



## *"Texanische Liebeslieder" Celebrates its World Premiere at UT Austin*



Chan Yang Lim, Tim O'Brien, Soonchan Kwon, Kelly Kuo, Kathleen Kelly, David Hanlon, and Ellie Jarrett Shattles

A few years ago, Dr. Hans Boas, head of the Texas German Dialect Project at UT Austin, received a call from fellow Prof. Kathleen Kelly from the Butler School of Music. She told him about a new project she was working on: writing lyrics for a set of original songs

about the experience of German immigrants and their descendants in Texas. Prof. Kelly wanted to know more about the recordings and transcriptions found in the Texas German Dialect Archive. Dr. Boas told her about the archive, and how the interviews were recorded with

members of different Texas German communities. He happily invited her to use the archive for writing song lyrics. For several years, Dr. Boas did not hear back. Then, in August 2015, Dr. Boas unexpectedly got an invitation: Prof. Kelley, who in the meantime had moved to the University of Michigan, was coming to Austin for the World Premiere of the *Texanische Liebeslieder* (*Texan Love Songs*), modelled after the *Liebeslieder* of Johannes Brahms, who composed them in 19th century Germany. On August 28, 2015, the new piece would be performed for the first time, by Prof. Kelly and music graduate students.

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## *Unbroken Treaty: Learning Language through Role-play*

Imagine a language class unlike any other. Instead of long lists of verb conjugations and nominal gender assignments, a typical classroom session looks more like the following scenario:

*You are 33-year old John O. Meusebach, a young Prussian freethinker. You came to Texas to support the immigration efforts of thousands of fellow Germans. But as an angry mob of*

*ward your door, shouting "Nieder mit dem Adelsverein! – Down with the Society of Nobles!" you know that something has gone terribly wrong. Recent rumors have it that the land these settlers were promised to settle on is the home of thousands of Comanche warriors. Who is to blame them? They sacrificed everything to receive nothing! You have to face down the crowd quickly, and tell them you have a solution to the problem!*

You are, of course, not John O. Meusebach. You are in fact an intermediate German language student. But in this class, you have been assigned the role of John Meusebach in a four-week-long role-playing game. You have tremendous responsibility towards many of your classmates, who are likewise attending class as other characters from Texas German

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### TGDP MILESTONES 2014-2015

- ◆ Dr. James Kearney published a new book (see p.4).
- ◆ TGDP members presented at conferences in Germany, Texas, Canada, Missouri, and Utah, including talks at the annual meeting of the German Texan Heritage Society in September 2015.
- ◆ Prof. Csaba Foeldes and Prof. Alfred Wildfeuer from Germany visited the TGDP and spoke about the use of German in Hungary, Kansas and New Zealand.
- ◆ Prof. Hans Boas teaches a course on "German language and society" during the Fall 2015 semester
- ◆ We have accumulated 450 speakers in our archive and are quickly approaching the 500 speaker threshold.

