

Austin Historic Landmark Commission

February 24, 2020 Regular Meeting

Item 2.A Dessau Church Proposal for Relocation

Documents submitted by:

Mary L. (Dickens) Jackson

Secretary/Treasurer

Dessau Lutheran Cemetery Association

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

February 23, 2020

Austin Historic Landmark Commission

RE: Relocating Dessau Lutheran Church to Pioneer Farms

Dear Historic Landmark Commissioners,

I currently serve as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Dessau Lutheran Cemetery Association (DLCA). I have held this position since October 2014. Previously I served as Vice-President from October 2008 until October 2014. I have been actively involved with the Dessau Lutheran Church and Cemetery for over 30 years. My mother, Margaret (Nauert) Dickens was the daughter of Selma (Wieland) Nauert and William Nauert. Selma was the daughter of Martin and Carlina (Bastian) Wieland and William was the son of Carl and Caroline (Brachwitz) Nauert, all immigrants from Dessau, Germany to Dessau, Texas in the 1850's. They were all members of Dessau Lutheran Church, with many being married in the church. They are all buried in Dessau Lutheran Cemetery except my Mom, and as you can see, the lineage runs very deep within my blood and also with my siblings, children, and grandchildren. We are one of the most active families with the church and cemetery. We have spent countless hours working on the church, maintaining the cemetery grounds and fellowship with the members. This has been instilled in me directly with my parents and grandparents. My mom, Margaret Dickens, played a vital role in the history of the church and many of the documents that I have provided for this meeting have been from the treasure trove of files that she maintained all these years. She truly LOVED this church and it was a deep loss when she passed away September 21, 2016.

As a child, I attended services at Dessau Lutheran Church with my grandparents, Selma and William Nauert. It was a magical place and the people were so respectful of the history of their community. I remember the pot belly stove in the middle of the church and the open windows when it was summer. And the well that was to the north of the building. It was just something else to be inside of the building, along with my Grandma and Grandpa.

As the years have gone by, the church has lost many of the older generation, including my Mom, my Grandparents, and both sets of my Great-Grandparents that helped settle Dessau, Texas from their homeland of Dessau, Germany. Many traveled here by ship, which could take up to 11-13 weeks for the journey. Just amazing that the majority survived in that day and time. That courage lives on with their descendants who are wanting to carry on this history to so many others.

The DLCA has been facing the challenge of maintaining the church building which is only used for an annual membership meeting once a year for 2-3 hours. We were in the process of trying to determine what we should do when we were approached by Pioneer Farms to relocate the church to their property. This was truly felt by all of the board members as God's answer to our prayers. We put it to a vote to the membership on May 4, 2019 and the majority voted for the move. This day also just happened to be my Mom's birthday (she would have been 95). So, it was truly a beautiful day for many of us.

Moving the church to Pioneer Farms would be such an honor to everyone that has been involved with the church and the Dessau community from its beginning. It would be with other buildings from this same area, and for the deep history to truly be shared among the 50,000 or more that visit the Pioneer Farms on a yearly basis. Restoring and preserving the church and its history along with providing a much safer environment for it is critical. Currently there are multiple apartment complexes being built in the adjacent area which poses an unsafe situation for the church and the development goes on, which will eventually landlock the church. The sooner this can be done, the better for the church.

Please approve the relocation and recommend that the City Council waive permitting fees for this very important preservation project. Thank you for enabling the church and its history to be saved for the future generations to come. If we don't preserve and teach the history, it will be lost forever. We all have to do our part to teach the past for the future.

Sincerely,



Mary L. (Dickens) Jackson
11408 Chancellroy Drive
Austin, Texas 78759

February 23, 2020

Austin Historic Landmark Commission
Austin City Hall
301 W. 2nd Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Re: Item 2.A on February 24, 2020 agenda

Historic Landmark Commissioners:

I write in strong support of the proposal to relocate the Dessau Lutheran Church at 13300 Dessau Road to Pioneer Farms at 10621 Pioneer Farms Drive, about two miles away.

This most historic church, built by early German settlers to this part of Texas, is clearly endangered in his present location, and must be moved to save it from eventual destruction. Absent action, this church will soon be landlocked and doomed by encroaching development.

Members of the Dessau Lutheran Cemetery Association, descendants of the people who built the church in 1876 and are buried in the adjacent cemetery, have voted overwhelmingly to have the church relocated to where it can be restored and protected — and have its significant history interpreted in a public venue. Neither of those worthy preservation goals are possible in its current location.

Pioneer Farms already has raised well over half the money needed to relocate the church and are awaiting your decision on this important relocation before they can secure the additional funding needed to ensure its long-term preservation.

Please approve the relocation and recommend that the City Council waive permitting fees for this important grassroots preservation project.

Please help us save the church — and its history, for future generations.

I also serve as a Director on the Dessau Lutheran Cemetery Association Board,

Sincerely,



Robert L. Naivar
11408 Chancellor Drive
Austin, TX 78759

*I BECAME INVOLVED IN THE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION ABOUT
24 YEARS AGO AFTER MEETING MY WIFE, MARY JACKSON. HER
ANCESTORS BUILT THE DESSAU CHURCH IN THE LATE 1800'S. I
WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE CHURCH MOVED TO PIONEER FARMS SO
IT'S HISTORY COULD LIVE ON FOR MANY MORE GENERATIONS TO COME.*

THANKS!

February 23, 2020

City of Austin Council

Re: Dessau Lutheran Cemetery Association (DLCA)
Support of Proposal to move Dessau Evangelical Lutheran Church to Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farms

Dear Council Members,

Thank you for hearing the petition for approval to move the Dessau Evangelical Lutheran Church from its current location at 13300 Dessau Road to a site designated within Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farms, a distance of approximately three miles, and the keeping of its historical building integrity.

This has been a very emotional decision - moving our ancestors' church to a different location - but at the same time a peaceful one because of the connection to the historical community of Pioneer Farms. As a descendant of the Wieland and Nauert families, my family has been involved in the maintenance and upkeep of the church since 2001. My deceased grandmother, Margaret Nauert Dickens, was a keeper of the Nauert and Wieland family history, and was able to provide the original deed that allowed us to keep the church and land from being sold by the ELCA SWT Synod at that time.

My mother, step-father, aunt and uncle, husband and son, along with other members of the DLCA have spent numerous hours maintaining the church, cemetery, and grounds over the years. We've tried to honor our ancestors' history by taking care of the place where they congregated to seek wisdom from the Lord in starting their lives over in a new land. They worked hard on the farms in the area, raised families, and built a community. Their faith in their God gave them strength to overcome the many challenges of traversing the ocean, travelling an unfamiliar land, building new homes, weather effects on their crops, distance from their close relatives and friends across the ocean, and deaths in their families. They believed the Lord would provide and they would do their best with what they were given to honor Him.

Our current DLCA Board and Members have been praying what to do in order to maintain the church and keep its integrity in the face of developments surrounding the property. Without having an active congregation and staff at the property, our concern has been how to keep it from being desecrated and to maintain the structure of the building. An opportunity arose when Pioneer Farms' Director Mike Ward reached out to our Board in early 2019 and presented the idea of having our church moved to the living history site since it was lacking a church from the 1850-1890's time period. Since our church was part of the local community, it made even more sense to consider the request. It would be a part of the continuing education of current visitors as to the impact of faith on those early settlers to the area, and we considered it an honor to be considered. This was an answer to our prayers. The church would remain historically intact and provide an opportunity for Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farms to have a broader impact on preserving local Texas history.

We're respectfully requesting your approval of moving the church to the site on Pioneer Farms, without mandating its upgrade to current building standards. Updating the building would remove its historical integrity and authenticity, defeating the purpose of being part of a living historical site.

Thank you for this consideration and may future generations appreciate your part in enabling this piece of Texas' history being made available to them at the Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farms.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Gallegos (daughter of Mary Dickens; granddaughter of Margaret Nauert; great granddaughter of William Nauert; great great granddaughter of Carl Nauert [emigrated to Dessau, Texas from Dessau, Germany])

Andy Gallegos

Moirra Gallegos

Nathan Gallegos

303 Kathleen Lane, Leander, TX 78641

February 23, 2020

Austin Historic Landmark Commission,

I would like to extend our family's hope to see Dessau Lutheran Church moved to Pioneer Farms. In a recent church meeting we voted to move the church to Pioneer Farms. Having the church at Pioneer Farms would help to keep it preserved so that future generations can learn about the history of this region and the people who settled here.

Best regards,

Garey Jackson, Emily Jackson, Lillian Jackson (age 11) and Garrett Jackson (age 9)
108 S. Ridge Circle
Georgetown, Texas 78628

February 17th, 2020

Austin Historical Landmark Commission

**RE: MOVING DESSAU LUTHERAN CHURCH TO THE PIONEER FARMS
LOCATION, AUSTIN, TEXAS**

**This letter is notification that I am giving my full support for the moving of
The Dessau Lutheran Church from Dessau, Texas to The Jourdan –Bachman
Pioneer Farms Location.**

**I completely support the moving of The Dessau Lutheran Church. If it had
not been for our ancestors that built the church and everyone that has
taken care of it for all of these years and done so much to keep it going,
this would not have happened.**

**The Church will have a new life at the Pioneer Farms. It is a blessing and
honor that this is happening and I give my complete support of this move
by submitting this letter of approval.**

**Pioneer Farms has the resources to best restore and preserve The Dessau
Lutheran Church for future generations.**

Thanking you in advance,

Linda K. Carr

8129 Avella Drive, Austin, Texas 78729

February 24, 2020

Austin Historic Landmark Commission

Subject: Dessau Lutheran Church Relocation to Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farms

This letter is to express my full and devoted support for moving the Dessau Lutheran Church; 13300 Dessau Road; Austin, TX 78754 to the Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farms; 10621 Pioneer Farms Road; Austin, TX 78754.

Our church is a symbol of my family history, my family's devotion to the community, and my family's hard work to maintain and preserve this historic structure.

Our church has brought together so many members and friends of our family, for Church Services, Weddings, Funerals, and Family Reunions, that might not have been conducted, if not for this Beautiful little church.

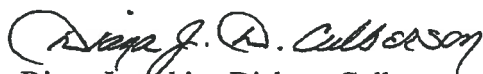
Our church deserves to "live on", to provide current and future generations with hope that history "can" be preserved, regardless of the hard work and effort that is required to make it happen.

Please let my words and thoughts be heard and digested, so that Dessau does not become a community of the past, but a "living and bright" symbol of the past, for all to enjoy, and be a part of what made this community so great, so many years ago.

Our ancestors worked so very hard to travel to this community, to find this beautiful location, to build this church, their homes, their farms, and raise their families. Please do whatever is necessary to let this "Little Piece of Heaven" live on.

Thank you.

Respectfully,



Diana Josephine Dickens Culberson
Descendent of the Nauert (Paternal) and Wieland (Maternal) Families)

February 24, 2020

Austin Historic Landmark Commission

Subject: Dessau Lutheran Church Relocation to Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farms

I am writing to support my wife and her family, in their endeavors to fulfill their wish, to preserve the Dessau Lutheran Church.

As it has been expressed, their family's church is a symbol of history, devotion to the community, and hard work has been given to maintain and preserve this historic structure.

Many past and present members and friends of our family have gathered and participated in Church Services, Weddings, Funerals, and Family Reunions in this Wonderful little church. It has brought much comfort to so many, for so many years.

I have been lucky enough to experience and share many memorable gatherings at the Dessau Church, and know that it has enriched my life and my family, with wonderful and cherished celebrations.

The Dessau Church certainly deserves to "live on" for current and future generations, for hope that history "can" be preserved, regardless of the hard work and effort that is required to make it happen.

The Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farms is a blessing which we are so very thankful for. They have become the "light" for the preservation of the Dessau Church. I hope our expressions for the relocation and the renovation/preservation of this historic landmark is heard with "open hearts" so that Dessau does not become a community of the past.

My wife's ancestors worked hard to build and maintain this community. Please let the Dessau history live on.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William A. Culberson, III', with a stylized flourish at the end.

William A. Culberson, III

Spouse of the Nauert (Paternal) and Wieland (Maternal) Families

Richard and Debbie Combest
33 Circle Drive
Tulia, TX 79088

February 18, 2020

To: The Austin Historical Landmark Commission

Dear Commission Members,

Thank you for your consideration in preserving the Dessau Lutheran Church building.

We support moving the ancestral building to the Pioneer Farm. We also support keeping the building intact with no changes so that the original history of the church will be preserved. We are looking forward to bringing our family to see the church building for generations to come. That will only be possible if it is moved to a safe place away from the huge population growth where it is now located, and many visitors will enjoy seeing the church along with the other buildings on the beautiful farm grounds.

Again, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Richard and Debbie Combest

February 24, 2020

Historic Landmark Commission
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

Re: Relocation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Dessau

My name is Dan Hennig, great grandson of Frederick William Hennig, one of the original settlers who founded the community of Dessau, Texas back in the mid 1800's. My wife and I are active members of the Dessau Lutheran Cemetery Association and as such, voted in favor of relocating the historic Evangelical Lutheran Church of Dessau to Pioneer Farms at last May's annual association meeting. Given the fact that my great grandparents along with other descendants were active members of the church until their deaths and are buried in the Dessau Cemetery that adjoins the church property, my decision to have the church relocated was not entered into lightly.

Despite the great emotional and sentimental attachment I feel in keeping the church and cemetery connected in proximity, the unfortunate reality is that time has not been a friend to the church in terms of its physical decline and the monies needed to repair and maintain the church are greater than what the Association can manage. And along with the funding challenges the Association faces, the Association has also been experiencing a decline in membership over the years not to mention a membership advancing in age.

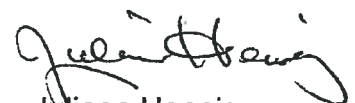
The relocation and restoration of a late 1800s church has long been a coveted future project of Pioneer Farms. The addition of this historic church to their living history park would allow for historical programs to showcase the importance of faith in early Texas settlements and could also be utilized for weddings and meetings. Simply put, this church, along with its history and the importance it once played to the Dessau community and its members, would now reside in a place of high visibility to be shared with and appreciated by the many thousands of visitors that annually patron Pioneer Farms.

Therefore, and in closing, I respectfully request that Austin's Historic Landmark Commission take thoughtful consideration of allowing the relocation of the Dessau Church to Pioneer Farms along with the waiving of fees associated with the move.

Sincerely,



Dan Hennig


Juliana Hennig

4-8-2019

Dear Dessau Lutheran Cemetery Assn. %

Mrs Mary Jackson
11408 Chancellog Dr.
Austin, TX 78759

Dear Mary - Thank you for
your letter recently. We
have a close sentiment for the

Dessau Lutheran Cemetery / Church for a number of reasons
My g-g grandfather Fredrick William Hennig was one of the founders
of Dessau and the Church there. My g-grandfather William Andrew
Hennig married Anna Liso there on October 15, 1890. Our family
went to the Wieland Reunions for many years and my wife and I
were married there on October 15, 2000, and our kids are named
Fritz, William, and Ana - all after our Dessau ancestors. Further,
Grandfather 3 - F.W. Hennig built/owned the Dessau Music Hall as
well. We remember Fern Weiss fondly and our cousin Dan
Hennig also goes to the meetings, I think.

