



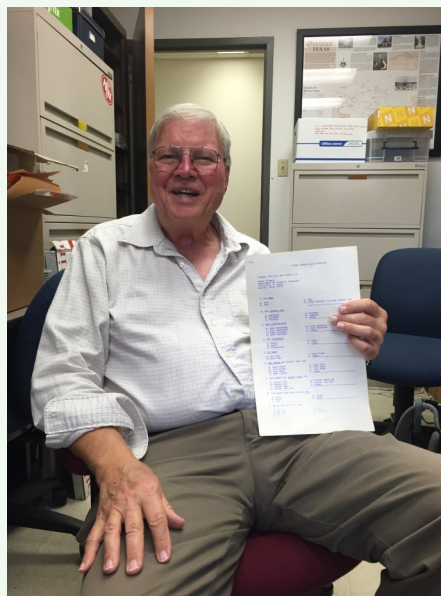
THE TEXAS GERMAN TIMES

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ISSUE 9

Professor Emeritus Glenn Gilbert visits the TGDP

In September 2015, Professor Emeritus Glenn Gilbert visited the TGDP for three days. Prof. Gilbert is famous for his pioneering studies on the Texas German dialect including his 1963 Harvard Ph.D. dissertation on the Texas German dialect spoken in the Hill Country, his outstanding "Linguistic Atlas of Texas German," which was published by the University of Texas Press in 1972, and several other edited volumes and articles on German dialects in America. Prof. Gilbert taught at the University of Texas in the 1960s and early 1970s before moving to the University of Southern Illinois at Carbondale, where he taught until his retirement in 2005. After his retirement he moved with his wife to Florida, where he now lives. This was the first time that Prof. Gilbert has visited the UT Austin campus since the early 1970s and he was surprised to see all the many changes that the 40 acres have undergone since then. During his visit to UT Austin, Prof. Gilbert gave a guest lecture in Prof. Hans Boas' undergraduate German sociolinguistics



Glenn Gilbert in the Texas German Dialect Project office at the University of Texas at Austin

class, lecturing on his early research efforts to explore, document, and analyze Texas German during the 1960s and 1970s. Prof. Gilbert also took time to meet with various grad-

(continued on p. 4)

TGDP MILESTONES 2015-2016

- ◆ TGDP members presented 19 talks at academic conferences in the US and abroad. They also presented 7 community outreach talks.
- ◆ A major donation was made to the Texas German Endowment which will help the TGDP preserve Texas German years into the future. (see p. 2)
- ◆ TGDP members Ryan Dux and David Huenlich graduated with Ph.D.s from the Department of Germanic Studies at UT Austin.
- ◆ The TGDP records its 500th Texas German speaker.

German Abroad 2 Conference Hosted at UT Austin

The German Abroad 2 conference took place at the University of Texas at Austin on 2-3 November, 2016. The conference was a follow-up to the German Abroad conference held in Vienna, Austria in July 2014. The conference focused on structural and sociolinguistic issues of German-speaking minority groups from the perspectives of variationist sociolinguistics, lan-



guage contact, and multilingualism. The conference included over 20 presentations by 28 speakers from Germany, Sweden, Luxembourg, Aus-

tria, Switzerland, the Netherlands, South Africa, and the United States. Topics included: 'Language change and language shift in German speaking communities in Russia and Brazil,' 'Syntactic change in midwestern Pennsylvania Dutch,' 'Exploring German in Namibia,' 'The political factor of language maintenance: German in the Alsace and South' *(continued on p. 4)*

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All Güt Things: Documentary movie on Texas German language, culture, and history

In 2014, Chase Honaker of Hack Studios in Austin contacted Hans Boas and Jim Kearney about interviewing them about Texas German language, culture, and history. Together with some of his colleagues, Mr. Honaker participated in the “Fusion Five Day Doc Challenge”, a limited five day period during which film teams could concept, film, edit, and produce short documentaries in order to submit their work to a film competition.

The short documentary *All Güt Things* was a big hit and Mr. Honaker and his team are now in the process of producing a full length feature film on Texas German. The *All Güt Things* film documents the story of German (and other central European) immigrants, who came to Texas in the 1800s. It provides insights into the motivations, fears, and dreams of

German settlers in Texas and covers issues such as immigration, education, religious freedom, and patriotism, which continue to be relevant in today’s society.

The crew behind *All Güt*

Things has been busy over the past year and a half filming across central Texas, and are now in the final stretch. They have started an online fundraising effort to raise \$20,000 to finish the docu-

mentary movie.

Please visit this web site to learn more about the fundraising campaign under way: germantexas.com.