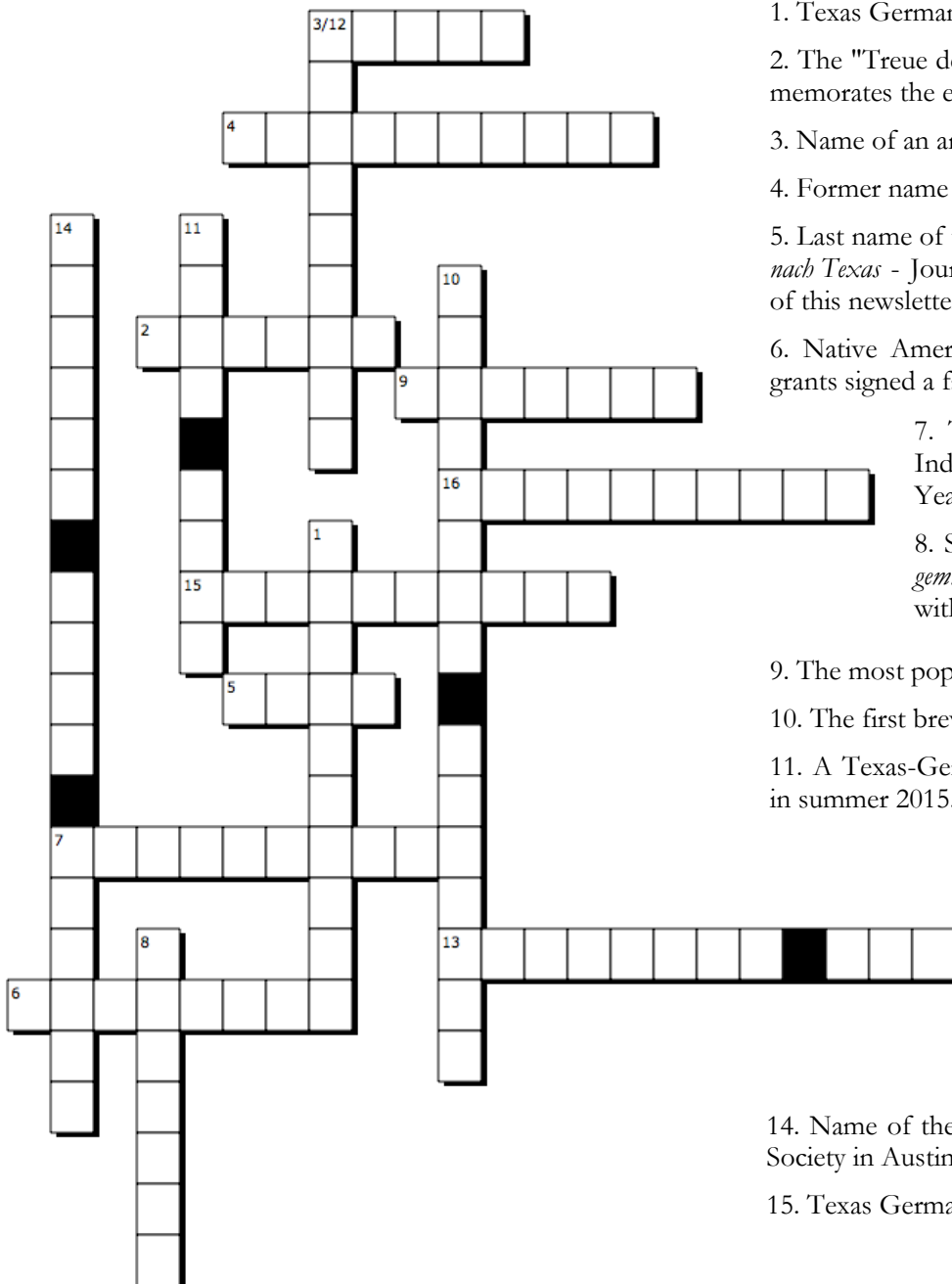
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## Das Große Kreuzworträtsel: The Big Texas German Crossword Puzzle!

Learn about Texas German history, culture and language by solving the sentences and filling in the boxes in the puzzle below. To find the right answers, you can use information from our "German Texas Map" or you can go to the Texas Handbook Online ([tshaonline.org](http://tshaonline.org)). For questions 1 and 15, you can go to our dialect archive ([www.tgdp.org](http://www.tgdp.org)). For "skunk" go to the **Gilbert interviews, sentence 128**. For "airplane" go to the open ended interviews, choose **Freyburg**, then **"World War Two in the Pacific"** and look for the speaker's description of **Japanese kamikaze airplanes**! A full solution to the puzzle is given on page 4. But don't be a *Schummler*: don't peek without trying!



1. Texas German name for "skunk."
2. The "Treue der Union" monument in Comfort commemorates the event known as the ... Massacre
3. Name of an annual sausage festival in New Braunfels.
4. Former name of Indianola, Texas (on our map!)
5. Last name of the German author who published *Reise nach Texas* - Journey to Texas in 1833 (check the front of this newsletter!)
6. Native American tribe with whom German immigrants signed a famous peace treaty in *Friedrichsburg*.
7. The last German child abducted by Indians. He wrote a memoir called "Nine Years with the Indians"
8. Small town north of Austin with two *gemütliche Biergärten* (name of town starts with "W", on our map!)
9. The most popular fruit from the *Friedrichsburg* area.
10. The first brewery in Texas, located in La Grange.
11. A Texas-German ice cream brand missed by many in summer 2015.
12. A group of German-Slavic Lutherans that settled in Serbin, TX.
13. Female sculptor from Germany who created the Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston marble statues exhibited in the State Capitol (two words, no "th").
14. Name of the seat of the German Texan Heritage Society in Austin (three words).
15. Texas German word for "airplane."



