



Texas German Archive serves as the basis for Texas Czech Archive



Lida Cope deposits her Texas Czech recordings with Hans Boas at UT Austin in April 2012

The Texas Czech Dialect Archive (TCDA) has been inspired by the successful Texas German Dialect Project (TGDP) at the University of Texas at Austin. John Tomeček, a student of Hans Boas and graduate of UT, began documenting the language of Texas Czechs in the early 2000s and called for an archive that would preserve this unique immigrant dialect.

The TCDA, led by Lida Cope of East Carolina

University in Greenville, North Carolina, will be an online repository of audio-recordings gathered from ethnic Czech Moravians in Texas from the 1970s through the 2000s. Held at UT-Austin, the Archive is dedicated to Professor Svatava Pirkova-Jakobson who, fascinated with Czech Moravian communities in East Central Texas, began documenting their rich history by collecting folklore, language and musical materi-

als during her tenure at the University of Texas at Austin (1967-1978).

A native of the Czech Republic, Dr. Cope began to develop her life-long interest in the language and culture of ethnic Czech Moravians in Texas as a graduate student at the University of Arizona in Tucson in the mid-1990s. In 1997, she spent six rewarding months in the midst of the hospitable and generous community of Texas Czechs, dividing her time between Granger and West, and traveling the communities in between. She spoke with many Texas Czechs, old and young, became fascinated with their unique Texas Czech dialect, and developed a deep admiration for their ethno-cultural traditions and traits that had shaped the diverse historical and cultural landscape of Texas. It has been quite a few years since her dissertation *Texas Czech: an ethno-linguistic study* was published. Still, it included only a sliver of the many fascinating

interviews and chats from church picnics, weddings, festivals and other events in which she participated on a daily basis. Some fifteen years and various publications

(Continued on p. 3)

TGDP MILESTONES 2011-2012

- ◆ TGDP members present academic talks on TX German in Zürich, Potsdam, Berlin, Munich, Frankfurt, Berkeley, Bloomington, College Station, Lakeway, and Georgetown.
- ◆ Dr. Karen Roesch publishes her book *Language Maintenance and Language Death: The Decline of Texas Alsatian*. (John Benjamins Publishing, 2012)
- ◆ Dr. Boas teaches a graduate class on Texas German at Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany (Summer 2012).

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>German around the world</i>	2
<i>Texas Alsatian book</i>	3
<i>Featured TGDP Alum</i>	4
<i>Texas German map</i>	4
<i>New TGDP member</i>	5
<i>The TGDP Endowment</i>	6

Dr. James Kearney joins the TGDP as a research associate

In September 2012, Dr. James Kearney joined the Texas German Dialect Project as a research associate. The TGDP is excited about this collaboration because it widens the project's original goals to document and archive the culture and language of Texas German immigrants and their descendants to also cover their historical roots. Dr. Kearney holds a Ph.D. from the Department of Germanic Studies at UT Austin, taught German for many years at Katy High School and has been a longtime student of the history of the German settlements in Texas. He is the author of two books

dealing with the German settlements in Texas. His first book, *Nassau Plantation; The Evolution of a Texas German Slave Plantation* (Denton: University of North Texas Press, 2011), deals with the organization of German noblemen, the Mainzer Adelsverein, who attempted to settle thousands of German emigrants on the Texas frontier in the 1840s. Nassau Plantation, located near modern-day Round Top, Texas, in northern Fayette County, was a significant part of this story. Drawing on a wealth of original source material (much of it in German)

(Continued on p. 5)



Texas German and other German varieties around the world

You might have wondered what makes Texas German so unique as opposed to other German language varieties around the world. The first important difference is between German language varieties spoken in central Europe today and those varieties spoken in other parts of the world because of German immigration. The German language in central Europe today consists of multiple varieties (also known as dialects), such as Bavarian, Hessian, Palatinate, Alsatian, Saxon, and Thuringian. Some of these varieties are spoken not only in Germany, but also in other countries such as Austria, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Italy, Belgium, and Denmark. All these varieties differ from each other in multiple ways in their grammar, their sounds, and the types of words they employ to denote a concept or an activity. For example, in the northern part of Germany people say *Samstag* for Saturday, while in the southern part people are more likely to say *Sonnabend*. Many of these local varieties are spoken mainly at home and among friends, but they are not used much in the public sphere. In contrast, Standard German (also known as High Ger-