Jim Kearney in *All Güt Things*. To watch the short documentary, visit <https://vimeo.com/116386588>

Texas German Endowment at UT Austin receives major donation

We are thrilled to report that in December 2015, a very generous anonymous donor contributed one million dollars to the Texas German Endowment to support the mission of the TGDP in years to come. The Texas German Endowment was put in place in 2007 after funding for the TGDP from the University of Texas at Austin and state and federal organizations dried up. The funds in the Texas German

Endowment at the University of Texas are not touched: instead, they generate a specific sum of interest every year, which helps to support the various activities of the TGDP including travelling to conduct interviews with the remaining Texas German speakers across the Lone Star State, purchasing equipment and supplies to conduct the interviews, hiring students to edit, transcribe, translate, and upload the

interviews to the freely available online Texas German Dialect Archive, programming to support the maintenance of the digital archive, producing our annual newsletter, and travelling to present the results of our research at academic conferences and at outreach events organized by historical societies and various Texas-German organizations. In 20-30 years, there will be no more fluent speakers of Tex-

as German left and the funds generated by the endowment will be used to maintain the archive and to support student and faculty research on Texas German language, culture, and history. We are so very much grateful to the anonymous donor for his generous donation and we are excited that the TGDP now has a secure income to support its activities in the future.

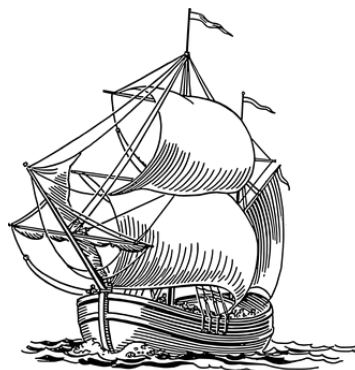


Texas Migration and Refugees in Germany

Events in Germany in 2015 showed everyone once again that migration has deep and lasting political effects. The British decision to leave the European Union this year, for instance, is directly related to the arrival of over 500,000 long-term refugees in Germany. The events sparked intensive debates about the side effects of immigration across the old continent and also in America. In times of heated political debates, however, it is worth to step back and reflect.

It is a curious fact that the same regions in Germany integrating many a migrant today were the home to many a Texas German ancestor of old: we know that between 1850 and 1890 Texas received hundreds of thousands of German immigrants from central and

Northern parts of Germany. Many had left Germany after a failed anti-aristocratic revolution and others came because they sought economic opportunity. Arguing that the large numbers of Germans influenced the Lone Star State in long-lasting negative ways would be absurd: On the contrary, German immigrants founded flourishing Texan companies from Blue Bell to Schlitterbahn to Shiner. They established insurance companies like the Hermann Sons and Germania. And they created communities that are tight-knit, well-working and safe places to live until this day. Many Texas Germans are rightly proud of their heritage. After interviewing over 200 Syrian refugees in Germany who arrived in 2015, we can say that there are similar



trends among the Syrians. Over 70% of them have work experience, many bring with them an entrepreneurial spirit and would like to work immediately. The majority are tired of politics and want to focus on a brighter future for their families. At the same time, frustrations are building because the aspect of language acquisition is holding many back, and Germans are increasingly worried about the social situation of refugees. The German government

therefore made it incumbent on everyone new to the country to learn German. Compare this to the situation in Texas where many Germans simply continued speaking their language until well into the 20th century.

It is far from certain that the situation in Germany will ultimately result in a benefit for everyone. There are many factors to be considered, including cultural and religious differences. However, it is also far too early to pass judgement over Germany's future and the deliberate decision the country's leadership took to accommodate these refugees. In fact, if differences can be overcome, migration may work to the benefit of the country in very similar ways as migration inspired and helped build the Lone Star State.

Comparative Speech Island Archive

The current computational infrastructure of the freely available online Texas German Dialect Archive has been in place for 14 years. Originally developed by two gifted undergraduate students in computer science at UT Austin, the TGDP staff have used the database and web pages to process, transcribe, translate, manage, and archive the recordings of Texas German speakers. However, many technical changes and advances have driven the TGDP to consid-

er overhauling its computational infrastructure in order to adapt to modern technology standards and to allow a more efficient interaction with the data stored in the Texas German Dialect Archive.

For the past two years, programmers of the Liberal Arts Instructional Technology Services at the University of Texas at Austin have been busy with renovating the outdated computational infrastructure. What looks like a simple task from the

perspective of the users is in fact a complicated set of different projects that revamp the database, the internal web pages, and the public facing pages of the TGDP. We are happy to report that the first major testing of the new interface is complete and that by early 2017 we will switch over to the new infrastructure. Regular visitors to our website will not notice any significant differences. However, the new infrastructure now allows us to work more effi-

ciently with our recordings, transcriptions, and translations. Another important new feature of the novel infrastructure is that it is flexible enough to allow us to expand our online archiving possibilities.