## Texanische Liebeslieder—cont'd from p. 1



Kelly's former UT graduate student David Hanlon had composed the music. Kelly's work with our archive led to some extraordinary lyrics engaging memories about German culture in Texas.

At the premiere in the Jessen Auditorium, Prof. Kelly played piano, together with Kelly Kuo. Four wonderful singers from the Butler School of Music at UT Austin sang the lyrics. The premier evening at the Jessen Auditorium became a particularly personal experience for everyone. As Kelly put it on her blog, many listeners came because of their own Texas German Heritage: "People

chuckled, people got teary, people held their breath." The evening culminated in a standing ovation by the 100 people in the audience. Dr. Boas summarized the reaction in our project: "We at the Texas German Dialect Project never thought in our wildest dreams that anyone would use the transcripts of the interviews for composing music in Texas German." Indeed, the TGDP is very excited that our work has served this purpose. You may listen to a sample of the *Texanische Liebeslieder* here (scroll to August 2015):

<http://www.tgdp.org/whatsnew>

Keep your eyes open for performances in your area!

## Treasures from our Archive

The Texas German dialect archive represents the center piece of our work. In order to honor the life stories of our speakers we want to share some of the treasures in the archive with you. The following story is about Halloween pranks. Enjoy!

*Der Vater hat uns nie Halloween pranks spielen lassen. Aber ande Kinder haben viel hierum pranks gespielt, ja. Oh, die habn allhand ausgefressen. In Converse da war ein Tractor-Verkäufer. Und die habn viele Geräte da gehabt. und die hammen se auseinandergenommen, hammen se ob' aufen Dach wieder zusammengestellt un obe aufen Tach zusammengestellt. oder verleich ubn Häuschen umgeschmißen. Weissst du was a Häuschen meint, ja? Und ja. Jedes Jahr habn die Bubn den - den flagpole... uh Fahnen... uh ... Fahnenmast! Haben den von die Schule abgenommen, habn engwo hingetragen. Ham 'n verstegelt. Gewöhnlich habn sie gefunden. Aber ein Jahr habn sie'n gar nicht gefunden un nächstes Jahr*

*habn sie wieder zurickebracht. N' Jahr lang war der engwo verstegelt gewesen. Aber ja, so Streich. Aber nichts was engenwas richtig kaputt gemacht bat. Nein, das habn se nicht getan.*

Our father wouldn't allow us to play Halloween pranks, but lots of other kids did. They caused all kinds of trouble. In Converse there was a tractor dealer, and they had all kinds of equipment. The kids would take it all apart and reassemble it on the roof of the place. Sometimes they would knock a little house (an out-house) over. You know what that means? And every year they would steal the flagpole from the school, drag it off somewhere and hid it. Usually someone would find it, but one time they could not find it anywhere. It disappeared for a whole year. A year later, they put it back. So, yes, they would play pranks, but they would never do anything really harmful.

## New TGDP Member 2015: David Huenlich

David Huenlich is a PhD student at the University of Texas at Austin, studying language change and immigration. He was born to an American mother and German father in Bavaria, but spent many childhood summers in the heat of West Texas. What David didn't know growing up is that his father used to make trips to the Hill Country to share German folk songs with the

local Texas Germans! It was only in 2010, when David came to UT, that his love for Texas German culture and history ignited, eventually leading him to the TGDP. After volunteering for several years, David joins the staff of our project this fall.