Things changed rapidly after we got married, my dad Eile,
Hennig was in a fatal farm accident, the kids came along and
a lot of the older cousins like Meta, Ruth, Norma Liso Tuff
(nebel) passed on into history - so we lost track - but
we continue to be very interested in the association.

We really appreciate your / all the others continuing care of the
facilities - we know Pflugerville is rapidly growing, and y'all are there
and really have the best understanding of the situation and what
needs to be done. So we thank you and just want what's
best for the old church. We hope to visit in May, but w/
3 kids in school, it's hard to promise, - but a bright spot is
that our Junior HS student William (Sonny Ry) has won the
State Science/biology UIL contest last year / 3rd as freshman - and
is being recruited to UTA for bio-med engineering - so
we hope to remain connected.

Thank you, ... undt Gott behalte
Dessau Stadt! ... Gott behalte dies
Haus, gehen ein undt aus" - Deut 28:6

Andy Hennig

P.O. Box 41

Paint Rock, TX

76866

325-732-4357

4/18/19

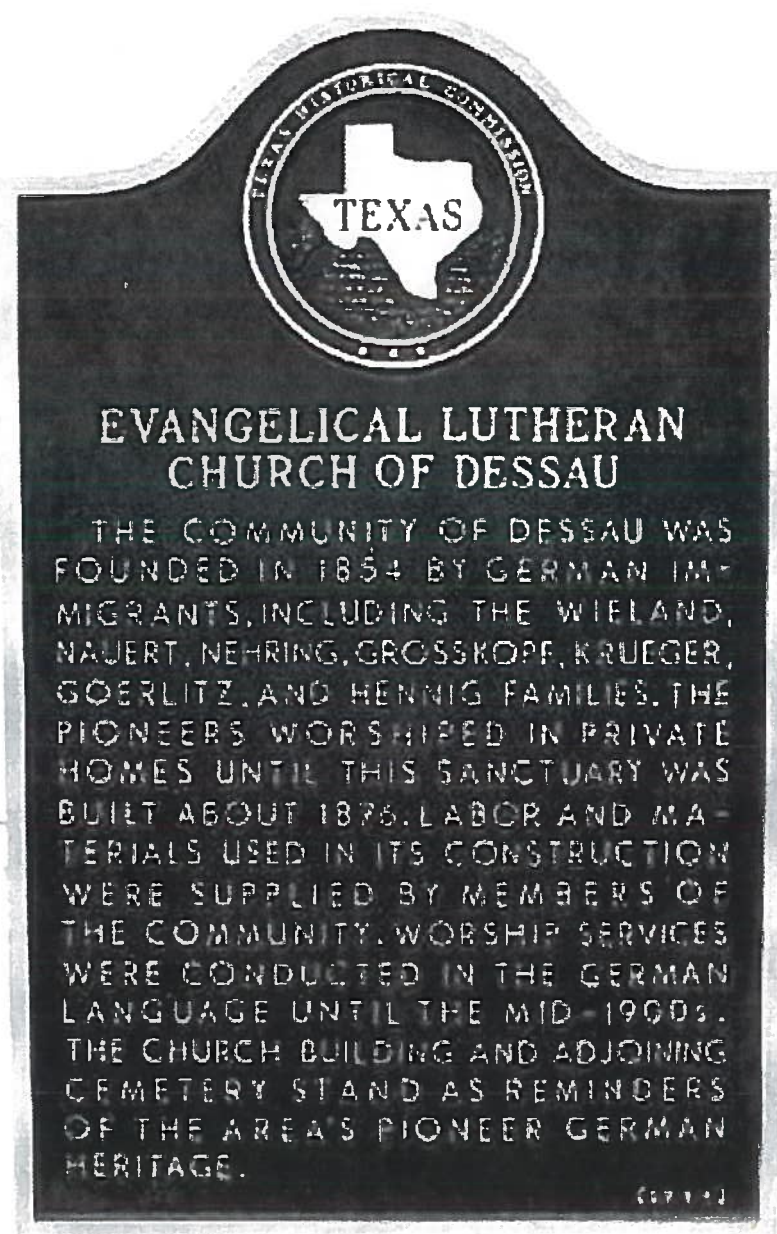
Hello!

I really don't see that we have a choice in moving the church. Looking ahead I can imagine the area around it becoming a haven for drug dealers and heaven knows what else from those apartments. One might say it would be a welcoming beacon because of the way it is situated. Res saw does have a history at the farm. Olga Rogas, daughter of Fritz and Ida Navert, and her husband Gus ran a dairy there until they moved to Gregg in the mid forties. I think Eugene Giles who owned it went to school at Res saw. I think I am related to the Bachmans through one of my grandmothers but I can remember which one. I would love to attend the meeting but health issues prevent it.

Jack Marx

DESSAU LUTHERAN CHURCH HISTORY

Welcome to Dessau Lutheran Cemetery Association Historical Cemetery and Church



The Dessau community was settled in the 1850's by German immigrants. The names of some of the early settlers were Martin Wieland and his two brothers, Fritz and Albert, and sister Hermine, Gustav Grosskopf, Fritz Krueger, Andrew Krueger, Willie Hennig, Carl Nauert, Christian Nehring, Frederick Goerlitz, and Mr. Schwartzkopf. They named the community after the German Duchy Anhalt-Dessau where Martin Wieland grew up. Dessau was founded in 1854 and is twelve miles north of Austin, Texas.

Soon after their arrival, these families began to conduct prayer meetings and bible studies in their homes. They alternated between homes until the early 1870's when they formed a Lutheran congregation and built the church that is still standing today. In 1874, eight acres of land were purchased from Christian Nehring for ten dollars. The church and the parsonage were built in 1876. The construction of the building was made possible by the labor and materials furnished by the members of the congregation and other settlers in the community. The construction was supervised by one of the early settlers, Fritz Krueger. In 1877, two more acres were added to expand the cemetery and to build a school house. The first burials were in 1874. Church services were conducted in German until 1940. After 118 years the congregation disbanded in 1994.

The original church building faces east and is at the top of a hill. The Dessau Lutheran Cemetery is directly in front of the church. Many of the early settlers and their descendants are buried in the cemetery which has over 200 graves.

The Lutheran Church of Dessau has been recognized by the "Texas Historical Commission" with a historical marker (1984).

The Dessau Lutheran Cemetery has been designated as a "Historic Texas Cemetery" (2009).

Brief history of the Dessau Lutheran Cemetery and the Lutheran Church of Dessau:

1874 - Eight acres purchased from Christian Nehring for the church and parsonage for \$10.

1876 - Dessau Lutheran Church and parsonage built by Fritz Krueger.

1877 - Two acres added for a cemetery and school house.

1973 - Rev. Donald Luckemeyer performed last service for the original Dessau Lutheran Church congregation.

1976 - Dessau Lutheran Cemetery Association incorporated.

1977 - Dessau Cemetery deeded (1.37 acres) to Dessau Lutheran Cemetery Association by surviving members of original congregation.

1984 - Dessau Lutheran Church Texas Historical Marker Dedication.

1987 - A new Mission Church congregation established at Dessau by the American Lutheran Church.

1988 - The American Lutheran Churches joins other Lutheran churches to form the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA).

1994 - The ELCA Mission Church at Dessau closed its doors and the church property is deeded to ELCA Southwestern Texas (SWT) Synod.

1995 - Cornerstone Baptist Church leased church and property.

2000 - ELCA SWT Synod votes to sell the Dessau Lutheran Church property.

2001 - ELCA SWT Synod deeds property (0.9334 acres) that Dessau Church sits on to Dessau Lutheran Cemetery Association.

2001 - ELCA SWT Synod sells remaining 6.9415 acres to Cornerstone Baptist Church.

2004 – On October 17, celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the Dessau community. Klemens Koschig, mayor of Rosslau, Germany, his wife and daughter attended as well. The celebration was held at the Parish Hall of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Pflugerville, followed by a celebration at the Martin Wieland/Fish home and then to the Dessau Lutheran Church and Cemetery.

2009 - The Dessau Lutheran Cemetery designated as a “Historic Texas Cemetery”.

2019 - Dessau Lutheran Cemetery Association votes to move the Dessau Church to Pioneer Farms (ninety acre site just to the south of Dessau). Pioneer Farms is a collection of historic buildings preserved to accurately portray the lifestyles on the Blackland Prairie of Central Texas during the 19th century and is open to the public.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AT DESSAU

Location: Dessau Road, Travis County, Texas
ca. 5 miles north of U.S. 183

Present Owner: Evangelical Lutheran Church at Dessau

Present Use: Church closed since ca. 1972

Statement of Significance: This frame church, built without the assistance of an architect, was the focus of the German community of Dessau. Many similar churches were constructed in like manner as Texas was being settled. This church is important as a representative of that period and of the original settlement of Dessau.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

(hang ht)
The church was built on land donated by Christian Nehring: 8 acres in December, 1874, and 100 acres in January, 1877. The exact date of construction is unknown, but the church was probably built ca. 1876 as the first baptismal record is dated 1876. The construction was overseen by Fritz Krueger, one of the original

- in correct

settlers. An addition was made to the back of the church in 1910, to which the belfry was attached housing one large bell. Services were held in the church until ca. 1972, when the building was closed. It now stands unused.

B. Persons connected with the structure

The original settlers of Dessau were immigrants from Dessau, Germany in 1854. They were Martin Wieland, Andrew and Fritz Krueger, Willie Hennig, and Gustav Grosskopf. Others had joined the community by the time the church was built and helped in the construction. These included the Nauerts and the Nehrings.

C. Sources of information

1. Since almost no documented records on the community of Dessau were found, much of the information compiled herein is from oral histories. Those contributing include Mrs. Margaret Nauert Dickens, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Mueller, and Mrs. Henry (Helen) Schoen.
2. A history of the Martin Wieland Home Place at Dessau compiled by Walter E. Long in 1964
3. Deeds from the Travis County Court House, Austin, TX
4. Church records (baptismal) kept at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Pflugerville, TX

5. Bibliography:

Bullock, Orin M. The Restoration Manuel. Silverman Press.

Robinson, Will. Gone From Texas. Texas A&M Press.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: This is an example of the simple frame construction of churches in many early and small settlements in Texas.
2. Condition of Fabric: Good

B. Description of Exterior

1. Over-all Dimensions: The one-room, two-story structure is 20 feet wide and 42½ feet long. The belfry is approximately 5 feet high.
2. Foundation: Concrete.
3. Framing, Wall construction: Box frame, board and batten.
4. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and Doors: The original main entrance, a single-hung door on the south side near the front with two concrete risers leading up to it; the main entrance now at the rear in the addition, a double-hung door with three concrete risers leading up to it flanked by iron hand rails.

- b. Windows: 4 wooden double-hung windows on each long side, two on the front end and one on the rear, all with 4-over-4 light sash.

5. Chimney: In center roof near front.

6. Roof: Gable.

C. Description of Interior

1. Floor Plan: There is one open room with a riser to a platform at the front on which the altar, pulpit and piano stand. To the right of the ~~rear~~ entrance is a small enclosed space used as a dressing room by the pastor. The belfry is also accessible by a ladder from this space.

2. Flooring: Hardwood.

3. Wall and Ceiling finish: Whitewash.

4. Doors: Wood, painted white. One interior door to the small dressing room.

5. Hardware: Most doorknobs, hinges, nails, etcetera, of original iron.

6. Lighting: Exposed wires hang to electric bulbs along the Center of the ceiling (5) and out to wall fixtures (3). One chandelier hangs from the center near the front.

7. Heating: A wood-burning stove stood in the middle of the floor with a flue to the chimney.

D. Site

The rear entrance of the church (main entrance) faces east. A cemetery lies directly east of this entrance and is a part of the church grounds.



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Dessau Lutheran Cemetery

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Details**Years In Use:** ??-??**Legible Tombstone range:** 1874-2002**Historical Marker:** N/A **Open To Public:** Yes**Additional Info****More information:** N/A**Reading:** N/A**Location****Address:** 13300 Dessau Road**City:** Austin**County:** Travis**Maps:** Street Map, Topo Map, Satellite Map[Order a topo map of this area](#)

Location of Dessau Lutheran Cemetery. (May take a while to load. Click for more detail.)

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amazon.com
and you're done



Arlington
National
Cemetery

Best \$7.72!

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The nearby city of Pflugerville hints at a German influence in the Central Texas area. City names such as Fredericksburg and New Braunfels further present the case. A more intimate example of German influences can be found at the Dessau Lutheran Cemetery on Dessau Road in north east Austin.

Like cemeteries along Decker Lane, this small resting place features deceased from a fairly homogenous group of European settlers and their more recent descendents. Whereas Decker saw a concentration of Swedes, Dessau saw a gathering of Germans. Many of the headstones bear all German script, an indication that though they had set out to start a new life for themselves in a new land they continued to find comfort in the familiarity of the Old World.



A wide angle view of the cemetery with a Ganzert family marker in the foreground.

A plaque near the small church in back of the cemetery indicates that it was built in 1876, though there is no indication exactly when the cemetery was first used. At least one tombstone appears to indicate a burial in 1874, so the cemetery appears to predate the church by at least a couple of years. This is consistent with the plaque that states that local families worshipped in their private homes until the church was constructed.

The church held mass in German up until the mid-1900's.

Coinciding with the change in language at mass changes are also evident in the headstones. All deceased within the last few decades bear English on their markers, a signal of trans-generational assimilation into the melting pot of America. The family names remain. Several family names predominate including Grosskopf, Nehring, Nauert, Krueger and Prinz. Some of these families are mentioned on the historical marker as being founders of the Dessau Community, which was first established in 1854.

German phrases on tombstones are similar to those found on English-language headstones. A few



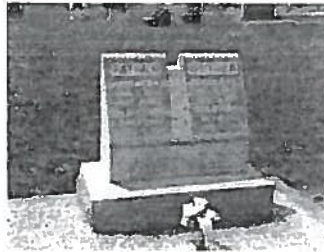
The church at the back of the cemetery now serves as the home of the Cornerstone Baptist Church.

common ones found here include:

- Vater - Father
- Geb. (short for Geborenes) - Born
- Gest. (short for Gestorben) - Died
- Mutter - Mother
- Hier Ruht - Here Lies
- Hier Ruht In Gott - Here Lies In God
- Ruhe Sanft - Rest Gently



Many of the oldest markers in the cemetery, such as this one, bear only German phrases.



This marker indicates that an entire family, or much of it, perished on the same day. Note the family name in raised letters, a form also found on several stones at Decker Lane.



This grave features an interesting marble border with rounded corners and flower pot in front.



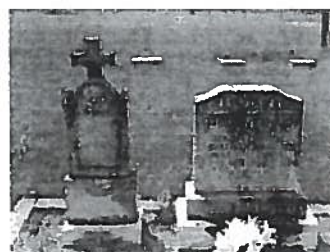
Many families in the past did not pick names for their children until after birth. If they perished young enough they failed to ever bear a name.



One of the more touching graves in the cemetery belongs to Ida Prinz who died at the age of one. The casket on top of the grave reinforces Ida's smallness.



The tallest marker in the cemetery bore this "crown" with the letters "MIVIENA". I could not translate this successfully and may have transposed letters.



The marker on the left bears an intricately carved cross.



This Grosskopf couple were remembered by their descendents with elaborately carved renditions of the Pearly Gates.



The marker here faces right into the heart of the tree so that it's hard to get a good look at the lettering. Was this tree intentionally planted by relatives long ago?

