

This is a newsletter from the Secretary of the von Rosenberg Family Reunion Association of Texas. We hope this letter finds you and your family in good health and in a happy frame of mind.

THE 1973 REUNION

The 1973 reunion was held June 24, 1973, at the Alexander Meerscheidt acreage between the cities of Rockport and Aransas Pass, Texas. It was a stirring meeting with 82 members present. We had threatening weather all day but the rains didn't commence until ten minutes after adjournment.

THE 1974 REUNION

The next reunion will be held June 30, 1974, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Rosenberg, Texas, with Mrs. Urban (Dorothy) Neese as hostess. Sounds attractive enough, doesn't it, the von Rosenbergs meeting in Rosenberg? The city is located just 25 miles west of Houston and in addition to attending the reunion, you can enjoy the attractions of Houston as well. The Astrodome, Astroworld, LBJ Space Center (NASA), the Battleship Texas, San Jacinto Battlegrounds, Hermann Park, Busch Gardens, and the Indian Reservations, to name only a few. Galveston is but 50 miles from Houston if you want to do the beach thing with the kids. With this 9 month notice, vacations can be planned now to coincide with the meeting. Members present at the 1973 reunion voted to hold the 1974 reunion at the home of Dorothy Neese in Richmond, Texas, but due to an anticipated larger attendance, the site has been changed officially to nearby Rosenberg where we can use a large, first-class, air-conditioned hall. You will receive a map in the May, 1974, newsletter.

YAW'LL COME!

Another attraction this coming reunion will be a social party on Saturday night, June 29, 1974, the night before the reunion. It will be held at the "Trading Post" in Booth, Texas, but further details will be announced in the May newsletter. Parties have been held very successfully at past reunions. Booth, Texas is right by the cities of Richmond and Rosenberg which are as one city.

BRANCH CHAIRMEN

BRANCH:	CHAIRMAN:	ADDRESS:	CITY:	ZIP:
1	Carl Wilhelm-----Alfred Wupperman	504A E. 46th	Austin	78751
2 & 8	Johanna Carolina--Helen Walker Libussa Helmuth	721 Twin Hills Dr.	El Paso	79912
3	Johannes Carl-----Charles W. von R.	2717 Oxford Terrace #6217	Dallas	75205
4	Carl Eugen-----Dorothy Neese	Box 205D Rt. 1	Richmond	77469
5	Amanda Karoline---Florence Helmke Meerscheidt	103 Tophill	San Antonio	78209
6	Carl Alexander----No Descendants			
7	Carl Walter-----H. Clark von R.	4837 Winnetka	Houston	77021

It is noted Paula Hein has turned over the chairmanship of the Amanda Karoline branch to Florence Helmke of San Antonio. Paula, for your hundreds of achievements not only for the Amanda Karoline branch members, but also the entire Association, thank you; Florence, let us say "Welcome Aboard" and thank you for accepting chairmanship of one of the large branches of the Association.

President Leo formally re-appointed Charles W. von Rosenberg of Dallas as our family Historian and Charles, in turn, re-appointed the Branch Chairmen. Together they form our very capable Book Committee charged with the all important task of compiling the new Family Record Book, Vol. II, to be distributed at the 1974 reunion in Rosenberg. Charles W. is Chairman of the Book Committee and Treasurer Robert Hein is appointed as the Business Manager.

#### YOUR NEW OFFICERS

The members present at the 1973 reunion elected the following officers who will serve the Association through the reunion of 1975:

Pres. Leo Meerscheidt III	505 Antler	San Antonio	78213	512-344-4977
V.P. Ray von Rosenberg	Box 241	Taft	78390	512-528-2733
Sec. Phil Meerscheidt	6301 Ranchester #62	Houston	77036	713-772-7173
Trea. Robert Hein	413 Ridgemont	San Antonio	78209	512-824-9229

#### DONATIONS

The Association needs money! The 1973 reunion voted to purchase a typewriter for the use of Family Secretaries which will be passed on from one to the other. We have our normal operating expenses, we have the expense of preparing and mailing two newsletters each year, and we have several projects which need to be accomplished. We receive the \$1.00 registration fee per family at the reunions plus a few donations here and there, but, let me say, this isn't getting the job done. The officers are asking for a \$5.00 donation from each household on the mailing list. We need your donation NOW. Please sit down right now and write out a check to "The Von Rosenberg Family of Texas" in the amount of at least \$5.00 and mail it to me, the Secretary. I will record your donation on my master mailing list and forward your check to Treasurer Robert Hein who will deposit it in our savings account. The members attending the reunions each year have been paying the "freight" and this isn't fair. You folks who cannot attend need to contribute your fair share. Please send me your check right away.