Besides the TGDP, David loves being outdoors, traveling and spending time with Jonas, his 1-year-old

son. He is particularly interested in nomadic cultures and spent several months in Mongolia and in the Annapurna region of Nepal doing research on endangered languages and writing his Master's thesis. Things came full circle when David recently became aware of the early contacts between nomadic Comanche and Texas-German settlers. As a result, he is co-authoring a language course based on these historic

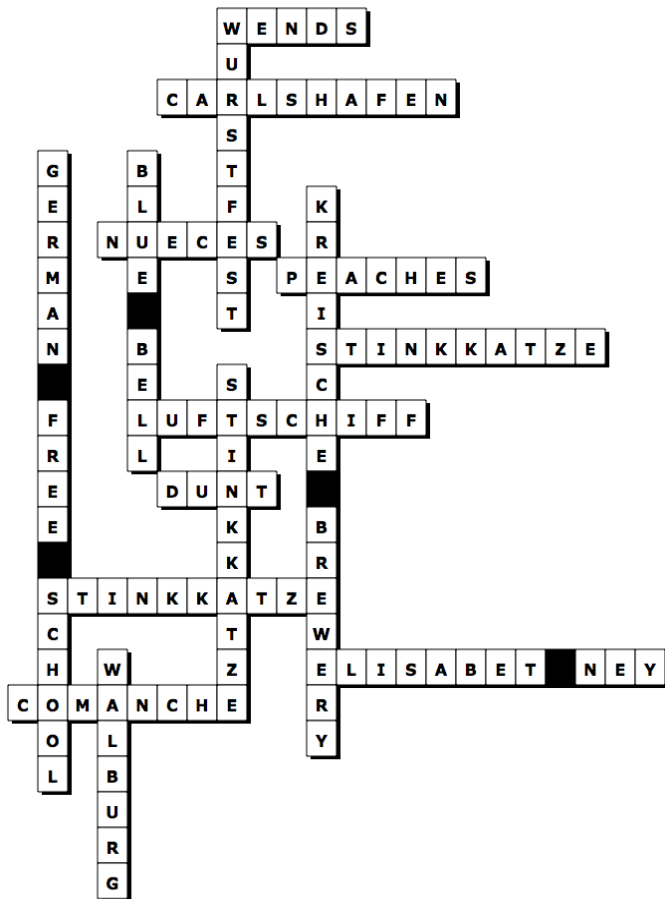
events. A description of the project can be found on page 1 of this newsletter.

At the TGDP, David will be organizing a series of interviews in Fall 2015 in Manor, Walburg, Warda, Doss, Fredericksburg and Comfort. He will be sure to bring his guitar in case any of our speakers want to end the interview with a German folk song! Welcome to the TGDP, David!



### Solution to the Cross-Word Puzzle

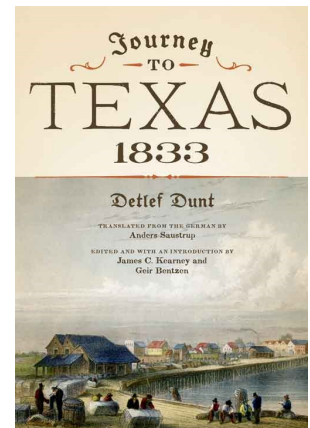
*Done with the puzzle? Here are the solutions:*



*Eine Reise nach Texas—A Journey to Texas*

*Dr. Kearney publishes first translation of Dunt's 1833 report*

Dr. Jim Kearney, our expert in Texas German history, recently published the late Anders Saustrup's masterful translation of Detlef Dunt's letter *Journey to Texas 1833* (original: *Reise nach Texas*). Residing as a guest with the established settler Friedrich Ernst in the area of Frelsburg and Industry, Dunt wrote the first description of Texas attributed to a German traveler who actually set foot on the land. For the German audience of his time, Dunt's report corroborated Ernst's earlier descriptions of Texas as an inviting land to German settlers. Saustrup's translation lucidly conveys the pleasant surprise and hopeful promise that permeates the original. Dunt described the people, scenery and customs of pre-revolutionary

