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Texas German Education Outreach Event at the University of Texas



Participants of the TGDP Educational Outreach Event

On January 14, 2017, the TGDP invited twenty four educators and professionals to the Germanic Studies Department at the University of Texas at Austin to discuss ways to promote Texas German Heritage in Texas schools. The TGDP staff invited educators and professionals to this meeting because K-16

students in Texas learn little about German immigration to Texas, the overall Texas German experience and how it relates to other ethnic groups in the Lone Star State, and the contributions of German immigrants to Texas culture, education, architecture, and politics. During the meeting, the participants discussed what types of

educational materials best fit educator's needs, administrative hurdles such as educational requirements, and funding opportunities.

Almost all outreach participants saw a great need to have more primary source materials such as images, maps, audio materials, and texts from newspapers, diaries and letters available to the public. Additionally, many participants recognized the need to organize field trips to museum-type exhibits of such Texas German source materials. Finally, everyone involved in the outreach event saw the need to have instructional materials available to German teachers in Texas. These instructional materials should be designed towards not only

(continued on p. 3)

Namdeutsch and Texas German

Namibia German (Namdeutsch; Namibia Deutsch) is spoken by roughly 30,000 people in Namibia, Southwest Africa. The German dialect is still in active use after being spoken in Namibia since the 1880s, when Germany established "Deutsch Suedwest" (what is now Namibia) as a colony of

the German Empire. After World War I, while the former German colony was administered by South Africa until independence in 1990, the official languages were Afrikaans and German. With the founding of Namibia as an independent country in 1990, English became the official language.

Currently, Namdeutsch is still used by more than 30,000 Namibians (largely of German descent), but its use is slowly declining. There is currently no in-depth documentation of Namdeutsch and linguists are struggling to understand the history, structure, and current status *(continued on p. 5)*

TGDP MILESTONES 2016–2017

- ◆ The TGDP interviewed 48 new speakers since November 2016.
- ◆ The German Abroad 3 Conference took place at UT Austin with more than 30 participants from around the world.
- ◆ The TGDP organized a panel on the History of Texas German at the International Conference on Historical Linguistics 23 in San Antonio (August 2017).
- ◆ Dr. Hans Boas teaches a graduate class at UT Austin on Texas German during the 2017 Fall Semester.
- ◆ TGDP members present their research at universities in Texas, Germany, Ireland, and P.R. China.

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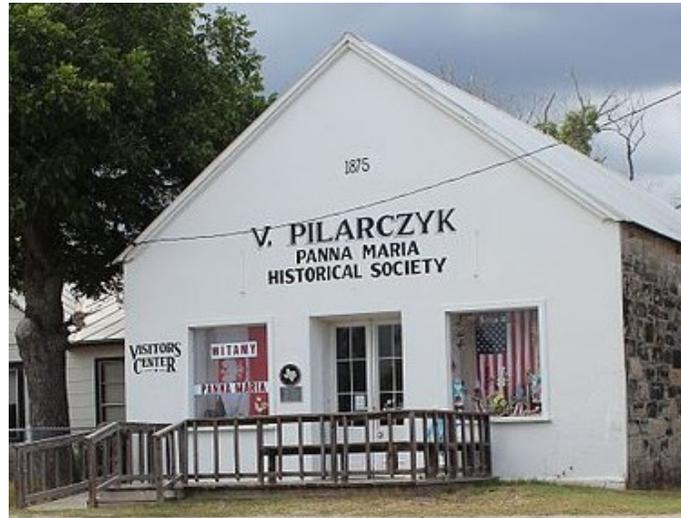
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The Quest for Texas Polish

Texas has offered a new home to many people from central Europe. Beyond the significant populations of Germans and Czechs, many immigrants also came from Poland, specifically from Upper Silesia near Opole. From the 18th century to WWI, Poland was partitioned among its neighbors Russia, Prussia, and Austria. At that time in Prussian Silesia, poverty, high taxes, forced conscription, food shortages as a result of the Crimean War and a great flood in the summer of 1854 led many to seek a better life. Some came all the way to Texas, thereby becoming the first permanent Polish settlers in the United States. They followed Father Leopold Moczygemba, born in 1824 in the Upper Silesian village of Pluźnica. Moczygemba provided missionary service to German settlers in New Braunfels. During his work, Moczygemba conceived a plan to bring other Silesians to Texas for socioeconomic opportunities. He created great interest in moving to the New World in letters he sent back home, which became the catalyst for the first 150 immigrants' departure. These first Silesians set sail from Bremen in October 1854 and reached Galveston Harbor on December 3. Next they headed to San Antonio via Indianola. When they reached their destination on December 21, Moczygemba met them and guided them to their

new land; a small number left to the nearby town of Bandera for better opportunities. Those remaining founded Panna Maria, Texas. It was the first Polish settlement in America.