RESEARCHED AND COMPILED BY
MARGARET NAUERT DICKENS
507 DEEP EDDY AVENUE
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78703

DAUGHTER OF WILLIAM AND
SELMA (WIELAND) NAUERT

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church is located at Dessau, Texas. (A Church of the American Syangogue of Lutheran Churches). Dessau was settled at a point twelve (12) miles north of Austin, Texas in 1854.⁽¹⁾ (A Travis County Rural Community). The Missouri Kansas and Texas Railroad ran between Sprinkle and Pflugerville. Dessau became a stop on the Railroad. The School consolidated with Pflugerville in 1920. In 1940 the settlement had two stores and a population of 30.⁽⁷⁾

German immigrants Martin Wieland, Gustav Grosskopf, Fritz Krueger, Andrew Krueger and Willie Hennig landed at Galveston, Texas and went directly to Travis County where they settled. They named the community Dessau after Martin Wielands birthplace of Dessau, Germany.⁽¹⁾ Carl Nauert and Christian Nehring also settled in the community.

They would meet and have their own little prayer meetings and Bible classes at different houses until later they built the Church, where it stands at the present time.

In 1874, eight (8) acres were purchased from Christian Nehring for Ten Dollars (\$10.00) for the Church and Parsonage.⁽³⁾ In 1877, two more acres were included for the original Ten Dollars for the Cemetery and School House. The Church and Parsonage were built in approximately 1876.⁽⁴⁾ The construction was overseen by Fritz Krueger, one of the original settlers. Labor and material were supplied by the settlers of the community.⁽⁵⁾ In later years, the Parsonage

was no longer there. An addition was made to the church to which the belfry⁽²⁾ was attached housing one large bell, that still hangs in the church.

One of the Baptismal records is recorded in 1876 at the Immanuel Lutheran Church records at Pflugerville, Texas. E. Schroeder was Pastor of the Church in⁽⁶⁾ 1883 when Wilhelm (William) Nauert was baptized.

The Services were preached in German until the middle 1900's. Reverend Donald Luckemeyer performed the last service in January, 1973.

The Church has yearly meetings which are held in the church by descendants of members and members of the Church and Cemetery Organization. Also occasional Sunday School meetings are held by the Pflugerville Church Youth.

(1) Martin Wieland Home Place at Dessau.

Information compiled by Walter E. Long owner of the Wieland place (7-17-64). Information from descendants and friends of the Wieland family, ALBERT NEANS, MR. AND MRS. MARTIN WIELAND, JR., HENRY WIELAND, MR. AND MRS. CLEMENTS WIELAND, MRS. ALMA FLEISCHER, MRS. SELMA NAUERT, MR. AND MRS. HENRY SCHOEN AND MR. AND MRS. BRUNO SCHOEN.

(2) Photograph of the Dessau Church and Cemetery - 1954.

(3) Copy of Deed of Purchase of property from Christian Nehring in 1874 for Church.

(4) Copy of Deed of Purchase of property from Christian Henring in 1877 for Cemetery and School.

(5) Photograph of Church and Parsonage - Late 1800's.

(6) Baptism Certificate (copy) of William Nauerts in 1883.

(7) Quote from Texas Handbook-Vol. 1, Page 494.

WALTER E. LONG
NO. 1 GREEN LANES P. O. BOX 1
AUSTIN, TEXAS

July 17, 1964

Dear Mrs. Nauert:

I have spent a good deal of time in an effort to get information about the Martin Wieland home place. I have put this together as best I could and am sending you a copy. I wish you would pencil in on this copy any corrections or notations you can make and send it back to me so that I can later reproduce it in as correct a form as possible.

I am sure there are corrections which need to be made and I shall greatly appreciate your making them and returning the copy to me.

Cordially,

Walter E. Long

MARTIN WIELAND HOME PLACE

AT DESSAU

On May 6, 1825, Martin Wieland was born in Dessau, Germany.

At the age of 29, Martin Wieland immigrated to America, landing at Galveston and going directly to Travis County where he settled at a point 12 miles north of Austin which was to be named later Dessau. This was in 1854.

Coming to America with Martin Wieland were Andrew Krueger, Gustav Grosskopf, Fritz Krueger and Willie Henning.

When these four newcomers reached their destination they lived in improvised quarters. Martin Wieland lived in a tent until he built the first big room of his house. Each one of the four helped the others build their room. These rooms were constructed of nearby field stone and then plastered. The walls of each of the four original rooms were about 18 inches thick and the rooms were 16x16 feet.

In constructing these original first rooms cedar beams were used overhead. In the case of the Wieland Room, port holes were inserted to use as a protection against outlaws and occasional unfriendly Indians.

The Wieland room had only one door and no windows on the theory that fewer openings made a stronger wall and more protection against intruders.

Martin Wieland apparently started the construction of his first room shortly after arrival in 1854 or perhaps early in 1855.

In 1873 Martin Wieland added on the north and east sides of the original room more space. In doing so, he used cut stone, hauled by oxen, from either Cedar Park or Jollyville.

Martin Wieland married March 28, 1877. His wife was Mrs. Fritz Blumentritt, whose husband had died leaving her with two children, Fritz and Johanna.

In 1911 a wooden room was constructed on the southwest corner of the original room

Early settlers in the Dessau community had more trouble with outlaws than they did

from the Indians which came south each fall from Indian territory and then went north in the spring. Local Indians are reported to have camped on Walnut Creek and were friendly.

It is reported that on numerous occasions four or five families would seek refuge in this one-room Wieland house whenever the Indians or outlaws were too troublesome.

* * * * *

NOTATIONS:

There seems to be some uncertainty about which part of the house was built first. There is information that the little rooms on the north side of the house and the cellar were built first,* and that stairs were built from the big room down into the cellar when the big room was constructed.

*Mama Nauert said this is wrong. She said the big room with the fire place (middle room) was built first and the cellar was built on the side of the kitchen.

There is information that when the Grosskopf house was being built some blasting powder gotten from the army to blast out of the rock, got wet and when it dried the powder exploded and a helper was killed. (Note:- Mama Nauert said she had never heard this story)

It seems that when the cellar was completed a tent was constructed over it by Mr. Wieland. (Note:-Mama said this is a positive fact).

In hauling cedar rails from the hills on one trip, Martin Wieland fell under the wagon and the wagon wheel rolled over him and broke two or three ribs and his hip. He was put in the wagon and brought back to the house but not doctored. He had a limp and lame leg until his death. (Note:- Mama said this is true and correct)

It seems that Martin Wieland bought a strip of land as often as he could accumulate the money for same. Martin Wieland originally bought 11 acres, where the house is, and as he made the money he bought more land. In the day time he cut the hay and at night he hauled it to Austin where the old asylum is now, and the army was there, and when he sold the hay he always bought land and fenced it in with a rail fence. The oxen knew the way and he got on the wagon on the hay and slept while the oxen took him there, and when he got home he would cut another load, and he made his living that way. (Note:- Mama said this is true).

Some fifty years ago a steel cannon ball was found on the creek which runs across the farm and also on the south side of the creek a mastodon tooth was picked up.

Martin Wieland was a very religious man. He was a Lutheran. They first would just meet and have their own little prayer meeting at different ones house until later they had a pastor in and where the church is right now. He was a very religious man and when he had wheat or something threshed he stood right there and saw that no one stepped on a grain of wheat, that was wrong, and never on a bread crumb. He honored the Lord's Prayer all the way through and that's just the man he was. He would take his little book no matter what there was, he would go to church on Sunday morning.

He was very much for the right and wouldn't hurt anybody's feelings. Now he took these two children that his wife had by a former marriage and raised them as his own, but he wouldn't take their name, or adopt them in his name. He kept their name Blumentritt because he said that would take the honor away of their dead father. He wanted them to remember their father's name and he wouldn't adopt them into Wieland, but he raised them as his very own, and when he passed away his own five* children and two step-children were all equally treated. (*Note:- Mama said this is wrong; she said there are six children: Minna, Martin, Alma, Henry, Selma, Emma).

They didn't believe in banks. Mr. Wieland would sell a bunch of feed or cattle and he raised horses, and one time he came home with money and he gave Mrs. Wieland \$500 and told her to put it up. Over the cellar in that next room, when you go upstairs, well that's where he kept all his nails and everything, so Mrs. Wieland put that in a keg of nails and somebody came along and poured some more nails in there, and so when he wanted to use some of that money a year or so later they couldn't find the money. Well, the money was gone. He said he would forgive them. If they needed it that bad he hoped that they used it in a good way. Then a long time after that they wanted to build something and they needed nails, so they emptied them out (that was a year or so later) to get different sizes and out fell that \$500. Then he said another prayer and asked the Good Lord to forgive him for accusing someone of taking it.

Grandma Wieland had sold some cotton, and they had to take it to Round Rock to sell it, and they took it up there in the wagon and my Daddy helped to deliver it. Well up there at the bank in Round Rock Grandma put money into her purse, and opened her purse, and there

was a tall colored man standing right there and my Daddy told Grandma, he called her "Mama".
He said "Mama, you shouldn't put that money in your purse with that man watching you, no
matter what might happen." She was up there by herself in the buggy, attending to business
at the bank. They all left, and she went home in the buggy, and the men went home in their
wagons. She took a different route. She went on that old Albert Wieland road and that
night they came home, and Grandma was churning and Alma was ironing, Uncle Henry was in bed
asleep when all of a sudden a shot, and Alma saw this bullet fly past her. She left her
ironing and they went in and got Henry out of the bed, and he put on his trousers and was
barefooted, away in the night; no telephone, and Grandma said "Oh that nigger, he's coming
after my money." So she grabbed her purse and they went down to the Dessau store, they
crawled through rail fences, and when they got down there they called the police from Austin
and they brought bloodhounds and couldn't find anything and then Henry had blood on his fore-
head from crawling through the fence, and they said, "Oh, did you get shot?" and he said no
he didn't get shot. So they found out that she had bought a gallon of molasses at Round
Creek, and shaking on that rough road in the buggy home, she got it home, and sitting in the
kitchen, in that heat, when it got warm it made the stopper fly out, and it landed by the
cellar door, and that was the shot.

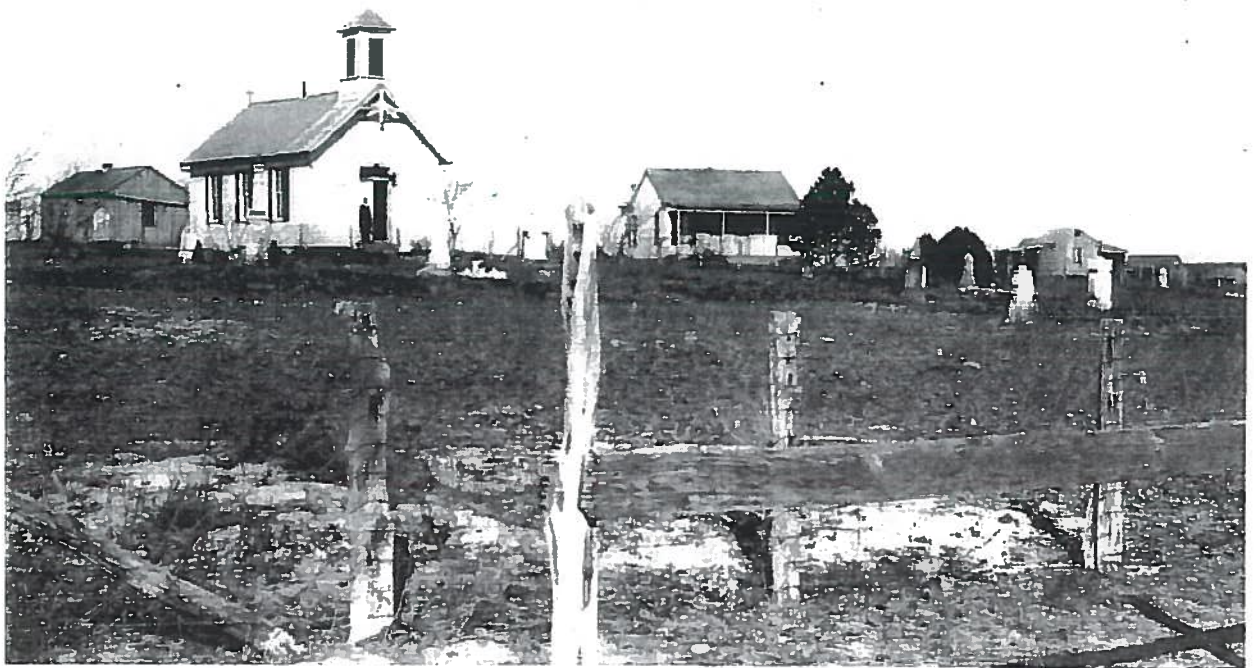
* * * * *

This information was compiled by Walter E. Long who owned the Wieland home place at the
time information was compiled (7/17/64). His original copy indicates that information
on this subject has been provided by descendants and friends of the Wieland family. Among
these being Mr. Albert Neans, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Wieland, Jr., Mr. Henry Wieland, Mr. and
Mrs. Clements Wieland, Mrs. Alma Fleischer, Mrs. Selma Nauert, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schoen,
and Mr. and Mrs. Bruno Schoen.



Dessau
Church and
Parsonage -
Approx 1800's

Cemetery in
front





Wilhelm Josef von Jaron
 Carl W. Mert und seiner Ehefrau
 Caroline geb. Brakewitz
 geboren den 15. im September 1882
 in Dessau Travis Co. Tex.
 ist am 22. im April 1883

im Namen des
Dreieinigten Gottes
 getauft worden,

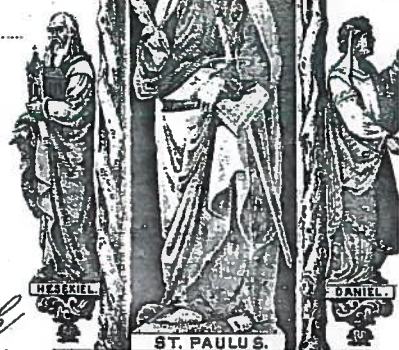
Taufzeugen waren:

Frau Wieland
 Frau Meidig
 Heinrich Heingke
 Carl Fring

welches hierdurch
 bescheiniget wird.
 C. Schroeder
 Pastor

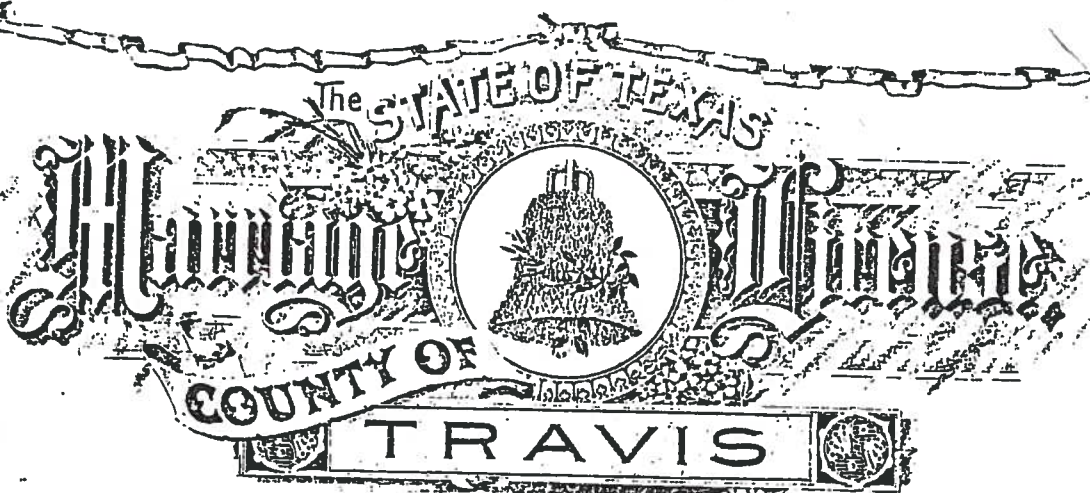


Ex. Joh. 1. 7. DAS GEBOT IST
 DURCH MOSES GEGEBEN.