For example, for the past five months we have started exploring different ways of hosting recordings from other German speech islands in our archive. Ryan Dux, a long-time TGDP member who graduated

(continued on p. 6)



Glenn Gilbert —cont'd from p. 1

uate students and faculty across the UT campus, and he was so kind as to donate some of his historic research materials to the TGDP: Old Texas German questionnaires, images of places in the Hill Country, and some of his field notes from his pioneering research in the 1960s. These materials supplement our copies of his original field recordings of Texas German that formed the basis for his Harvard dissertation and subsequent

1972 Linguistic Atlas of Texas German. These materials also help the TGDP team to better understand more details about the sociolinguistic situation of the Texas German speech community during the 1960s, when there were still tens of thousands of speakers of Texas German alive. We are thrilled that Prof. Gilbert visited the TGDP and look forward to staying in contact with him for the further exchange of ideas.

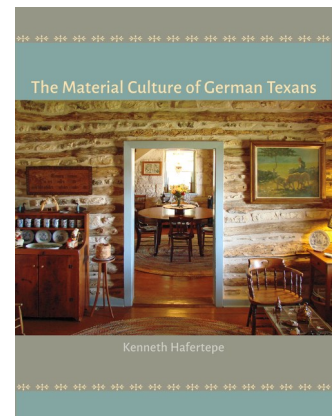
German Abroad 2 —cont'd from p.1

Tyrol,' and 'German-American and African-American contact in Texas'. The conference was capped by a performance of the *Texanische Liebeslieder*, modeled after Johann Brahms' 19th century *Liebeslieder*, and which had its world premier

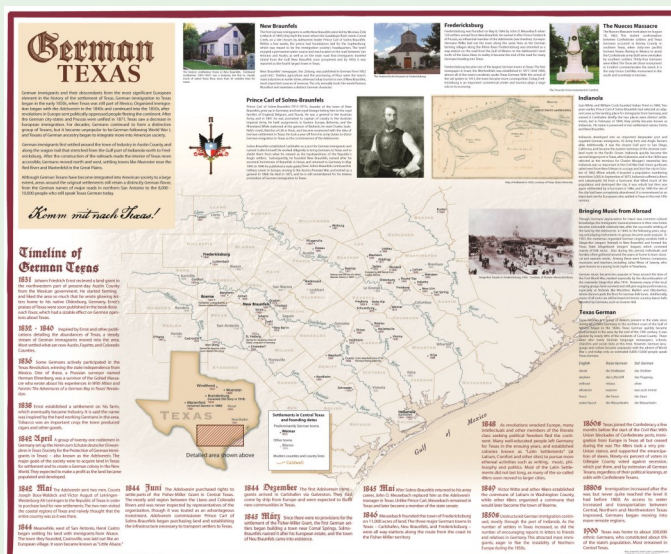
in Austin last year. Due to the great success of the German Abroad 2 conference at UT Austin, another follow-up conference, German Abroad 3, will take place at the University of Erfurt in Germany in March 2018.

The Material Culture of German Texans

Dr. Kenneth Hafertepe, professor of museum studies at Baylor University, has published *The Material Culture of German Texans*. In this first comprehensive survey of the art and artifacts of German Texans, Hafertepe explores how their material culture was influenced by their European roots, how it was adapted to everyday life in Texas, and how it changed over time – at different rates in different communities. The book covers German settlements such as New Braunfels and Fredericksburg but also Germans living in Texas cities such as San Antonio, Houston, and Galveston. *The Material Culture of German Texans* is about the struggle to become American while maintaining a distinctive cultural identity drawn from German herit-



age. The book has already been given an award of excellence from the Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians. Hafertepe is the author of six books, including *Abner Cook: Master Builder on the Texas Frontier* and *A Guide to the Historic Buildings of Fredericksburg and Gillespie County*. *The Material Culture of German Texans* can be ordered online at tamupress.com.



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

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!**



Featured TGDP alum: Ryan Dux, now working at Bucknell University

Ryan Dux completed his Ph.D. at the University of Texas at Austin in 2016. During his time in Austin, Ryan worked closely with the Texas German Dialect Project, first as a volunteer on various fieldwork trips and later officially working as a graduate research assistant from 2013 to 2015.

As a descendent of German immigrants to Wisconsin, Ryan's interest in German-American culture and lan-

guage was sparked during his undergraduate work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he had the opportunity to work with other German-American scholars such as Mark Louden and Joseph Salmons. The interesting courses and hands-on experience at UW-Madison led Ryan to pursue a doctoral degree at UT-Austin, where he could get more extensive experience working with Texas Ger-

mans.