#### THE MAILING LIST

Response to the request about sending corrections to the mailing list mailed to each member in May, 1973, was pretty good. It was sure bad off, we found out. Thirty-six letters were received by the Secretary containing hundreds of corrections and were posted onto the master mailing list but even after these corrections, there are still 53 names with no addresses on the list. Would you kindly read through the mailing list you received last May and see if you can supply me with a current address for any name you see there which has an asterisk on the left side of it? To those who sent me corrections, please accept my thanks and appreciation for your kind effort.

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Have you heard of any address changes lately? If so, kindly let the Secretary know so the mailing list can be changed accordingly. The May, 1974 newsletter will again contain our entire mailing list.

THE REUNION OF 1975

We are accepting invitations to host the Association in 1975. If you would care to host the 1975 reunion, let the Secretary know. The site will be voted on by the members present at the 1974 reunion. If you live outside the state of Texas, don't let this stop you; it might be good to meet in another state occasionally.

DEATHS

If you know of a family member who has passed away since the June 24, 1973, reunion, kindly inform the Secretary about it along with any personal information you might know about the deceased member. In case you haven't heard, these are the deceased members announced at the 1973 reunion:

Mrs. Anna Louise Carter	Mrs. Quincy (Ida May) Linnstedter
Mrs. Eddie Lou Becker	Mrs. George Warren (Lula Belle) Hodge
Mr. Hugo Hornberger — <i>no, his son says</i>	Mrs. Charles W. von Rosenberg
Mrs. Paul (Margaret) Hornberger	Mrs. William F. Finck
Miss Susan Scholz	Mr. Hilmar Paul Krause
Mr. Fred Fricke, Sr.	Mrs. Martha von Rosenberg
Mrs. Max (Alice) Duerr	Mrs. Dora (von Rosenberg) Granville
Mrs. Johannah Schenk	Mr. Hugo von Rosenberg

THE SPEECH BY CHARLES W. VON ROSENBERG AT THE 1973 REUNION

This supplements Paula Hein's most interesting account last year of the immigration of Peter Carl von Rosenberg and his family to the United States by telling of the conditions which led to the decision to leave the homeland.

Before the Napoleonic wars, nationalism as we know it scarcely existed. Germany was described as "only a geographical expression." Kingdoms, principalities, and duchies with local rulers who minted their own money, maintained their own armies, and made their own alliances abounded. As a result of the Napoleonic wars, a wave of national feelings emerged throughout Europe. But not until 1848 did German areas take steps to unite.

Early that year, almost spontaneously, the 38 separate so-called states were moved to petition their lords for an assembly to seek unification under a single government. Reluctantly the princes gave consent.

A parliament was called to assemble in Frankfurt in May, 1848. Great questions had to be decided. Not the least of these was determining what territory really constituted Germany. Another was what the status of the princes was to be after unification. Was the form of government to be a monarchy or something more democratic?

Suffice it to say, despite high idealism of the majority that passed resolutions along liberal lines, the assembly had not reckoned with the might of the princes who had the only armies. Without bloodshed, the princes prevailed and the assembly compromised on an inherited monarchy. But the king of Prussia and other strong rulers refused to serve to implement the constitution drawn up, and the assembly dissolved on 28 March, 1849, with no visible results. Note the date.

Now we return to the von Rosenberg immigration. Here is a letter dated 19 May, 1849, from Peter Carl to his son Wilhelm, who, after the parliament's dismissal had been asked to resign his position as royal architect in Berlin when the work he was supervising was completed. Meantime, another son, Johannes, an engineer in the employ of the Kingdom of Saxony, was also terminated; and Peter Carl himself may have suffered recriminations, for the departure occurred by night and much sooner

than the letter contemplated. Here's the letter, adapted from a translation by Martha Meerscheidt:

Eckitten, May 19, 1849

Dear Wilhelm, I have had various thoughts the last few weeks concerning you, but I could not possibly have discerned the correct ones which we now have in your letter of May 8 - - -

It is truly sad and mostly discouraging that it had to come this way. You have used all your energy and money to lay the foundation for your life and progress in your Fatherland up to now. And now you wish yourself in a far, distant, uncultivated, wild country with only farmers. What is a farmer with only a few cows and two horses? A farmer. You want to be a farmer!