DIE GRABE UND WIE ER IST
 DURCH JESUM CHRISTUM WURDE.





Trany Regularly Licensed or Ordained Minister of the Gospel, Jewish Rabbi, Judge District
 & County Court, or any Justice Peace Greeting:

You are hereby Authorized to Solemnize the

rites of MATRIMONY

Between William Nauert and Selma Wieland



according to the Laws of this State and that you make
 due return of this your authority to the Clerk of the
 County Court for said County within sixty days there
 after, certifying your action under this License:

Witness my Official Signature and Seal of Office:

at office in Austin, Texas, the 25th day of Feb. A.D. 1904

Joe Corcoran Clerk of County Court Travis County

By A. T. Corcoran Deputy

I Joseph Jaworski hereby certify that on the 2nd day of March A.D. 1904

United in Marriage William Nauert and Selma Wieland

WITNESSES:

Martin Wieland

Thomas Huhs

Witness my hand this 2nd day of March A.D. 1904

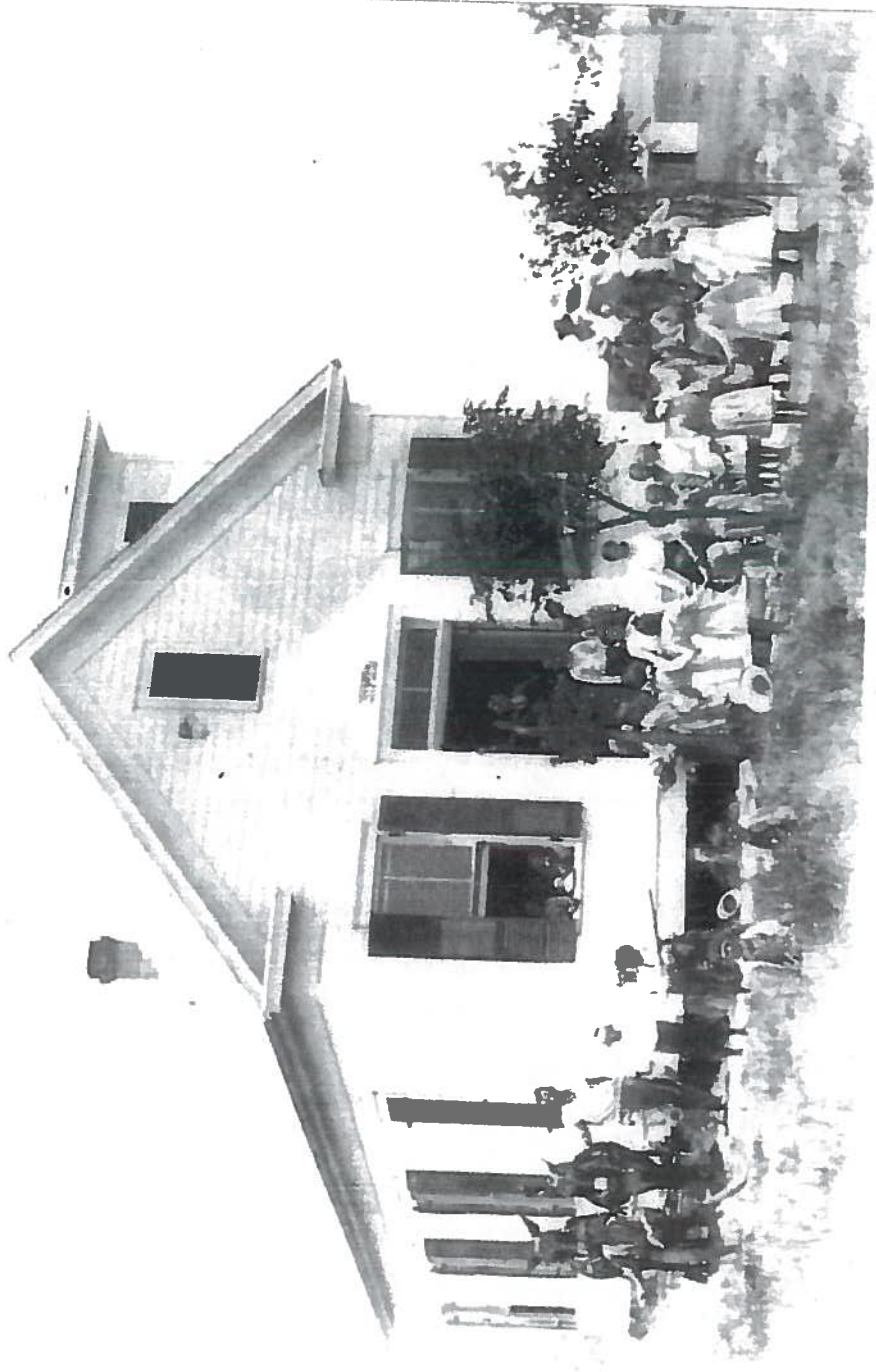
Dessau, Texas {Travis Co?}

Rev. Joseph Jaworski

~ RETURN ~

Returned and filed for record the 4th day of Mar. A.D. 1904
 and recorded the 25th day of May A.D. 1904:

W. B. Cullen Deputy Joe Corcoran County Clerk



DESSAU SCHOOL 1900'S



DESSAU SCHOOL 1935

Top Row, l-r: Randal Jennings, Roydell Hamann, Raymond Wieland, Unknown, Francis Stark (her parents owned the Dessau Store), Bernice Nehring Anderson, Thresher Hennig, Lee Roy Sessler, Marvin Wieland, Werner Nehring.

Middle Row, l-r: Stella Mae Payton, Winifred Jennings, Evelyn Wieland, Iris Jansen Wieland, Margaret Nauert Dickens, Mrs. Kleinert (teacher), Alma Ramm (teacher), Olga Wieland Smith, Ella Wieland Saathoff, Bernice Adams, Gloria Jansen Ferrell.

Bottom Row, l-r: Unknown, Unknown, Clarence Wieland, Oscar Paul, Delvin Sessler, Calvin Krueger, Minor Warren Wieland.

Students identified by Iris Jansen Wieland October 2016

DESSAU, TEXAS

work, however, is a poem, "Lasca," about a Mexican girl and her cowboy sweetheart caught in a cattle stampede "in Texas down by the Rio Grande." The ballad-like poem, first published in a London magazine in 1882, has often been reprinted, usually with deletions and changes, and recited in many parts of the English-speaking world. Between 1873 and 1882 at least four other of Desprez's poems were published, two of which are about Texas. In 1883 Desprez married Jessie McQueen, the daughter of an officer in Her Majesty's dragoons; they had a son and two daughters. Desprez died in London on November 25 (or 22), 1916.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Mabel Major, "The Man Who Wrote 'Lasca,'" *Southwest Review* 36 (1951).
Mabel Major

DESSAU, TEXAS. Dessau, named for a town in Germany, is eleven miles northeast of Austin and two miles southwest of Pflugerville in northeastern Travis County. A post office was in operation there from 1886 to 1890 and from 1897 to 1901, at which time service was discontinued and mail rerouted to Austin. Dessau had a one-teacher school with forty students in 1907; the school was consolidated with the Pflugerville district in 1920. The population of Dessau was estimated at thirty in the late 1890s. It fell to ten by the early 1930s but by the late 1940s had risen to fifty, where it remained through the mid-1960s, after which population estimates were not available. Dessau was still listed as a community in 1990.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: John J. Germann and Myron Janzen, *Texas Post Offices by County* (1986).
Vivian Elizabeth Smyrl

DETMOLD, TEXAS. Detmold is near Farm Road 486 four miles north of Thorndale in western Milam County. Early settlers in the area were of German descent. Detmold had a one-teacher school with thirty-eight students in 1903. A church, a school, several businesses, and scattered houses marked the community on county highway maps in 1941. The Detmold school was consolidated with the Thorndale Independent School District in 1946. Detmold, which was named on county highway maps in the 1980s, was still listed as a community in 1990.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Lelia M. Batte, *History of Milam County, Texas* (San Antonio: Naylor, 1956). Milam County Heritage Preservation Society, *Matchless Milam: History of Milam County* (Dallas: Taylor, 1984).
Vivian Elizabeth Smyrl

DETOBITI INDIANS. In 1683–84 Juan Domínguez de Mendoza^{qv} led an exploratory expedition from El Paso as far eastward as the junction of the Concho and Colorado rivers east of present San Angelo. In his itinerary he listed the names of thirty-seven Indian groups, including the Detobiti (Tobite), from which he expected to receive delegations. Nothing further is known about the Detobiti, who seem to have been one of many Indian groups of north central Texas that were swept away by the southward thrust of the Lipan Apache and Comanche Indians in the eighteenth century.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Herbert Eugene Bolton, ed., *Spanish Exploration in the Southwest, 1542–1706* (New York: Scribner, 1908; rpt., New York: Barnes and Noble, 1959). Charles W. Hackett, ed., *Pichardo's Treatise on the Limits of Louisiana and Texas* (4 vols., Austin: University of Texas Press, 1931–46).
Thomas N. Campbell

DETROIT, TEXAS. Detroit is on the Missouri Pacific Railroad and U.S. Highway 82, two miles from the Lamar county line in western Red River County. It developed around the proposed route of the Texas and Pacific Railway in the early 1870s. When the railroad was completed in 1876 the post office at nearby Starkesville was moved to the new town, which was named Bennett. In 1887 J. M. Stephens, the local railway agent, renamed the town Detroit for his former home in Michigan. Because of its location on the railroad the town soon be-

came an important trading center and shipping point for area farmers. By 1884 the population had reached 200, and local institutions included two steam mills, two cotton gins, a church, and a district school. By 1890 the population had reached 750, and the town had a weekly newspaper, the *New Era*, published by S. B. Norwood. Two years later two hotels and a bank were in operation, and the population of Detroit was estimated at 900. By 1910 it had reached 1,500. During the years following 1910 the population of Detroit declined steadily, reaching a low of 425 by 1960. Then the town began to grow again, with populations of 726 and 805 reported in 1970 and 1980, respectively. In 1990 Detroit had 706 residents.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Fred I. Massengill, *Texas Towns: Origin of Name and Location of Each of the 2,148 Post Offices in Texas* (Terrell, Texas, 1936).
Cecil Harper, Jr.

DEUELL, HENRIETTA ELEANOR GOODNOUGH (1889–1967). Henrietta Deuell [pseud. Peggy Hull], the first accredited woman war correspondent and a founding member of the Overseas Press Club (1939), daughter of Edwy and Minnie Eliza (Finin) Goodnough, was born on a farm near Bennington, Kansas, on December 30, 1889. She left school at sixteen, got her first newspaper job on the Junction City, Kansas, *Sentinel*, and between 1909 and 1916 worked for newspapers in Colorado, California, Hawaii, Minnesota, and Ohio. After Francisco (Pancho) Villa's^{qv} forces made their notorious raid on Columbus, New Mexico (March 9, 1916), Peggy went to El Paso to report on the activities of national guard units sent to patrol the Texas-Mexico border while Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing^{qv} and his troops pursued Villa in Mexico. She took up residence in the Paso del Norte Hotel, a hub of social activity for military personnel. Starting on the *El Paso Herald* and then moving to the *El Paso Morning Times*, she wrote a regular advertising column and reported on activities at Fort Bliss and Camp Pershing. A ubiquitous presence, she became popular with both the officers and enlisted men, and her work brought her to Pershing's attention. Her account in the *Morning Times* of Pershing's return with his troops is thought to be one of the most descriptive and accurate of the newspaper reports of the event.

In June 1917 Peggy persuaded the editor of the *Morning Times* to send her to France to report on World War I.^{qv} She sailed for England, survived the submarine-infested Atlantic Ocean, and made her way to Paris—not an easy feat, since she was without benefit of War Department accreditation, which conferred a certain governmental blessing on and aid to war reporters. But no woman had ever been accredited, and it was War Department policy that none ever would be.

However, her acquaintance with Pershing was useful to her; he made it possible for her to spend six weeks at an American artillery-training camp, from where she sent reports to the *El Paso Morning Times* and the army edition of the *Chicago Tribune*. Other newspapers began to publish her articles as her popularity grew. Eventually, jealous male correspondents succeeded in getting her recalled to Paris, and, temporarily embittered, she sailed back to the United States. After returning to El Paso to a hero's welcome, Peggy resumed her job at the *Morning Times*. In the summer of 1918 she went to Washington, D.C., where, with the help of Gen. Peyton C. March, chief of staff of the army, whom she knew from both her El Paso and artillery-camp days, she finally got accreditation. She was authorized to join the American expeditionary force sent to Russia during the Siberian Intervention and was sponsored by the Newspaper Enterprise Association and the Cleveland (Ohio) *Press*.

After leaving Siberia and being divorced by her first husband, reporter George Hull, whom she had married in 1910, she worked on newspapers in Shanghai and in 1922 married English ship captain John Kinley. As a result of this marriage, she lost her United States citizenship. Her struggle to regain it played a part in changing United States law regarding the citizenship of married women. She was in Shanghai in January 1932 in the process of divorcing Kinley, when the Japanese

OLD FARM HOUSE

SETTLED BY MARTIN WIELAND

DESSAU

1854

Martin Wieland was born in Dessau, Germany, May 6, 1825. In 1854, at the age of twenty nine he emigrated to America, accompanied by Mr. Andrew Krueger and Mr. Gottlieb Schwarzkopf. They landed in Galveston and came directly to Travis County, where they settled at a point about twelve miles north of Austin. Later they named this community Dessau in memory of their homeland.

I remember that Mr. Martin Wieland, Jr. told me his father came to this country to get away from a harsh step-father. During the Civil War he wrote his Mother that he was hauling cotton to Mexico in two ox-wagons. His Step-father answered with the accusation that he was sure Martin didn't have one yoke of oxen, much less two. From that time on Martin did not communicate with his German family.

These three new comers lived in improvised quarters until each had built his one room. Mr. Krueger built his about a mile north of the Herman Krueger farm on the west side of Cameron Road. The Schwarzkopf room is now a part of the R. L. Smith home, and the Wieland room is the pride and joy of Old House Farm.

Martin Wieland lived in a tent while his room was under construction. The three friends helped one another. While the mortar was drying between the rocks in Martin's walls, he'd lend the other two a hand. It seems they had other help occasionally, too.

The three rooms were almost identical. Like the other two, Martin built his of nearby fieldstone plastered over. The room was 18 by 20 feet; the walls, about 16 inches thick. There were only one door with old rim lock and one window, both on the south side. Fewer openings meant to Mr. Wieland a stronger wall and greater protection. A capacious fireplace with stone hearth cooked his food and kept him warm. Slightly over 11 feet above the floor ten large cedar beams, cut from trees on Bull Creek, reached from wall to wall with no attic floor above. It is said that Martin kept his hay on these beams.

