



# THE TEXAS GERMAN TIMES

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*The TGDP receives Glenn Gilbert's historical Texas German recordings and documents from the 1960s*



**Glenn Gilbert and Hans Boas discussing historical Texas German data in Gilbert's (1972) Atlas of Texas German**

In April 2018, Professor emeritus Glenn Gilbert visited the Texas German Dialect Project at the University of Texas at Austin. He brought with him more of his

original research materials on Texas German that he compiled during the 1960s while conducting fieldwork for his Harvard dissertation on Texas German, its

1972 Linguistic Atlas of Texas German, and several other publications. Professor Gilbert donated these important research materials to the Texas German Dialect Project in order to make them available for research by UT students, faculty, and others who are interested in accessing primary research data from the 1960s. These historical records are important because they help establish a point of comparison against which we can interpret current-day data on Texas German.

*(continued on p. 5)*

## *Pennsylvania Recordings from Marion Lois Huffines*

The TGDP recently received a donation of recordings and interview materials from Marion Lois Huffines, a former professor of German and Linguistics at Bucknell University.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Huffines wrote dozens of articles about Pennsylvania German.

According to her website, Huffines' long-term research interests focus on "the language and culture of the Pennsylvania Germans with special focus on language change and on language death. The

language behavior of multi-generational families of non-plain Pennsylvania Germans, among whom the language is dying, is compared to the language behavior of Amish and Mennonite families, among whom Pennsylvania German continues to be spoken natively." Starting in the late 1970s, Huffines interviewed over 100 Pennsylvania Germans in eastern and southeastern Pennsylvania. The interviews include conversations about growing up and working on the farm, making

sausage, natural remedies, and other childhood memories.

Huffines has donated all of her interview materials — including hundreds of hours of cassette tape recordings and metadata — to the TGDP. The recordings are currently in the process of being digitized, with the goal of making them available for research in the next few years. These data will help illuminate the similarities and differences between Texas German and Pennsylvania German.

### TGDP MILESTONES 2017–2018

- ◆ The TGDP has interviewed 66 new speakers since November 2017.
- ◆ TGDP members presented their research at academic conferences in California, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Texas, France, and Germany.
- ◆ TGDP members published four academic articles on topics such as word order in Texas German, comparative speech island research, progressive constructions in Texas German, the influence of Standard German on Texas German, and the use of the discourse marker "ja" in Texas German.

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## *The German Language in (North) America: Revisited*

On October 18 and 19, 2018, a conference on “The German Language in (North) America: Revisited” was held at the University of Texas at Austin. The conference was organized by Marc Pierce of UT’s Germanic Studies department, and was a follow-up to a conference called “The German Language in America,” which was held at UT in 1968. It both celebrated that earlier conference, held 50 years ago, and presented the newest research on German language islands in North America. Presentations were given by Hans C. Boas and Marc Pierce (UT-Austin),

Roslyn Burns (independent scholar), Jennifer Dailey-O’Cain and Grit Liebscher (University of Alberta/University of Waterloo), Ryan Dux (Sam Houston State University), Glenn Gilbert (Southern Illinois University [emeritus]), William Keel (University of Kansas), Samantha Litty (Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania) and Joseph C. Salmons (University of Wisconsin), Mark Loudon (University of Wisconsin), and Karen Roesch (Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis). Presentations were given on Texas German (Boas and Pierce), Mennon-

ite Low German (Burns), German in Canada (Dailey-O’Cain and Liebscher), Wisconsin Low German (Dux), Kansas German (Keel), Wisconsin German (Litty and Salmons), Pennsylvania German (Louden), and Indiana German (Roesch). In addition, Glenn Gilbert shared his memories and impressions of the original 1968 conference, which he organized, and the conference concluded with a roundtable session discussing the further development of research on German in North Ameri-



ca. The presentations were filmed, and the filmed versions, as well as the slides from the presentation, will soon be made available online. An edited volume based on the conference papers is also in the works.

