

# von Rosenberg Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 6

DECEMBER 2004

## vonRosenberg Family Heritage Tour

A group of Family members experienced the trip of a lifetime when they made the vonRosenberg Family Heritage Tour September 10-29, 2004. They visited the Baltic Countries where our ancestors lived from 1500 until 1849; Germany, where Peter Carl and family visited Berlin and Potsdam on the way to Texas; and the Czech Republic, where the early vonRosenbergs lived from 1100 until 1500.

Now is our chance to hear about this wonderful trip, and experience it vicariously through the Family members who made the trip.

Make plans now to attend the Reunion on July 15-17, 2005. We are promised a full report on the trip, complete with pictures. You won't want to miss this exciting event!

## Exciting New Item For sale

Our Historian, Ann Barnes, has prepared a CD of photographs that exist in our collection of family history. These are 365 identified photographs, which have been cataloged by Branches. This CD is now available for a cost of \$20, and has been added to our "General Store" list of items for sale. This would be a wonderful addition to your collection of family history, and one that your children and grandchildren would enjoy seeing.

## General Store

Don't forget there are plenty of books available in the VR Family Store. These books are sure to be cherished family possessions and make excellent gifts. Just mail your check (payable to von Rosenberg Family of Texas) and request list to:

**Forrest Campbell**

8218 Creekline

San Antonio, TX 78251

and your books will be shipped promptly.

- Vol III ..... \$25.00 (>1000 available)
- Vol II ..... \$13.50
- Vol I ..... \$16.00
- VR Cookbook ..... \$14.95 (>600 available)
- Ancestral Voices ..... \$25.00
- Emgration Booklet ..... \$ 6.50
- CD of Photographs ..... \$20.00

*May You Have  
A Blessed  
Holiday Season  
from  
the Officers*

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## *Minutes of the last reunion*

### REUNION MINUTES July 17, 2004

The meeting of the 63rd Reunion of the vonRosenberg Family of Texas was called to order by President Darlyn Cartwright. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Clyde vonRosenberg delivered our opening prayer. The President welcomed everyone.

Ann Barnes, our Historian, traveled the farthest distance, coming from Mesa, Arizona. There was a tie for the oldest family member present. Edna vonRosenberg and Clark vonRosenberg are both 94 years old. The youngest member present was Rebecca Juranek, 17 months old; the daughter of Ann and Tom Juranek. Under Family Achievements, Wayne Scholz reported that his daughter Allison graduated in May with a fashion degree. Jennifer Juranek participated in the People to People Ambassador program to Australia and New Zealand.

Motion made to accept last year's Minutes as printed in the Newsletter. The Treasurer reported \$769 worth of books were sold during the past year. Two newsletter mailings cost a total of \$902. As of June 30th, we had a balance of \$6,413.18. Since we still owe \$8,000 to family members for their loans to help us publish Volume III, Forrest Campbell moved that we pay off half of the debt; seconded by Shirley Meerscheidt; motion carried.

Forrest Campbell urged the sale of books, tee shirts, and other items so we can pay off the rest of the debt. He thanked Jo vonRosenberg for re-printing the Ancestral Voices. Due to the cost of re-printing, we need to increase the price of that publication. Wayne Scholz reminded people to buy books for their children as they grow up and move into homes of their own.

Pam Peters, Vice President, was thanked for all her hard work in organizing this year's Reunion activities. Pam made announcements of the activities planned.

Ann Barnes, Historian, gave her report, which included instructions on how to preserve our photographs and how to identify them. She explained that she has a number of pictures which have no identification or branch number on them, so it is very important to identify your pictures on the back with a #2 pencil. Be sure to identify your pictures with full names, date, and place. Ann also encouraged everyone to write their family history in a notebook or journal before it is lost.

Ann stated that there are 365 identified photographs, which she has scanned and cataloged by Branches. She has created a CD, which is available for \$20. These CDs can be ordered along with the books we have for sale.

Last year, we voted to donate our archives to the Fayette Museum and Library in LaGrange. Neale Rabensburg introduced two representatives from the library to bring us up-to-date on their expansion progress. The building should be finished in December of this year, and they are currently in the process of automating everything in their collection. They predict that in March or April of next year, they should be able to receive our collection. It will be the largest collection in the library.

Pam stated that we have a need for new tee shirts. Darlyn had the previous shirts made, and will take care of this project. It was decided that we do not need any more coffee mugs. Motion made, seconded, and carried to return to Camp Lone Start next year. We will request the 3rd weekend in July. Our By-laws were discussed. They have not been amended since 1970, so a motion was made, seconded and carried that we review the by-laws. The President appointed Glenn vonRosenberg as Chairman of the committee, along with the officers of the Association.