Don't despair of Germany, for we can say with the Poles, "Germany is not fallen yet." And don't give up hope for better times. Will the princes and their followers have the sense to see that one cannot swim very far against the stream? Another time is coming and must come---better times than these.

Concerning your desire to follow the occupation of Architect, I can only say you have lost your chance for that. Nevertheless, it should be possible, not in Prussia, but in Germany or some other land, to find an occupation as ordinary surveyor. Of course in the present troubled times, it is true, you would have to abandon these present hopes of progress in the Fatherland. But don't give up hope. I would not tear you out of your present position and from your friends and thus destroy your last hopes, but it is my duty to tell you my opinion and view.

Concerning what follows, I would now like to see you come over to Eckitten and await better times. I have thought a great deal about how we, for a few years, could have a passable understanding by giving you a part interest in the proceeds of the business by leasing part interest from me, or taking over Urbricken only. The arrangement, however, should not last more than two years, in which time we should hope for improvements. If not, you could reconsider selling the estate. I would then not be disinclined to consider emigrating.

But I must say definitely that I would make the trip, along with Mother and the children, only if all of us undertook this doubtful trip. Being 55, I've used some of the strength and courage which for me alone this trip would require. There is already missing some of both strength and courage to properly direct the estate. Come talk things over. It would be better for younger energy to be here with me.

Mother and I are agreed that you should bring your dear Auguste as wife. You'll find love among us and your brothers and sisters, and we'd certainly be glad to share our joys and sorrows with you. Although we have worries in various respects, our condition cannot be called bad."

The family did not wait the two years. They left Eckitten in late August, 1849. This letter shows more than a scrap of love from the cavalry lieutenant who, at the Battle of Leipzig against Napoleon's Army, when his horse's mouth was shot off, quickly mounted another horse whose rider had been killed.

It shows a unity of family, loyalty in time of trouble that has in some measure been retained and shown in our family reunions.

Composed and spoken to the 1973 reunion by:  
Charles W. von Rosenberg  
Family Historian

The officers were voted by the 1973 reunion as the "Revision of the By-Laws Committee" and met in San Antonio, Sept. 9, 1973, to accomplish this assignment. This set of by-laws will be voted on by the members present at the 1974 reunion for adoption. This is another reason to be present at the Rosenberg reunion in 1974.

BY-LAWS OF THE VON ROSENBERG FAMILY REUNION ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

PREAMBLE

Whereas there is a common desire among the descendants of Peter Carl Johann von Rosenberg to maintain and continue the established annual reunion, we hereby adopt this revised set of by-laws this 30th day of June, 1974.

ARTICLE I (NAME)

The name of the Association shall be The von Rosenberg Family Reunion Association of Texas.

ARTICLE II (PURPOSE)

The purpose of the Association shall be to:

- a. hold annual reunion meetings.
- b. Furnish places and means of social entertainment and programs.
- c. promote fellowship, friendliness, and understanding among the relatives and members.
- d. promote an understanding of the family's early history.
- e. perpetuate the records and history of the family tree.
- f. promote any other educational or social needs this Association might have.

ARTICLE III (MEMBERSHIP)

Section 1. Any person who is descended from Peter Carl Johann von Rosenberg by either direct descent, marriage, or adoption is eligible for membership in this Association.

Section 2. Each household pays a \$1.00 registration fee at reunions. In addition, free will offerings will be taken to defray the expenses of the Association.

Section 3. No compensation or profit shall accrue to any member or officer by reason of any activity of or with the Association.

*mailing cost*

ARTICLE IV (MEETINGS)

Section 1. A regular meeting of the membership shall be held once each year.

Section 2. Any group of members may invite the membership to meet the following year in some specified location of their desire.

Section 3. The date and place of the meeting shall be as voted upon at the previous meeting.