Ryan has since brought these experiences back to Wisconsin, where he has been conducting fieldwork and research on the Pomeranian Low German community near his hometown in Central Wisconsin since 2013. This community differs from Texas German in that it is much smaller and was isolated from English influence slightly longer than Texas German. The unique Low German dialect also differs significantly from Standard (High) German and is no longer spoken in Europe.

Since August 2016, Ryan has been working as a Visiting Assistant Professor of German and Linguistics at Buck-



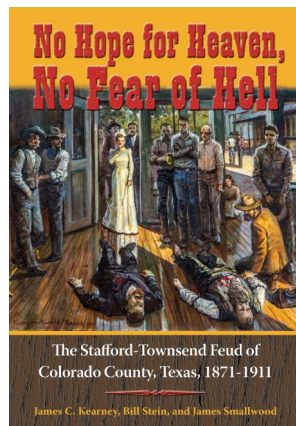
Ryan Dux

nell University in Central Pennsylvania. Given the close proximity to the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch country, he plans to learn more about the Germans in Pennsylvania by working with other scholars in the area and conducting interviews with local PA German speakers.

No Hope For Heaven, No Fear Of Hell: The Stafford-Townsend Feud

Dr. Jim Kearney, a lecturer at the University of Texas at Austin, recently published *No Hope For Heaven, No Fear Of Hell: The Stafford-Townsend Feud of Colorado County*.

The end of the Civil War ushered in a period of painful transition for the defeated Southern States. Nearly all of the ten or so fabled Texas feuds have their roots in this time period. *No Hope for Heaven; No Fear of Hell* recounts the story behind the last of these feuds to receive book length treatment. It documents the clash between the two most prominent families of Colorado County as they competed for status and wealth. The political dimension to the feud — control of the Sheriff's office — involved accommodation to the black and German voters in Colorado County; both sizeable populations. This embroiled



at least one large, extended German family, the Burttschells, in the feud in a big way.

Although the book departs from Kearney's previous work on Texas German history, it is a story of reconstruction politics, which involved the German community in a very meaningful way.

No Hope For Heaven, No Fear Of Hell can be ordered online at untpress.unt.edu.

New TGDP Member 2016: Margo Blevins

Margo Blevins is a PhD student at the University of Texas at Austin who is studying language contact and perceptual dialectology.

Margo's grandmother immigrated to the United States from Bavaria. Growing up, Margo's family celebrated St. Nikolaus Tag and her father passed on German children's rhymes.

Since high school, Margo has lived for three years in Germany — one year in Potsdam, one year in Tübingen, and one year in Berlin. During these stays, she has taken the time to visit her relatives in Bavaria. When Margo moved to Texas in 2012 and heard that



Margo Blevins

there was a German community in Texas and a project at the University of Texas that was working on preserving and documenting the Texas German dialect, Margo was eager to get involved. After volunteering for several years, she has joined the TGDP staff this fall. Welcome to the TGDP, Margo!

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 2017

- Continue interviewing Texas German speakers.
- Continue fundraising for the TGDP endowment.
- Test and implement a new “Speech Islands” website, providing information about other German dialects around the world.
- Plan and implement an educational program for K-12 students in Texas, informing them about the role of German culture, history, and language in Texas.
- Offer a class on German dialects (including Texas German) at UT Austin.

Comparative Speech Island Archive —cont'd from p.3

from UT Austin in May 2016, recorded around thirty speakers of Wisconsin Low German. We have tested different ways in which we can archive and use Ryan's recordings from Wisconsin the same way that we have handled recordings of Texas German speakers over the past 14 years. We expect our testing phase to be complete sometime during the spring of 2017. By the summer of 2017, we plan on offering a general website with information about German dialects spoken around the

world, e.g. Kansas, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Alberta, Ontario, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, Romania, Hungary, Siberia, Namibia, South Africa, Australia, and other places. This general purpose website will then serve as the gateway to specific speech island archives containing recordings of German dialects from around the world. We already have recordings from Wisconsin, Texas, Brazil, Siberia, and Australia, and hope to receive recordings of further German dia-

lects from around the world from our colleagues. These parallel speech island archives will then allow users to learn more about the German emigration experience in different parts of the world, including what happens when German settlers come into contact with different languages and cultures. We are very excited about this new development and are looking forward to sharing more interview materials from different German speech islands from around the world with you.

Wisconsin German Dialect Project

Interviews

Show25entries

Showing 1 to 6 of 6 entries

Previous1Next

Interviews

+ Interview

Actions	Interview	Interviewer	Informant	Session	Location	Type	Interview Date
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A screenshot from the Wisconsin German Dialect Project page on our new Speech Islands website