Panna Maria Visitors Center

Soon, further communities followed including Cestohowa, Kosciusko, Pawelkville, Falls City, and St. Hedwig. These villages later became organized around the Catholic Diocese of San Antonio, founded in 1874. After the first arrivals, immigration from Poland continued in ebbs and flows, and in 1867, the founding of New Waverly in Walker County signaled the beginning of the East Texas Polish communities of the Diocese of Galveston. Initially the new Panna Maria residents were disappointed by what they encountered—nothing but open space with tall grass and scattered oak trees. Having to clear the land, build shelter, and farm in the raw

wilderness of an unknown climate was an extreme challenge. Nonetheless, they began to farm early on, providing themselves both sustenance and income, and some found work as labor-

With the advent of WWI, social discrimination toward the immigrants and their use of the language from nativist groups increased. The Great Depression led many to disperse around the country seeking other opportunities. The language was also taught less in schools. Whatever the reasons, the rapid process of Americanization intensified after World War II and continues to this day. Yet many of these communities still exist. Each year all over Texas, descendants of these immigrants meet to celebrate their heritage, especially during the holidays. Given this enduring spirit, now is the time to discover and learn about this fascinating part of Texas cultural and linguistic history. To these ends, Agnieszka Makles and John Benjamin recently founded the Texas Polish Dialect Project (TPDP). Agnieszka is originally from Silesia near Częstochowa and feels strongly tied to Texas Silesians as they share a common homeland. John Benjamin is a PhD candidate in Germanic Studies at UT Austin. For the TPDP, they plan to interview as many speakers of Texas Polish as they can as soon as possible. They encourage anyone interested in the project, especially those who speak or know anyone who speaks Polish in Texas, to contact them at texaspolishdialectproject@gmail.com.

ers with Americans. Even after they established themselves in Texas, life was not easy. In their early years, they were plagued by disease, the weather—floods, drought, and hailstorms caused significant and repeated problems for the farming communities—and homesickness. Well into the 20th century, they maintained strongly knit communities. The Polish language, a strong part of their closeness, was used in many churches, schools—the first, St. Joseph School in Panna Maria, was founded in 1866—and a newspaper, *Nowiny Texaskie* (Texas News), published from 1913-1920 in San Antonio. Today, the Polish language in Texas is disappearing.



Texas German Outreach —cont'd from p. 1

high school and college enrolled in German language classes, but also towards students with German heritage backgrounds and highlight the impact of different ethnic groups on everyday life in Texas. The educators participating in

the outreach event stressed the need to conform these lesson plans to the guidelines of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

(CEFR), and the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills guidelines (TEKS). The participants came up with a list of topics to be covered surrounding Texas German Heritage, including immigration to Texas, climate issues for farming, architecture, differences in language and culture including music and literature, health and disease concerns, confrontations with Native Americans, the new political system, etc. The TGDP team is hoping to make these lesson plans accessible online for German teachers in Texas. In addition to lesson plans for German teachers in Texas, the participants of the outreach event discussed new ways of encouraging students to engage with Texas German Heritage. One such route in-

cludes the use of social media -- for example, students could create social media accounts of historical figures and recreate their (hi)stories online. In addition, students could create videos about Texas German topics with English or German subtitles and voice-overs. Such project-based products could then be used during the Texas State German Contest. In an effort to extend the conversation about Texas German Heritage and creating interesting lesson plans about Texas German topics, the TGDP scheduled an additional outreach event in January 2018. We will report on the outcomes of that outreach event in our next newsletter. Stay tuned!



Participants brainstorming teaching ideas

New TGDP Member 2017: Alexander Lorenz

Alexander Lorenz is a Ph.D candidate in the Department of Germanic Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. His research interests include second language acquisition and contact linguistics. Alexander started volunteering for the TGDP in 2012. He was born into a family of Volga-Germans and grew up speaking German in a mostly Russian-speaking country. Many of his family members actively speak the Volga-German dialect.

