were part of a colonizing effort by a group of German nobles which was called The Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas. They originally had planned to settle in an uninhabited area west of Austin. However, when they landed in Galveston, they learned the Society was having financial and mismanagement problems. They decided to leave the group at Galveston and continue inland on their own and settle in an area which already had some Germans and which was more settled than the designated area.

Some of the families which came first were Braden, Burtschell, Frey, and Wendel. These families came from the village of Budesheim near Bingen on the Rhine River. An early settler from the same village was Frederick Zimmerscheit who had settled near Frelsburg in the early 1830's. His daughter had remained in Germany until 1844 so perhaps these settlers had prior knowledge of the settlements in this area or perhaps some of the Germans who had settled in Galveston and Houston told them about the area.

Another group of settlers from the same village came in 1848; by this time the Society had gone bankrupt so the families and individuals came on their own to join their relatives and friends in Texas. Some of these families were Braden, Frey, Lamby, Maerz, and Wink.

These immigrants named this area for their homeland. Budesheim is about 14 miles west of the major city of Mainz. The Society under whose auspices the first group came was organized near Mainz and was also called the Mainz Society. The village of Budesheim was part of the Catholic diocese of Mainz as well. Therefore, they named the settlement New Mainz; later the name was Anglicized to Mentz. Spellings vary on various documents and even on some of the tombstones.

Being primarily Catholic, these families were first ministered to by the priests of Frelsburg which were the first Catholic priests in the area. The priests traveled on horseback through the woods to baptize and marry--and sometimes bury. Among the first records in the Frelsburg church books in 1847 are baptisms of children from some of these Mentz families; one of the first marriages in 1847 was that of Jacob Brod and Josephine Burtschell.

By 1857 the Mentz settlement had grown enough that there was a need for its own church building. For \$1.00 Frank Burtschell deeded land to the Bishop of Galveston for a church, school, and rectory. The first church stood where the cemetery is now according to the cornerstone in front of the church. By 1867 a larger church was needed. The parishioners built a stone church--mostly by hand. They hauled sandstone by ox-wagon for days from Pin Oak Creek bottom. This creek east of Cummings Creek is located on the Zimmerscheit League on the Charles Leyendecker, Sr. land. Crockett Leyendecker recalls that his grandfather told him about the building of the church.

The stone church burned in 1940; the present church was built in 1941. Families from settlements east of the area, such as Cat Spring, were also involved in the founding and developing of this parish.

Just as the settlers named the settlement for their homeland, they also named the church for a church near their village. A chapel to St. Roch stands on a hill near Bingen. It was built in the 1670's as a result of a pledge to the saint that the town would build the chapel and have an annual pilgrimage in his honor if he would save them from a plague. Whether the result of the saint's intercession or not, the people were saved, and the pilgrimage continues to this time.

From 1872 to 1916 the Sisters of Divine Providence staffed a Catholic school at Mentz. The building which had housed the school was used for years as the beer building here at picnics. It is now being restored at the Mentzwood site.

There was also a post office off and on from 1889 to 1913. It was located in the Burtschell store which was nearby. Joseph and Anton Burtschell were post masters.

At one time there was a community dance hall which was moved across the road; it finally deteriorated.

By the 1850 census there were other German families in the area: Brod, Hennecke, Kuhn, Meisner, Neuendorff, Weigel and Weishuhn. Twenty years later other families were Becker, Denisch, Foster, Geistmann, Grabow, Iselt, Jakel, Jordt, Kansteiner, Kotzebue, Litzmann, Miekow, Reitz, Ritter, Rolf, Schmidt, Stock, Watz, Wicke, and Tannhauser. Although most of the names were German; Polish, Czech, Irish, and English names appear in records as well.

Life was hard for the settlers and their descendants well into this century. The area was not cleared; the only roads were probably buffalo or Indian trails. Perhaps there was a traveled road from the settlements to San Felip in Austin's colony. The settlers had to clear land, build some kind of shelter, plant crops, and try to begin a new life. Many were not prepared for the life or the climate and did not have the skills needed. Others had brought supplies and tools with them from Germany as instructed by letter from the earlier settlers. Still others bought materials in Galveston or Houston and brought them here by ox-cart.

Everyone had to work hard. There were many early deaths and infant deaths. There was an epidemic of some kind, probably yellow fever, in 1868. This date appears on tombstones in the cemetery. Several members of a family died within weeks of each other. The men voted against secession in 1861, but many fought for the Confederacy even though some families had left Germany to keep their sons from military service. Others hid in the woods so they didn't have to serve.

In spite of all the hardships our ancestors suffered, we are here today because those families persevered and succeeded. Now we can enjoy a beautiful church plant and grounds--and air conditioning, if we really need it--because of their courage.

HISTORY OF MENTZ

A group of the earliest settlers in the Mentz area came to Texas from a small village on the Rhine. Some of the families had lived in the village for more than seven generations. They arrived in Galveston in 1846 – almost 170 years ago – give or take a few weeks. Trying to cover 170 years of history in about twenty-five minutes is rather difficult so I am going to focus on the first 70 years. I shall also make some assumptions about parts of the early history.

I shall assume that most of you are familiar with the various reasons Germans were willing to leave their ancestral homes and immigrate to Texas. I also hope that you have a basic understanding of the history of the Society for Protection of German Immigrants to Texas also known as the Adelsverein, Verein, or Mainzer Verein. The first settlers were part of that Society. Of course, their original destination was the Fisher-Miller Grant west of Austin.

They came from the village of Büdesheim by Bingen. Those of you who have included a Rhine cruise during a visit to Germany may have traveled that section. There are vineyards on the hillsides, castles on the top of the hills, and the Neiderwald Denkmal: a statue of Germania, across the Rhine from Bingen. By Bingen is a hill called the Rochusberg for the chapel to St. Rochus/St. Roch which stands on the top. The present building is the third one -- built in 1891; the first was dedicated in 1677; it was destroyed in 1795 by the French. The second was built in 1814 and was struck by lightning in 1889.

There is a pilgrimage each year from the Basilica of St. Martin in Bingen to the chapel. The Brotherhood of St. Rochus carries his carved wooden statue through the vineyards up to the outdoor altar for Mass. The Bishop, priests, city officials, and the citizens follow. After Mass (of course) the beer and food tents are open for business as everyone enjoys a week-long Rochus fest near his feast day on August 16.

In the 1840's this area was part of the Grand Duchy of Hesse Darmstadt. It is now part of the Rhineland-Palatinate. About 15 miles from Bingen is the city of Mainz with its beautiful cathedral, University of Mainz, and the Gutenberg Museum. Bingen and Büdesheim were part of the Catholic Diocese of Mainz.

Across the Rhine from Mainz is the city of Weisbaden. Near Weisbaden is Biebrich which was once the principal residence of the Duke of Nassau. In 1842 it was the site of a meeting of German nobles who made plans to establish a German colony in the Republic of Texas. In order to publicize their plans and encourage emigration, they appointed agents for various areas. The small village of Büdesheim had its own agent – George Joseph Epeneter.

Epeneter was very busy. Included in the Archives of Koblenz are papers of the mayor of Büdesheim during this period. By November 21, 1845, a letter from Mayor St. George to the Grand-Ducal Hessian County Council of Bingen County stated that 67 citizens were prepared to immigrate to Texas. Included were single men, one single woman, couples, and families. There were forty children. The men were mainly farmers or those with farm related occupations – blacksmiths, coopers, and carpenters – as well as two vintners. St. George reassured the Council that...

- *They have disposed of their assets and, after paying their debts, they took with them sufficient cash to pay the head tax.*
- *According to my knowledge they did not leave behind any creditors whose demands had not been met.*
- *All emigrants have been provided with passes to Antwerp and with testimonials as to their character.*
- *The fact that a local organizer representative was given the agency is the reason why in such a short time so many decided to emigrate, while formerly only a few gave it any thought – even if the agent did not make any strenuous efforts in this direction.*

We might be somewhat skeptical of the last statement. Included on the list are two Braden brothers and a sister married to a Braden cousin. The mother of the Braden siblings was Anna Margaretha Epeneter – perhaps an aunt of the agent? Ludwig Wink may have added his encouragement and enthusiasm. **...but more about Ludwig later!**

Prior to the 10th of December, the group was in Antwerp and ready to sail. There is another letter to Mayor St. George in the Archives indicating that part of the group would be sailing on the *Andacia* with the majority sailing on the *Hamilton*. The two ships left in early December 1845 and arrived in late March/early April 1846. The emigrants left when Texas was a Republic and arrived when it was a state. There was more disturbing news for the exhausted immigrants. Those of you who are familiar with the history of the Adelsverein know that the fall and winter of 1845 and spring of 1846 were especially difficult ones for the Society.

Ottilia Fuchs in her book, *Memoirs Of A Texas Pioneer Grandmother*, commented on the reception in Galveston. Her family had sailed from Bremen on November 13, 1845, and arrived on January 10, 1846. *After we had landed, it was found that reports concerning conditions for the emigrants sponsored by the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas were so discouraging that Father decided to drop out of the Society and continue the journey on his own.* (The family settled first in Cat Spring.)

Like Adolf Fuchs the Büdesheimers had to make some difficult choices since they had signed a contract with the Society and were expecting the

conditions promised when they paid to be part of the colony. However, according to records found in a German source about Bingen and Büdesheim emigrants to Texas, some families decided to travel to the colony in spite of possible problems. Others stayed in Galveston and got jobs while still others followed Ludwig Wink to this area of Texas. (I had always wondered why the entire group didn't start out in the Frelsburg area.)

Ludwig had family members here. One Büdesheimer, Friedrich Zimmerscheidt, and his wife immigrated to Texas in the early 1830's and settled on a league of land a few miles from Frelsburg. Their daughter remained in Germany for schooling and later married. In 1844 the daughter and her husband Johann Leyendecker and four children joined her parents. Also in the group was Ludwig Wink. His mother was Antonetta Zimmerscheidt – possibly a sister of Friedrich. Wink worked as a blacksmith for a year or so and then returned to Germany to marry. He was on one of the ships with the other Büdesheimers. After deciding to leave the Society, he returned to the Cummings Creek area.

Lucas Burttschell died a year after arrival in 1847. Frelsburg was given as the place of death. His family was a large one with five daughters and five sons. The oldest daughter does not appear in later records so we do not know what happened to her. The oldest son Franz had signed his own contract with the Adelsverein so he was also ready to settle. The other families were growing so they evidently began to look elsewhere for more land. A history of Joseph Burttschell found in *History of Southwest Texas, 1907*, includes information about his father Franz.

Frank Burttschell was one of the pioneers of Colorado County. He took up a tract of wild land in the vicinity of Mentz and at once began the task of clearing and improving a homestead. There being no railways in that section of the state, all the surplus products of the little farm which he improved had to be marketed in Houston or Brownsville. The round-trip often took several weeks to accomplish. He made the journey with ox-teams, going heavily loaded and coming back with a large stock of goods for home use and for merchants of the town.

Needless to say, life was hard. The settlers had to clear land, build some kind of house and other shelter, plant crops, and try to begin a new life in the Texas climate. However, by 1848 these first settlers must have been satisfied with their choices because more Braden siblings as well as the widowed mother Anna Margaretha Epeneter set sail for Texas. The Adelsverein's plans had ended with bankruptcy in 1847 so this group came on its own and arrived in Galveston on November 27, 1848. All of the family except for one daughter came to Texas although two of her sons must have emigrated later as they are also found in the Mentz records. A single daughter married Peter J. Wendel. The oldest son George Joseph and his family settled in San Antonio. The 1848

group also included a brother of Anton Braden as well as other Budesheimers. There were 24 children in the group. Whether the arrangements to join the first group were made before that group left, I don't know.

Now, the history of Mentz also includes the history of **Bernardo**. You will notice on the map that the San Bernard River is the boundary between Austin and Colorado counties. There is a branch of the river in the Bernardo area which is called the Little Bernard or the German Branch. So the area has also been called San Bernard and Bernardo Prairie. According to the history of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society to which many Mentz and Bernardo farmers belonged, another early name was Braden Settlement. Someone searching the deed records of Braden and related families noted that Adam Braden, Anton Braden, Sr., Anton Braden, Jr., and Andreas Braden were serious buyers of land in Colorado County beginning in 1870 and continuing through the 1880's. From an article in the November 6, 1876, issue of the Colorado County Citizen: *The Bernard is a fine settlement, the majority of the inhabitants being German numbering perhaps 500. There is a very good brass band, composed entirely of farmers and a singing society called "New Mines Singing Society."*

There are no city limits signs between the two settlements which are four to five miles apart – depending on which way you drive. I think of Bernardo as the “business” section. The first post office for the area was at Bernardo – San Bernard. At various times the community included general stores, a doctor's office, a dance hall, a blacksmith shop, a cotton gin, a garage, a millinery shop, and a winery. The store is still there along with the Bernardo Fire Department building. There are a few more homes near the crossroads. Mentz is the “social” center with the church, hall and pavilion, and baseball field. In the early years Mentz also had a store – probably also the location of the post office.

...concerning the Bernardo Bears baseball team: The first team was called the Bernardo Hurricanes and existed from 1951-1963. In 1970 the Bernardo Bears began playing and continued for 45 years until 2015. There is no team this year.

By 1857 there were enough Catholic families in the area to begin to plan for a church building. They had been following the tradition of their homeland for a number of years by having a picnic on the feast of St. Roch. The priests from Frelsburg rode their horses through the woods to minister to the Catholic families and have Mass in the homes. The early baptism and marriage records for the Mentz-Bernardo families are in the books of Sts. Peter and Paul parish in Frelsburg that was established in 1847. Ten years later in 1857 Franz Burttschell and his wife – for \$1.00 -- deeded 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres of land to the Bishop of Galveston “to be used or the purpose of erecting a church...also with the privilege of erecting a parsonage and school building to benefit the Roman

Catholic community of the Bernard Settlements.” Eight months later Joseph and Julia Ann Hoover donated another six acres.

In 1858 the first church was built in the area where the cemetery is now located according to the cornerstone of the current building. A larger building was later needed. The parishioners built a stone church –mostly by hand. They hauled sandstone by ox-wagon for days from Pin Oak Creek bottom. This creek east of Cummings Creek is located on the Zimmerscheit League on the Charles Leyendecker, Sr. land. Sadly, the second church burned down as did the second St. Rochus Chapel in Bingen. The current building was completed in 1941.

In early 1861 these settlers had to make more difficult choices. In the previous 10-15 years they had cleared land and built homes. There were marriages and baptisms in the St. Roch church books. Now they had to respond to a call for secession of Texas from the Union. One of the reasons that Germans left their homeland was that their sons had to serve the ruling king, prince, or duke.

When the second group of Budesheimers made plans to join their family members and friends in Texas, Mayor St. George had to write again to the Grand Ducal Hessian County Council. The son of George Joseph Braden had been called to service. In order for the son to travel with the family, the Council had to grant permission. “We do not presume he wants to evade service in his fatherland.” Permission was granted although the message didn’t make it to the 2nd company of the Grand-Ducal Hessian 4th Infantry Regiment the first time. The company captain was looking for the son. Evidently, the letters were finally received.

Some settlers were citizens of the United States. They did not share the cultural heritage of the southern born neighbors. In 1850 more than one third of the county’s free white residents were born in Germany. In the February 12, 1861, election in the Dunlavy precinct which included Mentz and Bernardo, the vote was 41 *against* and 10 *for*. However, Texas as a state had voted in favor of secession from the Union.

The State of Texas encouraged counties and communities to organize troop units for their protection. Some men eligible for military service joined the Alleyton and New Mainz German Home Guard which was part of the Texas State Troops, 22nd Brigade. Some of the men later joined a regular company – whether for the small stipend, adventure, something to do between planting and harvesting, or because they were coerced!

