

THE VON ROSENBERG FAMILY OF TEXAS

Feb. 4, 1973

Dear Family Member:

This is a newsletter from the secretary of the Von Rosenberg Family of Texas. Its purpose is to inform you about what has happened and also what will be happening in this great family of ours. In an effort to further communications with all our family members, your officers voted both approval and finances to prepare and mail this letter. We hope it is helpful to you.

THE PRESENT OFFICERS:

terms expire June 24, 1973

President--Arthur Von Rosenberg-3900 Eisenhower #209--San Antonio-78218653-1935
Vice-Pres.--Leo Meerscheidt III--505 Antler ^{Drive}-----San Antonio-78213344-4977
Secretary--Phil Meerscheidt-----2200 S.W. Freeway 10C-Houston-----77006529-5503
Treasurer--Robert Hein-----413 Ridgemont-----San Antonio-78209824-9229

THE REUNION OF 1972:

revisited in capsule

Held at acreage of Alexander O. Meerscheidt between Aransas Pass and Rockport, Texas, Sunday, June 25, 1972, with 82 members present, President Arthur Von Rosenberg called the meeting to order and asked each member to introduce themselves; Henry F. Hein was declared the oldest member present at age 84; Robert Lane Meerscheidt, son of your sec. was the youngest at age 2; Albert Campbell of Somerset, New Jersey, traveled the greatest distance to attend; Leo Meerscheidt III read the 1971 minutes and were approved; Treasurer Robert Hein gave his report; a prayer was given for members deceased in 1971 who were: Roy and Otho Hornberger, Dorothy Fink, Agnes Von Rosenberg, Rosa Von Rosenberg, and Anna Von Rosenberg Schenck; as many as possible wrong mailing addresses were corrected; Paula Hein gave her speech which is included in this mailing; Charles Von Rosenberg was appointed and accepted chairmanship of the new Vol. #2 book committee; Al Wupperman read six verses of a new reunion song he composed; motion passed to hold 1973 Reunion at the same place as 1972, the acreage of Alexander O. Meerscheidt located between Aransas Pass and Rockport, Texas, on Sunday, June 24, 1973. The meeting was then adjourned.

THE REUNION OF 1973:

yaw'll come!

The 1973 reunion is very, very important! It is so important that we are informing you about it some five months in advance so that you can plan your schedule to attend this all important event. There are several major decisions which have to be made this year. You may or may not know a new family record book, vol. II, is currently in the making which will contain the 4th and 5th generations. We need your ideas, your suggestions, information about your immediate family, and particularly your knowledge about non-attending family members so that we can speed this gigantic undertaking along its way. There will be more on this later. The family constitution and By-Laws are in great need of revision and we need your opinion on these matters so vital in running our family organization more smoothly. We will be selecting the next slate of officers and we need your opinion here so that we elect capable people to get the jobs done which lie ahead of us. In addition, there are many, many other things we need to talk about. Remember, it will be held Sunday, June 24, 1973, at the acreage of Alexander O. Meerscheidt, located on the Gulf Coast between Aransas Pass and Rockport, Texas, with registration at 10:00 a.m. You will receive another mailing in May containing a reminder, accommodations, and a map of directions to the acreage. Kill two birds-----vacation on the coast and attend the reunion on the same trip. Please make your plans now to be present. We need you!

TO THE HOST:

Uum! Boy!

We all wish to express our thanks to Alexander and Anna Meerscheidt for hosting the 1972 reunion. They served choicely-cooked barbequed turkey with all the side trimmings and were well organized in receiving and providing for the 82 members present. Thanks also to their two daughters, George Ann Lester-jette and Lucille Leyendecker as well as Dottie Bledsoe, Mary Lou McLaughlin, and Dot Meerscheidt who all helped in cooking and serving the food, our great appreciation to the VFW for the gratis use of the chairs and tables, and our thanks to Karl Farmer who helped build the bar-b-gue pit, transported the chairs and tables, and also painted the directional signs to the acreage. You folks did a magnificent job and we all look forward to our return to "El-Kook-A-Rancho" on June 24, 1973.

FROM THE PREZ:

ye shall listen! the boss speaketh!

Our family President, Arthur Von Rosenberg wishes to announce the following:

1. In accordance with Article X of the By-Laws, the President has appointed Charles W. Von Rosenberg, 2717 Oxford Terrace #6213, Dallas, Texas, 75205, as Historian-Custodian of the Reunion Association.
2. The Historian-Custodian, with consent of the President, has appointed the following as family branch chairmen:

<u>BRANCH:</u>	<u>CHAIRMAN:</u>	<u>ADDRESS:</u>
I - - Carl Wilhelm - - - - -	Alfred O. Wupperman,	504A E. 46th, Austin, Tex. 78751
II &- Johanna Carolina V.R.-	Helen (Mrs. Newton) Walker	
VIII - Libussa Helmuth	721 Twin Hills Drive,	El Paso 79912
III - Johannes Carl - - - - -	Charles Von Rosenberg,	2717 Oxford Terrace #6217 Dallas, Texas 75205
IV - Carl Eugen - - - - -	Dorothy (Mrs. Urban) Neese,	Box 205D, Rt. 1, Richmond, Texas 77469
V - Amanda Karoline- - - - -	Paula (Mrs. Henry F.) Hein,	1202 E. Mulberry, #12. San Antonio, Texas 78209
VI - Carl Alexander	None	
VII - Carl Walter - - - - -	H. Clark Von Rosenberg,	4837 Winnetka, Houston, Texas 77021

3. MEMBERS OF EACH BRANCH ARE URGED TO REPORT BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS TO THE RESPECTIVE CHAIRMAN AND TO SUPPLY AS FULLY AND PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED FOR THE PROPOSED NEXT FAMILY HISTORY PUBLICATION.

THE HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE MEETS:

heap'um big pow-wow! big feast'em!

The family officers, book committee, and branch representatives met on Sept. 23, 1972, at Earl Abels' Restaurant in San Antonio with the following in attendance: Charles Von Rosenberg, Historian-Custodian, who served as moderator, Nancy Hein, Leo Meerscheidt III, Sara Meerscheidt, Dorothy Reese, Alfred O. Wupperman, Dot and Phil Meerscheidt, Paula and Henry F. Hein, Arthur Von Rosenberg, Erie and Clark Von Rosenberg. The meeting lasted about five hours. surrounded an excellent meal, and great progress was evident. Initial plans were made to gather and compile the thousands of pieces of information which will comprise Vol. #2 of the family history. Target date for distribution of the new book: 1974! PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE. Go back above and reread item #3 from the Prez and DO LIKE IT ASKS. We sincerely need your cooperation. If you have any questions, contact either Charles W. Von Rosenberg,

2717 Oxford Terrace #6213, Dallas, Texas, 75205, or contact your branch chairman, listed on page 2 of this newsletter.

THE REUNION PRAYER:

let us pray

Did you know our family has a reunion prayer which is always given at our reunion dinners? It is reproduced here for your edification:

Our heavenly Father, we come before Thee with grateful hearts for the many blessings which Thou hast bestowed upon this group of people.

We are mindful of the fact that Thou art a great and loving Father, and we are people frail with human frailties.

We are needful of Thy constant watchful care, and we thank Thee that in every circumstance in life we can come to Thee and find a listening ear.

Today is a happy occasion, and we come with thanksgiving for the numerous blessings that have come to us and to those of our number who have gone on before. We thank Thee for the fortitude and courage of those who came to America so many years ago and had a part in the making of this wonderful country. Their most glorious dreams have come true, for today more than ever is this a land of freedom, a land of opportunities and challenges. We thank Thee for this heritage and pray that the honored lives of those who have gone before will challenge us to uphold with honor that which is fine and good, and that which is noble and righteous.

We pray for forgiveness of our sins and ask Thee now to bless the bounties set before us. Bless this food to the nourishment of our bodies and us in Thy service, we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

I do not know who wrote this prayer. If you know, let me know.

I humbly request the names, addresses, and short life history of any family member you know of who has passed away during the last twelve months. We need this information so that we may pay proper respect to them at the 1973 reunion. Kindly inform me if you know of anyone.

FROM THE PREZ:

once more

"The officers of the Von Rosenberg Family Reunion of Texas are dedicated to increasing participation in the annual reunion. At the 1972 meeting, considerable interest was shown in the original family tree scrolls, old family photographs, and oil portraits on display. The publication of Vol. #2 of the family book is of extreme importance. Major decisions as to the extent of coverage in Vol. 2 of the fourth and fifth generations will be made at the 1973 reunion. Should we include Vol. #1 as part of Vol. 2 or only selected portions, as an example. Please make plans now to be present so you can make your suggestions and ideas known."

FROM THE SECRETARY:

end, did you know

A personal sketch and photograph of Carl William Von Rosenberg is on display in the Institute of Texas Culture in the San Antonio HemisFair. Visit it sometime.

If you have newsworthy items concerning your family, share the new with us. Send me the information and I'll make it known to the rest of the family.

Remember the reunion on June 24. You will receive another mailing in May about it. Until then, I am

Cordially,

 Phil Meerscheidt, Secretary

VONROSENBERG HISTORY SKETCH

by
MRS. HENRY F. HEIN
MAY, 1972

Let me take you back to yonder years to the Estate of Eckitten where Peter Carl Johann von Rosenberg and his lovely wife Johanna Dorothea Froelich stood the trials and temptations of those war torn years. Their home life was a happy one and to this union three children were born: 2 sons and one daughter. Carl Wilhelm, Johanna Carolina, and Johannes Carl. Sadness was brought into the family by the untimely death of the mother Johanna Dorothea after just seven years of married bliss. She was 29 years old when she was called to her heavenly home.

