

vonRosenberg Newsletter

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 10

Nov. 2007

150th Anniversary of German Free School

The German-Texan Heritage Society & the German Free School Guild presented certificates recognizing the descendants of William von Rosenberg (Branch I) who attended the German Free School Sesquicentennial Activities October 11-13, 2007 in Austin. Arthur and Frances von Rosenberg were among the attendees, and provided this information.

William played a large part in establishing the first public school in Austin. A public meeting was held in September, 1857 to announce that the school would be built. William von Rosenberg, a graduate architect engineer, then employed as a draftsman in the General Land Office, immediately purchased a lot on Mulberry near Red River St. for the grand sum of \$35 and donated it to the school. School lore says he also donated \$1000 in gold for the construction of the school. He was one of the original trustees and several of his children attended the school.

The school is now the office of the German-Texas Heritage Society. Approximately 20 of William's descendants attended the celebration, along with a large turn out of Heritage Society members. A tour of early Austin German sites was held and one of the places visited was the studio of Elisabeth Ney (1833-1907). She was a noted 19th century sculptor from Prussia who relocated to Texas and, after a break of 25 years, did some of her finest work sculpting a number of early Texas heroes including Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston. Among the statues in her museum collection was one of Wolter von Plettenberg. Wolter was the Livonian Order Master who awarded Johann von Rosenberg an estate at Kurmahlen near Goldingen, Livonia, now Kuldīga, Latvia, in 1511. Johann is the most distant relative to whom the family has documented direct ties.

Do you have your copy of Volume III ?

First, it has great photos—over 300 that have never been seen by the majority of the family.

Tidbits and articles written by family members about historical points of interest. Biographical sketches of Generation 5. Photos of the heads of families for the first three generations covered in Volume I. Corrections and updated information to both Volumes I and II. A complete index and compilation of over 2300 names.

HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOURS?? DID YOU BUY ONE FOR EACH OF YOUR CHILDREN?

General Store

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 Creepline, San Antonio, TX 78251, and your books will be shipped promptly.

- Vol III \$25.00
- Vol II \$13.50
- VR Cookbook \$14.95
- Ancestral Voices \$25.00
- Emigration Booklet \$6.50
- CD of Photographs \$20.00
- Vol. III/CD Combination. . . \$40.00
- + \$4.00 shipping and handling.

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Minutes of the last reunion

REUNION MINUTES

July 21, 2007

The meeting of the 66th Reunion of the vonRosenberg Family of Texas was called to order by President Pam Peters at 1:00 p.m. on July 21, 2007. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the President welcomed everyone.

Oscar and Sherrie Lytton traveled the farthest distance, coming from Las Cruces, NM. Edna vonRosenberg, at 97 years of age, was the oldest family member present. The youngest member present was Rebecca Juranek, four years and four months old; the daughter of Ann and Tom Juranek. Glenn and Jo vonRosenberg celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 1st. Other family achievements were reported. Self introductions were made.

Motion was made, seconded and carried to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of last year's meeting. Forrest Campbell read the Treasurer's Report, showing an ending balance of \$4,742.52. Forrest then made a motion that we pay off the balance of \$2,000 owed to family members on the book loans. Motion was seconded and carried.

Ann Barnes, Historian, could not be here due to family illness. Neale Rabensburg reported that Ann has shipped two boxes of pictures and family documents to the Fayette County Museum. Arthur vonRosenberg presented a book he has put together on the early history of the family and to correct the genealogy and family history contained in the Blue Book. He explained the research he has done and said that anyone who makes a donation of \$20 to the Family can have the books, which cost him \$30 to produce.

Old Business:

There was a lengthy discussion of the proposed changes to our bylaws. Motion was then made by Wayne Scholz to table the proposed amendments. The President appointed Darlyn Cartwright to chair a committee to prepare a revised amendment and bring it back before the Family.

New Business:

Motion made, seconded and carried to hold our Reunion next year here at Camp Lone Star at the same time as this year.

This being an election year, Pam Peters stated that the present officers have agreed to serve in their respective positions for another two years. Carol vonRosenberg moved that we re-elect the present board; motion was seconded and carried.

The President reminded everyone to send in their registration forms for next year's Reunion. She has to give the Camp the number of people we will have for meals, and it is difficult when we don't know who is coming. She also encouraged everyone to participate in the silent auction, as this is one way we pay for the expenses of the reunion.

Wayne Scholz reported that Neale Rabensburg paid the fee for the tour of the Fasion Home this morning. Wayne also thanked Bill vonRosenberg for arranging the golf tournament. Neale invited everyone to the Meerscheidt House at 7:00 p.m. tonight for a reception.