There are also tales of men who dressed as women and were seen working with the women and children in the fields as the sheriff’s men rode by. My great grandfather evidently hid in the woods during the day. He left a trail of sticks so my great grandmother could take lunch to him. One day he was

home when the sheriff's men rode by. He jumped in the horse trough – probably one made from a big log – and lay low until the danger passed.

Some men worked as teamsters moving cotton to the valley or Mexico. Bernardo was a dumping station for cotton on that route. Others attempted to find refuge in Mexico on the way to the North. Dr. Herman Nagel and his son Charles were successful and later settled in St. Louis. They had lived in the Bernardo area where Charles was born and later moved to Millheim in Austin County. Charles graduated from St. Louis Law School. He became active in public affairs and politics and served in the Missouri House of Representatives. In March 1909 President Taft appointed him Secretary of Commerce and Labor, the first native-born Texan to become a member of a president's cabinet. (*Bernardo's Claim to Fame*) In 1934 Nagel wrote *A Boy's Civil War Story*, an account of his boyhood in Texas. The first chapter describes the Bernardo area – landscape, animals, etc.

During the nine years of the Reconstruction Period following the war, the ancestors had to accept the hardships that were common to all. Many German immigrants apparently blamed white slaveholders for the disaster of secession and accepted Congressional Reconstruction as necessary and deserved. The county had escaped invasion during the war; it was not occupied by a defending or invading army. This area was also somewhat isolated. Perhaps circumstances were not quite so bad since their livelihood did not depend on slave labor. The German role during the period promised to be vital. The German dominated precincts (Frelsburg and Mentz-Bernardo) had influence through their votes in certain elections. (*From Volume 5, No. 1 – Nesbitt Library Journal*)

In 1872 near the end of the Reconstruction period, free public schools were established in Mentz and Bernardo. County funding provided for four and ½ months. Since there were not many lay teachers who could afford to work only for that short period of time, Catholic nuns were allowed to teach in those areas that were predominately Catholic. However, they could not teach religion during the free school period. The buildings were owned by the parish. The nuns could also combine their incomes which allowed for extended school time of ten months. The parents paid a \$1.00 or 50 cents per child for the additional months. The average enrollment for many years was about 70 in both Mentz and Bernardo; the last years the number was about half.

More non-Catholics were moving into the area. Families were moving to other areas. Many moved to Wharton County, near El Campo where I live. The railroad was coming through. There was rich farmland. With more general prosperity and more lay teachers, the Catholic schools were closed. St. Joseph School in Bernardo merged with Mentz in 1912. The Mentz school closed in 1916. The Bernardo school building became the county school and then part of the Columbus ISD. The school closed when bussing was available.

There *was* another school in the area, Bachelor Hill, where the Zimmerscheidt Road meets the road to Bernardo. It began by 1879 with forty students. My mother and her siblings attended that school since it was closer to their home off Zimmerscheidt Road near that road merge.

Zoar Lutheran Church was organized in 1904, and it was also in the Bachelor Hill area. The services were in English on even Sundays and in German on odd Sundays. A cemetery was also established with the first burial in 1908. The church closed in 1948 with members moving to Cat Spring, Frelsburg, or Columbus. The cemetery has continued to be used for burials. Like everything else it goes by several names: Zoar Lutheran Cemetery, Zion Lutheran Cemetery, and Bachelor Hill Cemetery.

By the time that America entered World War I, our ancestors had been here for at least sixty years – two or more generations. Although they may have spoken German in their homes and community, they were American citizens. Some served in public office in the community and the county. One of my uncles and other men from the area served in France. During World War II, the fact that some still spoke German was helpful when men served in Germany.

In 1983 “Old” Mainz learned about Neu Mainz, Texas. Professor Hans Galinsky, of the University of Mainz was in Texas for a symposium at the U of H during the Tricentennial of German Immigration to America. Someone who attended the meetings gave him a booklet that was prepared for the 1982 dedication of the Mentz-Bernardo historical marker. Professor Galinsky later contacted me about a planned exhibit at the Mainz City Library which would show the connection between that part of Germany and Texas. I sent him material and contacted others who were researching the Germany-Texas connection. He received a large amount of material to add to that which he had found locally and in other areas. A tour group including Leyendecker, Braden, Burttschell, and Wendel descendants attended the opening of the exhibit in June 1988.

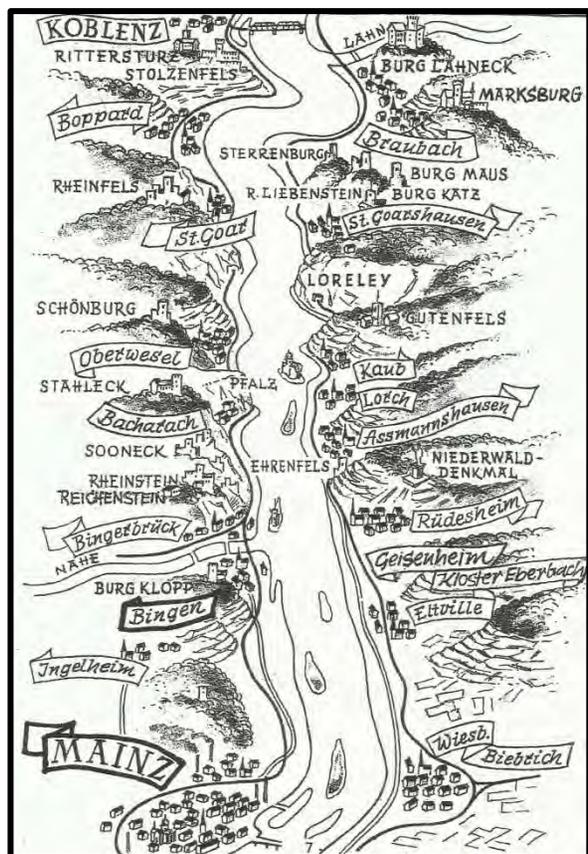
Twenty years later in 2008, Hartmut Wagner, a young journalist from Mainz learned about Neu Mainz, Texas. I believe he had come across the collection of materials from the exhibit which are part of the permanent collection of the library. He contacted the Columbus Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber directed him to Bill Stein, director of the Nesbitt Memorial Library. Bill directed him to me. Again, I mailed and emailed material and encouraged Hartmut to come to Mentz for the annual church picnic on the first Sunday of October. Well, he didn’t want to wait that long – I don’t remember when our first exchange was – so, instead, he came for the third Sunday in July which is the Firemen’s Picnic.

The day after the picnic, Larry Uhlig drove him around to see other German settlements in the area – Cat Spring and Industry. We met with him

the day before he planned to leave. He had some questions about what he had seen and learned. He definitely wanted to know how many people lived in Mentz. We told him that no one lived here because Fr. Flagg lived in Frelsburg. In spite of the fact that he had seen that the farms and houses were scattered around in a large area, his German mind wanted an accounting. Since Mentz is a voting precinct, I was able to give him the number of registered voters. We added for children and some non-registered voters.

In addition to German names there are also French, Irish, Czech, Anglo, and Hispanic names on the stones in the cemetery and in the parish directory. Many families have moved away, or the original name has been lost through marriage of the women in the families. Some descendants have never heard of Mentz or have no connection with German names.

RHINE -- KOBLENZ to MAINZ



EMIGRANTS from BÜDESHEIM

1846 – Adam Braden, Anton Braden, John Braden, Lucas Burttschell, John Frey, P.J. Wendel, Ludwig Wink

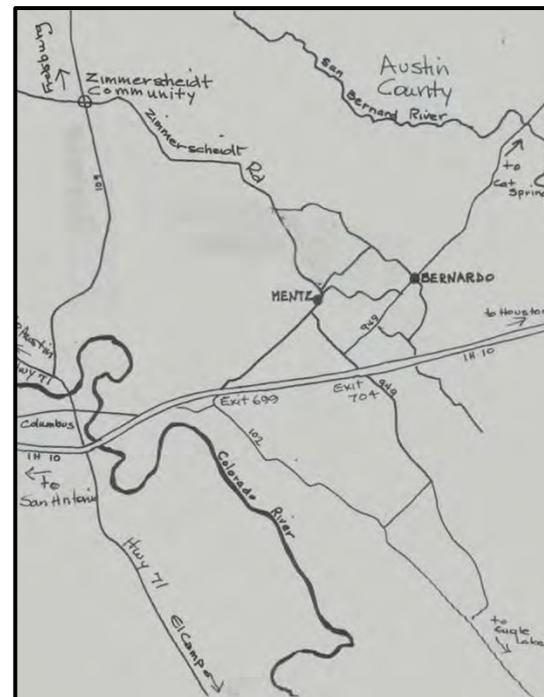
1848 – Andreas Braden, Peter Frey, Peter Maerz, G. P. Wink, Jean Wink, Louis Wink

Other early families (by 1860) – Belzung, Benson, Brod, Dehnisch, Dunlavy, Franz, Gaul, Glueck, Hennecke, Jaeckle, Kansteiner, Kuhn, Meismer, Miekow, Neuendorff, Obenhaus, Prause, Stock, Waddill, Weishuhn, Weigel

St. Roch Church

- 1857 – land to Bishop of Galveston
- 1858 – 1st church building
- 1860 – Church books begin
- 1872 – Stone church (burned 1940)
- 1941 – Current building (75 years old)

MENTZ-BERNARDO AREA



Post Offices – San Bernard 1853 –to N.Mainz
 New Mainz 1860-1866
 Bernardo Prairie 1875 – to Mentz
 Mentz 1889-1896; 1897-1913
 Bernardo 1898-1917



Der Feuerwehrmann: Wenn es in Mentz brennt, steht Karen Brod trotz seiner 73 Jahre mit am Löschschauch. Als er mit sechs Jahren in die Schule kam, konnte er fast kein Englisch, denn seine Eltern sprachen nur Deutsch mit ihm. 2005 besuchte er mit einer Reisegruppe Rheinland-Pfalz, die Heimat seiner Vorfahren.



Der Baseballspieler: Preston Neuendorffs Herz schlägt für die Bernardo Bears, die in Mentz ihre Spiele austragen. Stolz trägt der 19-Jährige auf der Kappe das „B“ der Bären. 25. Mai im Jahr steht er für den Verein auf dem Platz, wie früher sein Vater und sein Großvater. Seine Vorfahren stammen aus Bingen am Rhein.



Der Daheim-Gebliebene: Helmut Gietz (85) wohnt in Bingen – denn sein Ur-Ur-großvater Franz Josef Burtshell blieb 1845 in der Heimat, als sein Bruder Lukas und andere Binger nach Texas auswanderten. Gietz kann kein Englisch, war nie in Mentz. Aber seine Frau Gerlinde (70) hat Kontakte dorthin. Foto: Braun



Der Richter: Francis Truchard (66) ging in Mentz in die Grundschule – heute ist er dort gewählter Amtsrichter. Seit 1962 bestätigen ihn die Menschen aus Mentz und Umgebung immer wieder in dem Amt. Sein Ur-Ur-großvater, Andreas Braden, wanderte aus Bingen aus. Truchard hat aber nie Deutsch gelernt.



Die Historikerin: Arliss Treybig (73) sammelt alles über die Geschichte von Mentz und die Auswanderung aus Rheinland-Pfalz. Ihre Eltern, ihre Großeltern, ihre Ur-Großeltern und ihre Ur-Ur-Großeltern sind auf dem Mentzer Friedhof begraben. Ihre Geschichte erforscht die frühere Oberschullehrerin seit 30 Jahren.



Der Deutsch-Bewahrer: Larry Uhlig (69) ist im Raum Mentz einer der wenigen Menschen, der noch perfekt Deutsch spricht, besser gesagt Texas-Deutsch. Der Viehzüchter sagt Fernsehen statt Fernseher, Car statt Auto, Luftschrift statt Flugzeug. Warum? Seine deutschen Vorfahren hörten von den Erfindungen erst in Texas.



Der Pfarrer: Wayne Flagg (52) leitet seit 13 Jahren die katholische Kirche St. Roch in Mentz. Die „sehr lebendige“ Gemeinde ist mit der Feuerwehr und dem Baseballverein die wichtigste Institution in dem Dorf. Viermal wöchentlich zelebriert der Geistliche die Messe, meist nehmen rund 100 Mentzer daran teil.

New Mainz: So leben die USA-Auswanderer heute

Familien aus Bingen gründeten das texanische Dorf vor rund 150 Jahren – Wenige Einwohner sprechen Deutsch – „Bürgermeister“ träumt von Partnerschaft mit Landeshauptstadt

New York oder New Orleans kennt jeder – aber New Mainz? Die meisten Rheinland-Pfälzer haben nie davon gehört. Das kleine Dorf in Texas, das heute Mentz heißt, haben Auswanderer aus Bingen am Rhein gegründet. Sie gingen fort und bauten in der Fremde ein Stück ihrer alten Heimat auf.

■ Aus Mentz in Texas berichtet unser Redakteur Hartmut Wagner

MENTZ/TEXAS. James Harbich (57) hat seinen Plastikteiler ordentlich vollgedrückt: Bratwürste, Hähnchenschinken, Kartoffelsalat, Bohnen in Tomatensoße. Dazu trinkt der Texaner mit dem weißen Cowboyhut und dem ergrauten Bart beherzweise Eistee. Die Feuerwehr in Harbichs Heimatdorf gibt heute ihr Grillfest – und Harbich lässt es sich richtig gut geben. Dazu gehört auch, dass er am Morgen in der Kirche war, genauso wie die vielen Menschen an den Nachbartschen.

Nach Texas mit zehn Kindern

Ein Grillfest jenseits des Atlantiks, mitten in Texas. Und doch ist Rheinland-Pfalz so nah. Harbichs Heimatdorf ist Mentz, früher hieß es Neu Mainz, später New Mainz. Harbichs Kirche heißt St. Roch Church, so wie die St. Rochus-Kapelle bei Bingen am Rhein. Harbichs Vorfahren, die Burtshells, stammen von dort. Seine Ur-Ur-Großeltern, Lukas und Elisabeth Burtshell, sind 1845 aus Bingen ausgewandert – mit ihren fünf Töchtern (Magdalena, Katharina, Ottilie, Josephine, Sophia) und ihren fünf Söhnen (Franz, Anton, Joseph, Jakob und Heinrich).

Die Reise in die Neue Welt forderte von der Familie größte Entbehrungen und eiserner Entschlossenheit: Freunde



Die zweitürmige Holzkirche im Ortszentrum von Mentz, das einst Neu Mainz hieß. Natürlich darf die US-Flagge nicht fehlen.



Neu Mainz – Der Grabstein von Elisabeth Burtshell, einer Ahnerin der Auswanderer, zeigt den alten Namen von Mentz.



Es schmeckte beim Grillfest: „Bürgermeister“ James Harbich, den Söhnen Jakob (17) und Clayton (25) und Tochter Angela (20).



Das Grab der Binger Auswandererin Elisabeth Burtshell und drei Generationen ihrer direkten Nachfahren. Foto: Wagner

und Heimat verlassen, drei Monate Atlantiküberfahrt auf dem Segelschiff, wochenlangem Fußmarsch ins Innere von Texas. Die Familie musste sich durch das Gebiet feindlicher Indianer schlagen. 150 Kilometer weit, bei brutender Hitze. Und am Ziel wartete ein Stück wildes, menschenleeres Land. Hier gründeten die Burtshells und andere Auswanderer den Ort Neu Mainz.

Mentz ist ein Mysterium

„Das hier ist Mentz“, zeigt Harbich, während er Zucker zu seinem Eistee rührt. „Hier die Kirche, dort der Friedhof und das Baseballfeld.“ Aber er weiß: Mentz ist ein Mysterium. Es ist in Karten verzeichnet, es kann im Internet mit „Google Earth“ angetastet werden. Und: Ein grünes Schild am Highway weist den Weg Richtung Mentz. Doch wer die kilometerlange „Mentz-Straße“ entlangfährt, weiß nie, wann er am Ziel ist. Es gibt einzelne Häuser am Rand dichter Eichen- und Kiefernwälder, aber es gibt kein Ortsschild, das sagt: Hier ist Mentz.