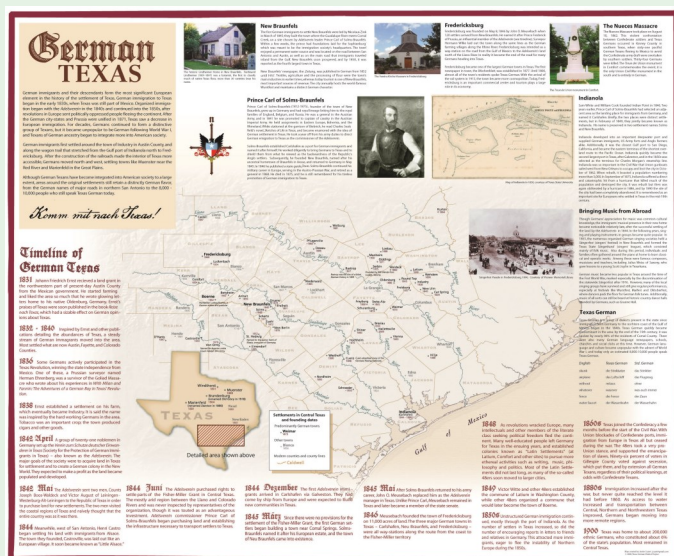


Texas, exhibiting a love for detail typical for German travel logs of the time. Thanks to this translation, English readers will come to appreciate the reason why this book affirmed Germans in large numbers in their decision to migrate to the Lone Star State. *Journey to Texas* can be ordered online under [utpress.utexas.edu](http://utpress.utexas.edu).

*Featured: Texas German Map*

**Show your Texas German pride and contribute to the Texas German Endowment at the University of Texas at Austin** by purchasing one of our high-quality prints of the history of German immigration into Texas!

Donated for fundraising purposes by mapmaker and German American Justin Cozart, this **beautiful 34"x28" map** includes a chronology of the history of Texas Germans dating back to 1831, when Johann Friedrich Ernst first fell in love with the wide-open country and wrote a book about it, *Reise nach Texas*. It also explains key concepts in German immigration, such as the role of the *Adelsverein*, an organization that was instrumental in the settling of Texas, the founding of Texas German towns, basic differences between Texas and Standard German, the popularity of German music, and more. **Contact the TGDP for yours today!**



**The German Texas map is available exclusively from the TGDP for \$40.00 (includes shipping and handling). See enclosed order form for details.**



## Featured TGDP alum: Ryan Harty, now working with an NGO in Berlin, Germany

Ryan Harty worked for the Texas German Dialect Project as a research assistant for nearly 3 years, starting in October 2003. After graduating, he received the International Parliamentary Scholarship, an internship program of the German Bundestag. Every year more than 100 young people get to know the German parliamentary system and political decision-making processes by working in the office of a Member of the Bundestag, and attending courses at the Humboldt and Freie Universities for four months. Ryan later began a European Studies masters program



**Ryan Harty**

in Frankfurt (Oder) and Istanbul. His focus was on migration and the EU accession negotiations with Turkey. His thesis was a critical analysis of the factors that impact the mobility of Syrian refugees in Is-

tanbul.

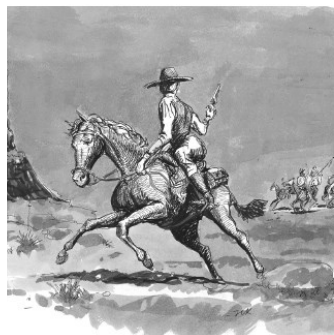
After returning to Berlin, Ryan began working at the national office of the *Tafel*, an association of over 920 initiatives and 60,000 volunteers who collect and distribute quality surplus food to those in need. Ryan works as the coordinator for international and European affairs and co-operations with other associations. When he began his job in 2014, between 1 and 1.5 million people were receiving support from the *Tafel* - around 10 % of them refugees. This year the number of asylum applications in Germany is expected to exceed 800,000

– 4x more than last year. Ryan worries that if welfare recipients, retirees, and others who have long benefited from charities start getting less than they used to, conflict and abuse may occur. In his opinion, the German government must take pressure off of NGOs and increase its support of municipalities, while simultaneously addressing the root causes of the current crisis. Migration and anti-immigrant sentiments were key points of Ryan's interest in the Texas Germans, and they have remained central to his endeavors ever since. We wish him the best with his efforts!

