

Reunion Attended By Pioneer Family

Close to 300 descendants from across the United States attended a reunion of the descendants of Henry Smith (Schmidt), Margaret Schmidt Harrison, Elizabeth Schmidt Hill and Theresa Schmidt McBride recently in Port Lavaca at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

Family members from Maine, Connecticut, South Dakota, Indiana, Arizona, Louisiana, as well as Texas, attended this first reunion.

Members of the Schmidt family were among the German immigrants who came to Indianola in 1846. The father died just prior to leaving Germany leaving the mother and children to come to America alone.

Elizabeth Schmidt Hill and her husband, William Andrew Hill, Sr., lived on Matagorda Island with a large family of children. All family members, except two children and one cousin, who was visiting at the time, were drowned in the 1875 storm.

Margaret Schmidt married Thomas Francis Harrison and lived at Indianola. They had 11 children, one of the largest families in the city. Some family members were also drowned in the 1875 storm.

Teresa Schmidt married Samuel McBride. They were the parents of six children. After Samuel McBride's death, Theresa married John Braden. Henry Schmidt married Josephine Ludwig, and the couple had 18 children. Most of the children were born in Indianola where they lived until shortly after the 1886 storm when they moved to Port Lavaca.

Hermann Grueneberg provided music for the noon meal. A collection

of genealogy records and family albums and heirlooms displayed on tables were exhibited. Genealogy charts, art work and large pictures of early ancestors were also displayed.

Mrs. Harry C. Smith of Port Lavaca was recognized for being the oldest family member in attendance. She is a descendant of the Bauers, another old Indianola family. Arthur Smith of Seguin was recognized for being the oldest direct descendant present. The youngest family member in attendance was Stacey Nicole Ballard, one week-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Ballard of Seadrift. Larry Smith of Maine traveled the greatest distance to attend the reunion.

Because the reunion was held on Father's Day, special recognition was given to fathers present. Awards were presented to Arthur Smith for being the oldest father in attendance and the father married the longest. Dr. R.A. Stevenson, Jr. of Victoria won the award for having the largest family present.