Die Mentzer sprechen auch nicht von ihrem Dorf, sondern von ihrer Gemeinschaft, die sie mit dem Nachbarort Bernardo bilden. Darum ist schwer zu sagen, wie viele Einwohner Mentz hat. „Die Zahl liegt irgendwo zwischen 100 und 400. Genau weiß das niemand“, sagt Harbich. Er muss wissen, seine Freunde nennen ihn den „Bürgermeister von Mentz“.

Warum wurde Neu Mainz zu Mentz? „Mentz ist für Amerikaner leichter auszusprechen“, erklärt die Mentz-Historikerin Arliss Treybig. „Jüngere Mentzer haben zudem den Bezug zu Mainz verloren. Und: Die US-Regierung forderte, dass sich die Deutschen anpassen – besonders vor dem Ersten Weltkrieg.“ Übrigens:

In den USA wurde Mainz zu Mentz, in Rheinland-Pfalz war es genau umgekehrt. „In Urkunden aus dem Mittelalter wird Mainz meist als Mentze oder Mentzen bezeichnet“, sagt der Sprachforscher Rudolf Steffens von der Universität Mainz. „Der Name Mainz bürgerte sich erst später ein.“

Wenn die Mentzer feiern, dann grillen sie auf mietlergen Betongrills. „Die Feste an der Kirche waren immer das Größte für uns“, erinnert sich Harbich. „Als Kinder sammelten wir Pfandflaschen und tauschten sie gegen Eistee. Dann, als Junge Wilde, stiegen wir den Mädels nach. Heute komme ich mit meiner Familie wegen der Bratwürste.“

Harbichs Teiler ist leer, drei Becher Eistee ebenso. Zeit für große Pläne: „Wir bräuchten eine Art Städtepartnerschaft zwischen Mentz und Mainz.“ Der „Bürgermeister“ weiß: Nur wenige Mentzer haben je von Mainz gehört. Und in Mainz ist Mentz sogar völlig unbekannt, selbst in der Stadtverwaltung und dem Stadtarchiv. „Eine Partnerschaft könnte die Geschichte wieder lebendig machen“, schwärmt Harbich. „Wir Mentzer wären bereit.“



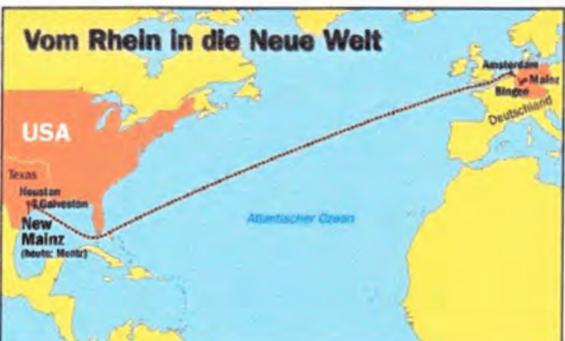
Nach Mentz? Hier lang. Aber ein Ortschild gibt es nicht.

Warum wanderten die Menschen aus?

Not in der Heimat – Neuanfang in der Fremde

Viele Menschen aus dem heutigen Rheinland-Pfalz kehrten ihrer Heimat im 19. Jahrhundert den Rücken – sie wanderten aus in die USA. Die Gründe sind vielfältig: Armut, Arbeitslosigkeit, politische Unzufriedenheit, Flucht vor dem Mätkindrad. Im kleinen Ort Spenstoth im Westerwaldkreis war die Lage so prekär, dass 1853 fast alle Einwohner nach Milwaukee im Norden der USA aus-

in Texas den Ort Neu Mainz (heute: Mentz) gründeten, gehörten Bauern, Zimmermänner und Schreiner. Meist waren es Einzelpersonen – es wanderten aber auch ganze Familien aus. Von der Möglichkeit, die Heimat Richtung Nordamerika zu verlassen, erfuhren die Menschen aus Briefen früherer Auswanderer und aus Zeitungen. Dennoch: Ohne Internet und ohne Fernsehen



Warum wurde Texas ihr neues Zuhause?

Mainzer Adelsverein half den Auswanderern

Die USA waren das beliebteste Ziel deutscher Auswanderer im 19. Jahrhundert. Das Land stand für Freiheit und Wohlstand – und es gab dort viel billige Ackerfläche, deren Kolonisierung von der Regierung in Washington gefördert wurde. Zwischen 1830 und 1880 nahmen knapp drei Millionen Deutsche die Schiffsreise über den Atlantik auf sich, um in den USA ein neues Leben zu beginnen.

schon Fürsten und Edelleute zum Schutze deutscher Auswanderer in Texas“, kurz „Mainzer Adelsverein“. Er versprach jedem verheirateten Auswanderer über 17 Jahre um 0,6 Quadratkilometer großes Stück Land in Texas – das entspricht der 85-fachen Größe des Fußballfeldes im Stadion der TuS Koblenz. Der Adelsverein soll knapp 5500 Auswanderer in die USA gebracht haben, darunter die

<p>The firefighter: when something burns in Mentz, Karen Brod will be there on the fire hose despite his 73 years. When he first went to school at six years of age he could hardly speak English because his parents only spoke German with him. In 2005 he visited the Rhineland, the home of his ancestors, together with a group.</p>	<p>The baseball player: Preston Neundorff's heart beats for the Bernardo Bears, who play their games in Mentz. The 19 year old wears his cap proudly with the B for Bears logo. 25 times a year he plays for his team at the same place where his father and grandfather also played. His ancestors come from Bingen am Rhein.</p>	<p>The stay behind: Helmut Gietz (85) lives in Bingen because his great great grandfather, Franz Josef Burtshell, remained in the homeland in 1845 when his brother Lukas and others from Bingen emigrated to Texas. Gietz cannot speak English and was never in Mentz. But his wife Gerlinde (70) stays in touch.</p>	<p>The judge: Francis Truchard (66) attended elementary school in Mentz—today he is the elected justice of the peace. He has been continuously reelected to his office since 1962. His great great grandfather, Andreas Braden, emigrated from Bingen. Truchard, however, has never learned German.</p>
<p>The historian: Arliss Treybig (73) collects everything about the history of Mentz and emigration from the Rhineland/Palatinate. Her parents, her great grandparents, her great great grandparents are all buried at the Mentz cemetery. The former high school teacher has been researching their stories for over 30 years.</p>	<p>The German conservator: Larry Uhlig is one of the few in the vicinity of Mentz who still speaks perfect German, or better said, perfect Texas-German. The cattle raiser says Television statt Fernseher, Car instead of Auto, Luftschiiff instead of Flugzeug. Why? His German forebeares only heard of these inventions after they were in Texas.</p>	<p>The priest: Wayne Flagg (52) has been leading St. Roch's Catholic Church in Mentz for 13 years. Along with the fire department and the baseball team, the "very lively" congregation is the most important institution in town. The priest celebrates mass four times a week where usually at least a hundred local citizens take part.</p>	

New Mainz: This is how the USA emigrants live today

Families from Bingen founded the Texas town about 150 years ago—few of the inhabitants speak German—mayor dreams of a partnership with the capital [Mainz]

Everybody knows New York or New Orleans—but New Mainz? The majority of the people from the Rhineland-Palatinate [Rheinland-Pfalz]¹ have never heard of it. The small town in Texas, which is today called Mentz, was founded by emigrants from Bingen on the Rhine. They went there and reconstructed in that faraway place a piece of their old homeland.

*Our editor, Hartmuth Wagner, reports from Mentz in Texas

MENTZ/TEXAS James Harbich has loaded up his plastic plate: sausage, chicken, potato salad and beans in a tomato sauce. To go along with it the Texan with the white cowboy hat and the graying beard drinks iced tea by the cupful. The fire department in Harbich's town is putting on a BBQ today and Harbich is making the most of it. It is also expected that he will be in church tomorrow, along with all the others on the neighboring tables.

¹ The Rheinland-Pfalz is one of the sixteen states of the Federal Republic of Germany

Off to Texas with ten children

A BBQ on the other side of the Atlantic in the middle of Texas. Yet the Rhineland is so close. Harbich's home town is Mentz, earlier called Neu Mainz, later New Mainz. Harbich's church is called St. Roch's church like the St. Rochus chapel at Bingen on the Rhine. Harbich's ancestors, the Burtschells, came from there. His great great grandparents, Lukas and Elisabeth Burtschell, emigrated from there in 1845—with their five daughters (Magdalena, Katharena, Ottila, Josephina, Sophia) and their five sons (Franz, Anton, Joseph, Jakob and Heinrich). The trip to the New World demanded of the family great sacrifices and an iron-clad resolve. Saying goodbye to friends and homeland, a three month passage across the Atlantic on a sail ship, a weeks long trek by foot into the interior of Texas, the family had to make its way through the territory of hostile Indians, a 150 kilometer long journey under scorching heat. An their goal: an empty, uninhabited piece of land. Here the Burtschells and other emigrants founded the locale Neu Mainz.

Mentz is an Enigma

"This here is Mentz," points out Harbich while he stirs sugar into his tea. "Here the church, there the cemetery, and over there the baseball field." But he is aware that Mentz is an enigma. It is depicted on maps; you can even zoom in with Google Earth. And: a green highway sign points the way to Mentz. But whoever takes the kilometer long road to Mentz never knows when he has arrived. There are individual houses on the edge of oak and pine forests along the way, but there is no sign that says here is Mentz. The people of Mentz tend to speak more in terms of their community rather than the town, which includes the neighboring locale of Bernardo. Therefore, it is difficult to say how many inhabitants Mentz actually has. "The count lies somewhere between 100 and 400. Exactly how many nobody knows for sure," says Harbich. He has to know: his friends refer to him as the mayor of Mentz.

Why was Neu Mainz changed to Mentz? "Mentz is easier to pronounce for Americans," explains the historian of Mentz, Arliss Treybig. "In addition, the young people of Mentz have lost the connection to Mainz. Moreover, the US government demanded that the Germans adapt—especially before the First World War. As an aside: while in the US Mainz was changed to Mentz, in the Rhineland it was just the opposite. "Documents from the Middle Ages usually designate Mainz as "Mentze" or "Mentzen," explains the linguistics researcher Rudolf Steffens from the University of Mainz. The name 'Mainz' only gained general acceptance later. "

When the citizens of Mentz celebrate, they do so on BBQ pits several meters long made of concrete blocks. "The festivals at the church were always the highpoint for us," reminisces Harbich. When we were kids we collected bottles that had a deposit and exchanged these for ice-cream. Then, as wild teenagers, we chased after the girls. Today, I come with my family because of the sausage."

Harbich's plate is empty, likewise three cups of tea. Time for big plans: "We need to have a kind of city partnership between Mentz and Mainz." The mayor knows: only a few of the citizens of Mentz have even heard of Mainz. And in Mainz Mentz is completely unknown, even to the city government and the city archives. "A partnership could bring history alive again," enthuses Harbich. "We would be ready for it!"

Portrait of a Descendant

Mr. John Henneke, who will be ninety in April, 1982, has lived on the same location (about ten miles from Columbus near IH 10) in the Bernardo area for most of his life. The son of Henry Henneke, Jr. and Mary Maerz (married in 1882) he was born in Moulton in 1892. In the fall of that year, the family moved back to the Bernardo area where they lived on the "Kuhn rent place" before moving to the present location. After his marriage in November, 1921, to Lottie Runge from the Industry/New Ulm area, the young couple moved in with his parents and lived with them for about four years. They then moved to a house nearby where they lived for another four years or so. After that time the parents and the young couple exchanged homes; John and Lottie have lived on the same location, but not in the same house, ever since. After Henry died, the mother lived with the couple until she died about 1945.

John Henneke's paternal grandparents were Heinrich Henneke and Hedwig Miller. Heinrich was the son of Joseph Henneke (or Hennecke) and Anna Maria Midike (Midige) who came to Texas from Oldenburg? about 1846. Two of Heinrich's brothers and at least two of his sisters had come to Texas in December of 1834 and settled in the present Colorado/Austin County area. Heinrich and Hedwig married April 2, 1850; J. Anstaett, priest of Frelsburg performed the ceremony. John did not know his grandfather Heinrich Henneke very well; he does remember his grandfather coming to see them on a two-wheel cart pulled by a horse. The grandmother Hedwig Miller was the daughter of Edmund Miller and Wilhelmina Spiess.

John Henneke's maternal grandparents were Jacob Maerz and Carolina Schittn?. Jacob emigrated with his parents, Peter Maerz and Katharina Birot, from Buedesheim (near Bingen on the Rhine) in 1848.

Mr. Henneke attended the Catholic school at Bernardo; he had only nuns for teachers. He attended through the sixth grade; he quit school after making his Holy Communion at the age of twelve. He remembers that they prayed before school, at noon, and after school. The sisters gave instructions as to behavior on the road to and from school and to treatment of people they met on the way. On Friday afternoon the parents of one of the students attending the Bernardo school would pick up the sisters and take them to Mentz. On Sunday afternoon the same parents would take them back to Bernardo. The parents would alternate this duty. The school had two rooms; the nuns had a house nearby. The school was remodeled after the Catholic school closed; it then became the public school. Part of the building was moved to another location.

Mr. Henneke worked around home during the week. On Sundays he would go fishing or catch gophers. When he was older, he went to dances at Mentz and later at Bernardo. When he was seventeen, Mentz had a dance hall; dances were held once a month. A hall was built later at Bernardo, and dances were held once a month there. He met his wife at a dance; she was the only girl he ever dated.

The family went by horse and buggy to church at Mentz. Mr. Henneke does not remember when Mass started, but they usually returned home after 12:00 noon.

Many people rode horses to church so that after church there was "a bunch of riders going." He also remembers that the children sat in front of the church with the nuns; they stayed in church until the adults left. Shown a picture of a band inside the decorated church; Mr. Henneke remarked that the Burtschell family had a band which played in church for the funeral of band members. A similar picture in the possession of Tillie Gloger of Columbus indicated that the picture was taken on Christmas Day in the church. A notation on the back indicated that it was the Burtschell band.

Although nearly ninety, Mr. Henneke appears to be about fifteen years younger. He is still active-driving to church, to town, and to the auction. He is up-to-date on current affairs and has strong opinions about the government, the law, etc. He remembers who married whom-when and where-dates of births, marriages, and deaths. He has lived by the rules and examples of his parents and the nuns who taught him, and he feels secure in his life. He doesn't smoke and has never indulged deeply in alcohol; he takes no medicine. His house is a short drive from IH 10; since he has lived on or near the same spot most of his nearly ninety years, he has seen the development from rough road to highway 90 to an interstate highway. At one time he drove his cattle across the road in the morning and again in the afternoon where now large trucks travel. In spite of the way civilization has changed his view across the land where he raised corn and cotton, he and his wife still speak German to each other.

When asked what he remembers about "old timers" and the "old days," he said that "there was no money to make," and "everyone lived mighty close." He recalled a Mr. Miekow who always said, "I don't have enough to throw away, but I got enough to do me." He remembers Adolph Wendel who, for some reason, was called "Plow-Handle" Wendel-the nickname being in German, of course. He also remembers his daddy who tried to cross a flooded creek with two mules and a hack. One of the mules was shorter than the other, and the water went across the shorter mule and the hack; however, they all made it across. Once he gets started, Mr Henneke has many interesting and humorous stories to tell.