The Volga Germans are ethnic Germans who colonized and historically lived along the Volga River in the region of southeastern European Russia. Recruited by Catherine the Great as immigrants to Russia in the 18th century, they were allowed to maintain their German culture, language, traditions, and churches. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, many Volga Germans emigrated to Kansas, the Dakotas, California, and other states across the western United States, as well as



Alexander Lorenz with his wife Kaci and daughter Emma Claire

to Canada and South America (mainly Argentina and Brazil). Alexander's family decided to return to their homeland of Germany near Stuttgart after the Fall of the Iron Curtain in the early 1990s. Alexander wants to continue the TGDP's efforts to preserve the Texas German dialect and is reaching out to German teachers in Texas to help create pedagogical materials about the history of German immigration to Texas.



Historical Texas German Recordings Discovered

Earlier this fall, Prof. Lars Hinrichs from the Department of English at UT Austin sent Hans Boas an email, telling him that he had come across of Texas German recordings from the early to mid-1900s. The thirteen recordings, ranging from one to eight minutes long, contain stories from locations such as New Braunfels and Austin. In one recording, Willie Kuehler mentions that his Saengerfest club is preparing for the Saengerfest in Fredericksburg. There had been a disagreement among the clubs about which songs to sing. The people

from Fredericksburg and several other clubs wanted to sing only English songs. The Saengervereine in the country, however, protested against that – they wanted to sing German songs. After an exchange of letters between the clubs, they came to a compromise: all the clubs would sing the American national anthem at the beginning of the Saengerfest, and the rest of the songs would be in German. In another recording, Albert Meyer talks about the founding of Horton Town (now part of New Braunfels), the first peach or-

chard there, and the beginning of the boll weevils infestation. Other recordings include stories from Francis Coreth, Mrs. P. Kuehler, Myrtle Meyer, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Coreth, Fritz Schulze, Karl Schulze, and Walter Schulze. The Texas German Dialect Project team is excited to have these historical recordings. Unfortunately, we do not have much information about the speakers in the recordings, or when they were recorded. If you have any information about these speakers, please let us know!

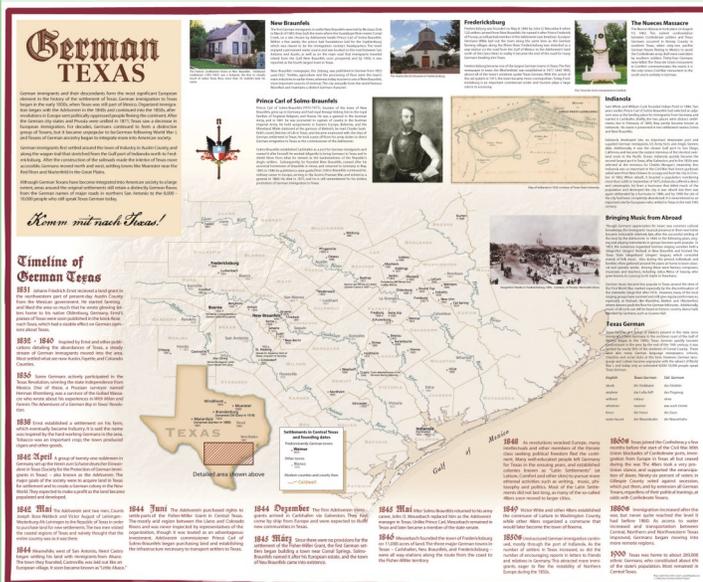
Update: Alum Ryan Dux

Ryan Dux has given several conference presentations and is writing various articles relating to his work on Texas and Wisconsin German (in addition to his more theoretically-oriented dissertation research). The opportunities Dux had working at the TGDP allowed him to gain important skills and experiences necessary for his future career. He recently began a Postdoctoral Fellowship, sponsored by the Volkswagen Foundation, to conduct research at the Institute of German Language in Mannheim, Germany.

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.

*Namdeutsch and Texas German—cont'd from p. 1*

of the dialect. In July 2017, Prof. Hans Boas participated in a planning workshop for documenting Namdeutsch at the Free University of Berlin, Germany. Organized by Prof. Horst Simon (Free University Berlin) and Prof. Heike Wiese (University of Potsdam), who received a three-year long grant from the German Research Foundation for the documentation of Namdeutsch, the workshop set out to discuss methods and goals for documenting Namdeutsch. Because of his 16-year long experience with the Texas German Dialect Project, Hans Boas was invited to review and discuss the research protocols, the ques-

tionnaires to be used, and to give general advice about what to look out for when documenting an endangered dialect of German. The discussions provided valuable feedback to Prof. Simon, Prof. Wiese, and their research team, who integrated the suggestions and ideas by Hans Boas before leaving for their first 3-week long research trip to Namibia in August 2017. In a follow-up meeting in 2018, Hans Boas will meet with the research team to discuss their first set of findings based on the recordings conducted in August 2017. The results of their research trip will add valuable insights to the current research.