## *The Unbroken Treaty*—cont'd from p.1

history. How would you cope with the above situation – \*and\* *do it all in German*?

Designed by alumni and instructors from the UT Department of Germanic Studies, *The Unbroken Treaty* is a role-playing immersion experience for learning intermediate, immersive German. We are currently partnering with the German Texan Heritage Society in Austin to run the first version of this rather unconventional role-playing class. At the beginning of the course, students receive role sheets with historic background information and victory objectives. Throughout the course, different characters strive for different victory scenarios using various tactics:



**Students be on guard: In this class it's life or death of a Texas-German...**

convincing others in speeches and in writing; making friends and allies in conversation; trading the right items with the right people; and finding out what the goals of other players are. Language improvement goes hand-in-hand with game-driven excitement, story and drama. *The Unbroken Treaty* not only

teaches the German language through interactive Texas German history. It is also part of the TGDP's strategy to perpetuate interest in the rich cultural heritage and history of the Texas Germans. This unique culture and way of relating history will disappear as we lose the last Texas German speakers, if there are not ways for younger community members to actively engage with their heritage. Mitigating this impending loss is the primary goal of the Texas German Dialect Project, and *The Unbroken Treaty* is a promising means of getting German and heritage learners invested in perpetuating the Texas German legacy. Recently, Adams LaBorde, Devon Donohue-Bergeler, and

David Huenlich, the main designers of the game, presented the game at the regional meeting of the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) in Temple. Teachers enthusiastically received the idea of teaching language through history role-play. Once fully developed, the class could be taught in German programs across Texas and the U.S.

Keep an eye on our next issue for an update about *The Unbroken Treaty*, and the fun we have at the German Texan Heritage Society. To learn more about our work, support our efforts in the documentation and preservation of Texas German, or to make a donation to the project, visit [www.tgdp.org](http://www.tgdp.org).

## TEXAS GERMAN DIALECT PROJECT (TGDP)

Department of Germanic Studies  
The University of Texas at Austin  
2505 University Ave, C3300  
Austin, TX 78712

Phone: (512) 910-5047  
Fax: (512) 471-4025  
texasgermandialect@gmail.com

AS REPORTED BY



### Plans for 2016

- We are re-designing our database and website, as they are more than ten years old. Watch for the roll-out some time in the spring of 2016!
- The TGDP is also collaborating with colleagues who work on other German speech island communities around the world. In 2016, we will start our pilot project comparing Texas German with the German varieties spoken in Southern Brazil and Siberia.
- Our fundraising efforts continue for the Texas German Endowment at UT Austin. If you are interested in hosting or attending a fundraiser in your area, be sure to let us know!

### *The Texas German Dialect Project: a solid and inspiring investment*

Be it the composition of music, innovative language teaching, work with the needy in Berlin, or the publication of historically valuable materials - this newsletter has shown you the many positive (and often unexpected!) side effects of the work of the Texas German Dialect Project (TGDP), both within and outside itself. Besides documenting and preserving Texas German, we are making contributions towards a future of awareness and recognition of the Texas German experience. At this time, your support is as necessary as ever. Until 2008, the TGDP received steady financial funding, from sources both inside and outside of UT Austin, which to-

taled \$200,000 over seven years. Unfortunately, funding then ended at a time where there were more requests for interviews than ever. This is a continuing trend as we approach the 500 speaker mark in our data base: there are about as many speakers interviewed as there are waiting for an interview. Every year, some of those on our waiting list pass away, with no trace of their life stories left to be documented in Texas German. Our financial situation does not allow us to rest.

A small but dedicated group of donors currently keeps the project alive through their financial contributions to the Texas German Endowment, established in 2009 at UT

Austin, to keep our operations running. We invite you to join them! We welcome donations from individuals, families, businesses, and organizations who care about the future of the Texas German community, its language, and its heritage.

If you would like to count yourself among the "Friends of Texas German," visit our website at [tgdp.org/donate](http://tgdp.org/donate), or send a check made out to the "Texas German Endowment - UT Austin" to the return address on this newsletter. And if you are already among those who have donated to the TGDP endowment - our "Friends of Texas German" - from the bottom of our hearts, *dankee schön!*