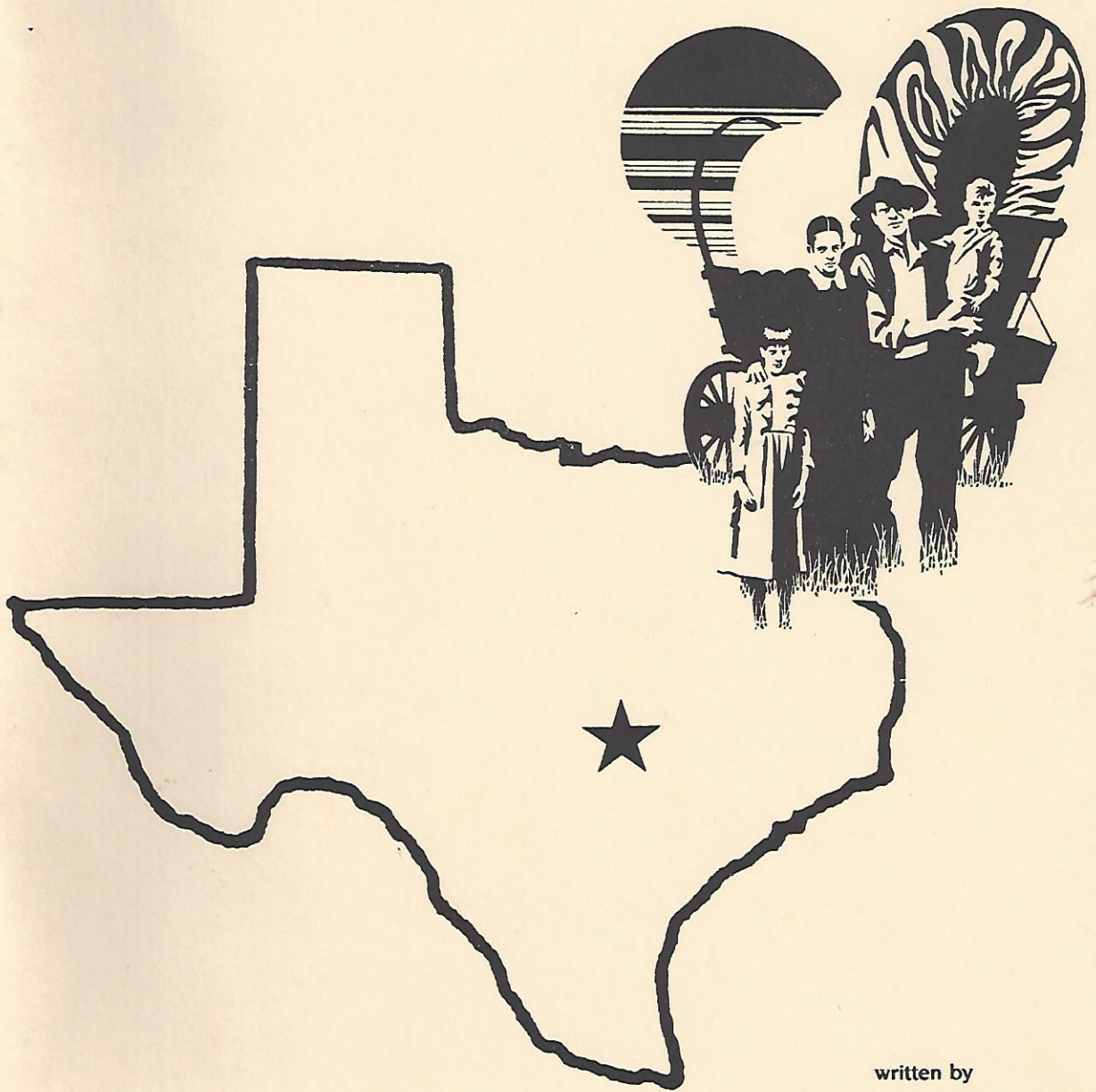


The History of
Early Pioneer Families of Winedale



written by

Henry C. Jaeger

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FOREWORD

In research I have placed emphasis on the first Winedale immigrants who settled, toiled and struggled to make a living in raw land with almost nothing for help or protection and because those of us living today know almost nothing about them. It is impossible to include a synopsis of everyone up to this present time because of the size of each family and the difficulty in getting information. I hope that someone in the future will accept the challenge to write in detail an account of each family from my stopping point up through their present day. Remember, that if we don't renew the history of our past ancestors who worked so hard for us to live in peace and freedom, their memory will in the future slowly fade away. In the printing of information about the families herein, there is no favoritism shown toward any of the families. This history has been written in honor of the first of each family ancestors who came to Texas and settled in the Winedale community. Most of the detailed information in this book is written about them because if it had not been for the adventuresome spirit of their ancestors, their descendants as listed in this book may not have been in this country today. So today, we have only thanks and praise to our forefathers and mothers who fought hard to give us freedom and peace which we have today.

We honor them with all our heart. Therefore in my research, I tried to place all emphasis on the passed families of the Winedale Community who have worked so hard to make this a wholesome community who were striving with intentions of leaving their children to greater prosperity, leaving their children greater prosperity, and leaving their memories behind to all survivors with two very deep thoughts in mind. They are "facts" and "mysteries". Fact - a thing or event that actually happened. Mystery - is anything that remains unexplained or unknown.

The Fact is: Some families with their small children "some had six and more" sailed out into the Atlantic Ocean, a tedious, wearisome voyage in a sailboat powered only by wind only hoping to get to America. The Mystery is: The long voyage in the open ocean. Sometimes the swelling, heaving, ocean waves were higher than the sailboat causing seasickness which could cause death. Most of them survived.