In the west wall on both sides of the chimney are port holes, so placed that one could straddle a beam and handle a gun. The local Indians camped on Walnut Creek were friendly, but the outlaws were troublesome. According to Mr. Albert Means, as many as five families spent the night in the Wieland room when the Indians from Indian Territory went to the

Coast for the winter and back North in the spring. And the outlaws and hostile Indians shot back at this fortress-room. The west outside wall is marked with nearly a hundred bullet holes, which have been plastered over. The plaster is now a different color from the original plaster of the wall.

Martin Wieland apparently started the construction of this first room shortly after his arrival in 1854 or perhaps early in 1855.

By 1873 Martin must have prospered for he added two large rooms on the East, a kitchen on the North, a cellar under the North-east room and a bedroom and floored attic upstairs. The attic, over the original room, was floored with 2 x 12 boards resting on the cedar beams. After his marriage Mrs. Wieland complained of the dust drifting down between the attic floor boards to the room beneath. It was at this time that he covered those beautiful beams with a beaded Victorian ceiling board, which he painted white. One rainy afternoon while the present owners were working in the original room, Mr. Martin Wieland, Jr. told them that his mother said there were large cedar beams behind that ceiling board. A step ladder materialized quickly, a piece of ceiling board was

stripped off, and there in all its pristine glory plus a coat of whitewash was a beam.

All of this addition was built of cut-stone hauled by oxen from either Cedar Park or Jollyville. A limestone corner block on the south wall attests to the builder and date as follows:

Martin Wieland

1873

Joseph Rohrmiller

Builder

All nails used in these early rooms and in the out houses were the old cut square nails.

Mr. Rohrmiller was not only a builder but an artist. Witness the cozy, low-ceiling kitchen with rock hearth all across the west side, the chair rails in all the rooms, the altar-like simplicity of the plastered mantel in the old room, the beautiful wooden mantel in the southeast bed room, the gallery, with its hand-hewn cedar posts and cedar flooring which ran all the way across the south side, and the excellent proportions of the whole exterior, which caused Wayman Adams, the artist, to say when he first glimpsed the east side, "How beautiful! The house grows out of the hill."

Martin had a comfortable, beautiful home to offer his bride when on March 28, 1877 he married Mrs. Lou Blumentritt, nee Caroline Bastian, a widow with two children, Fritz and Johanna.

In 1911 Martin again enlarged the house by adding a wooden room at the southwest corner of the original room and swinging the porch around to follow the east side of the new room. Mr. Rohrmiller must either have been dead or not consulted by the carpenter for this addition is not in keeping with the fancily turned Victorian posts of that part of the gallery have been replaced with plain cedar. Only one of the hand-hewn posts of the 1873 gallery is left.

Just north of the house the original barn, presumably of logs with rock floor, burned in 1894. Minnie Wieland (Kehring), then a young lady, frantically pumped water from the underground rain water cistern at the corner of the kitchen until the fire singed her eye brows and hair, but water poured on the roof helped to save the house.

Martin Wieland bought land as he could accumulate the money. His first purchase was eleven acres, on which the house now stands. During the day he cut

hay. At night he took it by ox cart to sell to the Army, quartered in Austin where the State Hospital is now. His oxen knew the way so he got his night's sleep on top of the hay. Home again, he cut more hay and bought more land, all of which he fenced with cedar rails brought from the hills. On one of these trips home with rails Martin fell under the wagon, one wheel of which ran over him, breaking several ribs and his hip. He recovered without benefit of doctors or traction, but he limped the rest of his days.

As his money accumulated, Martin also built sheds, barns, etc. In addition to the barn that burned, one just west of the house, too far gone for restoration, was torn down by the present owners. Surviving are the old mule barn, small shed and room, privy, blacksmith shop, smoke house, and large barn east of the house, all showing the pleasing lines of Martin's good taste.

West of the blacksmith shop was a large pig pen enclosed with a cedar stockade fence. Mr. Martin Wieland, Jr. came by one day, just as a part of that fence was being torn down to include the area in the house yard. " You not taking down that fence, "

he begged. " Why there have been pigs in that pen for over ninety years. " Most of the fence is still there but no pigs.

About 50 years ago an iron cannon ball was found on little Harris Creek, which runs through the farm. Around 1939 Warren Wieland, son of Martin Jr. and Richard Carlson found a mastodon tooth on the south side of this same creek. The place is covered with small fossils.

No history of this farm is complete without the tragic story of neighbor Schwarzkopf, who plied his trowel with such high hopes both at his room and Martin's. He had used blasting powder gotten from the Army to blast out rocks in his construction work. In some way the powder got wet and, when it became dry, it exploded, killing Mr. Schwarzkopf. He had no relatives in this country. So when Mr. Embre Warren Smith bought the place, he had to send the papers to Germany for signatures of his heirs. Mr. Schwarzkopf* was buried in the field west of the Smith house.

* The deed from Germany records the name of Gottlieb Schwarzkopf.

NOTE. Information has been graciously provided by decendants and friends of the Wieland family. Among these being Mr. and Mrs. Martin Wieland, Jr., Mr. Henry Wieland, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schoen, Mr. and Mrs. Bruno Schoen, Mr. Albert Neans, Mr. and Mrs. Clemens Wieland, Mrs. Alma Fleischer, Mrs. Selma Nauert, Miss Etta B. Smith, Miss Ella Smith, and Mrs. Ruth Barran.

REMINISCENCES

of Martin Wieland, Jr.

As Told to Walter E. Long

Martin Wieland was a very religious man. He join his neighbors in prayer meetings, first at one home, then at another until a Lutheran pastor was engaged to preach where the little Dessau church is now. He let nothing keep him from attending church.

He honored the " Lord's Prayer " all the way through and so brought his religion into his every day life. When he had wheat threshed, he stood right there to see that no one stepped on a grain of wheat, for that would be wrong.

He always stood on the side of the right. He would not hurt anybody's feelings in any way. He rasied his wife's two children by her first husband as, his own, but he would not adopt them and change their name to Wieland because changing their name to Wieland would take away honor due their father. So they remained Blumentritt, although when he passed away they were treated equally with his five children.

Martin did not believe in banks. He sold feed, cattle, and horses. One day he turned over \$500.00 to his wife and told her to put it up in the room over the cellar as you go upstairs. Now he kept his nails

and other things here. She dropped the money into a keg of nails. Some one came along and poured more nails into the keg. A year or later, when he wanted to use some of that money, it was gone. He said he would forgive the thieves, that, if they needed money so bad, he hoped they used it in a good way. A long time afterwards when nails were needed for building something, the nails were dumped out, and with the nails came the \$500.00. Then Martin prayed the Good Lord to forgive him for accusing someone of taking it.

After Martin Wieland's death, Grandma Wieland sold some cotton in Round Rock. Martin, Jr. took it over for her in wagon, while she drove in her buggy. There was a tall colored man standing by when the bank paid her for the cotton, and she put the money in her purse. Martin, Jr. told his mother, " You shouldn't put that money in your purse with that man watching you. "

That night Grandma was churning in the kitchen, her daughter Alma was ironing, and Henry, much younger than Martin, Jr. was asleep. Suddenly there was a shot. Alma thought she saw the bullet fly past her. It didn't take them long to get Henry out of bed.

" That negro is coming after my money, " Grandma said. She grabbed her purse, and they ran down to

Dessau Store crawling through barb wire fences on the way. A telephone call to Austin brought the sheriff and blood hounds, but they didn't find any thief.

Henry had blood on his forehead from crawling through the fence. The men said, " Oh you got shot! " And Henry said No, he didn't get shot.

Grandma had bought a gallon jug of molasses in Round Rock, shaken it up on the drive home, set it in the hot kitchen, and after a little while, out popped the stopper, landing by the cellar door. That was the shot.

Rev. Hill

DEDICATION CEREMONIES

FOR AN

HISTORICAL MARKER

FOR THE

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF DESSAU

o o o

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1984

A T

TWO O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

o o o

OFF DESSAU ROAD

AT DESSAU COMMUNITY

o o o

TAPED, PHOTOGRAPHED,
TRANSCRIBED AND COMPILED

B Y

MULKEY OWENS, MEMBER
TRAVIS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

o o o

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF DESSAU
(Transcript of tape)

Mulkey Owens: I am Mulkey Owens, a member of the Travis County Historical Commission. This is Saturday, October 20, 1984, at two o'clock in the afternoon. We are at the Dessau Lutheran Church in the Dessau Community for the purpose of dedicating an Historical Marker for this congregation.

G. J. Krueger, Master of Ceremonies: If I may have your attention just a moment please. I'd like to welcome each and every one of you today. We've had our first disaster just now. We was gonna toll the bell - all of you may have heard it ring one time and the rope broke. (Laughter). So, things are starting off on its right foot. We were gonna be honored with some ladies here today - I don't think they are in attendance - I don't think they made it. Well, we caught - my wife caught them up here at the church looking for the church that their daddy was the pastor of in the years 1894 to 1897. And lo and behold, it was this church. And these little ladies - they range in age from 90 to 87, 85 and 70, and I guess the weather kept them from making it. But --

In the background: What's their name?

G. J. Krueger: I'll try to --

In the background: Kupfernagel - Kupfernagel.

G. J. Krueger: You're better at it than I am at that.
(Laughter).

In the background: Kupfernagel - Copper nail (Laughter).

G. J. Krueger: Pastor Muehlbrad will you have our opening prayer for us please.

Reverend A. H. Muehlbrad, Pastor Evangelical Lutheran Church of Pflugerville: I have here in front of me an old bible that was used for many years here - the church here at Dessau . I think it was begun to be used in 1915 and its a kind of remembrance of really why we are here today - that is we are giving thanks to God for his grace given to us through His words, for the many people who have lived and served in this little congregation throughout its years. Let us bow our heads for the opening prayer. Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe. Your gifts are many and in wisdom You have made all things to give to Your glory. We thank You for the lives of our forefathers and mothers who lived in the faith and served You faithfully through the church. And as we dedicate this Historical Marker, may we give praise to You for Your church which brings Your Word to each of us. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Amen.

G. J. Krueger: Our next speaker was a pastor who served here from 1957 to 1963 - is that right, Pastor Hill?

Pastor Hill: Right.

G. J. Krueger: He will come to us and give us a little history about the church and about his years here.
Pastor Hill.

Reverend Wilson V. Hill, Former pastor of Dessau Evangelical Lutheran Church: Thank you, Mr. Krueger, and

members of this assembly, children of the descendants of the forefathers.

History is being made here today on this hillside, overlooking the Dessau community. History was made here over a hundred and - many - well over a hundred years ago - possibly a hundred and thirty years ago. I learned a few facts from my grandparents. Both sets of grandparents came over from Germany when they were in their teens, and they came over in the late 1840's and early 1850's, and they told me - they came over from Germany and told me about where the different people from Germany came and where they settled and the like.

From my grandfather I learned this little ditty, and I want to tell it to you because when - in those years people just left Germany and flocked over to the United States, landing in Galveston, or Indianola, or in New York and those that landed in Galveston and Indianola went either to Frederickburg and New Braunfels and San Antonio or Austin and this area. Some in Galveston went up that way and settled in Brenham and in other areas. And this little ditty went something like this - my grandfather told me this when I was around eight or nine years old, and I remembered it. Those of you that know the German will find it not too nonsensical for you. It went something like this: "Ein, zwei, drei, vier, funf, sechs, sieben; wo ist mein schatz nun leben; er est nicht hier; er est nicht da; er muss sein auf Nord America. (Laughter). There was many a sweetheart over there didn't know what happened to her fiance. It went like this: "One, two, three, four, five, six, seven; where is my sweetheart now living; he's not here; he's not there; he must be in North America. (Laughter).

Now the translation wasn't as good as the original, but I thought it was a cute little ditty, so when I was in Germany in 1953, I told that little ditty, and I asked some of those older, older people over there if they had ever heard it and some of them had, and some of them remarked to me about how forlorn many of them felt when family after family came over to settle over here in the United States, and a lot of them just picked up over night and came over.

When my father-in-law, who was also born, educated, trained, and was a pastor in these United States, told me this story. And I thought it was cute and I think its worth telling. He was telling about this. People said when they first came over here and some of their relatives over there and others would come over and say, "now, when you go over there, I want you to look up my relatives". Now, of course, its much cuter in German but I'm not gonna tell it in German, because I don't know if I'd be able to translate it, but it went something like this, you know, they would ask, "Where do your relatives live in the United States?" - they called it North America. And they said, "Well, you take a boat out of Hamburg, and when the boat arrives in New York, you take a left and they live down there somewhere". (Laughter).

Well, history is being made here today, but history was made here in those eighteen hundred and fifties, 'cause the records in Travis County show that there was a community called Dessau in 1854, for its along about that time that Martin Weiland and his family came over from Germany, as also Gustav Grosskopf, and

Fritz Krueger, Andreas or Andrew Krueger, and Willie Hennig, and they settled in this immediate area. And they named this area Dessau after Dessau, Germany, and the community in Dessau where Martin Weiland came from. Dessau was listed in Austin as being twelve miles north of town. Well, I guess its still twelve miles north of town. (Laughter).

When the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad was built through here, affectionately known to us all as the Katy Railroad, it had a stop over here at Sprinkle, and then went on through Pflugerville, and by-passed Round Rock, then on to Georgetown and intersected the railroad from Houston on up to over at Granger. But Dessau was a stop on the Katy Railroad.

Now this information that -- a lot of this information that I'm giving you was researched and compiled by Margaret Dickens and I'm deeply appreciative to her for this information.

Dessau, as late as 1940, some of you may remember that, had two stores. When I got here - Pflugerville in 1957 - I remember only a house and a store, and, of course, the dance hall, and then they had that little county motel back of it, you know, called the jail. And I understand its still there but they moved it back of the present dance hall somewhere.

History was made here in the 1870's, for even as late as 1940, Dessau had a population of about thirty people. Now, I'm sure no record has been made recently of the

population but all of us know that it has grown.

The history of Moses, you know, was standing - in the Old Testament days, tells us Moses was standing before the burning bush and the voice of God spoke to him and said, "Remove your shoes, you are standing on holy ground", hallowed ground and we are here this afternoon, sitting here, before this church and on this property, in a sense, are on - this is a hallowed occasion, and in a sense, hallowed ground. For hallowed is the memory of those families that we've just named. For in addition to the five that we've named Christian, Carl Nauert and the Christian Nehring family also came and settled in this area, and soon other settlers drifted in, and drifted in until this became quite a strong Lutheran community. But the important thing about these families is that they began almost immediately after they settled here to conduct prayer sessions in their homes, and bible studies in their homes, alternating, going from one home to another, until in the early 1870's when they decided that there were enough people here interested in forming a church so that they started a movement to form a congregation here on this very spot, and this church building for whom we are seated. History was made here and hallowed, I say, be the memory when in 1874 eight acres of land were purchased from Christian Nehring - I believe the Christian Nehring farm was just back of us here - for ten dollars - whew, what a fantastic sum. Ten dollars for a church and a parsonage. That was in 1874. In 1877 two more acres were included for the original ten dollars, for the

cemetery and the school house.