Mr. Henneke does not remember hearing anything about the days in Europe or the reasons why his ancestors came to Texas and the Bernardo-Mentz area. As a descendant of these early settlers, however, he represents the strength and determination that helped them to settle and develop the area so that their descendants could have a better life.

died: Feb. 13, 1990

Visit and interview October 2, 1981
by Lois Didner and Arliss Treybig

*picture in possession of Lois Didner

Reminiscences of Isabel Weigel Woodruff

Note: Isabel Woodruff, who grew up in the Bernardo/Mentz area, is the daughter of Herman C. and Lena Frey Weigel. Her grandparents were Conrad and Theresa Seifert Weigel and John and Eva Frey.

I was born at Mentz in what later became the Eddie Blanchard place, not far from the church. I have only one recollection about myself while we lived there. I remember being wrapped in a quilt and carried by my father over to the Howes while a Gulf storm raged during the night. The Howes lived on the road across the creek from the cemetery. Mr. Howe was crippled; his wife crocheted a lot and did quite a bit of neighborhood visiting. Their only child, a son, died young. I think they were Lutheran.

Next, I remember living in Bernardo on "Main Street." I must have been three or four then. My father had the Post Office which was a small building to the right of the main house. I would scribble letters to Santa Claus which my mother would fish out of the letter box and confiscate. The small building to the left of our house was a doctor's office. Dr. Colley, who had married one of the Strieder girls--the oldest, Annie, I think it was--practiced medicine out of that building.

When I ran across the name Witte (in the history), I thought about Louis Witte who had the general store at the cross roads. I believe the Willie Reitzes operated the store after Louis Witte. I certainly recall the McBrides who lived cater-cornered across the street from the store. Mrs. McBride had a millinery shop. My mother took me to buy a hat, and I cried all the way home because the hat didn't have long ribbon streamers. Mr. McBride was a cripple, too, as I recall.

While we lived in Bernardo, the Frank Millers lived across the street from us. Their daughter Reetha--everyone always called her "Reedy"--was the same age as I was. We remained close friends until she passed away so suddenly several years ago.

I never attended Bernardo school because we moved to a house close to where the Kotzebues lived. Adam Brod and his family lived around the corner from our farm. We moved a lot; next we moved to Mentz. I did most of my growing up in the two-story Watz house and farm. I started school while we lived there. I had the sisters for one year--dear sweet Sister Serena and Sister Augusta who dominated her and the children. Sister Serena taught me to read and write German. I can not write it any more, and I can read German only if it's written in English letters. The first year after the sisters left, we had a teacher named Miss Edythe Wooldridge. She came from Montana. I also had Miss Aurelia Burtschell and Miss Margaret Trojan--now Litzmann.

I heard my parents speak of some of the priests mentioned in the history--Father Gury, Father Spinneweber, and Father Weimer. I think they talked more about Father Klein; I believe he baptized me. Then there was Father Duda, Father Berberich, and there was another Father Berberich, a relative, who had the church at Frelsburg. He died, and I still have a picture of him in his casket.

Willie and Addie Braden had the Mentz store. I grew up with their daughters Alice, Lavine, Mildred and Willie Lee. The Bradens also had the dance hall. I remember that a number of people spent the night in that hall once while a Gulf storm raged outside.

I read the name Buechmann in the history. Natalie Buechmann and I were good friends. Her mother and Mrs. Howe were sisters. The Buechmanns lived near Frelsburg.

There was a lot of picnicking in those days. We also gathered at someone's house on Sunday afternoons and took pictures and talked. Many of the pictures include the Ford roadsters of that era. There were dances and play parties. The dances were held at the halls in Mentz and Bernardo. The parties were in someone's house where a birthday was celebrated.

We had a model T Ford which I learned to drive. My mother did not trust my driving one bit, but she needed something from Mr. Louis Wink's grocery store in Alleyton, so, if I promised to drive real slow, she would go. All went well until a thunder shower came up while we were on our way back home. She was even more afraid of bad weather than of my driving so she said I could speed up a little. We made it home okay.

Isabel Woodruff and her husband Bill live in Houston. These reminiscences are taken from letters of March, 1982.



BERNARDO 1910

Photo: Charles A. Hennecke

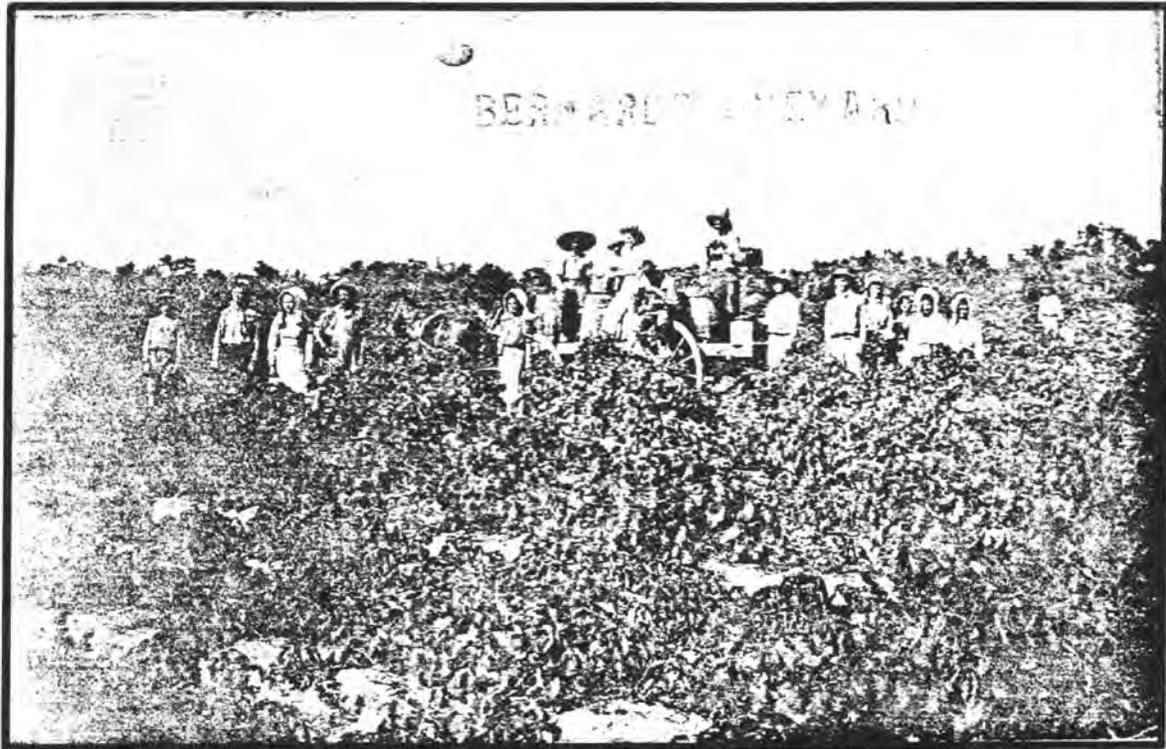


BERNARDO FEAST – JULY 1914

Photo: Charles A. Hennecke
Grandson: Katherine Burttschell Hennecke

BERNARDO VINEYARD

Postcard from 1912



POST CARD

CORRESPONDENCE HERE ADDRESS ONLY

SEPT 1912

MENTY TEX, Jan. 2^d 1912

Mr Louis Meyer
Menty, Tex.

Our annual church meeting will be held on the 6th of January 1912 at 2 o'clock, P.M. Please attend. With regards,
E. H. Berger.

Mr. Louis Meyer
Menty,
Tex.

THE COLORADO COUNTY CITIZEN
Friday, August 4, 1922
(copy furnished by Isabel Weigel Woodruff)

CONRAD WEIGEL DIES IN KARNES COUNTY AND IS BURIED AT MENTZ

Conrad Weigel, 94 year old pioneer of Mentz, died at the home of his son in Karnes county on July 25 and his body was shipped here and buried at the Mentz Catholic cemetery on July 26 in the presence of a large crowd of his friends and relatives. Rev. Duda officiated at the burial service

The news of Mr. Weigel's death was received at Mentz on July 25 and the news of the death of one of the communities old pioneer citizens made the entire community sad. He died at the home of his son, Andrew Weigel at Gillett, Karnes County, where he had resided for the past four or five years.

Conrad Weigel was born in Bavaria, Germany on Feb. 18, 1828. When five years old he left that country with his parents and settled in New York, where they lived until he was 10 years old. In 1838 he came, with his parents to Texas and settled at Frelsburg, where they lived for a number of years. From the time he was 16 to his twenty-fourth year he was a hostler and cowboy. Sometime later he married Miss Frances Wink and moved to Mentz. To this union were born nine children, of which four are living. One has been missing for more than 26 years. The living children are Andrew Weigel, Mrs. Wm. Frels of Gillett, Mrs. Anton Nelson and Mrs. Conrad Hennecke of Bernardo. The missing child is A. D. Weigel.

After the death of his first wife he later married Miss Thresia Seifert. To this union eight children were born, of which only three are living. These are Herman Weigel of Mentz, Paul Weigel of Choate and Mrs. Frank Schoellman of Nada. His second wife had been dead fifteen years at the time of his death.

Conrad Weigel lived in Mentz almost all his life and was loved by everyone who knew him. He was a good honest and straight-forward citizen. He was a Confederate veteran and was drawing a small pension at the time of his death. He was true to his country and to his church. He was a poor man but was always ready to help where help was needed. Just ten days before his death, Mr. Weigel's fifth generation was born.

At the time of his death Mr. Weigel was 94 years, 5 months and 6 days old. Relatives and friends from a distance who attended the funeral were Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Weigel and daughter, Lorena of Choate, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Frels and son Herbert and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Weigel and daughter Lucile of Gillett and Frank Schoellmann of Nada, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Brandes and little daughter and Mr. and Mrs. John Rolf and children of Jones Creek, and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Shuetta and children of New Ulm.

(Choate is a small community in Karnes Co. near Kenedy).

CONRAD WEIGEL



(cause of white spot on face not known)

Gillett, Texas, on his 94th birthday

Comments from Isabel Weigel Woodruff, granddaughter of Conrad Weigel

“He was quite a character. He spent his last years between our house and some of his other children who lived at Gillett in Karnes County – namely Paul and Ella Weigel, Andrew and Mary Weigel, and Willie and Annie Weigel Frels. Emma Schoellmann of Nada was also a daughter. He was almost blind in his last years – and lonely. Let company come, and he’s regale them with his stories about his younger days when he’d make trips to Matamoros, Mexico, with loads of cotton on wagons drawn by oxen. My mother would groan and throw up her hands – ‘there we go again.’ He had a large family but many were wiped out by an outbreak of yellow fever which must have been prevalent at that time.”

MENTZ, TEXAS MEMORIES

Cousin Arliss asked me to recall my memories of Mentz. I am probably one of the last to remember anything from the long ago period. As I recall there was a general store and dance hall owned by the Willie Braden family. Down the road was St. Roch's church. When the church had their annual 'Feast' it was held at the dance hall grounds. The day included a dance, music by a local orchestra. I remember many dances with music by Baca' and Jody Braden's bands. Families brought their young children and let them run until they got tired and then put them down on pallets to sleep until the music quit.

There was a school by the church So far as I know nuns taught there. Later a lay teacher took over my cousins Elmer, Reuben and Myrtle Braden and our cousin, Elvera Wendel went there. They must have walked, rode a horse or taken by buggy. Also Willeen, Gladys and Howard Meyer and the Schindler children were students there. Willeen recalled how they would pick dewberries in the spring along the way for their lunch. Also Henry Lee Grabow who lived across the road from the Meyers attended. At this time roads were so bad that we didn't get very far from home and did not learn to know everyone in the community really well. All of the above mentioned Mentz students became fine productive citizens. Mentz teachers of that time must have done a good job.

As I remember the church was a rather dismal looking building. Its one outstanding feature was a beautiful gold hanging sacristy lamp. It also had a pump pipe organ that had to be manually pumped to play. As I remember Addie Miekow was the organist. After she left my aunt Dora Braden took over. My dad was always a choir member. Church was putting on Sunday best, going early and often. Some of the farmers never made it inside the church—they stayed outside to visit. One day we saw a column of black smoke and it turned out to be the church on fire. It was a total loss. I often wonder if the sacristy lamp fell and started the fire. For a longtime while the church we have today was being built mass was in the rectory next door. Some years ago the old school building was moved down the road to the Mentzwood subdivision.

Dad and his brother, Oscar, owned a small acreage behind the Mentz store with no access. To get there we had to cross other's property. We went there to get our pine Christmas tree. Years later when both brothers were gone mom and Aunt Dora Braden sold the property.

One memory I have is Aunt Jocelyn and Grandma Hennecke's fine Model T car. I loved to ride in it and so I begged my way on Sundays to go home with them. On the way I remember passing by the beautiful wild phlox growing on the roadside and passing by the house Aunt Pauline and Uncle Bill lived in and where they lost a baby, Corrine.

There is one house still standing on the road to Mentz—the Kansteiner house, painted white and I always admired it. The school closed when a new two room school was built at Bernardo. Esther Meyer and Bernice Becica taught there. As they drove there they picked up kids walking I guess my outstanding memory would be bad roads. Thankfully that has been remedied.

Marie Braden Meyer Whiteley, (1925-2015)

Written April 2011

Free Public Schools/St. Joseph's School, Bernardo

Note: The following information taken from The History of the Sisters of Divine Providence, pages 163 to 166, relates generally and specifically to the school at Bernardo.

In seventeen years (1886-1903) Mother Florence opened forty-seven schools. In accepting these schools, she asked that three requisites be fulfilled: permission of the bishop in whose diocese the school was situated (she also had to obtain her own bishop's permission to accept a school out of his diocese), a suitable dwelling place for the sisters, and a schoolhouse. A "suitable dwelling place" in that period did not mean what it connotes today. Country places were still very primitive; and almost every dwelling was a little frame structure which never could be heated properly in the winter. The sisters, as well as all the people of the place, burned wood, coal, or oil for cooking and heating; they used kerosene lamps; they pumped water from a well or drew it in buckets from cisterns, which were sometimes close to the house but frequently at a distance. There were no modern conveniences in these homes. The schoolhouse was a small building of one, sometimes two, rarely three or four rooms. Usually the crowded conditions compelled one sister to take her class to the porch or even to the yard under a shady tree.

The forty-seven schools can be grouped into three types: the parish school, the private school belonging to the Sisters of Divine Providence, and the free public school. Some schools were opened as one type, but in a year or so they were changed to another; a few remained throughout the period as they had started.

Mother St. Andrew had opened sixteen free public schools previous to 1886, and Mother Florence continued her policy in counties where such schools were requested by the people, although, as she wrote Bishop Gallagher in May, 1894, she preferred the parish school and only permitted the sisters to teach the free public school when the people were too poor to provide a parish school. These schools were, for the most part, in Medina, Columbus, and Fayette Counties, where the people of the vicinity were Catholic. Under the community system, the citizens conducted their schools, using the school money for salaries. The school building was not public property, and the children were not taught by lay teachers; but the building was owned by the parish or the sisters and the children were taught by the sisters.

To teach in these free schools, the sister had to take an examination given by the school board of the county where she was to teach. Moreover, the teachers in most of these counties had to know either German or Czech, sometimes both, since the beginners in school did not know English and since the parents wanted these languages taught in the schools so that their children could read and write their own language besides speaking it.

The sisters' free schools had terms of ten months instead of the four months of the regular public school. When the money allotted by the county was used up by the sisters, the people of the parish paid a tuition of a dollar or fifty cents per month per child, according to the contract made.

These so-called free schools resulted from a need of the times. In the 1870's and 1880's there were very few schoolteachers; moreover, not many lay people could have one profession for four months of the year and another for the next eight months. But religious women of a congregation placed all their earnings into a common fund from which each shared alike and lived from day to day a life of frugality. They could, therefore, teach children of those counties which did not provide an annual living wage. In the 1890's when people began to have more financial resources, more lay teachers were available. Population shifts brought more non-Catholics into the areas. Many of these people objected to having sisters teach their children, fearing they would instruct them in the Catholic faith. From the beginnings of these free schools, the sisters never taught religion to non-Catholic children and never during the time allotted to the free school. Nevertheless, accusations were made.