The Fact is: that they entered into a strange bewildering new world where their life was in constant danger from wild life, animals, and Indians. The Mystery is the long time it took to build a shelter for protection not only from snakes, wildlife, and Indians but also from the weather.

The Fact is: They must have food, clothing and shelter. They were in a constant strain to protect, provide for their family. America was a wild new land with all horses and cattle wild that had to be caught, tamed and "broken" to pull plows to till the soil for crops. The Mystery is: What kind of food could they provide for themselves and their children? If they got sick, without medicine and only a limited amount of clothing for warmth, how did they survive?

The Fact: Many husbands died leaving his wife with a family of small children. Or the wife died in childbirth or sickness leaving the husband with the small children. Both situations very difficult and heartrending. The Mystery: How could they overcome their grief - the emotional suffering caused by loss of a loved mate? How could they survive without anybody taking their spouse's place in helping with the children or tending to the crops which was needed for food?

We must remember that the Winedale Community is greatly settled by German immigrants who are friendly and neighborly - helping each other in time of need. Most are reared with a Christian origin, using the Christian education as their guide.

In the printing of this information about the Winedale Families, there was no favoritism shown towards any of the families, I asked for information and pictures of their ancestors. Therefore, we could print only the material that was submitted to me plus what I could find in the records.

As I have mentioned before, I sincerely hope that someone in the future will accept the challenge to write a detailed account of all the families from my stopping point up through their present day. Let us not forget what our wonderful forefathers with their families have done for us.

— Henry C. Jaeger

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*The History
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Heinrich and Martin Mayer