### *TGDP alumni update: Ryan Dux*

Ryan Dux worked with the TGDP during his graduate studies at UT from 2009-2016 and is currently an External Research Associate of the TGDP. Since 2013, he has employed the skills and methods he developed through his work with the TGDP to conduct fieldwork and research on the Pomeranian Low German community near his hometown in Wisconsin. These experiences aided Ryan in receiving an Assistant Professorship at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, TX, where he coordinates the German Program and teaches all levels of German.

In his new position, Ryan hopes to share his passion for Texas German (and other German-American



**Ryan Dux interviewing a Wisconsin German speaker**

communities) with his students. This spring, he will teach a course about the Texas Germans, in which students use the TGDP interview database to explore the community’s history, culture, and language.

Students will also learn how Texas Germans contributed to modern Texas society, how they compare with other immigrant communities, and how researchers conduct ethnographic and linguistic fieldwork. Ryan

will also encourage students to conduct their own research on Texas German topics and hopes to organize a TGDP fieldwork trip with interested students.

Ryan’s research focuses on how English influences the German spoken in America, specifically investigating why German-Americans use certain English words and structures and how they integrate them into German grammar. His article about English verbs in Texas German appeared in *Journal for Germanic Linguistics* last year, and another article on Texas German word order will appear in the book *Constructions in Contact: Constructional Perspectives on contact phenomena in Germanic languages* in December of 2018.



## TGDP outreach event—Texas German history curriculum development

In January 2017, the TGDP invited two dozen educators and professionals to the University of Texas at Austin to discuss how to promote Texas German history and heritage in Texas schools. During the meeting, the participants discussed what types of educational materials best fit educator's needs, and administrative hurdles such as educational requirements.

In January 2018, the TGDP held a second meeting, with the goal of beginning to develop classroom-ready materials for high school teachers in Texas. The day began with presentations about lesson plan design and Texas education requirements (e.g., TEKS). Then, the workshop participants split into five groups to construct lesson plans. Each group consisted of a mixture of experienced high

school and higher education educators and local historians. The five groups discussed the following topics: the first Texas-German settlers; Civil War and the politics of slavery; German Texans and the rise of public education; War, suspicion, and the German influence in Texas; and Texas German music, literature, and poetry. Within each group, participants chose a particular person, event, or

aspect to focus on and elaborate in a lesson plan. During the workshop, participants constructed outlines of their lesson plans, and presented them to the group to get feedback. The groups have been working over the past year to complete these materials, and in January 2019, we are planning another meeting to further discuss lesson material development. Stay tuned!

## Preserving German Texan Identity: Reminiscences of William A. Trenckmann 1859-1935

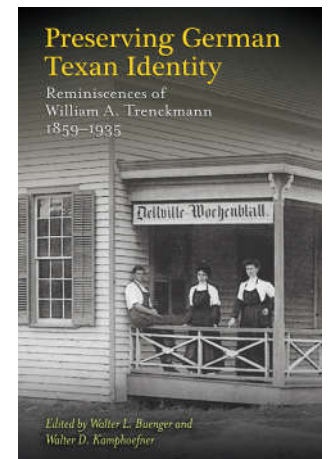
From the editors' introduction:

What could be more mainstream than a Texas-German Aggie? William Andreas Trenckmann, born in 1859 of two immigrant parents on a farm near Cat Spring in Austin County, enrolled in the very first class at Texas A&M in 1876, finishing as valedictorian of its first graduating class in 1879. . . . But valedictorian was only the first of Trenckmann's many achievements. He went back to his home county, and after a few years as a schoolteacher and principal, in 1891 he founded a weekly newspaper that he continued to publish for forty-two years. After the turn of the century he was elected to two terms in the Texas legislature and then contin-

ued his journalism career in Austin. He served his alma mater as a member and later president of the board of directors and was even offered the presidency of A&M. On the side he found time to author several works of literature and history. So at first glance, Trenckmann would seem to present an example of a second-generation German who was totally integrated into the Texas mainstream. Mainstream, that is, until one encounters the name of Trenckmann's newspaper: *Das Bellville Wochenblatt*. Or his historical novel: *Die Lateiner am Possum Creek*. Or his play: *Der Schulmeister von Neu-Rostock*. Or his memoirs: *Erlebtes und Beobachtetes*, which is presented in translation here. There is little doubt that Trenckmann himself was fully at home in

the English-speaking world, but he still chose to do the bulk of his writing and publishing in the German language.