One example is the case of the school at Bernardo Prairie, Colorado County. An accusation was made against the county judge for allowing the sisters to teach since they were reported to be teaching religion. A story was told about a particular incident to prove the point, and printed in the German paper. In the next issue the county judge refuted it saying that he knew the man who had concocted the story and he had learned that no such incident had occurred. He stated, moreover, that on several occasions people had complained to him that the sisters were teaching religion in the free schools. As soon as the accusations were made, he had them carefully examined and never had he found them true. He even went further; he brought the accusers back to his office asking where they got their information since he could not find the accusations true. Invariably, each one stated, "I heard that the sisters were teaching nothing but religion; I forgot who said it."

Other References to Bernardo/Mentz

The book An Early History of Fayette County by Weyand and Wade (published 1936) has two references to the Bernardo/Mentz area.

The first reference, on pages 244 & 245, is taken from Eagle Lake Headlight, "Frontier Times," IX. No. 4, 157-8.

Saturday, February 23, 1861 was an exciting day in the history of our neighboring Colorado County. It was the election day to decide the question of Secession.

Dunlavy precinct (the present precincts of Mentz and Bernardo) voted as follows:

For Secession	10
Against Secession	41

The second reference is found on page 259 under the chapter "Cotton Trade Between Fayette County and Mexico During the (Civil) War."

Fayette County teamsters hauled to Mexico not only cotton raised in the county but also cotton raised in East Texas and Louisiana. Cotton raised in those sections was not hauled directly to Mexico, but it was dumped at certain convenient places from where it was relayed to its destination. These dumping stations were Alleyton, Bernard, and Columbus in Colorado County....

BRADEN SETTLEMENT

The term "Braden Settlement" is found in the two centennial publications (1956) of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society: Century of Agricultural Progress (the minutes of the organization) and The Cat Spring Story (a history of the area and some of its people). The minutes include the names of proposed and accepted members. Among these are four listed as being from the Braden Settlement: Mr. Liermann(1867), Mr. Dore(1870), Heinrich Moeller (1870), and Pedecke (1873). Clarification of the term "Braden Settlement" is found in a sentence (page 141) from The Cat Spring Story.

Many bois d' arc or Osage orange hedge fences were raised here, and remnants can be found here and there, especially near Bernardo or the Braden settlement as it was known in the early days.

CAT SPRING AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Society, organized in 1856, was composed of men from the general Cat Spring area who joined together for mutual benefit. Many of the men were educated in many fields other than agriculture so they shared what knowledge and experience as well as plants, seeds, etc. they had. This sharing is indicated by the following sentence from page 9 of the printed minutes.

At least one member in each of the three communities: Cat Spring, Millheim and Bernardo shall then have the responsibility to grow more seed for the members residing in these communities.

KRETZSCHMAR/PRAUSE /NAGEL

The Cat Spring Story includes biographies of some of the families from the Cat Spring-Millheim-Bernardo area. Several of these biographies include comments about the area which give an insight into the early times.

Gustav Emil Kretzschmar was born in the Bernard area in 1857; he had one sister and seven brothers. Their parents had chosen this area when they came from the old country because wild game and fish were plentiful. They had timber that was so necessary to build log houses and zig-zag fences made of rails. One of the members of the family reports that turkeys were shot out of the trees so fat they popped open as they fell to the ground. Mr. Kretzschmar hauled freight between Houston and Bernardo. (page 57)

Arnold Prause II came as a child with his father and mother to American from Wallenburg Schlesien, Germany. He settled in the Bernardo community in 1860. He had a cotton gin which was operated with oxen for power and later with mules until steam power came into use. (page 67)

Carl Nagel, son of Dr. Herman Nagel, was born in 1849 on his father's farm in Bernardo. After his parents moved to Millheim, he began his education under E. G. Maetze. At the age of fourteen his father, siding with the Union's cause, took Carl to Mexico and finally settled in St. Louis, Missouri. Nagel rose in political power and was appointed as Secretary of Commerce and Labor during President Taft's administration. (page 65)

Other publications include references to early Colorado County settlers. The New Encyclopedia of Texas, published in 1936 during the Texas Centennial, includes several such references.

Jake Maerz, a son of Pete Maerz who came to Texas from Germany in the early part of the nineteenth century, was a landowner, planter, and freighter of Colorado County. He operated many teams of oxen and hauled cotton and other commodities from Colorado to Matagorda County and also Mexico.

John Reitz and his wife, Tillie Burtschell Reitz, were both native Texans and members of pioneer families of Colorado County. Both the Reitz and Burtschell families engaged in cattle, horse, mule, and sheep businesses since early days.

Ed Braden (wife-Mary Doree Braden) was a pioneer gin builder and operated plants at various times at Bernardo and Alleyton.

AREA ROADS

Roads in the Bernardo area named for area settlers include Dittmar Road, Liermann Road, Reitz-Quinn Road, Reichardt Lane, Schmoeller-Sens Road, Kveton Road, and Nelson Lane. Dietrich Lane, Hennecke Road, A. Braden Road, and Brod Road are some of the roads in the Mentz area for early settlers.

OBITUARY OF MRS. JOSEPHINE BROD-January 27, 1918

Mrs. Josephine Brod, one of the oldest and most highly respected ladies in the entire county, died here (Columbus) last Sunday afternoon. She had been ailing for several months, and was confined to her bed for about three weeks preceding her death.

Mrs. Brod was the widow of the late Jacob Brod, Sr., she was born in Germany January 20, 1827, and was ninety one years and one week old at the time of her death. She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lucas Burttschell and came to the United States with her parents in 1844. They settled at Frelsburg and lived there several years, later moving to the Bernard or Mentz section where they lived for many years. In 1847 she was united in marriage with Jacob Brod, Sr. Of the marriage there were born nine children, seven sons and two daughters, all of whom preceded her in death except four sons, Jacob Brod, Jr., of Cameron, Frank Brod of San Antonio, Anton Brod of Sunnyside, and Charle Brod of Waco. She had 59 grandchildren, 138 great grand children, and 10 great-great grandchildren. Her husband died in 1906, after fifty nine years of married life. Every year for many years prior to the death of her husband they celebrated their marriage, their golden wedding in 1897 having been one of the greatest similar events ever celebrated in this section of the State. About two years after her husband's death she moved to Columbus and made her home with her grand daughter, Mrs. Louise Trojan, where she spent the remaining years of her remarkable life.

Mrs. Brod was born at a little place in Germany called Bingen on the Rhine, a place made famous in literature by the celebrated poem entitled "Bingen on the Rhine," a touching story of a soldier's death in Algiers and of the message he asked his comrade to take to his mother, sister and sweetheart at "Bingen on the Rhine."

Like most of the substantial families of that section of Germany, Mrs. Brod's family required her to learn a trade. Her trade was that of cigar maker, and in her late years she enjoyed telling of the early experiences in Texas when the people suffered many hardships and those that prospered most were the ones who worked the hardest. She was a great cigar maker, being able, it is said, to make about five hundred cigars by hand a day. They built up quite a cigar trade in this section and made their first money in that way. The first wagon they bought after coming to this country was hand made, made in this county at a cost of \$150.00 and was paid for by money she earned as a cigar maker. Among other experiences related by her was that when she came to this country she brought with her a water yoke like those used in the old country. They had no water on the place at Frelsburg, so she used that water yoke to carry water from a spring a few miles away.

Mrs. Brod possessed great vitality physically, and mentally, and was a remarkable woman. She was a splendid business woman, highly intelligent, of a fine character, kind and generous, and was greatly loved by those who knew her. She was a member of the Mentz Catholic Church and was buried at Mentz Tuesday morning Rev. Father George Barberich conducting the services. The funeral was attended by numerous relatives and hundreds of devoted friends from various sections of the State.

*Jacob Brod served in the Confederate Army, State Troops, 22nd Brigade unattached, C.S.A. He served under Capt. J. F. Baker. Rolls dated Jan. 30, 1863 & Feb. 28, 1863.

(material provided by great granddaughter, Rosalee Brod Meyer)



**PICNIC GATHERING OF OLD FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS AT MENTZ
ca. 1913**

Back row (men standing): John Brod, Herman Meyer, Jacob Braden, Adam Ritter, August Schuette holding grandchild, Willie? Meyer, Edwin Dunlavy, Jacob Hennecke

Next row (men standing): Leander Brod, Arthur Schuette, ?, Charles Hennecke, Charles Bock, Otto Luedecke, Lewis Iselt, Gerhard Brod

Middle row (women standing): Mrs. Herman Meyer, Elizabeth Braden, Elizabeth Brod, Eva Becker, Mrs. Schuette, Mary Hennecke, Mrs. Louisa Bock, Emma Dunlavy, Annie Ritter, Hattie Luedecke, Addie Brod, Mrs. Lewis Iselt, child Oscar Brod

Fourth row (women seated): Ella Ritter, Hattie Meyer, Maida Boch, Ernestine Brooks, Gertrude Hennecke, Clara Iselt, Hattie Brod, Hilda Meyer, Katie Braden

Front row (children): Herbert Meyer (boy in white shirt), Norma Meyer (girl in white), Manuel Brod (far left), Alan Brod, Herbert Braden, Simon Brod, Homer Meyer, Raymond hennecke, Adela Iselt, Martha Brod, Leona Ritter, Jocelyn Hennecke, Laura Iselt, Elsa Iselt, Pauline Hennecke, Edna Dunlavy, Hilda Brod, Lee Dunlavy, Alfred islet, Reinhard Brod (in white shirt), Emanuel Hennecke

FAMILY OF JOE AND ELIZABETH (MAERZ) BRADEN



Felix and Hilda (Braden) Brod, Oscar and Dora (Braden) Braden,
Joe and Elizabeth (Maerz) Braden, Willie and Tecla (Braden) Nelson,
Leo and Leona (Braden) Polocheck, Leo and Emma (Braden) Brod



MENTZ (BURTTSCHELL?) BAND

- 1) Anton ?, 2) Wiliam Kotzebue, 3) Jake Nelson, 4) Willie Nelson
(Jake & Willie Nelson were Burttschell descendants)

A GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE AT MENTZ HALL
 (with Mentz Band)



Back row: ?, Arthur Meyer, Paul Braden, Louisa Frey, ?, Katie Frey, Anton Frey,
 Sophia Branchard?, Peter Frey, Annie Braden, ?
Second row (standing): ?, Lu Ella Burttschell, ?, ?, ?, ?, Otto Reitz, ?, Rochus Braden
Third row (seated): Annie Reitz, Willie Reitz, ?, ?, ?, Eva Becker
Front row (seated): Leander Burttschell, ?, Annie Watz, Hattie Maerz, Dora Braden, ?,
 Lillie Burttschell

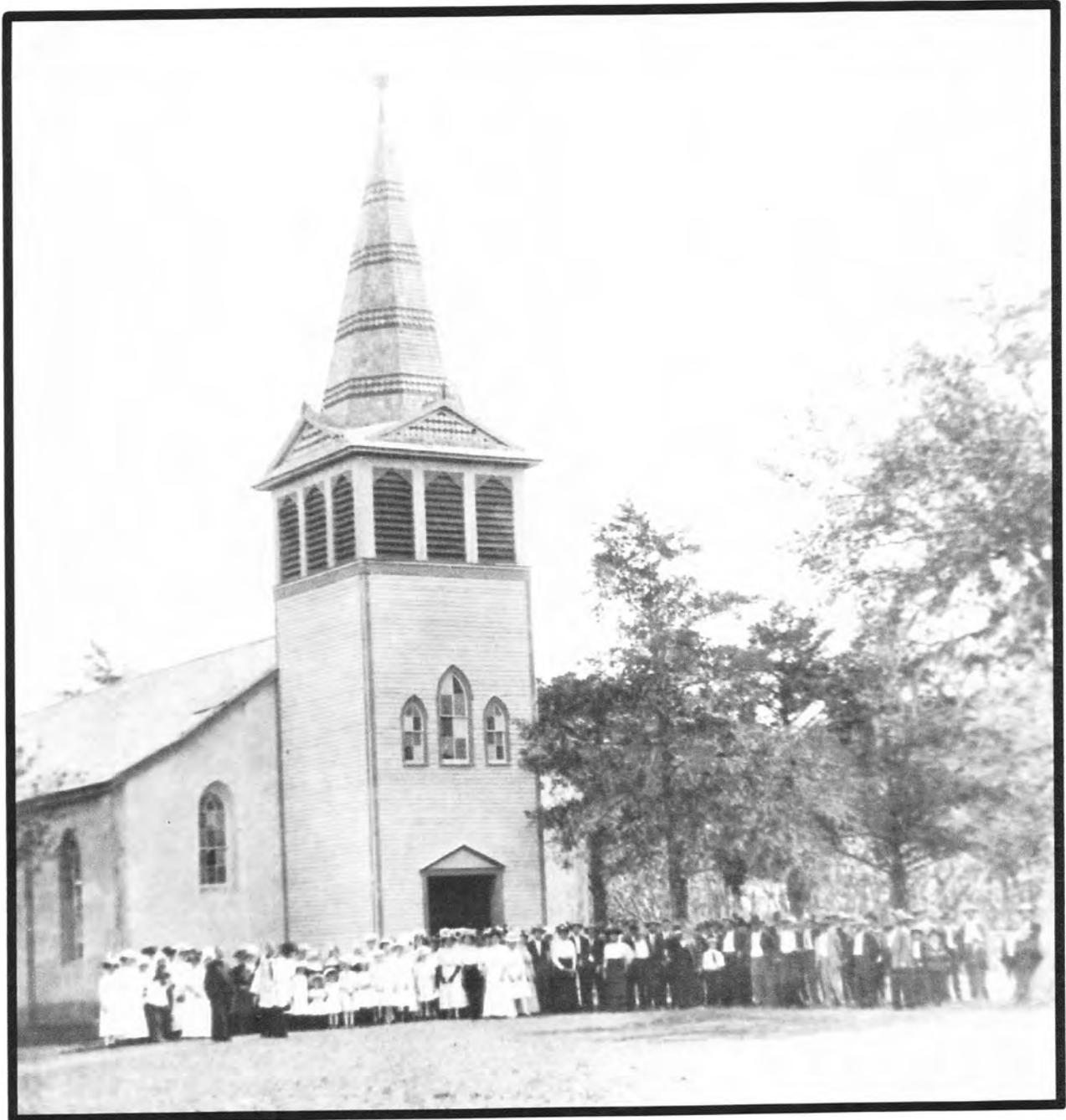
CORNERSTONE OF CURRENT CHURCH BUILDING

— A. M. D. G. —
ST. ROCK'S CHURCH
• — 1940. A. D. — •
Rt. Rev. C. E. Byrne D. D.
Rev. F. J. Klass
(Adm. Pastor)
Parish Organized
1850^s