man) is used in the media, in schools, and in other official domains. However, this difference in language use has nothing to say about the validity or correctness of a language variety, that is, any local variety is a fully functioning variety of

man speakers established their own communities, often with their own German-speaking newspapers, schools, and churches. Depending on their new surroundings, German immigrants and

that influenced the German variety spoken by the immigrants and their descendants. Besides borrowing sounds and words from these other languages (in the case of Texas German

trast, many other German varieties in the U.S. are not the result of dialect mixing, such as certain German varieties in Wisconsin (Dade County Kölsch) or Michigan Franconian. (2) Texas German has remained for the most part quite isolated from contact with other languages for about 70 years, an ideal scenario for dialect mixing without the influence of English. This situation changed in the 1920s due to increased mobility and in- and outmigration. Other German varieties in the U.S. were in immediate contact with English from the first day that the settlers arrived in North America, and thus were influenced by English from the very beginning. (3) Texas German sounds today like a mixture of different German dialects with a heavy infusion of English sounds, words, and grammar. (4) Texas German is a relatively “new” dialect, with dialect mixing starting in the 1840s, whereas other varieties such as Pennsylvania German have been spoken in North America since the 17th century.



A chart showing the geographic distribution of major German dialects in central Europe

man the same way that Standard German is. Besides these German varieties in central Europe there are many other German varieties around the world because of German immigration. Starting in the 13th century, German speakers moved to different parts of the world, including Romania, Russia, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Canada, the United States, Namibia, Mexico, Costa Rica, Africa, and Australia. In many of these new locations Ger-

their descendants were surrounded by different languages such as Russian, Romanian, Spanish, Portuguese, English, and Afrikaans. In some cases, German was transmitted only for one or two generations, in other cases over multiple centuries (with the help of German schools, churches, social clubs, and newspapers). In each new settlement situation, German speakers came into contact with different languages

fence, to move, plenty, or anyway), German speakers also learned the language of their new surrounding (in some cases more than in others). Texas German is different from other lands around the world in that (1) it is the result of dialect mixing of at least four different German dialects brought over to Texas in the 1840s (Hessian, Thuringian, Palatinate, and Low German). In con-



Dr. Roesch publishes “Language Maintenance and Language Death: The Decline of Texas Alsatian”

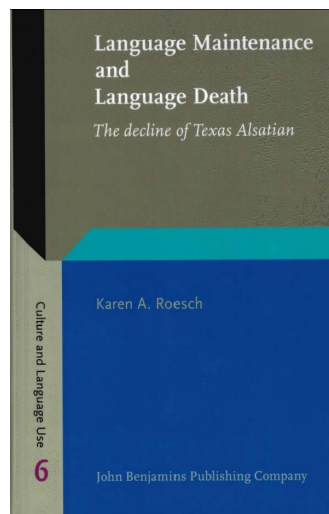
In February 2012, Dr. Karen Roesch, who has been with the TGDP since 2007, published her book on Texas Alsatian. It is a thoroughly revised version of her University of Texas dissertation. Based on field data she recorded with



Dr. Karen Roesch

more than thirty speakers in Medina County over a period of three years, this book provides the first extensive description of Texas Alsatian, a critically-endangered Texas German dialect, as spoken in Medina County in the 21st century.

The dialect was brought to Texas in the 1850s by colonists recruited by French entrepreneur Henri Castro and has been preserved with minimal change for six generations. Texas Alsatian has maintained lexical, phonological, and morpho-syntactic features which differentiate it from the other Texas German varieties spoken in other areas of the Lone Star State. Her study both describes its grammatical features and discusses extra-linguistic fac-



tors contributing to the dialect's preservation or accelerating its decline, e.g., social, historical, political, and economic factors, and speaker attitudes and ideologies linked to cultural identity. The work's multi-faceted approach makes its

relevant to a broad range of scholars such as dialectologists, historical linguists, sociolinguists, ethnographers, and anthropologists interested in language variation and change, language and identity, immigrant dialects, and language maintenance and death. Dr. Roesch's book appeared in the book series “Culture and Language Use” with John Benjamins Publishing Company (Amsterdam / Philadelphia). It is the second recently published book dealing with German language varieties in Texas, following the publication of Hans Boas' *The life and death of Texas German*, which was published by Duke University Press in 2009.