Section 4. The annual meetings shall be for the purpose of receiving reports of committees and officers and any other business that might arise.

ARTICLE V (ELECTIONS)

Section 1. The officers shall be elected at the annual meeting in the year not divisible by 2.

Section 2. A majority vote shall elect.

Section 3. The nominating committee shall submit at least one name for each position on a prepared ballot, subject to verbal nominations from the floor at reunion meetings.

ARTICLE VI (BOARD-OFFICERS)

Section 1. The Board of Directors, composed of the officers only, shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian-Custodian, chosen as described in Article V (Elections).

Section 2. The term of office for all officers shall be for two years or until their successors are elected.

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Section 3. Any member of the Association of direct descent or of indirect descent by marriage or adoption shall be qualified as an officer providing said person is 18 years of age or more.

Section 4. The President and Vice-President shall not hold the same elective office continuously for more than two terms. The Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian may serve any number of terms but must be re-elected every two years.

Section 5. No member shall hold more than one elective office at any one time.

Section 6. A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the Vice-President. All other vacancies shall be filled by appointment of the President.

Section 7. An officer may be removed from office at any time by 3 votes of the remaining officers if in their opinion said officer is not performing his duties in the best interests of the Association. Said officer shall have the right of defense before the Board before he can be terminated from office. The vacancy shall be filled in accordance with Section VI of this Article.

Section 8. The officers shall administer all business of the Association.

Section 9. Officer meetings shall be called at the direction of the President or by any three members of the Board without consent of the President.

Section 10. The officers shall authorize the expenditure of all funds, and at their earliest convenience, approve an operating budget for the coming year.

Section 11. A quorum shall consist of three members of the five officers.

Section 12. The President shall be Chairman of the Board (officers).

Section 13. The officers may bring any question they deem necessary before the general meeting for a vote.

#### ARTICLE VII (DUTIES OF EACH OFFICER)

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Association; to serve as Chairman of the Board; to appoint all committees; and to perform such other duties pertaining to the office as may be delegated by the remainder of the Board (officers).

Section 2. The Vice-President shall have and perform such duties as may be prescribed by the Board, and shall perform all duties of the President in his absence.

Section 3. The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all proceedings of all meetings of the Association, conduct the official correspondence, and keep up-to-date membership lists and mailing lists. He shall conduct the registration at annual meetings and keep a file of yearly attendance records. He is responsible for the preparation and mailing out of newsletters during the year as the Board deems necessary as well as informing the membership in writing of next reunion meetings. At the conclusion of his term of office, he shall turn all records and Association equipment over to his successor.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall be general custodian of the Association funds, which he will deposit in a bank or savings account. He shall keep complete and accurate records showing all receipts and disbursements of Association funds. He will disburse all funds as directed by the officers. At the close of his administration, he shall turn over to his successor his accounts and records.

Section 5. Duties of the Historian-Custodian shall consist of safe-keeping of heirlooms and records which are the property of the Association and of keeping up-to-date records of the Family History. He shall have the authority, with the consent of the President, to appoint any assistants required in carrying out his work, such as Family Branch Chairmen. At the close of his administration, he shall turn over to his successor all the Associations' heirlooms and records.

#### ARTICLE VIII (COMMITTEES)

Section 1. A nominating committee consisting of the President and four members appointed by him shall certify names of members to be placed in nomination and shall assist in conducting the election.

Section 2. A program committee appointed by the President shall be responsible for the place, music, identification badges, and type of entertainment, etc. for the next meeting.

Section 3. The President shall appoint any other committees necessary in carrying on the family work.

#### ARTICLE IX (PARLIMENTARY RULES)

Robert's Rules of Order, Revised shall be the accepted authority on all questions of parliamentary procedure not covered by these by-laws.

#### ARTICLE X (AMENDMENTS)

Amendments to these by-laws may be made at any regular meeting by a 2/3 vote of the members present and voting, providing written notice of such proposed amendments have been mailed to the membership prior to said meeting. If the proposed amendment has not been received in time for mailing, it shall be read at said meeting and voted on at the next meeting.