— Historical Sketch —

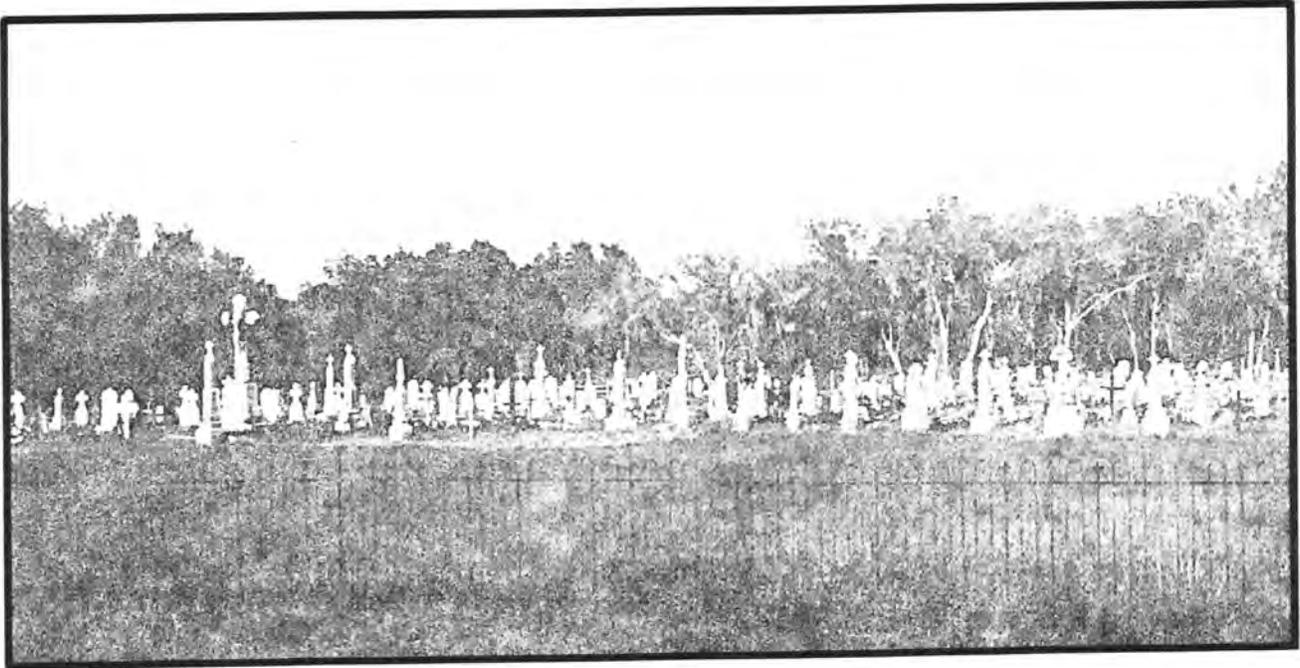
In the early 1850^s Very Rev. Victor Goury
and Revs. Charles Tarrillion, John Barlemann
ministered to the faithful in these parts.
These Priests resided at Frelsburg, Tex.
being commissioned by Bishops - Rt. Rev.
J.M. Odin, C. M. and Rt. Rev. C.M. Dubuis
In 1858 A.D. a Church was erected
• where now our Cemetery stands •
In 1867 A.D. the second Church was
erected. This Church stood for 73 yrs.

ST. ROCH STONE CHURCH



ST. ROCH CATHOLIC CHURCH





ST. ROCH CEMETERY

Iron fence was erected in 1906.

It was donated to the scrap metal collection during World War II.

MENTZ BAND
At Christmas Time?



According to Lois Neuendorff Didner, the owner of the photograph, the band was also called the Burttschell Band. Lois is a descendant of Peter Nelson and Katherine Burttschell. Her grandfather was Anton Nelson. "I assume the man on the far right is my father (John Neuendorff, husband of Henrietta "Hattie" Nelson). I know he played the drums. First row, fourth from left is Willie Nelson. Back row – second from left is Jake Nelson. The picture was taken in the old church in Mentz. I guess there was a lot of musical talent in the Burttschell family."

Front row, second from right – Paul George Braden

1872

New Mainz March 12th
A. D. 1872.

Illustrissimo ac Reverendissimo
Claudio Mariae Dubuis .D.D.
Episcopo Galvestonensi.

Rev^{dis} Joannes Heimer, Pastor Ecclesiae
met^{ro} Rochi in loco, vulgo dicto New Mainz
Bernarde, ab Excellentia tua facultatem
pet. erigendi in supra dicta Ecclesia Stationes
et^{ae} viae Crucis cum indulgentiis a S^{ta} Sede
sic pio exercitio concessis

+ C. M. Dubuis Ep^{us}
Galvestonensis

Rev. John Heimer, ^(w) pastor of the Church of St. Roch located at
New Mainz and Bernarde, his Excellency gives to you the faculties to
erect in said church the Stations of the Cross with the usual indulgences
attached.

C. M. Dubuis
Bishop of Galveston

MDCCCLXXIV die prima mensis maii, Ego, Claudius
 Maria Dubuis, Episcopus Galvestonensis consecravit Ecclesiam
 in honorem Sancti Rochi et singulis Christi fidelibus hodie unum
 annum et in die anniversario consecrationis huiusmodi, prout
 visitantibus, quadraginta dies de pura Indulgentia, in forma
 Ecclesiae consueta, concessi.



C. M. Dubuis, Episcopus Galvestonensis

On the first day of May, 1874, I, Claude Mary Dubuis, bishop
 of Galveston, consecrated the church in honor of St. Roch and
 today I grant to the Faithful people of Christ who visit
 this church on the anniversary day of this consecration, an
 indulgence of 40 days in the customary form of the Church.

C.M. Dubuis
 Bishop of Galveston



2013 Picnic – First in new hall

According to an article in the *October 3, 1985*, issue of the Columbus paper, the parish celebrations began over 130 years ago (1855) in honor of the patron, St. Roch.* These early celebrations were held on his holy day or feast day, August 16.** The tradition of this early feast has evolved into St. Roch's annual Mentz Picnic, held now primarily to raise needed funds to operate the small parish.

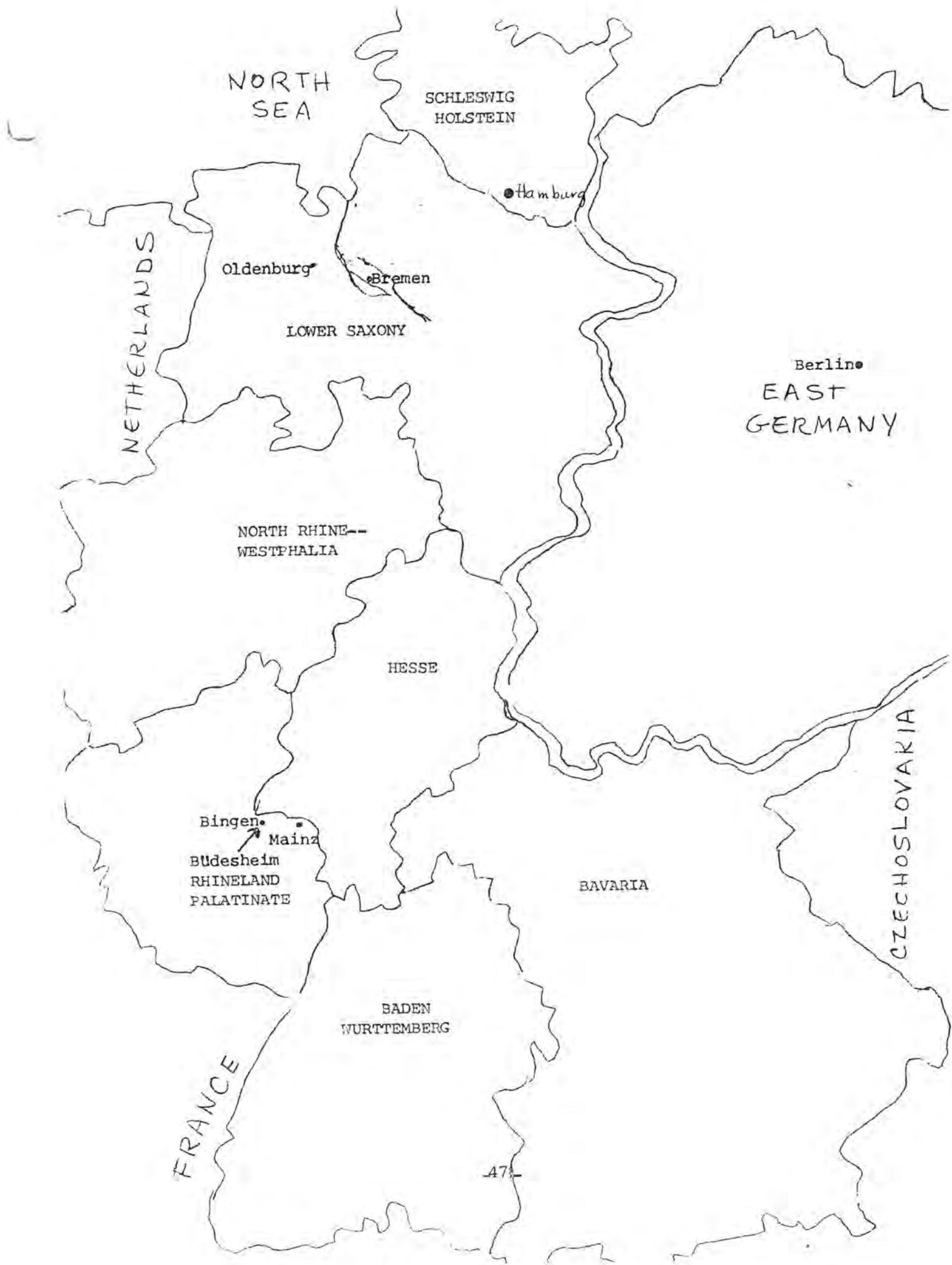
The May 11, 1882, issue of the *Colorado Citizen* included an article about another event to raise money for the parish.

The raffle that took place on Sunday last, at Saint Rochus Church, near the Bernard, for the benefit of the Church, was quite an interesting affair. Quite a number of the citizens from the surrounding country were present, and a few from this place. The raffling lasted for several hours and created some enthusiasm. A great many articles were raffled and a majority of the gentlemen who were so fortunate as to win, were charitable enough to present them back to Church. Mr. Wagenfuhr won the first prize, and so disposed of it. The curiosity of the day—especially to those who had never seen anything of the kind before, were the three huge bells, which hung in the tower of the Church. They were purchased last fall at a cost of \$2100. They weigh 4500 pounds; and when all ring at once make a very pleasant sound and can be heard at a distance of several miles.

*Since Franz Burttschell sold the land for the church in 1857 and the first church was built in 1858, these celebrations evidently began during the time that Mass was said in the homes. The priests from Frelsburg came through the woods on horseback to minister to the families.

**The settlers from Budesheim by Bingen on the Rhine were continuing the tradition to honor St. Rochus whose intercession the people of Bingen implored in 1666 to save them from the plague.

REFERENCES FROM GERMANY



NORTH SEA

SCHLESWIG
HOLSTEIN

NETHERLANDS

Oldenburg

Bremen

LOWER SAXONY

Hamburg

Berlin
EAST
GERMANY

NORTH RHINE--
WESTPHALIA

HESSE

Bingen
Mainz
Rheinsheim
RHEINLAND
PALATINATE

BAVARIA

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

BADEN
WURTTENBERG

FRANCE

MAINZ

Mainz, or Mentz, the largest town in the grandduchy of Hesse-Darmstadt, one of the strongest fortresses in Germany, and formerly the seat of an archbishop and elector, is situated on a rising ground on the left bank of the Rhine, nearly opposite the influx of the Main (river).

Mainz, one of the oldest cities in Germany, was originally a Celtic settlement. Its strategic importance was early recognized by the Romans, and in 13 B.C. Drusus, the son-in-law of Augustus, erected a fortified camp(castrum) there, to which a smaller castellum (the modern Castel) on the opposite bank was afterward added. The Celtic name became Latinized as Maguntiacum or Moguntiacum, and a town, Maguntia, gradually arose, which became the capital of Germania Superior. In the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) Mainz was occupied by the Swedes and the French. In 1792 it enthusiastically welcomed the principles of the French Revolution, and opened its gates to the Republican troops under General Custine. It was recaptured in the following year, but was ceded to France by the peace of Campo Formio in 1797. In 1814 it was restored to Germany and handed over to the grand-duchy of Hesse, remaining, however, a fortress of the German Confederation, garrisoned in common by Prussian, Austrian, and Hessian troops. Since 1871 it has been a fortress of the German Empire. Population (1889) 65,000.

New-Americanized Encyclopedia Britannica
published 1899-page 4050

BINGEN

Bingen, ancient Bingium, or Vincum, town, West Germany, state of Hesse, is situated on the left bank of the Rhine at its confluence with the Nahe; 17 miles west of Mainz. Noteworthy buildings are the 15th century parish church; the castle of Klopp, in the site of an ancient Roman fortress; the Rochus-Kapelle, a chapel on the brow of the Rochusberg, a high hill back of Bingen, in which the festival of St. Rochus is celebrated; and the Drusus Bridge, with its seven arches, built about 13 B.C. In the middle of the river opposite Bingen is the celebrated Mouse Tower where, according to legend, the cruel Bishop Hatto of Mainz was devoured by mice (969). On the opposite side of the river, a little above Bingen, is the ruined castle of Ehrenfels, erected about 1210. There are manufactures of tobacco, wine, starch, and leather, and trade in wine and grain. In the Middle Ages Bingen was a free town but later passed to the Elector of Mainz. It was often captured in the Thirty Years' War and in 1689 was almost entirely destroyed by the French. Population (1946) 16,550.

The American Peoples Encyclopedia

MOUSE TOWER

Mouse Tower (in German Der Mauseturm), is a tower on a small island on the Rhine River, Bingen, Germany. A famous legend tells about the tower and the cruel Bishop Hatto of Bingen who built it. According to the legend, the bishop fled there to escape a horde of mice. The mice came to avenge the deaths of peasants whom the cruel bishop had burned alive. The horde of mice attacked the tower and devoured the wicked tyrant. Experts have identified several historical characters with this story, including two Archbishop Hattos of Mainz. In reality, Mauseturm appears to be a corruption of mautturm, meaning tall tower. The tower was probably built in the 1200's as a place for collecting tolls from boats on the Rhine.

ROCHUSBERG/ST. ROCH'S CHAPEL

Editor's note: The following information is compiled from a variety of sources: the priest of Bingen-Buedesheim; the archivist of the diocese of Mainz; and the Archives of Koblenz, Germany. The material itself is in a variety of forms: booklets, books, newspaper articles, emigration records, and other records. The material being in the German language, several people aided in the translation and/or transcription: Julia Penn of Austin, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Guenther of Austin, Mrs. Elise Theinert of San Antonio, Mrs. Alma Corsan of Wharton, and Elizabeth Didner and Helen Didner of Westphalia.

* * * * *

The Rochusberg is a long hill up the Rhine from Bingen. Earlier the hill was called The Hesselberg, also called "Hissel," then in 1482, "Hesel." Since the mountain once was covered with hazelnut bushes it is assumed that the name Hessel comes from Hasel-Hesel-Hissel. At one time it was also called Eisenberg (Iron Mountain). The present name (Rochusberg) became fixed only after 1666 when the church (of St. Roch) was built.

Before the church of St. Roch was built, there had been a Bethlehem's Chapel (or church) supposedly on the same spot-from the time of the crusades, 11th to 12th centuries. The church was named Bethlehem because that had been the goal of the crusaders. That the church really did exist is evidenced by a proclamation from 1417 which mentions it. It is not known when it was built. The Archbishop of Mainz took over the Bethlehem Church and all its goods after the Brotherhood of St. Martin in Bingen had their church burn down in 1390.

The church of St. Roch was built to honor the saint and implore his aid to stop a plague of 1666. In the first nine months of that year, 1300 people in Bingen were said to have died of the plague. Bodies had to be laid unceremoniously criss-cross of one another in mass graves; whole families and clans died out, and houses and streets went to wrack and ruin. Baron von Dehren had heard that by honoring St. Rochus in this way the pestilence in Germany and Italy had been stopped. So the mayor of Bingen made the pledge, and the people agreed to this use of resources so they set to building the church. By the time the church was finished, the plague died out. The church was dedicated in 1677. The thankful people promised always to hold a procession on the 16th of August in honor of Rochus to the Rochus church, and they have kept this promise since that time.