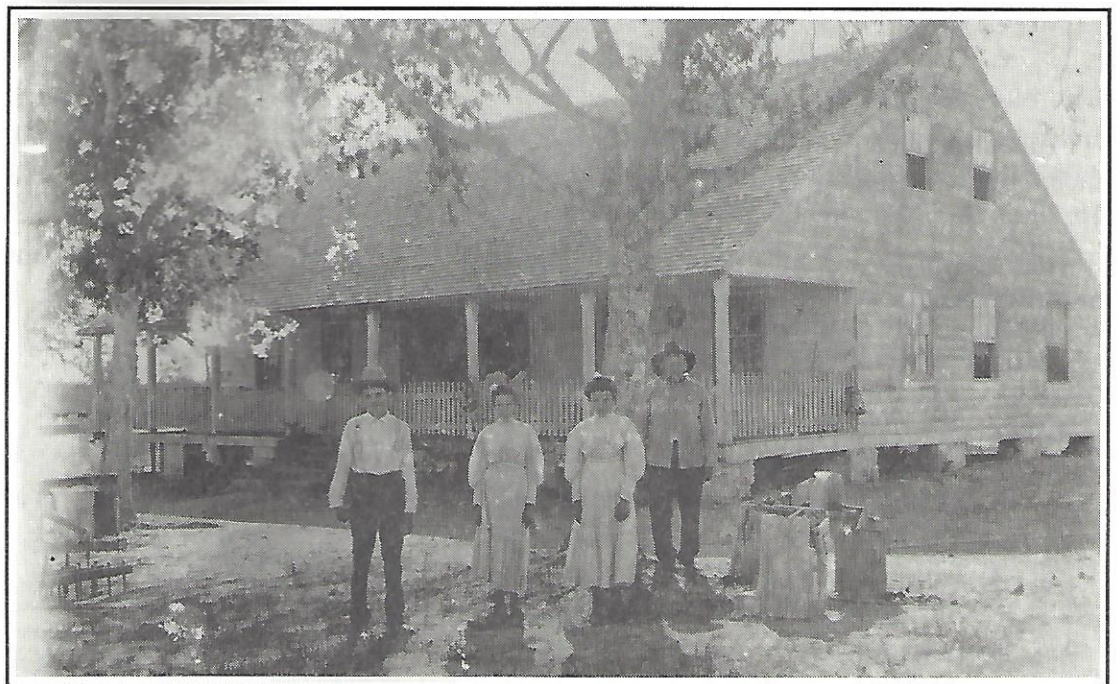
Hearing all the glowing reports from earlier immigrants who had settled in Texas and sent reports back to Germany, must have made many German people anxious to join in the great immigration movement and make a new home for themselves in Texas.

So the two Mayer brothers, Heinrich and Martin, decided to join in for their new discovery. Heinrich Mayer was born December 14, 1819 and Martin Mayer was born September 23, 1823 in Berwangen, Baden, Germany. They packed their belongings in the Fall of 1846 and went to Bremen Harbour, Germany. There they boarded a sailboat and headed across the rough Atlantic Ocean to America.

They sailed for eight weeks and five days and landed in Galveston, Texas. After a few days of rest and having cleared their immigration papers, the brothers left Galveston on a raft for Houston.

In Houston, for a minimal amount of money, each family was granted a league of land farther into the interior of Texas than they had planned to settle. The Mayer brothers' league of 640 acres of land was located in the San Saba County area. This area was still occupied by Indians. They took the oxcart route to Brenham. They talked to other settlers and decided to cancel their desire to locate and live in the New Braunfels area. The brothers sold their league of land for \$17.00. They continued their journey to the Winedale area where they met friends, the Peter Stork and Burkhardt families.

According to Deed records in the Fayette County Courthouse, LaGrange, Texas, the three families jointly bought a 198 acre tract of land on December 28, 1846 from John Townsend. Later, they divided the land in three parts between Peter Stork, John Burkhardt and the Mayer brothers - each receiving $66\frac{4}{10}$ acres. As soon as the land deal was settled, work began immediately cutting available trees on their land to build their homes.



The George Mayer Home, left to right: Alvin Mayer, Laura Mayer, Hilda Mayer, George Mayer



Eva Katherina Burkhardt Mayer

The Mayer brothers married the two Burkhardt sisters. Heinrich Mayer married Eva Burkhardt and Martin Mayer married Julian Burkhardt. These couples lived in the same house for several years.

In addition to splitting logs for rails which they used to build their fences and corrals, they also charred land for crops. On the original tract of land (198 acres) the Mayer brothers built the first cotton gin in Washington County. It was powered by eight mules or horses. The gin was also designed to operate as a grain mill so that corn and rye could be ground into meal to bake their bread. The gin was built in 1865.

All of their children were born in the vicinity. They attended the Burkhardt School which later became the Mayer School.

Heinrich Mayer and Eva Katherine Burkhardt Mayer were blessed with six children.