A Vision for the Texas Czech Archive — Continued from page 1

on the Texas Czechs later, she welcomes the opportunity to make publicly accessible all of her digitized recordings from that time, those from the Svatava Jakobson archive (at least 97 hours collected in the 1970s-80s), as well as the interviews (about 150 hours) from the early 2000s conducted by John Tomecek.

The first phase of this Project focuses on oral histories and other speech data. Ultimately, the mission of the TCDA is to create a community resource for Texas Czechs, as well as a scholarly resource for anyone

fascinated by this population's language, culture, and identity. We envision the TCDA as a multi-media legacy archive – one central repository for irreplaceable oral histories; cultural artifacts such as newspapers, diaries, journals, letters, and photographs, reflecting the change in the Texas Czech community from the early 1850s to the present; and, importantly, for its fast-vanishing language.

The logistics of the Project began to be worked out during Dr. Cope's visit at UT-Austin in April 2012, when the Chair of

the Department of Slavic and Euroasian Studies, Mary Neuburger, expressed her full support for its goals. Additionally, the first team meeting included Hans Boas, the Project's steadfast supporter and invaluable advisor; Mike Heidenreich and Peter Keane of Liberal Arts Instructional Technology Services at UT, charged with digitizing the Cope database, helping design and launch the TCDA website, and assisting with “all things technical”; Veronika Tuck-

erová, a lecturer of the Czech language and literature in the Slavic Department and another Czech native, willing to help select and supervise student assistants to the Project on site; and Hannah Calkins, a School of Information graduate student of Czech descent, hired to help us segment, transcribe and translate the first set of recordings in summer 2012. In January, we hope to bring in Mark Hopkins, currently a graduate student and a lecturer of Czech at UT, to continue the work begun by Hannah



Featured TGDP Alum: Tanja Bäuerlein

Tanja was a German exchange student at UT from 2009-2010, with a scholarship from her home university in Würzburg. After hearing about the Texas German Dialect Project, she decided to take a class about the history, culture and linguistic features of Texas German with Prof. Hans Boas in her first semester at UT. Particularly this class, but also being a Linguistics major and native German speaker naturally sparked her interest in Texas German as a moribund dialect. And when Hans Boas was looking for volunteers for his project, she did not hesitate to join. After some preparation, the interviews were conducted with a few

speakers of Texas German in New Braunfels in April 2010, which gave her a deeper insight into the peculiarities of the dialect, and into the local cultural and personal history of Texas Germans.

At the end of the spring semester, Tanja began her internship (academic training) with the TGDP at UT, where she helped to transcribe the interviews electronically. This work also allowed her to gain more knowledge about the dialectal diversity within Texas German itself, depending on the individual interviewee's linguistic background.

Tanja thoroughly enjoyed her time working for the TGDP and with its members, and is deeply grateful for the opportunity she received helping to

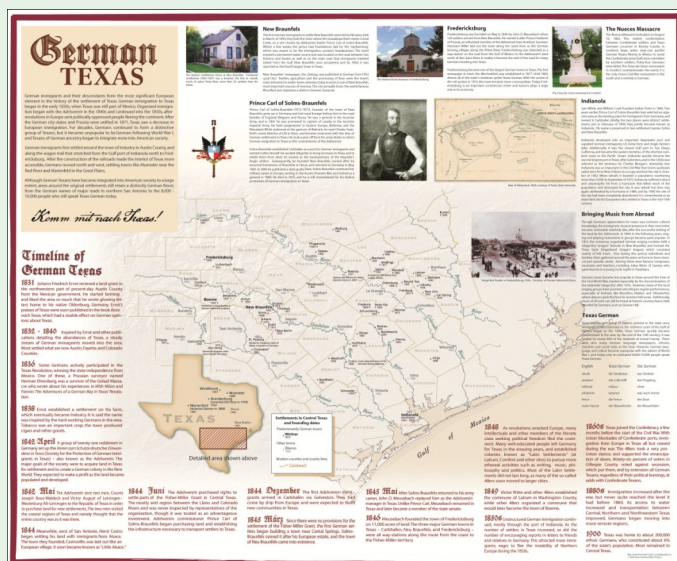


Tanja Bäuerlein in Würzburg, Germany

preserve Texas German. It not only helped her to enhance her professional skills with respect to dialectal knowledge and research, but also provided her with a vision of which field of linguistics she wants to focus on in the future. In particular, she would like to thank Hans

Boas for his time he dedicates to his students, as well as for his inspiration and drive.