These by-laws are revised from and supercede those of May 7, 1950. (End)

Secretary notation: In a nutshell, what has changed in the by-laws are three things. The Board of Directors was composed of 4 officers and 5 directors, one from each branch of the family. While this looks good on paper, the truth is that there hasn't been directors elected, or even discussed, in twelve years now. The second change is making the Family Historian an officer who has voting privilege and who will be elected in the future instead of appointed by the President as in the past. Thirdly, now the Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian can serve any number of terms consecutively, elected every two years, instead of a limit of two terms.

#### A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU

On behalf of our Association, we wish to thank the wonderful students of Taft, Tex. High School who mimeographed the 3,072 pages necessary to send 384 households this letter containing 8 pages each. Also to Mr. Ray von Rosenberg, teacher at the Taft High School and our family Vice-President, who helped the students. Thank you all for your fine effort.

#### AND NOW FOR YOU, HERE'S VOL. II

The Family Record Book, Vol. II, of the 4th and later generations of the von Rosenberg Family of Texas is almost ready for publication. We will have it printed in a convenient and readable print, good paper and in an attractive binding, and at a price so nominal that every member can buy for their needs. The cost is estimated between \$12.00 to \$15.00 per copy delivered to you at the reunion, June 30, 1974; add \$1.00 per copy if you wish them mailed. Vol. II of this Texas Family will contain more than twice the biographies for the 4th generation ONLY than our first edition of 1949 did for ALL THREE generations.

You will want to buy several at once and use them as gifts for your children and grandchildren. The book should be very acceptable as a graduation gift, a wedding gift, and as birthday and baptismal gifts. The printer must know how many copies we will need in total so we are asking you to determine how many copies you desire.

Most printers require one-half the total cost upon receipt of the manuscript and the balance when the finished books are delivered to us. This means we must have cash to get started; there are only small funds available now.

The Book Committee and the Officers have devised two plans to finance the book:

First--each purchaser can send immediately a down payment of \$10.00 per copy ordered and pay the balance when the books are delivered at the reunion.

Second--if any family member wishes to loan the Association, interest free, additional monies in multiples of \$100.00 to insure immediate printing and delivery on reunion day, they may do so. The money would be repaid when available or options may be taken on an equivalent value in books. Please write Treasurer Robert Hein for further details.

To assure timely arrangements, both down payments and loans must be received not LATER THAN NOVEMBER 15, 1973. Please make checks payable to "Von Rosenberg Family of Texas" and mail to Robert Hein, 413 Ridgemoor, San Antonio, Texas, 78209.

Do be sure now and plan your needs for those future copies; for you may wish in later years that you had done so. That means have them ready for your family's young people who will be grown up by then and want one of their very own. There are many among us now who would give almost any price to find a few more copies of the "old books." It is essential that you reserve your copies now so we can know how many copies to order from the printer.

A Pledge Slip is attached, fill it in as you like, and return it at once to our Treasurer, Robert Hein, along with your down payment. Do not delay or neglect this. We must get the order in at once so as to have the books ready on June 30, 1974. Please notify all members of your immediate family as we may not have all addresses correct or know of each person who would want a book ordered for them.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THIS OFFER AS FINAL, AS OUR EXPENDITURE FOR LETTERS AND NOTICES IS LIMITED AND WE MUST GIVE OUR ORDER TO THE PRINTER AT ONCE, IMMEDIATELY, TO BE ABLE TO GET THEM FOR REUNION DAY.

Return this Pledge Slip to: Robert Hein, 413 Ridgemoor, San Antonio, Texas, 78209:

This is my pledge in support of THE VON ROSENBERG FAMILY BOOK, VOL. II:

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the Family Book, Vol. II, to be delivered to me at the family reunion on June 30, 1974, in Rosenberg, Texas.

I am enclosing my check of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as a down payment for \_\_\_\_\_ books at \$10.00 each.

I am enclosing my check of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ which is to be considered a loan to the Association, interest free, and I understand the loan will be repaid when the books are sold, or that I may take an option on an equivalent value in books.

Please Print

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ STREET NO. \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

This reminder: All checks for Vol. II should be mailed to:  
Robert Hein 413 Ridgemoor San Antonio, Texas 78209

Your check of \$5.00 or more you wish to donate to the Family Operating Budget should be sent to: Phil Meerscheidt 6301 Ranchester #62 Houston, Tex. 77036.

This newsletter is respectfully submitted by:

Phil Meerscheidt

Family Secretary