In 1738 the people acquired a carved wooden statue of Rochus which they carry in the procession. The Rochus Brotherhood, founded in 1754 and consisting of male citizens of the town, look after the church. The Brotherhood existed into this century.

In 1689 France's Louis XIV had Bingen burned. The church remained standing but was stripped bare even of the church bells. The church was destroyed except for its walls in 1795 when the French General Custine fought with Austrians over Mainz. Until 1802 the pilgrimage was to the ruins. From 1802 to 1813 the pilgrimage was to the Bingen city church. After 1814 when the conquering French went back home and Bingen was again German, the people decided to rebuild the church. Everyone helped, and the church was ready for the August 16, 1814, procession. Everyone was delighted because for eleven years they had not been able to conduct the pilgrimage properly.

On July 11, 1889, lightning started a fire. Only the precious things inside the church were saved; the church burned down to the foundations. The foundations were used as much as possible in building the new church. The third Rochus church was finished May 18, 1891, so it could be consecrated on August 17. The big bell is dedicated to Mary, Christ's helper; the second one to St. Roch; the third to Hildegard; the last to St. Rupert and his holy mother Berta.

Clippings from the newspaper in Bingen(1981) tell of the recent pilgrimage of thousands to the outdoor altar of the Rochus Church to celebrate the eucharist in memory of the saint of the plague. This pilgrimage is still made annually because of the solemn oath made by the mayor of Bingen in 1666. Much in the celebration has changed, but the procession has not. People carry St. Roch's statue, and numbers of Christians from Bingen and elsewhere follow. The pilgrimage celebration is complete with many booths and good food. Especially prized is Bratwurst wrapped in grape leaves.

The 1981 sermon by Bishop Kampe described the horrors of the plague and life circumstances then. Of Bingen's approximately 3000 inhabitants, approximately 1300 died. The church at that time organized help and care for the sick and promised everyone hope and relief.

The southwest end of the long Rochus hill is called the Scharlachkopf(scarlet-head) on the slopes of which the famous Scharlachberger(scarlet mountain) grape grows. This point affords a magnificent view of the Rhine valley and the Nahe valley as well as of the Hessian Palatinate.

A booklet about the St. Roch's Chapel contains a reproduction of an oil painting of the saint. The writer Goethe gave the money for the painting so the painter put the young Goethe's face on St. Rochus. The painting illustrates Rochus giving away all his worldly goods as he leaves his palace to go on a crusade.

BUEDESHEIM

Note: The latest date which the original material contains is 1865; the term Prussian is also used. One must assume, therefore, that the current statistics mentioned refer to the late 19th century (before 1918).

* * * * *

The population at the time the article was written was 2782. There were 1028 inhabitants in 1815; of these 2,672 were Catholic; 75, Protestant; and 35, Jewish. Budesheim had its own mayor. The city facilities were under the jurisdiction of the tax collector's office.

There is much business, particularly in wine. There is a post office with telegraph and telephone, and an electric train is to be built to Bingen. Land is divided into farmland, vineyards, fields, forest, and homesteads. There are several mills.

The town was first mentioned in 1074 by the name of Buodenesheim, then Budensheim(1154), Budinsheim(1181), Buetensheim(1184), Butinsheim(1190), and Buthinheym(1222). It was usually then referred to as Budesheim bei Bingen or am Eysenberg(the iron mountain) to distinguish it from Erbes-Budesheim which is near Alzey.

In 983 sovereignty over Buedesheim seems to have accrued to the Archbishopric of Mainz when Kaiser Otto II gave Bingen and its surrounding area to Archbishop Wiligis. However, in the 13th century, the St. Stephan's monastery (or seminary) at Mainz laid claim to sovereignty of Buedesheim. Subsequently, there was much contention over the administrative governorship, and it was back and forth to the 18th century between Archbishopric of Mainz and St. Stephan's monastery. (note: St. Stephan is the patron saint of Mainz).

Mention was made of a church in Buedesheim first in 1184. Proof of its incorporation appears in 1213 and 1313; it was probably already incorporated in 1154. The parish, which was dedicated to Saints Aureus and Justina, was situated in the Archbishopric of Mainz.

Buedesheim was originally a walled town in the Middle Ages. It would not have held back the enemy so in wartime the people of Buedesheim took refuge behind the walls of Bingen and agreed to help protect Bingen. They built a Buedesheim tower, the fifth one of the city walls, and kept four men there on watch. This agreement was renewed in 1552.

Alte Rathaus is the old city hall built in 1539. There was some kind of "law house" already in 1441 in Buedesheim built under an oak tree. It may have been under the present city hall. The bells in its little towers are dated 1774 and 1754 (poured in Mainz and Frankfurt).

There is a castle near the church which was first mentioned in 1290. In the 17th and 18th centuries Winecke castle belonged to the family Frey von Dehren. Nothing remains of the fortification (castle), but the area where it stood is still referred to as "die Burg," "the castle," or "the fort."

Scharlachberg is a vineyard on the border of Bingen; it was well known before 1248. Only the Resling grape could be planted. If the people planted another grape, theirs would no longer be first class.

Roman glass and clay containers have been found in the area and are in the museum in Mainz. There are early cemeteries, hills that were mass graves, and some burial urns have been found.

OLD BUEDESHEIM FAMILIES

Note: This material is extracted from The History of Buedesheim--"Family Histories--The Last Senior Magistrate of Buedesheim." Only those sections containing names of families which immigrated to Texas are included.

* * * * *

Even long before the Thirty Years War (1618-1648) and into the 19th century the following families were living in Buedesheim: Auth, Barck, Engelhardt, Hademer, Heusenstamm, Hornblaser, Lautz(Laux)* and Vogt.

In 1643 the Wendel^{***} family appears for the first time as heirs of Adam Wendel and in 1716 as Caspar Wendel. From there on were always several families of this name.

Furthermore, during the time before the Thirty Years War the Schmitt(Schmidt)^{**}, Klein and Mueller families are mentioned. It is possible that the Schmitt and Mueller families now living in Buedesheim are descendants of these--however, that is difficult to prove.

Already in 1662 the first members of the Braden^{***} family are mentioned. They were Balthasar and Gabriel. Also listed in 1667 is Hupert Braden who was Mayor in 1674 and church elder in 1685. One of the descendants was Paul Braden, born circa 1698. From 1731 to 1755 he was Court Clerk and Tax Collector. From 1755 to 1768 (his death) he was Senior Magistrate. His nephew Georg Paul Braden held the office of Mayor from 1814 to 1825. Also during the time of the Stephan Foundation various Bradens held the office of mayor, which, however, at that time did not have the importance it had under Georg Paul Braden.

The Braden family is believed to have come from England and spelled their name Braddon (pronounced Braedden). We also find the spelling of Braddon in the Buedesheimer church record of 1736.

At the same time as the Braden family appear the ancestors of the following families: Brueck, Hirschenkraemer (Hirschen-Craehmer), Kunz (Cuntz), Rau and Walter(Walther)^{***} and in the 1670's: Bartholomae, Buedenbender, Blum, Hees, Pertgen(Pfertgen), Schueler^{***}, Stumm and Zoell. A little later but still before 1700: Damm, Frey^{***}, and Hensel(Haensel).

After 1700 to the end of the 18th century the following families arrived: Bender, Berger^{***}, Brustmann, Conrad, Decker, Dore, Ebersmann, Gerothwohl, Gord, Gross, Gruenewald, Illy, Kastel, Kau, Kraus (Krauss), May Mayer(Meyer)^{***}, Motz, Nachtigall, Rifsel, Roesch^{***}, Rudolf, Schild, Schilz, Schneider^{***}, Schober, Schoenemann, Sommer^{***}, Sirebel, Trable, Trunk, Uehlein, Werner, Wink^{***}, and Zimmerschitt.^{***}

*Family name of Mrs. Lucas Burtschell(Laux)

**Family name of Mrs. Andreas Braden, Sr.(Schmitt)

***Families by this name immigrated to Texas from Buedesheim

BUEDESHEIM EMIGRATION RECORDS

The following eleven pages contain various kinds of emigration records obtained from Landeshauptarchiv Koblenz (State Archives of Koblenz, Germany). Some of these records are general lists; one record is a personal letter; one record is an official correspondence. Several records are written to or from St. George, mayor of Buedesheim; these records indicate the significance of the mayor's office. Several of the records also indicate that government "red tape" is nothing new.

* * * * *

Buedesheim
November 21, 1845

Nr. d.D. 1113
Reference: The Emigrations.

To:
The Grand-Ducal Hessian County Council of Bingen County
REPORT
of the Grand-Ducal Hessian Mayor at Buedesheim
Nr. K
Referring to the order
of November 8, 1845

In compliance with the above quoted high order I have the honor to report respectfully that from March 1, 1844 to this day, the following persons respectively families have emigrated from this community to Texas. Their return is not to be expected.

Nr.	Namen der Ausgewanderten	Familien Stand	Anzahl der Koepfe letzterer	Vermoeegen
1	Peter Jakob Wendel	ledig	---	300.
2	Johann Frey	"	---	300.
3	Jakob Rothemer	verh.	Frau, keine Kinder	200.
4	Kaspar Rothemer	"	Schwaegerin und 5 kinder	2,500.
5	Ferdinand Sommer	"	Frau u. 5 Kinder	600.
6	Lukas Burtschell	"	Frau u. 10 Kinder	1,000.
7	Adam Roesch	"	Frau u. 3 Kinder	400.
8	Heinrich Walter III	"	Frau u. 2 Kinder	600.
9	Johann Frey	ledig	---	100.
10	Johann Schmitt III	verh.	Frau u. 5 Kinder	600.
11	Anton Braden II	"	Frau u. 2 Kinder	600.
12	Phil. Joseph Frey	"	Frau u. 3 Kinder	5,000.
13	Kaspar Schueler	"	Frau u. 5 Kinder	600.
14	Adam Braden	"	Frau, keine Kinder	400.
15	Johann Bapt. Braden	"	---	300.
16	Jakob Weckert	"	---	100.
				<u>13,600.</u>
I	5 ledige maennliche		Das Ergebnis ist also	
	1 ledige weiblich		wie neben angefuehrt 13,600.--.	
	11 verheiratete Maenner			
	10 Frauen			
	40 Kinder			
	<u>67</u>			

- II They have disposed of their assets and, after paying their debts, they took with them above amounts in cash, including the still to be paid head tax.
- III According to my knowledge they did not leave behind any creditors whose demands had not been met.
- IV All (emigrants) have been provided with passes to Antwerp and with testimonials as to their character.
- V. The fact that a local (organizer) representative was given the agency is the reason why in such a short time so many decided to emigrate, while formerly only a few gave it any thought--even if the agent did not make any strenuous efforts in this direction.

St. George

No. der Familie	Namen	Stand	Alter	Zeit der Auswanderung.	
1	Zimmerschött, Friedrich	Ackersmann	34	1830	
	Josephine (seine Frau)			"	
	Josephine (Tochter)			1844	
2	Schmitt, Johann III	Ackersmann		1845	
	Maria (geb. Studer)			"	
	Kinder:				
	a) Elisabeth			20	"
	b) Theresia			18	"
	c) Joh. Baptist			17	"
d) Heinrich	15	"			
e) Margaretha	14	"			
3	Braden, Anton II			"	
	Margarethe (geb. Braden)			"	
	Kinder:				
	a) Adam			3	"
	b) Johanna Marga			1	"
4	Braden, Adam			"	
	Elisabeth (geb. Wirzelhahn)			"	
5	Braden, Joh. Baptist (ledig, Sohn v. Georg Braden)			"	
6	Wink, Paul	Kieser		1848	
	Anna Maria (geb. Braden)				
	Kinder:				
	a) Franziska Marg.			11	1848
	b) Adam Joseph			9	"
	c) Magdalena			8	"
d) Johann	5	"			
e) Anna Mar.	2	"			

No. der Familie	Namen	Stand	Alter	Zeit der Auswanderung.
7	Wink, Johann Antonette (geb.Frey) Kinder: a)Anna Maria b)Rosine c)Johann Peter		10 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	1848
8	Braden, Grg.Joseph II Barbara (geb.Nagel) Kinder: a)Georg Joseph b)Eduard c)Adam Joseph d)Magdalena e)Margarethe f)Martin g)Anna Maria		21 19 17 11 8 6 5	"
9	Lambi, Adam Margaretha (geb.Wink)			
10	Wink, Ludwig Katharina (geb.Mayer)			
11	Poth, Richard Maria Cressantia (geb.Braden) Kinder: a)Elisabetha b)Jakob c)Anna Wink (Stieftochter)	Schmied	8 5 18	1848 " " "

No. der Familie	Namen	Stand	Alter	Zeit der Auswanderung.
12	Frey III Peter			1848
	Mar. Justine (geb. Braden)			"
	Kinder:			
	a) Magdalene		8	"
	b) Peter Jakob		6	"
	c) Marie Justine		1½	"
13	Braden, Andres			"
	Katharina (geb. Schmitt)			"
	Kinder:			
	a) Anton		13	"
	b) Katharine		12	"
	c) Andres		11	"
	d) Gertrude		9	"
	e) Eva		7	"
	f) Margarethe		4	"
	g) Anna Maria		2	"
	h) Barbara		3 Wochen	
14	Maerz, Peter &			1848
	Katharine (geb. P_ Roth)			
	Kinder:			
	a) Anna Maria		16	
	b) Margaretha		14	
	c) Jakob		13	
	d) Ottilia		8	
	e) Elisabetha		5	
15	Roesch, Adam			1845
	Anna Maria (geb. Frey)			
	Kinder:			
	a) Magdalena		13	
	b) Anna Maria		11	
	c) Joseph		2	

No. der Familie	Namen	Stand	Alter	Zeit der Auswanderung.
16	Sommer, Ferdinand Katharine (geb. Senft) Kinder: a) Elisabeth b) Franz c) Katharine d) Anna Maria e) Johann		13 7 5 3 1	
17	Walter, Heinrich III (or: Heinrich, Walter III) Magdalene (geb. Mueller) Kinder: a) Johann b) Georg		5 3	
18	Burtschell, Lukas Elisabeth (geb. Laux) Kinder: a) Magdalena b) Katharina c) Franz d) Ottilia e) Josephine f) Anton g) Joseph h) Jakob i) Sophia k) Heinrich	Zimmermann		1845
19	Bengel, Nikolaus Magdalene (geb. Wink) Kinder: a) Elisabetha b) Georg c) Konrad d) Richard e) Katharin f) Johanna		15 13 11 9 5 2	
20	Burtschell, Franz (ledig)		21	1846

No. der Familie	Namen	Stand	Alter	Zeit der Auswanderung.
21	Brueck, Philipp (ledig)		21	1847
22	Brueck, Eva (ledig)		20	1848
23	Mueller, Franz (ledig)	Baecker	21	1843
24	Mueller, Anton (ledig)	Schuhmacher	20	1846
25	Schmitt, Adam (ledig)	Weingutsmann		1841
26	Schwoerbel, Paul Anna Maria (geb. Lunixenheimer) Kinder:	Ackersmann	50 47	1849
	a) Elisabeth		24	
	b) Margaretha		21	
	c) Heinrich		17	
	d) Anna		14	
	e) Lorenz		10	
	f) Ludwig		6	
27	Epeneten, Georg Joseph Sohn: Eduard	Gastwirt Baecker	51	1849 1849
28	Braden, Eduard (Sohn von Georg Joseph Braden I und Eva Braden geb. Laux)	Geometer I. Klasse		1849 (28. Juli)
29	Berger, Peter Joseph (ledig)	Tagloehner		Maerz 1851
30	Berger, Lorenz (ledig)	Kutscher		" "
31	Mayer, Georg Jos. (ledig)	Winzer		" "
32	Walter, Paul (ledig)	Schneider- geselle		" "
32	Burtschell, Klara (ledig)			" "
33	Mayer, Antoinette (ledig)			" "