During her exchange year in Texas, Tanja also taught German to sixth-graders at a middle school in Austin and volunteered as a research assistant for another project at UT involving Amazonian languages. After she had returned to Germany, she started graduate school with the goal of pursuing her teaching and master's degree. Inspired by her work for the TGDP, Tanja wrote her master's thesis on the peculiarities of selected American dialects. In the future, she hopes to continue researching dialects and to teach languages, especially German, abroad.



The German Texas map, available exclusively from the TGDP for \$40.00 including shipping and handling. See included order form for details.

Featured: Texas German Map

Show your Texas German pride and contribute to the Texas German Endowment at the University of Texas at Austin by purchasing one of our high-quality prints of the history of German immigration into Texas!

Donated for fundraising purposes by mapmaker and German American Justin Cozart, this **beautiful 34"x28" map** includes a chronology of the history of Texas Germans dating back to 1831, when Johann Friedrich Ernst first fell in love with the wide-open country and wrote a book about it, *Reise nach Texas*. It also explains key concepts in German immigration, such as the role of the *Adelsverein*, an organization that was instrumental in the settling of Texas, the founding of Texas German towns, basic differences between Texas and Standard German, the popularity of German music, and more.



New TGDP Member 2012: Luke Lindemann

Luke started working for the TGDP in March of 2012. He is a sixth-generation Texas German who grew up in Austin and first learned about the TGDP in high school. He says, "I learned German in school because I wanted to speak German with my grandfather. I was good at German in class, but I was embarrassed when I could barely communicate with my grandfather. Later, I went to hear a talk by Dr. Boas and was excited to learn that my relatives speak a unique dialect of German that is only heard in Texas."

Luke studied linguistics at



Luke with grandfather Gus Lindemann in La Grange, Tx

Pomona College in California. Over one summer he volunteered with the TGDP, and during another summer he was awarded the Brückner Grant to travel to Germany

and conduct interviews in five different regions where different dialects are spoken. During this time he also researched church records of his family history while staying in the church where Protestant Reformer Martin Luther famously nailed his 95 Theses in 1517. After graduating in 2009, he was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to teach English in Nepal. He spent a year teaching in a village on the outskirts of Kathmandu Valley and also volunteered at a non-profit that specializes in education programs for multilin-

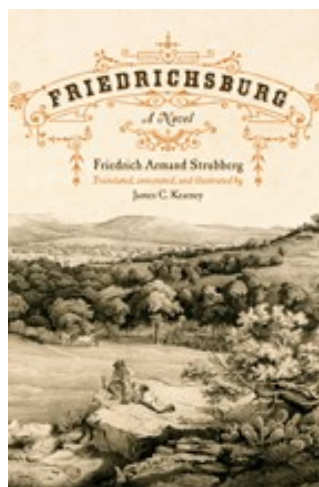
gual classrooms. Today, in addition to his work for the TGDP, he volunteers with the Multicultural Refugee Coalition, a local non-profit organization that provides support for refugees from around the world that have settled in Austin. Says Luke, "I credit my early exposure to Texas German with spurring my interest in linguistics. For me, working for the TGDP is very personal. It helps me feel connected to my heritage and my past, but it was also the initial inspiration for my career in linguistics and language issues."

Dr. Kearney's works illuminate the history of Germans in Texas — Continued from page 1

to illuminate the history of the plantation and the larger goals and motivation of the *Adelsverein*, this study highlights the problematic relationship of German emigrants to slavery. Few today realize that the society's original colonization plan included the ownership and operation of slave plantations. Ironically, the German settlements the society later established became hotbeds of anti-slavery and anti-secessionist

sentiment.