Texanische Liebeslieder at Austin Saengerrunde

On April 23rd 2017, the Texanische Liebeslieder (Texan Love Songs) were sung at the Austin Saengerrunde as part of the Beerthoven Concert Series' season finale. The Beerthoven Concert Series was founded in 2014 as an auxiliary of the Austin Saengerrunde and is "a quirky mixture of Bach and Doppelbock in a unique and intimate setting. Beerthoven finds its inspiration from the musical and festive events at the Austin Saengerrunde as well as the private 'salon' concerts of Beethoven's own time" (website). The Texanische Liebeslieder – modelled on the Liebeslied-

er of Johannes Brahms and inspired by stories in the Texas German Dialect Archive – were a perfect addition to the series. At the concert, David Hanlon's Texanische Liebeslieder were performed by vocalists Laura Mercado-Wright, John Proft, Shari Wilson, and Paul D'Arcy, with piano accompaniments by Michael Schneider and Daniel Swayze. Following the world premiere of the music in 2015, the Texanische Liebeslieder have been performed at multiple UT Austin events. This performance, however, is the first performance of the Texanische Liebeslieder by Grammy-award-winning performers.

Texas AATG Conference

Alexander Lorenz, our Graduate Research Assistant, presented on the pedagogical applications of the TGDP and how the Texas German Dialect Archive (TGDA) can be used for teaching in Texas schools at the biennial Texas American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) conference on September 9th at Westwood High School in Round Rock. Lorenz's presentation, entitled "Promoting Texas-German Heritage in Texas Schools," informed the participating teachers from Texas schools and universities about the online archive and the project's

goals to preserve irreplaceable recordings of and materials relating to Texas German heritage. Lorenz also mentioned the TGDP's efforts to share this material with local schools, preservation societies, and museums concerned with preserving cultural heritage. In addition to Lorenz's informative talk about the TGDP and their archive, Christopher Markley, the Director of Operations at the German Texas Heritage Society (GTHS), gave a talk about their efforts to promote awareness and preservation of the German cultural heritage around Texas.



Professors Simon and Wiese with their Namdeutsch research team at the FU Berlin

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Plans for 2018

- Host another outreach workshop event for educators interested in promoting Texas German language, culture, and history in K-16 classes across Texas.
- Record more Texas German speakers, including in areas where the TGDP has not done any recordings yet (north and west Texas).
- Complete work on comparative German speech islands archive and make it available to the public
- Present results of our research at the German Abroad 3 conference in Erfurt, Germany, and at other conferences.

Featured TGDP alum: Matthias Fingerhuth

Matthias Fingerhuth now works at the University of Vienna for a project called Deutsch in Österreich (German in Austria). It is a cooperation of three Austrian Universities – University of Vienna, University of Salzburg, and University of Graz – and the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and it is financed by the Austrian Science Fund. In total, there are nine sub-projects that investigate different aspects of German in Austria. His project investigates what different linguistic repertoires individual speakers of German in rural Austria have, and how they use these repertoires. To find out, his project travels to small towns across Austria and records speakers in different situations. They can find out about language change in those places in what is called apparent time. They record both older and younger speakers and compare their language: what is different, what is the same? By comparing more than only two speakers, including earlier research, and comparing different places, they can get a better idea of what has



Matthias Fingerhuth

happened. The project is still in a fairly early stage, but they may find different things: dialects changing at different rates in different places, older and younger speakers having a different idea of what Standard German is or using colloquial German in different ways. Although his work is in the mountains and lowlands of Austria, there are many things that connects it to the TGDP, most importantly the recording and documenting of the German language in its various shapes and asking about the changes that took place over the course of time. While his new project is keeping him busy, he still wants to con-

tinue working with Texas German. While recording trips to the Hill Country are no longer an option for him, he can nonetheless continue to do research. Currently, one of his biggest concerns is the written German in Texas from the 1850s to the 1950s, in the time when there were German newspapers in Texas. How did handwritten and printed German change? What are the differences between different generations of printers, between those born in Germany before emigration and those born and raised in Texas? And can we see things that we observe in spoken Texas German today in printed Texas German, too? There is also still a lot of things we do not know about who wrote how much in Texas. But, of course, he can also continue to work with the recordings that the TGDP has made so far. Because they are available through the online database, he can even use them in his teaching at the University of Vienna. Thus, even from half a world away, Texas German hasn't let him go.