Now I remember when I was pastor here, that old Earnest Mueller told me that the parsonage was back here (waving to the northwest) - just back of the well here, and the barn, for the horses and the like, was back over there. and the cemetery is behind you, before me, and the school house sat down below the cemetery there. The church and the parsonage were built, it is thought, about 1876 and the construction of the building was made possible by labors and materials furnished by the members of the congreg-- , well not by members of the congregation, but by settlers of the community as well as by members that were joining the congregation. And the construction was supervised by one of the early settlers, by Fritz Krueger. I think it would be interesting if anyone can add to some of these figures. And if you know of anything that can be added, be sure to tell Margaret Dickens about this.

We know that the school was consolidated and we don't know when the school building was removed from here, but the school itself was consolidated with Pflugerville in 1920. I, again, say history was made here and hallowed be the history - when back in - when addition was made to the church to which the belfrey was added and the steeple and the spire, and the large bell was placed in there - you heard one ring of it today when the rope broke. I heard it ring many a time when I was pastor here and it has a beautiful tone. I hope someday we can get it reactivated with the rope renewed and all of that and reactivated.

All the records - the existing church records of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Dessau, listing the baptisms, the confirmations, the weddings, the funerals, the communions are in the church vault at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Pflugerville for safe-keeping. These records show that as early as 1876 a baptism took place here in the church. In 1883 William Nauert was baptized by Pastor E. Schroeder, and I think we can again say, hallowed be the memory of such. It is also noted at this point that services here in this church, as in many, many Lutheran churches in Texas, were conducted in the German language until the mid-1940's.

It was my privilege to serve here from October, 1957, to the first part of December, 1963. The last service conducted here was in January, 1973, by Pastor Donald Lichemeier. Pastor Schwartz, it might have been pastors prior to that but I gained this information from you here - Pastor Schwartz, Pastor Knopp, and one or two others that served in there, and then Pastor Hartmann, and myself, and Pastor Lichemeier - did he serve here also. Alright, good, come on with that information - this is what we need to know - sure - Evangelical Lutheran Church of Dessau continues as a congregation of the Southern District of the American Lutheran Church, and prior to the merger that resulted in the American Lutheran Church, it was a member of the Texas District of the Iowa Synod of Lutheran Churches.

This congregation has a yearly meeting here in the church at which meeting descendants of the early founders of the

congregation and members of the church and of the Cemetery Organization and Association meet. And there will be a meeting of the congregation this afternoon, I understand, at the conclusion of these festivities.

On several occasions in the recent past, Sunday School classes of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Pflugerville have held meetings here, and, I can say without exception, and without contradiction, and without exception these groups have come away inspired, moved emotionally and they had, what they felt, was a deep spiritual experience in being in this old church here on Dessau - at Dessau. So hallowed is this ground, and we are in the shadow of this church, this steeple, and spire point upward and we think of those baptized, confirmed at this altar, who sang hymns of praise, and thanksgiving, offering prayers of petition and praise. Hallowed is this area also - hallowed be their memory as we later look to the back where you are sitting to the cemetery where is buried loved ones who once walked, talked, and sang and worshipped here with you and with us. This dedication and zeal made it possible for this church to come to this point today, that we can say history is again being made here at Dessau.

I believe that Abraham Lincoln said something in his Gettysburg Address about the living having to rededicate and reconsecrate themselves to a cause and we would like to say it is for us here today to rededicate and reconsecrate ourselves to this cause - to this church - to this congregation. People are here in this area. They need to be served, and dedicated on the part of all is required to bring about a revitalization of this

church and this congregation and we pray unto the grace of God that it can soon be brought to a realization. And we are here today, ladies and gentlemen, to dedicate a Historical Marker and if those who are in charge of unveiling the marker will come forward, we will now dedicate this marker.

(Earnest and Florin Mueller proceeded to the marker and unveiled it)

Reverend Hill: Bless and dedicate this Historical Marker to the past which reflects and to the future which is a proposal to the challenge to us.

G. J. Krueger: All of you, possibly some of you, don't know that Earnest Mueller is the president of the church and Florin is the vice-president. I think on our records we incorporated back in '76 (1976). We found we had three members who were still members of this original congregation. Florin was one, Hazel another and Mr. Bankston. They are our - Earnest will read you the inscription on the marker.

Earnest Mueller, President of the Congregation: We have a marker here which we are very proud of.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF DESSAU

THE COMMUNITY OF DESSAU WAS
FOUNDED IN 1854 BY GERMAN IM-
MIGRANTS, INCLUDING THE WIELAND,
NAUERT, NEHRING, GROSSKOPF, KRUEGER,
GOERLITZ, AND HENNIG FAMILIES. THE
PIONEERS WORSHIPPED IN PRIVATE
HOMES UNTIL THIS SANCTUARY WAS
BUILT ABOUT 1876. LABOR AND MA-
TERIALS USED IN ITS CONSTRUCTION
WERE SUPPLIED BY MEMBERS OF
THE COMMUNITY. WORSHIP SERVICES

WERE CONDUCTED IN THE GERMAN
LANGUAGE UNTIL THE MID-1900S.
THE CHURCH BUILDING AND ADJOINING
CEMETERY STAND AS REMINDERS
OF THE AREA'S PIONEER GERMAN
HERITAGE. (1984)

G. J. Krueger: I don't know about the rest of you all, but to me its beautiful. I want to thank all of you. This is the biggest crowd that I've seen here in quite a number of years. Had the weather not broken, I'm sure the church would have been full. I want to thank each and every one of you. I want to call on Pastor Muehlbrad for the benediction.

(NOTE: It was very difficult to understand Reverend Muehlbrad as he didn't speak into the mike. The following is the best that I could do. JMO).

Reverend A. H. Muehlbrad: Pastor Hill had mentioned for you to add anything. I think I mentioned it to you before concerning the history. An old book came in my possession which was headed for the garbage can - an old envelope like sometimes when throwing away old things and an individual said this looks like it should be given the church, so I brought it by, and I opened those up and some of the first congregation, the first constitution and the letters of charter members of the congregation which was formed on the Lisso Farm between here and Pflugerville, and it was a composite of the Pflugerville people - and I looked for charter members names - and I saw on there the Nauarts and, I think, Wielands, also the Bohls and Pflugers. It was all one congregation at one time - I think the year was 1871. The congregation existed for approximately two years, and then it dissolved

and later formed this congregation. I just thought I'd mention that to you as a kind of advance for the beginning of both congregations. Also we've been looking at the past, and, of course, we also want to look at the future..

Dessau is now on the eyes of our Mission Task Force now and something may be done in the future - near future - because we've done some work on this and I feel like something will be happening. The mission director of the Southern District of the American Church has been on the property already and looked over the area, and has talked to me about it some-time ago and I'm still waiting to hear from the others. Also, I'd like to introduce the pastor of the future, and you'll see more of him, especially if there is a mission to start here. Both of us are pastors. I would like to introduce to you Pastor and Mrs. Zesch who are the other pastor of Emmanuel Church. Will you please rise. (Pastor and Mrs. Zesch stood) (Applause).

Now if you'll bow our heads for the prayer: O Lord, be with us now and bless the fruits of those who labor. We've looked at the past. May we also look to the future. We pray that a new congregation will arise from the dust of the past to serve the people of this area. Grant us faith to know Your gracious purpose in all things. Grant Your blessings to us through the bounty of Your generous creation, for Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. The blessing of the Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

G. J. Krueger: Of course, as usual, we always forget and leave one thing. Earnest Mueller has something here that he has to read to you right quick. He wont take but a moment. As soon as we are through with that, we will have refreshments, right here to the side, for everyone.

Earnest Mueller: We have been blessed. One of the people of this community - Margaret Dickens and her husband - they have donated some paraments for our altar and our pulpit and our piano. Pulpit - altar - piano. Donated by Lewis and Margaret Dickens in memory of William and Selma Nauert with our love. We appreciate this very much. We know they put in a lot of time preparing these. Those things don't come cheap. I'm sure they cost them quite a bit of money. We appreciate it very much. (Applause).

G. J. Krueger: This concludes the dedication ceremonies. We are gonna have a church meeting and a cemetery meeting after the refreshments, so if any of you would like to stay for those meetings, we'll be honored to have you. Pastor Hill you are invited to that too. (Laughter). Thank all of you again for coming.

o o o

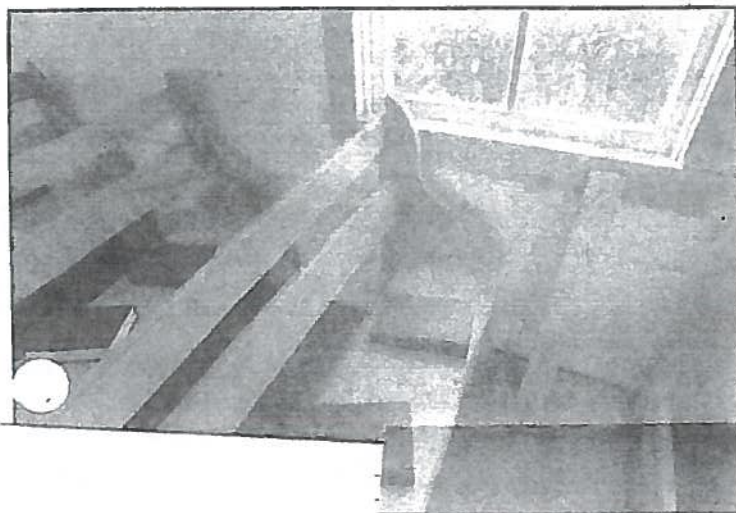


Staff photos by Larry Koliv

Built by German settlers in 1876, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Dessau, 13300 Dessau Road, is the last standing structure from the town

of Dessau. With its membership lagging, the congregation voted to close the church. The last services will be today at 3 p.m.

Church's bells to toll no more



at Dessau Lutheran since it opened church has 30 members, only half of

■ Down to 30 members, Dessau Lutheran closes after 118 years

By Chuck Lindell
American-Statesman Staff

It is the classic little white church on a hill, and its bell still tolls when a congregation member dies.

But after today, the 118-year-old Evangelical Lutheran Church of Dessau will cease to exist. Although the wood-frame building will continue standing, it will be a church without a congregation — history without an audience.

Members, down to a dwindling

close Dessau Lutheran after a yearlong fight to find the money and the membership to survive.

"I'm too upset over it to talk," said member Dorothy Cavitt, "I'm going to miss it too much."

In closing services today at 3 p.m., the church at 13300 Dessau Road will be decided over to the Southwestern Texas Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The doors will be locked and the windows shuttered.

"This church has meant a lot about everything to me," said Gordon Kettelman, 42, a member for five years. "Everybody's been a family here."

Only five years ago, Dessau Lutheran had 130 members. The charismatic pastor departed, leaving a void in leadership and

118-year-old Dessau church closing doors

Continued from B1

mentum that part-time pastors who followed couldn't fill. Social pressures finished the church off, Kettelman said.

"I think it's just a sign of the times," he said. "The younger generation, it seems, doesn't have time to go to church. Or they want a bigger church so they can put their children in day care. Or they don't get involved."

In a small congregation, involvement equals survival. Today, the church is supported by 30 members, only half of whom attend regularly.

"Closing the church was an inevitable decision," Davis said. "Sad but inevitable."

Dessau Lutheran is the last remaining structure from the town of Dessau, founded in the 1850s about 12 miles north of Austin and named for Dessau, Germany — hometown to one of the settlers.

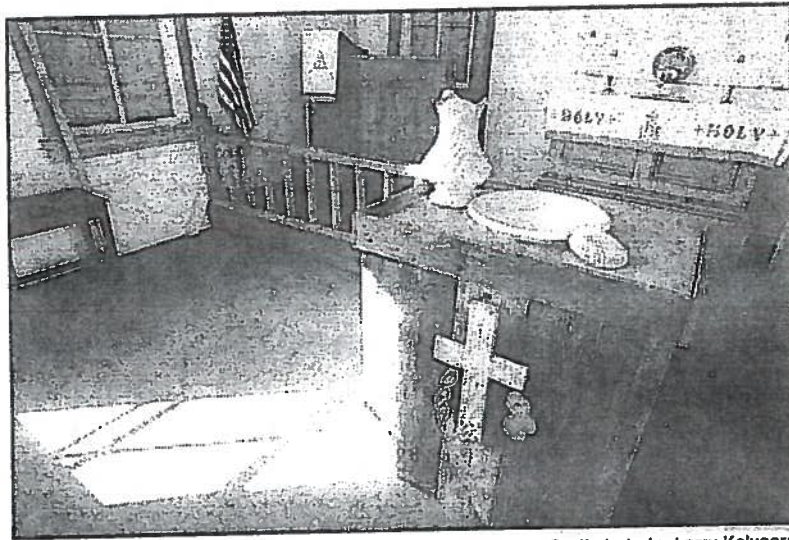
Around 1876, members of the German immigrant community pooled their resources and built the church that stands today. The pews, altar and pulpit are all original, said Dotty Davis, 58, who has helped compile the church's history. A steeple, with its tolling bell, was added later.

Harvey Schoen, 69, was baptized in the Dessau church long before subdivisions changed the landscape. When he was growing up in the 1920s and '30s, the view from the hilltop church showed family farms, livestock and little else.

"This is home for me," Schoen said. "My parents are buried in the cemetery out front (of the church). My grandparents are buried here. My great-grandfather kept books here — it was all in German at that time."

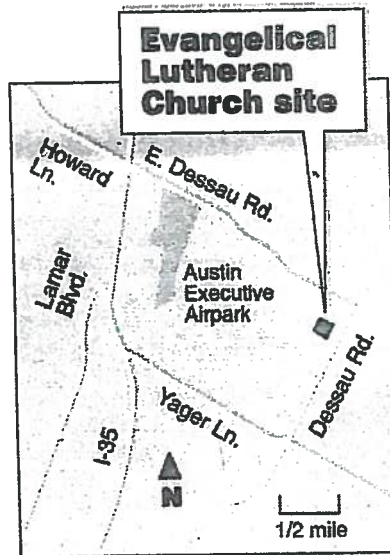
Eventually, English services replaced German rites as later generations learned the language.

Like similar churches throughout Central Texas, Dessau Luther-



Staff photo by Larry Kolvoord

Services have been led from Dessau Lutheran's pulpit and altar since the church opened in 1876. The church's last services will be today at 3 p.m.



Staff graphics

an canceled all German services in the early 1940s. It was a pro-America move to distance churchgoers from Adolf Hitler's Germany. It also was practical — during World War II, those who spoke with a German accent had to prove their patriotism.

Dessau Lutheran has kept many of the homey, small-church touches that visitors would consider quaint but members barely notice.

There is no air conditioning, and on hot days the congregation breaks out decades-old hand fans, still embossed with funeral home logos.

Until two years ago, a wood

stove provided heat. A howling north wind would force the smoke back inside, providing a literal Ash Wednesday lesson one year.

Bees, hornets and wasps have nested in the old building's nooks for as long as anybody can remember.

"They would land on you, but they never stung anybody," Kettelman said. "One would land, and everybody would grit their teeth and say, 'Well, he's going to get it.' But they never stung, and it happened every Sunday."

In deeding Dessau over to the synod, church leaders hope it will continue serving area Lutherans as an extension of the Austin-based Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest.

The seminary is developing a proposal for the synod, director August Wenzel said.

"It would be our plan to have a regular worship life established, but we don't know what that means yet," he said. "It's our intention to utilize the property for the development of student housing and a worshiping community."

Regardless of Dessau Lutheran's fate, there will be no more chili cookoffs after the children's Christmas pageant, no more barbecues on the huge pit donated by the Pflugerville Volunteer Fire Department.