Trenckmann's experiences and observations offer many insights into the lives and language of Texas Germans. He grew up in the Latin Farmer community of Millheim and saw firsthand the trials of the Civil War as a small child. He witnessed the shaky beginnings of Texas A&M and a more mature University of Texas when he lived near campus and socialized with faculty members such as Roy Bedichek and the controversial socialist Lindley M. Keasbey. He relates the ordeal of anti-German hysteria during World War I and the violent anti-foreign crusade of the KKK in its aftermath. Through his



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*Elma Dill Russell Spencer Series  
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Wochenblatt, Trenckmann was perhaps the most important opinion maker among Texas Germans of his era. He was an eyewitness to their history, which he himself helped to make.





### Why Texas German is so unique?

Over the past 17 years, members of the TGDP have interviewed close to 700 speakers of Texas German across the Lone Star State. Quite often, we have met Texas Germans who were reluctant to speak to us because they thought they did not speak “correct” or “good” German. Some people even used the term “Deutschverderber” (literally: a person who corrupts German) to refer to themselves, their family members, or friends. However, from a scientific perspective, the idea that Texas German is not a “proper” dialect of German is unfounded. Languages and dialects change over time,

they are in contact with other languages and dialects, and they evolve in sometimes unique ways. Texas German is no different. The first waves of German-speaking settlers coming from central Europe beginning in the 1840s came from different regions were different dialects were spoken. In Texas, speakers of these different dialects interacted with each other, each speaking the home dialect from the region in Europe were they grew up. At the time, there was no standardized variety of German, often referred to today as “Hochdeutsch”. The children of the first immigrants grew up hearing many different German

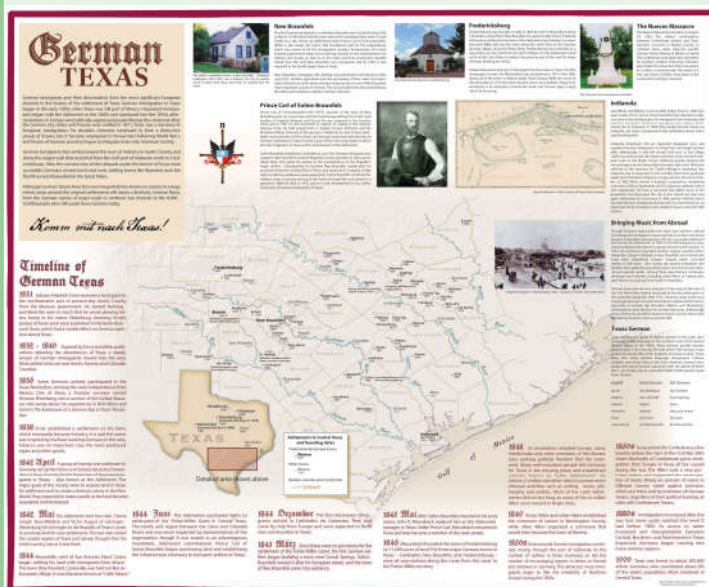
dialects in central Texas. As a result, the German they spoke became a mixed variety consisting of parts of the original dialects brought to Texas from Europe. Their children (the second generation born in Texas), in turn, learned this new mixed variety and spoke it to their children. Texas German is so unique because of the many different donor dialects that formed the base for what is Texas German today. There is no other German dialect in the world that has such a unique characteristic because of its many original German donor dialects. Over the years, Texas German speakers also came into more contact with Tex-

as English speakers, resulting in a great deal of English words being borrowed into Texas German. This, too, is a natural process that happens when people and the languages they speak are in contact with each other. As such, Texas German is no different from English, which, over the centuries, has borrowed words from many different languages around the world, including Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Irish, Italian, Norwegian, Persian, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish, among many others.