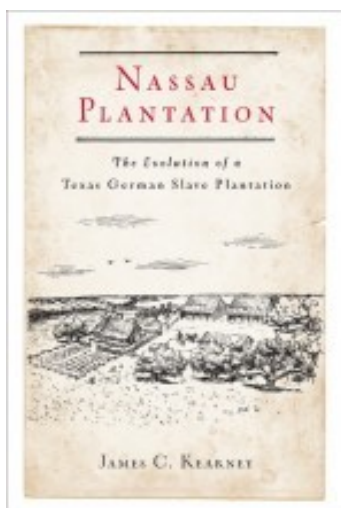
His second book, *Friedrichsburg: The Colony of the German Fürstenverein* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2012), deals with the early years of the history of Fredericksburg, which in 1846 was established by German noblemen who enticed thousands of their compatriots to flee their overcrowded homeland with the prospect of free land in a place that was portrayed as a new Garden of Eden. Few of the settlers, however, were prepared for the harsh realities of the Texas frontier or for confrontation with the Comanche Indians. In his 1867 novel *Friedrichsburg*, Friedrich Armand Strubberg, a.k.a. Dr. Schubbert, interwove his personal story with a fictional romance to capture the flavor of Fredericksburg, Texas, during its founding years when he served as the first colonial director. Now available in a contemporary translation by Dr.



Kearney, *Friedrichsburg* brings to life the little-known aspects of life among these determined but often ill-equipped settlers who sought to make the transition to a new home and community on the Texas frontier. Opening just as a peace treaty is being negotiated between the German newcomers and the Comanches, the novel describes the unlikely survival of these fledgling homesteads and provides evidence that

support from the Delaware Indians, as well as the nearby Mormon community of Zodiac, was key to the Germans' success. Along the way, Strubberg also depicts the laying of the cornerstone to the *Vereinskirche*, the blazing of an important new road to Austin, exciting hunting scenes, and an admirable spirit of cultural cohesion and determined resilience. In so doing, he resurrects a fascinating lost world.

Besides publishing these two books, Dr. Kearney has also contributed a chapter on European immigration in Texas in the 19th Century for a forthcoming book entitled *Appreciating Texas History* and completed an annotated translation (in collaboration with Geir Bentzen) of the first book written in German about Texas, Detlev Dunt's *Reise nach Texas im 1834*. As a long-term project, Dr. Kearney is working on a comprehensive history of the Society for the Protection of German Emigrants in Texas.



TEXAS GERMAN DIALECT PROJECT (TGDP)

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AS REPORTED BY



AND



Plans for 2013

- The TGDP will seek partnerships with local museums to develop educational materials about German culture and history in Texas.
- TGDP members will continue interviewing Texas German speakers throughout the state. We plan on extending our fieldwork sites to the area north of Denton.
- Members of the TGDP will continue their fund raising efforts for the Texas German Endowment at UT. The goal is to reach one million dollars.

Ways to give: How to contribute to the Texas German Endowment

Since 2001, the TGDP has conducted interviews with more than 400 speakers of Texas German throughout the Lone Star State, totaling more than 710 hours of recordings.

However, the project currently has a list of over 300 Texas Germans waiting to be interviewed. Because many of the current and potential Texas German informants are in their 80s and 90s, this means that valuable interviews could be lost in case they passed away before they were interviewed. The process of adding entries to the Dialect Archive is extremely time intensive. Per hour of interview added to the archive, an estimated 50 hours of work are necessary for setting up the interview, traveling to the interview site, recording the interview, and then digitizing, editing, analyzing, transcribing, translating, and archiving the interview material.

From 2001-2008 the project received funding from various sources both inside and outside the University, totaling \$200,000 so far. After years of funding by different sources, the TGDP has been unable to receive further



Mildred Schulze of Freyburg with Hans Boas after an interview session in 2004

external grants for the past four years, drastically reducing the TGDP's ability to record and archive interviews.

To maintain its operations, the TGDP requires an estimated budget of about \$50,000 annually. Since both state and federal funding agencies have cut down funding for the humanities over the past four years, the TGDP has not been able to secure funding from these sources. In the summer of 2013, the project will reach an interruption in recording and processing interviews. For these reasons the sole option to guarantee continuity of the TGDP lies in the establishment of a Texas German Endowment

to ensure its permanent maintenance.

The Texas German Dialect Endowment is seeking donations from individuals, businesses, and organizations. The tax-deductible donations are deposited into an account at The University of Texas at Austin which generates interest each year. This interest will support the recordings and research activities of the TGDP for the next 30-40 years.

Once there are no more speakers of Texas German to be recorded, the interest generated by the endowment will be used for scholarships for students who are interested in researching Texas German culture, history, and language at the University of Texas at Austin. All donations are tax-deductible.