"It's a closing of an era," Davis said. "I guess you can say it's closing a chapter of our lives."

WINFRIED J. SCHULTE, REDAKTEUR
STRUTWEG 19
W-3501 NAUMBURG 4
Germany

December 17, 1990

Mrs. Margaret Nauert Dickens
507 Deep Eddy Ave
Austin, Texas 78703

Dear Mrs. Dickens,

Your letter came in time. Thank you very much for the very informative materials und the pictures you sent. I think you know that I received also information and pictures from Mrs. Janet Fish and so all in all I learned a lot about "your" Dessau.

I suppose my article will be published in the week after Christmas or in January and it goes without saying that I will send you a copy after printing. Today I just want to tell you that I received all the things in good shape.

My wife Doris and I live in an old restored framework home about 20 miles southwest of the City of Kassel in Central Germany. If you ever come to Germany you are by heart invited to visit with us. Please see my calling card which I am enclosing.

By the way, please note two of the stamps on this envelope. One of these special stamps shows people dancing on the Berlin Wall with the "Brandenburger Tor" (Brandenburg Gate) in the background. The second stamps shows a hole in the Berlin Wall marking the end of communism in East Germany.

So much for now. Again thanks for your kindness to help me in my research. If this letter comes to you before Christmas I wish you and yours a Merry Christmas, and, of course, a Happy New Year.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Schulte', written in a cursive style.

W. J. Schulte, Redakteur, 3501 Naumburg 4, Strutweg 19, Tel. 05622/4745 W. Germany
Konto: Volksbank Fritzlar, Kto. Nr. 60574901 (BLZ 52091700)

September 11, 1990

Mrs. Jeanette Fish
One Green Lanes
Austin, Texas 78703

Dear Mrs. Fish,

Maybe you are surprised to receive such a letter from West Germany. I am a freelance journalist and write newspaper-articles about towns with identical names in our country and other states. Recently I was told by a friend that in the State of Texas a small town with the name "Dessau" is located and I wonder if there is a connection to the German town of Dessau. I wrote to the Austin Public Library and Ms. Mary Jo Cooper gave me some information on the history of Dessau, Texas after talking with you.

So I have a favor to ask of you because your family now owns the old Wieland place. I would like to learn more about the history of "your" Dessau and I am also interested in information on daily life today there - current population, church-life, social activities, stores etc.

You know, a newspaper-article without pictures is like a soup without salt and so I would be very happy to get some pictures taken in Dessau for instance of the old Lutheran Church which is in disrepair, the old Wieland place or a photo of the Dessau Road sign. It's not necessary to send paper pictures - if you are able to send negatives with some explanations I can make prints by myself because I have a darkroom of my own. It goes without saying that I will send the negatives back after use along with a copy of my article and if there are any costs please tell me.

Please help me in my research on "your" Dessau. To help cover costs of postage I am enclosing one Dollar. Thank you very much and best wishes from Germany.

Sincerely,



(Mr.) Winfried Josef Schulte

DESSAU LUTHERAN CHURCH FAMILY HISTORY

Descendants of Martin Wieland Sr

Page 1

- 1-Martin Wieland Sr b. 6 May 1825, Anhalt, Dessau, Germany, d. 9 Aug 1901, Dessau, Travis Co, TX
 - +Carolina Bastian b. 20 Nov 1853, Wuelfrath, Rhineland, Germany, d. 30 Aug 1939, Dessau, Travis Co, TX, m. 28 Mar 1877, Austin, Travis Co, TX
 - 2-Emma Agnes Wieland b. 21 Jan 1878, Dessau, Travis Co, TX, d. 7 Oct 1961, Dessau, Travis Co, TX
 - +Henry August Nauert b. 16 Jan 1873, Dessau, Travis Co, TX, d. 8 May 1960, Travis C, m. 20 Nov 1895, Dessau, Travis Co, TX
 - 3-Herbert Martin Nauert Sr b. 7 Oct 1896, Dessau, Travis Co, TX, d. 12 Aug 1968, Austin, Travis Co, TX
 - +Julia Katherine Wentland d. , Austin, Travis Co, TX, m. 10 Aug 1918, Travis Co, TX
 - 4-Elizabeth Julia Nauert b. 3 Mar 1920, Houston, Harris Co, TX
 - +William Allan Boyd Sr b. 21 Oct 1914, m. 10 May 1938
 - 5-William Allen Boyd Jr b. 9 Apr 1939
 - +Bonnie Laverne Hollis b. 12 Aug 1944, m. 4 Jun 1957
 - 6-Penny Laverne Boyd b. 12 Sep 1960
 - +Aubrey Clark
 - 7-Monty Allen Clark b. 10 Jan 1978
 - 6-Kent Dewayne Boyd b. 24 May 1962
 - 5-Robert Louis Boyd b. 23 Oct 1940
 - +Edna Saliva b. 20 May 1938, m. 20 May 1968
 - 5-Jackie Ray Boyd b. 26 Sep 1946
 - +Vicki Lyn Harriet b. 26 Oct 1946, m. 19 Dec 1971
 - 6-Amy Lyn Boyd b. 29 Sep 1972
 - 6-William Jason Boyd b. 1 Nov 1973
 - 6-Julia Boyd b. 10 Jul 1974
 - 6-Jason Boyd b. 21 Aug 1976
 - +William Ray Hairston b. 10 Dec 1924, m. 23 May 1958
 - 4-Lois Laverne Nauert b. 7 Oct 1922, Travis Co, TX
 - +Raymond L Orsak Sr b. 7 Oct 1922, Travis Co, TX, m. Austin, Travis Co, TX
 - 5-Raymond L Orsak Jr b. 13 Oct 1942
 - +Ella Vivian Ruffer b. 2 Apr 1944, m. 8 Jan 1963
 - 6-Deborah Elaine Orsak b. 25 Oct 1963
 - 6-Holly Michelle Orsak b. 22 Oct 1968
 - 4-Tommie Nell Nauert b. 10 Mar 1925, Travis Co, TX
 - +Harding G Neuenschwander b. 24 Jun 1924, (Travis Co, TX Marr Record), m. 8 May 1943, Travis Co, TX
 - 5-Jimmy Wayne Neuenschwander b. 10 Aug 1944
 - +Nancy Jan Diabaj b. 10 Aug 1944, m. 8 Apr 1967
 - 6-Kendall Lee Neuenschwander b. 13 Mar 1972
 - 6-Jeffrey Lee Neuenschwander b. 27 Jan 1978
 - 4-Margaret Jean Nauert b. 6 Dec 1927, Travis Co, TX

Descendants of Martin Wieland Sr

Page 5

- +Ras Ruhmann , m. Travis Co, TX (see Carolyn Sherman on page 4)
 - 5-Sherman Ruhmann b. , Austin, Travis Co, TX, d. , Austin, Travis Co, TX
 - 5-Ras Ruhmann II b. , Austin, Travis Co, TX, d. , Austin, Travis Co, TX
- 4-Minnie Merle Sherman b. , Austin, Travis Co, TX
 - +Frank O Glauinger , m. Austin, Travis Co, TX
 - 5-Gwen Glauinger b. , Austin, Travis Co, TX
 - +Archie Ray Enoch
 - 5-Ginger Glauinger b. , Austin, Travis Co, TX
- +Unknown New (see Ada Nehring on page 4)
- 3-Sophie Nehring b. 27 Sep 1910, Travis Co, TX, d. , Travis Co, TX
 - +Chester Murgatroyd b. 16 Jul 1905, TX, d. Feb 1971, Buchanan Dam, TX, m. Travis Co, TX
 - 4-Clifford Murgatroyd b. , Travis Co, TX
 - +Unknown Unknown
 - 4-Arlene Murgatroyd b. , Travis Co, TX
- 2-Martin Wieland Jr b. 12 Oct 1882, Dessau, Travis Co, TX, d. 1 Oct 1971, Austin, Travis Co, TX
 - +Minnie McDonald b. Abt 1888, (,) , m. Dec 1904, Travis Co, TX
 - 3-Martin M Wieland b. Abt 1906
 - 3-Cecil Wieland b. Abt 1907
 - +Iula Lohman b. 7 Dec 1905, TX, d. Jun 1991, TX, m. 10 Mar 1924, Bishop, TX
 - 3-Evelyn Wieland b. , Bishop, TX, d. , Oplin, TX
 - +Winfred E Scott d. , Oplin, TX, m. 29 Jan 1948, Baird, TX
 - 4-Roberta Ann Scott b. , Oplin, TX
 - +Jacob Cecil Thompson d. , Cedar Hill, TX, m. Abt 1972, TX
 - 4-Dicy Jan Scott b. , Oplin, TX
 - +Dwight Keith d. , Irving, TX
 - 4-Kathi Iula Scott b. , Oplin, TX
 - +Jeff Ashlock
 - 3-Minor Warren Wieland b. , Bishop, TX, d. 1 Mar 1987, Austin, Travis Co, TX
 - +Elizabeth Baker , m. 31 Jan 1948, San Antonio, Bexar Co, TX
 - 4-Susan Gail Wieland b. Aug 1953, Austin, Travis Co, TX
 - 4-Diana Lynn Wieland b. , Austin, Travis Co, TX
 - +Johnny Smith
 - 4-Sally Gail Wieland b. , Austin, Travis Co, TX
 - +Mark Lyons
- 2-Selma Wieland b. 8 Sep 1885, Dessau, Travis Co, TX, d. 29 Feb 1968, Austin, Travis Co, TX
 - +William F. Nauert b. 5 Sep 1882, Dessau, Travis Co, TX, d. 17 Dec 1965, Dessau, Travis Co, TX, m. 2 Mar 1904, Dessau, Travis Co, TX

Descendants of Martin Wieland Sr

Page 6

- 3-Alma Caroline Nauert b. 17 Jan 1905, Dessau, Travis Co, TX
 - +Frank G Ray b. 6 Apr 1905, d. Jun 1967, m. 20 Apr 1933, Travis Co, TX
 - +Chester P Heep b. 6 Apr 1908, d. Jul 1971, m. 25 Dec 1968, Travis Co, TX
- 3-Elsa Emma Nauert b. 1 Aug 1906, Dessau, Travis Co, TX
 - +Unknown Holder
- 3-Emery William Nauert b. 28 Nov 1912, Dessau, Travis Co, TX, d. 26 Mar 1974
 - +Emogene Sefcik b. 16 Aug 1922, m. 29 Jun 1940, Travis Co, TX
- 3-Werner Carl Nauert b. 18 Aug 1916, Dessau, Travis Co, TX, d. 20 Jul 1938, Travis Co, TX
- 3-Selma Irma Nauert b. 13 Feb 1918, Dessau, Travis Co, TX, d. , Tulia, TX
 - +Gilbert Woodrow Milligan b. 26 Jul 1917, Buda, TX, d. , Tulia, TX, m. 2 Jul 1942, Austin, Travis Co, TX
 - 4-Terry Gilbert Milligan b. 21 Apr 1945, Tulia, TX, d. , Cincinnati, OH
 - +Susan Brantley , m. 29 May 1969, Canyon, TX
 - 5-Sean Michael Milligan b. 12 Feb 1974, Odessa, TX
 - 5-Julie Kathleen Milligan b. 6 Jul 1980, Cincinnati, OH
 - 4-Deborah Ann Milligan b. 15 Jan 1950, Austin, Travis Co, TX, d. , Tulia, TX
 - +Richard Terrell Combest b. 4 Dec 1948, Wichita Falls, TX, d. , Tulia, TX, m. 14 Aug 1971, Tulia, TX
 - 5-Callie Michelle Combest b. 21 Dec 1974, Tulia, TX
 - 5-Christopher Chance Combest b. 9 Dec 1977, Tulia, TX
 - 5-Caroline Combest b. 9 Feb 1981, Tulia, TX
- 3-Margaret Odeal Nauert b. 4 May 1924, Travis Co, TX
 - +~~Charles~~^{EDWARD} Lewis Dickens b. 25 Oct 1923, m. 23 Nov 1946
 - 4-Linda Kay Dickens b. 15 Jul 1947
 - +David T Carr , m. 27 Apr 1968
 - 4-Diana Josephine Dickens b. 3 Mar 1951
 - +William Alonza Culberson III b. 30 Jul 1952, m. 12 Sep 1970
 - 5-William Alonza Culberson IV b. , 31 Mar 1971
 - 4-Mary Louise Dickens b. 13 Sep 1952
 - +Garey S Jackson b. 9 Apr 1952, m. 14 Feb 1979
 - 5-Stephanie Louise Jackson b. 12 Jul 1970
 - 5-Garey Wayne Jackson b. 24 Dec 1979
 - 4-Lewis E Dickens b. 29 Aug 1959, d. 29 Oct 1975
- 2-Henry Edward Wieland b. 29 Feb 1888, Dessau, Travis Co, TX, d. 21 Sep 1960, Austin, Travis Co, TX
 - +Wilhelmine Caroline Fleischer b. 22 May 1893, Hutto, Texas, d. 5 May 1957, Pflugerville, Texas, m. 14 Oct 1909, Merriltown, Texas At Her Home
 - 3-Estelle Katherine Wieland b. 3 Mar 1912, Dessau, TX, d. 20 Aug 2004, Pflugerville, Travis Co, TX
 - +Otto Ernest Pokrant b. 1 Nov 1908, Travis Co, TX, d. Apr 1971, Pflugerville, Travis Co, TX, m. 27 Nov 1930, Dessau, Travis Co, TX
 - 4-Doris Minnie Pokrant b. 17 May 1934, Dessau, Texas

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CAROLINE (BRACHWITZ) AND CARL F. NAUERT

MARRIED JULY 16, 1868 AT DESSAU, TEXAS

1-

DESCENDANTS OF JOHANN GOTTFRIED NAUERT (1806 - 1871) AND
DOROTHEA SOPHIA MORITZ (1799 - 1852)

Never immigrated. Died in Meindorf, Anhalt-Dessau. Children Fredericke, Carl, Louise and Antonia immigrated with Wilhelm Kettmann (Fredericke's husband) and his brother, Charles Kettmann, on the ship Weser at Galveston, Texas in 1860, listing their destination as Austin, Texas. Charles and Wilhelm's sister, Auguste, remained in Meindorf. Sophia Nauert Nehring, her husband Frederick Christian N. Nehring and children Sophia, Frederick and Charles immigrated at Galveston, Texas in 1873.

I. Sophia Nauert (20 OCT 1831 - 25 SEP 1916)
Frederick Christian N. Nehring (1 MAR 1832 - 28 FEB 1894)...

II. Fredericke Nauert (13 FEB 1834 - 1 JAN 1918)
Wilhelm Kettmann.....
August Meissner, Sr. (5 MAR 1831 - 22 DEC 1885).....

III. Carl F. Nauert (27 AUG 1836 - 4 DEC 1893)
Caroline Brachwitz (1 OCT 1850 - 7 NOV 1925).....

IV. Louise Nauert

V. Antonia Nauert

5 -
Fredericke Nauert Kettmann Meissner
(13 FEB 1834 - 1 JAN 1918)

Friedericke Nauert was born in Meindorf, Anhalt-Dessau, Germany, the daughter of Johann Gottfried Nauert and Dorothea Sophia Moritz. Her father was a Hausler, or a day worker who owned a house. She had one older sister, Sophia, and two younger sisters, Louise and Antonia, as well as a younger brother, Carl. Sophia married Frederick Christian N. Nehring on September 13, 1857 in Muehlstedt (or Muhlstaedt), Germany. Sometime after 1:00 a.m. on December 18, 1857 a daughter, Sophie Friederike Nehring, was born to Sophia and Christian. The Paten, or sponsors, at her baptism on the 26th of December were Friedericke, for whom she was named, Jungfrau Auguste Kettmann and Jungfrau Henriette Luedicke, both maidens from Rosslau.