### 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: Alexander Lorenz



**Alexander Lorenz, his wife, Kacey, and their daughter, Emma Claire**

Alexander Lorenz was the TGDP's Graduate Research Assistant from 2017-2018. He received his Ph.D. from the Department of Germanic Studies at the University of Texas at Austin in May 2018.

His interdisciplinary dissertation, entitled *Beliefs about grammar instruction among post-secondary second-language learners and teachers*, gives insights

into what language students and their teachers of today think about various aspects of grammar instruction in the world language classroom. In August 2018, Alex accepted a position as Assistant Professor of German at the University of South Carolina Upstate in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

At USC Upstate, Alex teaches a variety of German language classes and in addition, he also teaches a course on International German Migration. His students learn about why Germans decided to move to Texas beginning in 1830s and how the Texas German community developed over the next 150 years. Alex took what he learned during his linguistic fieldwork with Texas Germans to South Carolina and teaches his students about sociolinguistic research methods such as how to successfully conduct interviews and how to analyze linguistic varieties.

## Gilbert's research materials, cont.

(continued from p. 1)

Glenn Gilbert donated a total of ten boxes of research materials, some of which are now housed in the Briscoe Center for American History on the University of Texas campus. Other research materials, such as copies of questionnaires that Gilbert sent to speakers of Texas German in the 1960s,

are housed in the Texas German lab in Burdine Hall on the UT campus. The TGDP team is currently in the process of organizing Gilbert's research materials and is working on a plan to systematically analyze Gilbert's historical materials in the context of newer Texas German data recorded by the TGDP in the past 17 years.

## Comparative speech island archive — An update

In our 2016 newsletter, the TGDP announced the overhaul of our computational infrastructure behind the Texas German archive available online at the [tgdp.org](http://tgdp.org). While the archive on the [tgdp.org](http://tgdp.org) website largely looks unchanged, the infrastructure behind uploading new audio and transcriptions, and creating new locations on our map, have all been updated.

The introduction of this new infrastructure acts as a foundation for the future construction of a comparative

speech island archive in which users can listen to German dialects from around the world, e.g., Wisconsin, Brazil, Siberia, and Australia. During our initial tests of this comparative aspect of our new system, we encountered several technological challenges that have prevented us from rolling out the comparative speech island website in 2017, as we intended. We are still working towards this goal, however, and hope to unveil it within the next two years.

## Texas German Recipes

*Kochkäse, Panbas, Wurst, Musbrot, süßer Reis* — long-standing connections between Texas Germans and their ancestors can still be found in the kitchen. For example, *Kochkäse* is a regional specialty from northern Hessen, *Panbas* (similar to American scrapple) is well-known in northwestern Germany (particularly Westphalia), and the term *Musbrot* (bread with jam) is often used in the Palatinate region of Germany.

As part of our efforts to preserve and share Texas German culture, the Texas German Dialect Project would like to compile a collection of Texas German recipes and the stories behind them. In addition to this, we would also like to include guides to other everyday activities such as doing laundry, making soap, sewing, slaughtering, and baling hay.

If you have a recipe or knowledge about another everyday activity, please send us an email at [texasgermandialect@gmail.com](mailto:texasgermandialect@gmail.com) or leave us a message at (512) 910-5047.

Thank you!

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### Plans for 2019

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Continue work on comparative German speech islands archive and make it available to the public.
- ◆ Develop a concept for producing a museum exhibition on Texas German language, culture, and history.



## **We are still looking for Texas German speakers!**

Do you or does someone you know speak Texas German? We're always looking for more speakers to talk to, and we need your help!

Don't worry if you haven't spoken German in a while and feel a little rusty — we're just trying to preserve as much as we can while we can, and we're happy to come to you. You are also welcome to visit us on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin.

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Thank you for your help and support! We couldn't do it without you.