Neale Rabensburg will have a reception tonight at 7:00 p.m. at the Meerscheidt House, with dessert, coffee, soft drinks, and wine. Everyone is invited.

Jo vonRosenberg said the members of the family who are going on the Heritage Trip are very excited. They leave September 10, returning September 29. They promise to bring us a complete report at next year's Reunion, complete with pictures. You won't want to miss hearing about this trip, so be sure you are at the Reunion next July.

The Sunday devotional will be held tomorrow at 10:00 am. We will also honor the memory of the Family members who have passed away during this past year.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

## The vonRosenberg Family Historian—what does she do?

By Ann Barnes, Historian

It was suggested at the meeting last year that a report be made on what our historian does in the line of duty. I could not make such a report without well-deserved honorable mention of our past historians as well. For it is the fruits of their labors that keeps me on my toes as well. Most of the time a historian of an organization is visualized as one who merely keeps a scrapbook of that organization's activities during their term of office. But not so for the vonRosenberg Family of Texas.

Our first historian, Martha Meerscheidt, spent hours corresponding with family members both in the United States and in Europe. She was also involved in organizing the first family reunion, which was held in 1939. We have a large collection of Martha's letters, many still in German, and some dating back to the early 1900s, documenting this correspondence. She participated in every reunion until the time of her death, and kept copious family-related notes and clippings throughout her years.

Alma Tomlinson compiled most of the photo collection we have today. She also kept newspaper clippings and articles pertaining to family members and functions. Alma and her helpers were instrumental in the production of Volume I of the vonRosenberg Family of Texas, as well as the translation of the Emmigration Letters.

Charles vonRosenberg's primary focus was the compiling and publishing of Volume II, but that was only part of his accomplishments during his tenure.

Ray vonRosenberg has been our researcher and compiler of numerous charts and articles, primarily the Courland days and the very early history of the family, hundreds of years before Peter Carl was born. His works are compiled in the book *The Early History of the vonRosenberg Family, 400 to 1849*. Thanks to this book and the in-depth information it contains, the recent Family Heritage Trip was well planned and orchestrated. The trip included many places that he writes about.

Dale vonRosenberg's dream was the publication of a third volume and he worked on that extensively. His love of family stories made more than one of our ancestors come to life as he researched their lives and wrote vivid stories or narratives.

Then, there is me. I have had big shoes to fill this past seven years, but it is a challenge I enjoy. My first priority was to complete what Dale set out to do and that was the publication of Volume III. So I picked up where Dale left off and three years later, with the unfailing support of Jo vonRosenberg, Nettie Green, Clois Green, and Ray vonRosenberg, Volume III was published. I have made a written inventory of all records and photographs in my custody. I have also made a written inventory of all photographs and documents that are housed in the Austin History Center and At the Center for American History at the University of Texas. The photographs in our collection are now available on a CD. My current project is orchestrating the translation of the book, *Familie Froelich*, published in 1909, and my helper Neale Rabensburg is overseeing the translation of letters and documents in Martha's collection.

Since our trip to Europe, Art Green has taken an interest in Ray's research and has ideas he would like to pursue. Our historian's job has never been a one-man operation. I know there is no way I could have accomplished the work that has been done since I have been historian without the interest and help of the people I have had by my side every step of the way.

## Updates

Jason Richards and Susan Gail Campbell, daughter of Joan and Forrest Campbell, married June 12, 2004 in College Station, following Susan's graduation from Texas A&M with a Bachelor's degree. Jason graduated the same day with his Master's degree in Civil Engineering.

Steven G. Campbell, son of Joan & Forrest, married Lenna Matz on Sept. 18, 2004 in Houston. Steven is continuing his degree at Texas A&M, after which they will live in Houston.

William Spearman vonRosenberg, son of Frances and Arthur James vonRosenberg, married Keri Ann Almond on Sept. 4, 2004, in Kenmore, WA.

Frances Bock vonRosenberg, wife of Charles H. vonRosenberg of Fayetteville, N.C., died Sept. 5, 2004.

**Please help us keep our records up to date by reporting new information to our secretary. Thank you.**



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NEW Officers

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*The von Rosenberg Family of  
 Texas  
 Reunion*

*Mark your calendars for the  
 third weekend in July*

*Camp Lone Star La Grange, Texas*