Sometime afterward, Friedericke married Wilhelm Kettmann, Auguste's brother. The Nauerts had close friends and relatives who had left Germany for Texas. In 1860 Friedericke and Wilhelm, his brother, Charles, her sisters, Louise and Antonia, and her brother, Carl, boarded the ship Weser listing their destination as Austin, Texas. Charles listed his city of origin as Koethen, while the others reported that they were from Meindorf. They left behind their parents, as well as Wilhelm and Charles' sister, Auguste. The Weser made two trips to Galveston that year, one arriving on April 2 and the other on October 23. The latter voyage lasted 64 days.

Friedericke and Wilhelm settled where they had friends, the little farming community of Dessau, Texas named for their former home in Germany. In 1862 Charles became a private in the 4th Texas Field Battery, also known as Van Dorn's Light Artillery, Captain Mechling's Group and Captain Haldermann's Group. He served as a bugler and possibly lost his life during the Civil War. Carl Nauert married Caroline Brachwitz at Dessau on July 16, 1868, and they lived there the rest of their lives. It is not known what became of Antonia and Louise once they landed in America.

Fredericke and Wilhelm's first child, Auguste Johnanna, named for Wilhelm's sister, was born in Dessau on August 30, 1862. Their second and last child, Emma Juliane, was born on June 6, 1867. Shortly before or after the birth of their second daughter, Wilhelm Kettmann died. The cause, date and place of his death and burial are unknown. Friedericke married August Meissner, Sr. on August 12, 1871 by Officiant Fr. Earnest at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Pflugerville. In 1874 the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Dessau was formed, but the family apparently remained members of the Immanuel Lutheran Church, where on April 10, 1881 her second daughter Emma (listed as Meissner) was confirmed. Friedericke and August had two children, August, Jr. on August 13, 1873 and Anna in 1876.

6

In 1873, after a long separation from Fredericke, Sophia, her husband and their three children, Sophia, Frederich and Charles, immigrated to the United States and settled at Dessau. August Meissner, Sr. died on the 22nd of December, 1885. He lived only to see the birth of two step grandchildren by Fredericke's first daughter, Auguste, and her husband Gottlieb Brachwitz, Jr. Fredericke lived to see all of her children married, as well as the births of many grandchildren. By June 13, 1900 when the 1900 census was taken, she was living with her son August and his family. Fredericke Nauert Kettmann Meissner died on January 1, 1918, and was buried in the Dessau Evangelical Lutheran Church Cemetery at Dessau, Texas.

12
Descendants of Carl F. Nauert and Caroline Brachwitz

A. Carl Nauert Jr. (AUG 1869 - before 1880 census)

B. Emma Nauert (28 NOV 1870 - 26 FEB 1957)

m. John Bruder (12 JUN 1864 - 12 MAR 1941)

1. Caroline Laura Bruder (22 NOV 1893 -)
m. Henry Koch
 - a. Selma Emma Louise Koch (18 SEP 1916 - 4 OCT 1926)
 - b. Sonny Koch
 - c. Otto Koch
 - d. C.W. Koch
 - e. Ailene Koch
 - f. Betty Koch

2. Alma Lissette Bruder (29 APR 1895 - 7 JUL 1984)
m. _____ Gebert
 - a. Viola Gebert
m. Bernard Cox (1911 - 1986)
 - 1) Buddy Cox Jr.
m. Otto Schulz (15 FEB 1893 - 3 JUN 1985)

3. Carl Ernst Bruder (20 JAN 1897 -)
m.
 - a. James Bruder
m. _____
 - 1) daughter
 - m. _____
 - 1) son
 - m. _____
 - 1) son
 - 2) son
 - b. Katherine Bruder
m. _____
 - 1) Julie Renee _____

4. Sophie Louise Bruder (3 DEC 1898 - 1 MAR 1985)
m. Andrew John Krueger (26 OCT 1901 - 29 NOV 1974)
 - a. Andrew John Krueger Jr. (5 JUL 1924 -)
m. Erlene _____
 - 1) Cherry Lou Krueger
m. Pat Lyle
 - a) Lacy Lyle

5. Adolph William Bruder (27 JUN 1901 - 5 OCT 1970)
m. Bernice Owen (9 FEB 1915 -)
 - a. Anita Carol Bruder
m. Joe Chovanec
 - 1) Monica Lynn Chovanec
m. Billy Dunsworth

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C. Henry August Nauert (16 JAN 1873 - 8 MAY 1960)
m. Emma Wieland (21 JAN 1878 - 7 OCT 1961)

1. Carl Martin Herbert Nauert (7 OCT 1896 - 30 NOV 1903)
2. Alfred Johannes Bruno Nauert (14 DEC 1898 -)
3. Heinrich Ernst Otto Nauert (11 JUN 1901 -)
4. Carl Louis Martin Nauert (30 NOV 1903 - 7 NOV 1983)
5. Martin Wilhelm Nauert (29 SEP 1905 -)

D. Ida Nauert (19 JUN 1876 - 3 OCT 1954)
m. Ernest Mueller (16 FEB 1875 - 30 MAR 1971)

1. Selma Caroline Mueller (20 JUL 1898 -)
2. Emma Johanna Mueller (21 MAR 1900 -)
3. Alvin Wilhelm Daniel Mueller (23 OCT 1901 - 25 SEP 1940)
4. ~~Karl Friederich Hermann Mueller~~ (5 JUL 1904 - 2 MAY 1960) *Robert Kramon*
5. Edward Edwin Mueller (22 MAR 1907 -) *Charles*
6. Florine Ernst Mueller (17 SEP 1909 -)
7. Ernst Gottlieb Herbert Mueller (23 NOV 1913 -)
8. Hazel Mueller (13 APR 1918 -) *Charles*

E. Carl Friederich (Fritz) Nauert (22 AUG 1878 - 25 OCT 1945)
m. Ida C. Hennig (1881 - 1963)

1. Olga Luella Nauert (5 JUN 1901 -) *Rogers*
2. Lillie Blanche Nauert (7 APR 1903 -) *E. Kramon*
3. Edgar Friedrich Nauert (17 NOV 1904 -)

F. Otto Nauert (12 SEP 1880 - 26 JUN 1966)
m. Marie Sackewitz (15 MAR 1883 - 19 JAN 1963)

1. Linda Emma Julie Nauert (1 NOV 1904 - 6 JAN 1924)
2. Elmer Heinrich Oscar Nauert (19 NOV 1906 -)
3. Leona Ernstine Karoline Nauert (11 AUG 1913 -)
4. Katie Auguste Marie Nauert (1 FEB 1911 -)
5. Wilfred Otto Nauert (2 AUG 1919 -)

G. Wilhelm Carl Nauert (5 SEP 1882 - 17 DEC 1965)
m. Selma Wieland (8 SEP 1885 - 29 FEB 1968)

1. Alma Caroline Nauert (17 JAN 1905 - 4/18/1998)
2. Else Emma Nauert (1 AUG 1906 - 4/24/1989)
3. Emery Wilhelm Nauert (28 NOV 1912 - 3/26/1974)
4. Werner Carl Nauert (18 AUG 1915 - 20 JUL 1938)
5. Selma Irma Nauert (13 FEB 1918 - 10/1/2009) *milligan*
6. Margaret O. Nauert (4 MAY 1924 - 9/21/2016) *Dickinson*

**DESCENDANTS OF GOTTLIEB BRACHWITZ, SR.
(c. 1827 - c. 1875?)**

Immigrated at Galveston, Texas with family and wife, Fredericke, on 14 December 1867 on Bark Texas (Bremen, Master Mientzen) from Kliegen-Loemberg, Anhalt-Dessau.

- I. Caroline Brachwitz (1 OCT 1850 - 7 NOV 1925)
 Carl F. Nauert (27 AUG 1836 - 4 DEC 1893).....2

- II. Friedrich Brachwitz (MAR 1853 -).....5

- III. Carl Brachwitz (1855 - 11 JAN 1926).....6

- IV. Gottlieb Brachwitz, Jr. (14 FEB 1857 - 3 JUN 1938)
 Auguste Johanna Kettmann (30 AUG 1862 - 30 SEP 1938).....7

- V. Franz Brachwitz (1860 -)

- VI. Marie Brachwitz (1861 -)
 Henry Heinske.....13

- VII. August Brachwitz (1865 -)

- VIII. Otto Brachwitz (1867 - 1922)
 Melinda Dubbe Eulenfield (1874 - 1941).....14

- Married second wife, Wilhelmine Dorothea Fromm/Stabeno/Kort
() 2 JAN 1872 in Washington County,
Texas.

- IX. Karoline Christiana Brachwitz (14 AUG 1873 - 31 DEC 1951)
 *John Henry Grebe (3 SEP 1863 - 15 JUN 1933).....16



Selma Wieland and
William Nauert on wedding
day March 2, 1904,
marriage performed at
Dessau Lutheran Church.



Selma and William
Nauert on 60th
Wedding Anniversary
on March 2, 1964,
Austin, Texas.

Bonnie's Photo Studio
AUSTIN, TEX.

Selma Wieland - daughter of Martin and Caroline Wieland (Born September 8, 1885-1886)

Wm. Nauert - Son of Carl and Emma Nauert (Born September 5, 1882-1883)

Married March 2, 1904

Attendants: Miss Marie Wieland (Now Mrs. Arnold Fleischer)
Miss Helena Reisner (Deceased)
Mr. Tom Hughes
Mr. Martin Wieland

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Children: Alma | Born Febr. 17, 1905 |
| Elsie | Born August 1, 1906 |
| Emery | Born November 28, 1912 |
| Werner | Born August 18, 1915 (preceded parents in death) |
| Selma | Born February 13, 1918 |
| Margaret | Born May 4, 1924 |

Uncle Martin went around on Horseback and invited everyone to the wedding several days before and each person invited tied a ribbon on Uncle Martin's coat and these ribbons were saved and used as decoration on the buggy to church. (Before they went in wagones, but buggies were the latest at that time). Decorated the buggy with cedar and ribbons (all colors - satin). Every gate Mama and Papa rode through on the way to church was decorated -- He went by and picked up Mama and they rode to Dessau church together. Reverend Jaworski.

Wedding was at 9:30 or 10: alm.

After wedding went toward home. Dinner served 200 - 250 people all from Dessau community. In the evening had herring (lunch) and then at midnight party broke up. After dinner was served everyone milled around until 6pm and then the music and dance started and mama changed dress at 6pm into a suit and started from dance After dance - went home.

Alma and Elsie born at Gregg Wehn E. Millers went in grocery store you moved in their house and then to Dessau. Emery born at Dessau and all others.

Sakewitz brothers played for dance.

A reception was held recently honoring Mr. and Mrs. William Nauert on the occasion of their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary in the Club Hut at Barton Springs.

It was in the morning of March 2, 1904, that Miss Selma Wieland became the bride of William Nauert in a wedding ceremony in the Dessau Lutheran Church. Mr. Nauert was 21 and his bride was 18 at the time. The ceremony was performed by the late Rev. Jaworski.

Both are natives of Travis County, having resided in the Dessau community where Mr. Nauert was engaged in farming until 1941, when they moved their residence to Austin.

Two of the couple's attendants at their wedding fifty years ago were present, Mrs. Arnold Fleischer and Mr. Martin Wieland. The other attendants were Mr. Tom Hughes and the late Helena Reisner Plumeyer. A number of people were present who attended the couple's wedding.

Mrs. Nauert was presented with a corsage of white orchids set in gold ribbon and tulle.

The room was decorated with basket arrangements of spring flowers and a double heart fashioned in gold ruffles and golden wedding bells with "Selma and Willie" inscribed across the hearts. Also included in the decorations was a ceramic horse and buggy, symbolic of the one in which the couple rode to church for their wedding fifty years ago.

The table was laid with a cloth of linen cutwork and centered with an arrangement of wild peach blossoms decorating the candelabra holding lighted white tapers. On the mantle was an arrangement of gold mums and tapers.

The large double ring cake was embossed with gold flowers of spun sugar in clusters of leaves.

One hundred and eighty guests were welcomed between the hours from three to five in the afternoon. They were registered by Mrs. T. O. Lang.



Christmas at Grandma and Grandpa Nauert's home at 4308 Avenue G., Austin, TX December 1964 with Grandchildren (left to right) Diana Dickens, Debbie Milligan, Terry Milligan, Mary Dickens, Linda Dickens, and Lewis Dickens. Terry and Debbie Milligan are children of Selma (Nauert) Milligan. Linda, Diana, Mary, and Lewis Dickens are the children of Margaret (Nauert) Dickens.



Margaret Odeal Nauert and Lewis Edward (Babe) Dickens on wedding day November 23, 1946. Marriage performed in Austin, Texas. Reception in her parent's (Selma and William Nauert) home at 4308 Avenue G., Austin, TX.

They blessed this world with 4 wonderful children:

Linda Kay Dickens Carr (1947)

Diana Josephine Dickens Culberson (1951)

Mary Louise Dickens Jackson (1952)

Lewis Edward (Bubba) Dickens, Jr. (1959) (deceased 1975)



Margaret and Lewis Dickens on their 50th Wedding Anniversary, November 23, 1996. Austin, Texas. Pastor Merle G. Franke performed vows.

Margaret and Lewis (Babe) lived at 507 Deep Eddy Ave., Austin, Texas for over 60 years, from November 1955 until the property was sold after both of their deaths on January 16, 2019. It was a Blessed home for their families and friends.

Dad passed away August 28, 2007 and Mom passed away September 21, 2016.



Mary (Dickens) Jackson and Robert Naivar on their wedding day October 12, 2012. Wedding performed at Dessau Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas. Children include daughter Stephanie Gallegos and husband Andy Gallegos and their children Moira and Nathan Gallegos; son Garey Wayne Jackson and wife Emily Jackson and their children Lillian and Garrett Jackson. Pastor Merle G. Franke performed the vows.



Margaret (Nauert) Dickens, mother of Mary (Dickens) Jackson along with husband Robert Naivar.

*A Living History
Museum*

**Jourdan-Bachman
Pioneer Farm**

11418 Sprinkle Cut-Off Rd.
Austin, Texas 78754
(512) 837-1215



March 30, 1998

Margaret Nauert Dickens
507 Deep Eddy Ave.
Austin, TX 78703

Dear Ms. Dickens,

Thank you and your sister, Zelma Nauert Milligan, for the donation of a quilting frame to the Heritage Society of Austin at Pioneer Farm.

As the Farm's curator, I have the pleasure of meeting people who care about their heritage and the preservation of artifacts. It was a joy to meet you. I was pleased that you kept the ticking on the frame for "that's the way it was!"

Also, I appreciated the sharing your rich family history. Thank you so much. The frame will be permanently placed in our collection and prized. In the next few years, we will have the German immigrant farm up and running. Information that you have kept and treasured will be used towards its preservation and education. Thank you for your lasting contribution.

Cordially,

Eve Williams, Curator
Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farm