Four years after the death of Johanna, Peter Carl Johann married Amanda Fallier. It was during these war torn years of 1848-1849 that our pioneer grandfather came home one evening tired, hungry, and very disgusted with conditions in their homeland. He had often heard of the opportunities and freedom the people in America were enjoying and as he sat evenings with his family around him, he and his wife were dreaming of just such a trip to America. Can't you just hear Peter Carl saying to his wife, "Mein Liebschen, how would you like to make this trip to America?" "Ach no, mein Herr" she replied, "to a strange country and then to travel with all my children, it will take months to make the trip, and how about enough food and water for the long trip? Then coming to a strange country, not knowing the language and customs, do you really think we can ever live through it?" "Ach yah!" he replied, "think of our friends that have left Germany and reached America safely--it is our only hope for freedom and this we want above everything else." So after praying and planning and working together in August of 1849, Peter Carl, Amanda, and their eight children--Carl William, Johanna Carolina, Johannes Carl, Carl Eugen, Amanda Karoline, Carl Alexander, Carl August Walter, and Libussa left their beautiful home in Eckitten and their homeland which by now even more unsettled and restless and the war clouds hanging even more heavily than ever. So after careful packing and planning, they were aboard a ship sailing for America.

Needless to say their trip was a very rough one and the landing of the ship was delayed by a severe storm which swept them back into the ocean and endangered their lives for 8 days, then too, all were seasick and very unhappy. But then brighter days were before them.

Finally one December 6, 1849, they landed in Galveston, Texas, tired and worn, but excited about the experiences that were in store for them.

There is an interesting story to the history of Verein owned Nassau plantation which is connected with two prominent and wide spread Texas families, the Von Roeders and the Von Rosenbergs. In 1849, Von Roeder bought Nassau Plantation from the Princes for an unpaid debt of \$18,000. Von Roeder then sold 800 acres and all the dwelling houses to Peter Von Rosenberg, whose wife Amanda tells of the purchase and gives her version of the history of Nassau in her first letter to European friends and relatives. Von Rosenberg was given 23 days to buy some land and when he had returned, he had bought Nassau to his complete satisfaction. So, on they journeyed to the quiet pastures and sturdy farm buildings of Nassau Plantation in Fayette County near Round Top, Texas.

Their new home was built on a hill which gradually sloped to the creek with a garden and many peach and fig trees around. The soil was fertile and potatoes, peas, beans, cantaloupes, cucumbers are easy to raise; but it did take quite a long time for the new family to get things in order, and much, so very much hard work. Cattle, sheep, and chickens provided food for the family and horses were a "must." It's quite unassuming owner Peter Carl Von Rosenberg had thriving crops of corn and cotton, milked his Jersey cows and raised his flocks of fine white leghorn chickens. After several years all were well contented and would not change back to the former status for any price. But God has been good to us which we will thankfully acknowledge all our lives. Thus the saying of the first Von Rosenberg family in Texas.

As the children grew up, they left the farm one by one:

1. Carl William married and moved to Austin, Texas.
2. Karolina married a Mr. Hellmuth and moved to Bellview, Texas.
3. Johannes Karl moved to LaGrange, Texas.
4. Karl Eugene moved to Round Top, Texas.
5. Amanda Karolina married a Hungarian officer, H. Von Meerscheidt, and moved to LaGrange. Later the Meerscheidts moved to San Antonio, Texas.
6. Karl August Walter moved to LaGrange, Texas.

And so it is 123 years later, the Von Rosenberg family, living in all parts of Texas, by the suggestion of Walter Otto Wupperman, that the creation of a family association through the establishment of an annual reunion be realized. So on May 7, 1939, Herbert J. Von Rosenberg of the Johannes Carl Branch was elected the first president of the Von Rosenberg Association of Texas. Since that time, the association has worked actively to continue these reunions and also to preserve and expand our store of family history.

In 1949, "The VON ROSENBERG FAMILY OF TEXAS" vol.#1 was published. It was compiled by the Historian, Alma von Rosenberg Tomlinson (who has since died) and her six chairmen who incorporated the family record of the first three generations of the family in Texas. Our goal now is to get out the second edition. Who will volunteer?

To all may I say, isn't this a record to be proud of, and the younger generations are the ones to carry on the good work--so good luck to you and may God bless you to carry on this piece of work.

Farm Nassau is still on the map and also has an Historical Marker on it. It is now owned by a Mrs. Bybee of Houston, Texas.

Mrs. Henry F. Hein
1202 E. Mulberry #121
San Antonio, Texas 78209

SECRETARIAL NOTE: This speech was prepared and delivered orally by Mrs. Henry F. (Paula) Hein to the entire membership of the Family Reunion held June 25, 1972, at the acreage of Alexander Otto Meerscheidt which is located between Aransas Pass and Rockport, Texas. The speech is included in this letter because of three reasons: primarily because of its informative content and splendid preparation which all family members will appreciate reading; secondly, because any members present at the 1972 Reunion expressed a desire to own a copy of the speech; and thirdly, so that non-attending members can get an idea of some of the "good things" happening at our Reunions.

On behalf of the family membership, Paula Hein, "WELL DONE" and thank you.