MARKER DONORS AND MEMORIALS

MARKER DONORS AND MEMORIALS

DONATED BY	IN MEMORY OF/IN HONOR OF
Rosa Lee(Wendel)Bourque	P.J. and Tillie(Gadeke)Wendel
Barbara(Engbrock)Boyer, Gertrude (Engbrock)Pausewang, William Charles Engbrock, Marie(Engbrock) Shak, Paul Fred Engbrock, John James Engbrock, Andrew George Engbrock, Eugene Louis Engbrock, Joseph Adolph Engbrock	Andreas and Catherine(Schmitt)Braden William and Barbara(Braden)Engbrock Charles Antone and Mary Rosia(Burt)Engbrock
Frank Braden Family	Andreas Braden Sr. Family Frank Glueck Sr. Family
Mrs. Hubert Braden Sr.	Hubert Braden, Sr.
Joe and Frances Braden Family	Joe and Frances(Belsung)Braden
Reinhard Brod	Reinhard Brod Family
Gladys(Engbrock)and John D. Clark, Betty Joe(Clark)Mayer, Sue(Clark)McNamee, Carrin Jon (Clark)Katz	Andreas and Catherine(Schmitt)Braden William and Barbara(Braden)Engbrock Elo and Alma Rosena(Harfst)Engbrock
Myrtle(Burttschell)Coddou	Adam and Mary(Theuman)Burttschell
Mamie B.(Engbrock)Davis	Andreas and Catherine(Schmitt)Braden William and Barbara(Braden)Engbrock Frederick "Fritz" and Annie(Schnieder)Engbrock
L. R. Dees	
Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Didner	John Neuendorff Family Anton Nelson Family
Mr. and Mrs. Willie Dusek	John and Margaret(Brod)Maerz
Anthony and Rowena(Heinsohn) Engbrock	William John and Barbara(Braden)Engbrock Anton and Josephine(Braden)Burttschell William Jacob and Mary(Burttschell)Engbrock
Edwin and Catherine Engbrock, Edwin Harville Engbrock, and Elizabeth Plummer	Andreas and Catherine(Schmitt)Braden William and Barbara(Braden)Engbrock Edward Peter and Lelia(Clayton)Engbrock Russell Kent Engbrock Virginia Proven Engbrock Mary Catherine(Engbrock)Plummer
Glenn Harold Engbrock, Michael Engbrock, David Engbrock, Marcia (Engbrock)Shaw, Debbie(Engbrock) Eddlemon, and Susan Engbrock	Andreas and Catherine(Schmitt)Braden William and Barbara(Braden)Engbrock Elo and Alma Rosena(Harfst)Engbrock

Jerome and Erma Lou "Luckie" (McGaughy)Engbrock	William John and Barbara(Braden)Engbrock Anton and Josephine(Braden)Burttschell William Jacob and Mary(Burttschell)Engbrock
Herman C. Feist Family	Tillie(Braden)Feist
Ernestine(Burttschell)Foyles	Adam and Mary(Theuman)Burttschell
Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Froebel	Jessie Neuendorff Family
Meryl(Engbrock)Fuchs, Karl W. Fuchs, Viki(Fuchs)Cornelius	Elo and Alma Rosena(Harfst)Engbrock William and Barbara(Braden)Engbrock
Jocelyn A. (Hennecke)Harbich	Jacob and Mary(Braden)Hennecke Eugene Harbich
Don Heizer and Ida A. (Ordener) Heizer, Robert J. Heizer	Frederick"Fritz" and Annie(Schnieder)Engbrock
Lena(Peikert)Hennecke	Emanuel Hennecke
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hennecke, Jr. David Hennecke, Travis Hennecke	Raymond W. Hennecke, Sr.
Annie Belle(Engbrock)Herrmann, Joyce(Herrmann)Schmitt, Shirley (Herrmann)von Platen, Carl Herrmann	Andreas and Catherine(Schmitt)Braden William and Barbara(Braden)Engbrock Elo and Anna Elizabeth(Braden)Engbrock John B. and Elizabeth(Witte)Braden Anton and Margarita(Braden)Braden
Alice(Braden)Hill	Joseph and Elizabeth(Maerz)Braden C. J. Fritsch Leona(Braden)Polocheck
Daryl Hill	George Class
Delois and E. F. Hodge	Awald and Martha(Brod)Miller
Elizabeth(Wendel)Drapela Holden, Charles Drapela, Doris Ann(Drapela) Ellis, David Wendel Drapela, Mary Beth(Drapela)Moschella	Elizabeth(Wendel)Drapela Holden William and Barbara(Braden)Engbrock Peter J. and Barbara(Braden)Wendel Adolph and Emma(Engbrock)Wendel Children and Grandchildren
Joseph H. and Lorinda(Braden)Horn	Alouis Louis and Mary(Ernst)Braden
Lavine LuElla(Engbrock)Jaeckle	William John and Barbara(Braden)Engbrock Anton and Josephine(Braden)Burttschell William Jacob and Mary(Burttschell)Engbrock
Mrs. Edith(Reinhard)Johns	Mrs. Julie(Braden)Reinhard
Virgie R. Johnson	Arleene(Wendel)Rioux Winstead
Elmer R. Kainer Estate Billie(Smith)Kainer	Elmer R. Kainer

Lindsey M. Kainer, Rita(Kainer) Yackel, Sue(Kainer)Perry, and Linda(Kainer)Graham	Frank and Mary(Reitz)Kainer Judith(Kainer)Stiles
Lucian and Evelyn(Frels)Kainer and family	Louis and Selma(Engbrock)Kainer Raymond Kainer
Milton and Regina(Rolf)Kainer and family	Louis and Selma(Engbrock)Kainer Raymond Kainer Leopold and Josephine(Hanselman)Rolf Conrad and Margaret(Weigel)Henneke
Mr. and Mrs. Victor F. Kainer and family	Louis and Selma(Engbrock)Kainer Raymond Kainer
Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred F. Kainer and family	Louis and Selma(Engbrock)Kainer Raymond Kainer
Mrs. Hilda(Brod)Kansteiner	Edgar Kansteiner Family
Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Koehl	John Neuendorff Family Anton Nelson Family
Emmett and Illian(Kaiser)Kveton	John and Eva Frey Family
Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Lehr	Albert and Eva(Braden)Streicher
Patricia(Rioux)Lemley	Arleene(Wendel)Rioux
Margaret T. Litzmann	Francis and Sophia(Brod)Doree Mrs. Louisa(Doree)Trojan Freeman
Anna(Braden)McShane	Frank and Anna(Schobel)Braden
Bertha Mae Mattern	Charles and Katherine(Brod)Wendel Peter Jacob Wendel and Jacob Brod, Families Frank X. and Bertha(Meisner)Wendel
Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Mayfield	Josephine(Glueck)Smalley
Jane(Engbrock)Kuhn Meuser	Andreas and Catherine(Schmitt)Braden William and Barbara(Braden)Engbrock Frederick"Fritz" and Annie(Schnieder)Engbrock
Rosalee(Brod)Meyer	Anton and Josephine(Braden)Burttschell Jacob and Josephine(Burttschell)Brod
Louise(Burttschell)Moon	Adam and Mary(Theuman)Burttschell
Willie Mae(Engbrock)Morawietz	William John and Barbara(Braden)Engbrock Anton and Josephine(Braden)Burttschell William Jacob and Mary(Burttschell)Engbrock
Vivian(Engbrock) and Orval E. Nanny, Lynda Kay(Nanny)Beal, Cynthia Gayle(Nanny)Hajek	Andreas and Catherine(Schmitt)Braden William and Barbara(Braden)Engbrock Elo and Alma Rosena(Harfst)Engbrock

Milton and Betty Jean Nelson and family	Willie and Tecla(Braden)Nelson
William L. Neuendorff	Family of William Neuendorff
Garnett(Pickett)Noser	Wilhelmina(Silkenbaumer Neuendorff)Burttschell
Garnett(Pickett)Noser	Ignatz and Bertha(Neuendorff)Stock
Ella(Engbrock)Ordener, Louis Engbrock, Walter Engbrock	Andreas and Catherine(Schmitt)Braden William and Barbara(Braden)Engbrock Frederick"Fritz" and Annie(Schnieder)Engbrock
Regina(Wendel)Petschka, Raymond Petschka, Lorraine(Petschka)Baker Gloria(Petschka)Daughtry	Regina and Florian Petschka Adolph and Emma(Engbrock)Wendel
Helen Z. Porter	Hattie(Wendel)Zimmermann Joe Zimmermann Adolph and Emma(Engbrock)Wendel Peter and Barbara(Braden)Wendel William and Barbara(Braden)Engbrock Andreas and Catherine(Schmitt)Braden
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Reinhard	Andrew Braden Family
Carl and Marie(Wendel)Roecker	William Wendel
Lloyd Romberger and Jane T. (Ordener)Weber Romberger	Frederick"Fritz" and Annie(Schnieder)Engbrock
Ruth(Nohavitza)Schafer, Dorothy (Nohavitza)Kubala, Jarrel Nohavitza, Rita Jean(Nohavitza) Kresta, Donald Nohavitza, Kathryn (Nohavitza)Sellers	John and Katherine(Wendel)Nohavitza Adolph and Emma(Engbrock)Wendel
Josephine(Engbrock)Schulz	William John and Barbara(Braden)Engbrock Anton and Josephine(Braden)Burttschell William Jacob and Mary(Burttschell)Engbrock
Mr. and Mrs. George Sebesta	Baldwin Hill
Mr. and Mrs. George Sebesta	Anton Neuendorff Oscar A. Braden Herman Ray Braden
Mr. and Mrs. T. Van Stigall (Gracie Reitz)	John and Ophelia(Burtschell)Reitz William and Barbara(Braden)Engbrock Anton H. and Cecelia(Engbrock)Reitz
Marie Pauline(Hennecke)Treybig, William James Treybig, Arliss Annette Treybig, Ina Katherine (Treybig)Johnson	Lucas and Elizabeth(Laux)Burttschell Family Andreas and Catherine(Schmitt)Braden Family Joseph and Anna Maria(Midige)Hennecke Family Frank and Ludwina(Koy)Glueck Family William Paul Treybig Corinne Mae Treybig

Gisela Trojan	Mrs. Louisa(Doree)Trojan Freeman
Mrs. Myrtle(Braden)Vogelsang	Leo and Lula(Brod)Braden
Ruth, Leon, Wayne, Peggy, Larry, and Ryan Walla	Awald and Martha(Brod)Miller
Edna(Matzke)Watz, Ed and Rita(Watz) Strnadel and family, Floyd and Margaret(Frels)Watz and family, John Vernon and Faustine(Brignac) Watz and family, Mahlon and Isabel (Watz)Johnson and family	John Watz Edna(Matzke)Watz Conrad Watz Mary(Wendel)Watz Bertrand Henry and Sophia(Engbrock)Matzke
Olen Weishuhn	Jesse and Katy(Braden)Weishuhn
A. J. Wendel	Andrew and Viola(Frels)Wendel Adolph and Emma(Engbrock)Wendel
Mrs. Clementine Wendel	Adolph Wendel Family Theobald Fellmann Family
Leo Wendel Family	Leo Wendel Adolph and Emma(Engbrock)Wendel Peter Jacob and Barbara(Braden)Wendel William and Barbara(Braden)Engbrock Andreas and Catherine(Schmitt)Braden
Mr. and Mrs. Jerome C. Wicke	Charles Wicke Family
Isabel and Bill Woodruff	Herman and Lena(Frey)Weigel
Barbara Lee(Wauson)York	Robert Carl and Margarita(Braden)Dehnisch

ADDENDUM

DONATED BY	IN MEMORY OF/IN HONOR OF
Ella(Engbrock)Ordener Jane T.(Ordener)Weber Romberger and Lloyd Romberger Patricia T.(Weber)Mills Thelma J.(Weber)Murphy Ida A.(Ordener)Heizer and Don Heizer Robert Heizer	Andreas and Catherine(Schmitt)Braden William and Barbara(Braden)Engbrock Frederick"Fritz" and Annie(Schneider)Engbrock Karl and Lillian(Engbrock)Andres Leonard and Mary(Evans)Engbrock Edmond Engbrock Arthur Engbrock
Walter and Rachel(Vevos)Engbrock	(same as above)
Mamie(Engbrock)Powell Davis Ernestine(Powell)Ervin and Jim Ervin Lynn Davis	(same as above)
Louis Engbrock	(same as above)
Jane(Engbrock)Kuhn Muesuer and Joseph Muesuer Delbert Kuhn Donald Kuhn Aline(Kuhn)Swartzwood Darline Kuhn	(same as above)
Harvey and Willie Mae Braden	Felix and Ida(Feist)Braden
Addie(Miekow)Byrne	John and Mary(Burttschell)Miekow
Mrs. Mary M. Rucker	William and Mary(Schuette)Miekow John Miekow, Jr.
David and Elvera(Willrodt)Kahlich	Louise(Burttschell)Willrodt
A. J. and Beatrice Hill	George Class
Mrs. John Mattern	Charles and Katherine(Brod)Wendel Frank X and Bertha(Meisner)Wendel
Margaret Litzmann	Francis and Sophia(Brod)Doree
Elizabeth (Wendel)Drapela Holden	Elizabeth(Wendel)Drapela Holden

DONATIONS AND MEMORIALS
(Received after August 8)

DONATED BY	IN MEMORY OF/IN HONOR OF
Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Didner	Rev. A. W. Didner Katherine(Burttschell Nelson)Hennecke Anton and Augusta(Stock)Neuendorff Conrad and Frances(Wink)Weigel Geo. Paul and Anna Marie(Braden)Wink
Mr. Wilber Watz	
Mr. A. G. Miller	
Vivian(Engbrock)Nanny	
Mr. and Mrs. I.A. Smahlik	Henry Becker
Mrs. Louis Dehmer	Peter Dehmer and family
Ruby Nelson and Wilma Copeland	
Mr. and Mrs. Allan Hilton	
Steven Staff	
Mr. and Mrs. John Murray	
Robert Engbrock(William Engbrock Family)	
Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Reinhard	
Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Drymalla	John and Mary(Wendel)Drymalla Alex and Minnie(Neuendorff)Jones, Sr. Sam and Dora(Jones)Marsalia

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Father Bernard Snock, for his assistance throughout this endeavor

St. Roch Parish Council, for its cooperation and suggestions

Geri Ward, for her assistance with the St. Roch parish records

Verna Jean Koehl, for her work as treasurer of the Marker Fund

Al Didner, for the printing of the historical booklets

Mrs. James Hopkins, President of the Colorado County Historical Commission; her knowledge and expertise were invaluable during each phase of the process from application to dedication.

Miss Lee Nesbitt, for her early work on Colorado County history and for previewing the history of Bernardo and Mentz

Thank you to everyone who helped financially, donated historical material, and offered encouragement; this project's success depended on each individual and family.

Arliss Treybig, editor
Lois Didner, collator

Photos and/or identification credits:(other than those listed in the booklet)

page 32-Isabel Woodruff, Houston
Jocelyn Harbich, Bernardo
page 32(b)-Jocelyn Harbich
page 33-Willie Mae Morawietz, Seguin
page 34-Willie Mae Morawietz
Isabel Woodruff
page 35-Garnett Noser, Houston
page 39-Gladys Clark, Houston
Willie Mae Morawietz
page 39(b)-Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Watz, El Campo
page 41-Jocelyn Harbich
page 44-Lois Didner, Victoria
Willie Mae Morawietz
page 45-Jocelyn Harbich
Isabel Woodruff
page 46-Jocelyn Harbich
page 48-Gladys Clark
page 54-Arliss Treybig, El Campo