Meeting closed at 2:20 p.m.

On Sunday, July 22, 2007, following the devotional service, the President called the Family back into a business session to address the bylaws changes. The following amendments were unanimously approved by all members present: Article III—Membership: Each household pays a \$10 registration fee at reunions. In addition, free will offerings will be taken to defray the expenses of the Association. Article VI—Board of Directors: Section 1: The Board of Directors, composed of the officers only, shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historical Committee Chairman. The Officers shall be chosen as described in Article V (Elections). The Historical Committee Chairman shall be chosen by members of the Historical Committee and approved by a majority of the Board of Directors. The term of the Historical Committee Chairman shall be at the discretion of the Historical Committee. Section 5: Duties of the Historical Committee Chairman shall be to see to the safekeeping of heirlooms and records which are the property of the Association and of keeping the database and records of the family history. The Historical Committee Chairman shall see that all original records, documents, photographs and other heirlooms are housed within the State of Texas with a Historical Committee member for the benefit of the family. (Continued....)

Reunion Minutes (Continued)

Article VIII—Committees—Section 2: The Historical Committee shall consist of four to seven members, chosen by the President and approved by the Board of Directors, and representing all Branches of the Family. The Committee is to meet and elect the Historical Committee Chairman and maintain the database and records.

The President then appointed the following committee members: Ann Barnes, Art Green, Arthur vonRosenberg, J.T. Koenig, Neale Rabensburg, Ray vonRosenberg, and Billye Beth Baker.

Meeting was adjourned.

Shirley Meerscheidt, Secretary

Devotional & Memorial Service

A Devotional was conducted on Sunday morning, July 23, 2006, along with a memorial service for the following family members who have passed away since our 2006 Reunion:

Edwin Lon Lytton, son of Oscar and Sherrie Lytton, died April 24, 2007—Branch V; Philip Alan Meerscheidt, son of Phil Meerscheidt and brother of our President, Pam Peters, on June 30, 2007—Branch V; William K. Krause died October 8, 2006—Branch V; Maxine Meerscheidt Lee died in October 2006—Branch V; Frank Hamer, Jr. died September 18, 2006—Branch I; Kurt Alan King died October 23, 2006.

Family Website

Don't forget to check out our Website at www.vonrosenbergfamily.com. We appreciate the efforts of our webmaster, Steve Hornberger, a member of Branch 1.

Please help us keep our records up to date by reporting new information to our secretary, Shirley Meerscheidt, 7731 Joplin Street, Houston, Texas 77087, (713) 643-7793. E-mail is shmeerscheidt@sbcglobal.net. Thank you.

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" **The vonRosenberg Family Historian—An Update**

" By Ann Barnes, Historian

" A couple of months ago, Jerry Patterson, Commissioner at the Texas General Land Office, emailed to ask permission to use the photo of William von Rosenberg that is on the family website for their upcoming newsletter. Last week I received a copy of the newsletter that includes an article called "War Comes to the Land Office 1861-1865". The article includes photos of three of the draftsmen, including William, who was chief draftsman. Nothing was said in the article that we don't already have in our files, but the copy of the newsletter will be added to the von Rosenberg files.

" Nettie Green sent a note announcing the birth of Carlotta Pauline Olga Leonie Baronesse von Rosenberg, born Sept. 18, 2007 in Munich, Germany. Proud grandmother is Alexandra von Rosenberg, our Munich cousin who accompanied us on the Heritage Trip. She is descended from one of Peter Carl's brothers.

" Webmaster Steve Hornberger recently sent a fascinating report that summarizes the countries and the number of visits to the family website from Jan. 1 to Nov. 5. The site averages about 190 visits per month, the highest being 219 in July. The website is being visited by internet users from all over the world—the U.S. and Europe the largest—but Australia, South Korea, Hong Kong and Russia, to name a few. With that in mind, I decided to find out how many of our cousins had posted their own lines on the internet. Check out Derrick Pitard's site at <http://pitard.net/genealogy/home.php> and Robert Barritt's site at <http://tree.barrittfamily.net/index.php>. J.T. Koenig has been contributing obituaries and other items to the Fayette County website at www.rootsweb.com/txfayett/.

" I decided to Google the name von Rosenberg and there are 142,000 sites with the name in them. A number of them are general in nature, but there are many of historical value, including several on Cesky Krumlov. The list is quite long, so our webmaster will be adding the links on the website.

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Website

Www.vonrosenbergfamily.com

*The von Rosenberg Family of Texas
Reunion*

*Mark your calendars for
July 18—20, 2008*

*Camp Lone Star
La Grange, Texas*