Those who wish to contribute to the endowment can make checks out to "Texas German Endowment—UT Austin" and send them to Hans Boas, and receipts will be sent out within two weeks. If you are interested in making a donation to the endowment or have questions about the endowment, please contact Dr. Boas at (512) 796-3046.

Support the Texas German Endowment at the University of Texas at Austin: Purchase a Texas German Map!

The Texas German Dialect Project (TGDP) is proud to offer a **beautiful 34x28" map** of German Texas for purchase (**see reverse for image**). Surrounding the map of Central Texas are several paragraphs about important Texas German people, places and events, and an extensive timeline of German Texas from 1844 to 1900. The maps cost **\$40.00 each, including shipping** in a 36" cardboard tube mailer via USPS.

Please fill out this order form completely and return with payment to:

Department of Germanic Studies

1 University Station C3300

Burdine 336

The University of Texas at Austin

Austin, TX 78712

All proceeds from this map benefit the Texas German Endowment. Delivery will take 2-3 weeks.

Billing information

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Would you like to include a donation amount of your choice with your purchase?

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Shipping address: ☐ ☐ Same as above ☐ ☐ Alternate address - indicated below

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City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Signature x _____ **Date** _____

Further questions? Contact the TGDP at (512) 279 2462.

Actual size is 34" wide by 28" tall.

German TEXAS

German immigrants and their descendants form the most significant European element in the history of the settlement of Texas. German immigration to Texas began in the early 1830s, when Texas was still part of Mexico. Organized immigration to Texas was initiated by the German empresario Heinrich Heintzmann, who was granted a large tract of land in the Texas Panhandle. Heintzmann's settlement, New Braunfels, was founded in 1845. Other German settlements followed, including Fredericksburg, New Braunfels, and San Antonio. German immigrants brought with them a rich cultural heritage, including language, customs, and traditions. They played a significant role in the development of Texas, contributing to its economy, culture, and society.

Komm mit nach Texas!

Timeline of German Texans

1831 Johann Friedrich Ernst received a land grant in Texas from the Mexican government. He and his family moved to the area, which he named "Germania".

1832 - 1840 Inspired by Ernst and other pioneers, many more Germans moved into the area. Most settled what are now Austin, Fayetteville, and Colorado Springs.

1836 Some Germans actively participated in the Texas Revolution, winning the state independence from Mexico. One of these, a Prussian surveyor named Hermann Brenner, was a survivor of the Battle of San Jacinto.

1838 Ernst established a settlement on his farm near the town of Fredericksburg. He was inspired by the land working Germans in the area.

1842 April A group of twenty-one colonists in Germany set up the Verein zum Schutz deutscher Einwanderer in Texas (VSEIT) for the protection of German immigrants in Texas. It was also known as the "German Society".

1844 June The Adelsheim purchased rights to settle parts of the Fisher-Miller Grant in Central Texas. The mostly and region between the Llano and Colorado Rivers and was never inspected by representatives of the Mexican government.

1844 Meanwhile, west of San Antonio, Henri Castro began settling his land with immigrants from Alsace and other European countries. It soon became known as "Little Alsace."



New Braunfels
The New Braunfels house, built in 1845 by Heinrich Heintzmann, was the first German settlement in Texas. It was a small, white, single-story house with a dark roof. The house was built on a hill and was surrounded by a fence. It was the only house of its kind in the area at the time.

Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels

Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels (1812-1872), founder of the town of New Braunfels, was a German nobleman and a member of the Prussian Army. He was a member of the Prussian Army and was a member of the Prussian Army. He was a member of the Prussian Army and was a member of the Prussian Army.



Fredericksburg
Fredericksburg was founded in 1846 by Johann Friedrich Ernst. It was a small, white, single-story house with a dark roof. The house was built on a hill and was surrounded by a fence. It was the only house of its kind in the area at the time.



The Nueces Massacre
The Nueces Massacre occurred in 1835. It was a conflict between German immigrants and Mexican soldiers. The German immigrants were killed by the Mexican soldiers. The massacre was a result of the conflict between the two groups.



Indiana
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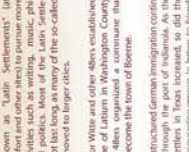
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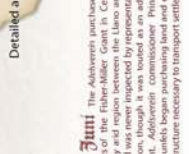
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