1. Fritz Mayer
m. ? Kraus
2. Adam Mayer b. December 13, 1849 - d. April 3, 1920
m. Louise Menn b. May 22, 1850 - d. June 1, 1910
3. George Mayer b. July 24, 1853 - d. August 12, 1936
m. (1st) Lena Melchior b. June 9, 1863 - d. September 27, 1889
m. (2nd) Lena Menn b. October 28, 1872 - d. February 23, 1899
4. John Mayer
m. Johanna Melchior b. October 28, 1872 - d. February 23, 1899
5. Jacob Mayer b. June 21, 1860 - d. December 1, 1883
6. Lisette Mayer b. July 7, 1851 - d. March 3, 1896
m. ? Stark

All of the Mayer children that died were buried in the Mayer Cemetery along with their father and mother. Heinrich Mayer was born December 14, 1819 and died October 16, 1903. Eva Katherina Burkhardt Mayer was born April 8, 1821 and died June 5, 1886.

Martin Mayer and Julian Burkhardt were blessed with seven children - two sons and five daughters.

1. Sophia Mayer b. July 18, 1847 - d. July 18, 1927
m. George Knebel b. August 31, 1845 - d. February 11, 1908
2. Rosa Mayer
m. Fritz Lehmann
3. Bertha Mayer b. December 12, 1857 - d. December 31, 1937
m. Emil Pietz b. August 11, 1857 - d. December 19, 1931
4. Julia Mayer b. August 10, 1863 - d. April 30, 1949
m. Louis Stoerner b. July 23, 1861 - d. October 11, 1943
5. Lena Mayer b. August 23, 1859 - d. March 27, 1892
m. Emil Naegeli b. August 18, 1851 - d. November 12, 1924
6. John G. Mayer
m. Louise Thiele

7. Henry Mayer

m. (1st) Anna Knebel

m. (2nd) Martha Dippel

The Mayer brothers grew up in united brotherly love and agreements. Their motto was very much like, "Together we stand, divided we fall." They stayed together their entire lifetimes.

Of all the Mayer brothers' children, only a few remained in the Winedale area. One who stayed close to Winedale was George Mayer. He married Lena Melchior. They were blessed with four children: Rudolph, Richard, Curt and Willie. Curt and Willie died in infancy. Lena Melchior Mayer died shortly after the birth of her last child, Willie, on September 27, 1889. George Mayer married Lena Menn. This union was blessed with four children: Alvin, Laura, Hilda and Jacob. Jacob died at a very early age. Lena Menn Mayer died February 23, 1899.

After the death of both of his wives, George was left with five small children and his father, Heinrich, who was getting physically weak from age. George was in desperate need of help. After a search for a servant girl, he was fortunate to find Selma Seibert, the daughter of Kasper and Amelia Seibert. She helped with housekeeping and nursed the infirmed. Heinrich's health was weak and failing. He died October 16, 1903. After his death, Selma continued to care for the smaller children.



George and Lena Melchior Mayer



Juliana Burkhardt Mayer

Rudolph, the oldest child, was twenty-two years old. He and Selma became engaged and were married on November 8, 1906.

Heinrich and Katherina Burkhardt Mayer were buried side by side in the Mayer Cemetery. Martin Mayer (b. September 23, 1823 - d. January 24, 1903) and his wife Juliana Burkhardt Mayer (b. June 12, 1828 - d. April 30, 1908) are also buried there.

The Daniel Wickel Family

Daniel Wickel was born in Westphalia Prussia, Germany where he grew up. As a young man he married Marie Schneider. They sailed to America in the later part of 1851 and landed at Galveston, Texas. After landing, they had to clear immigration regulations at the immigration office. As customary, they probably left for Houston by raft up Buffalo Bayou where they most likely were assisted by the "German Union". The "German Union" had been incorporated by the Texas Congress in 1840 to receive and care for needy immigrants and to assist them in reaching the destination they desired and locations in the interior. Also in Houston, arrangements were made for oxcart transportation inland.

After loading their belongings, they set as their destination the Round Top-Winedale area. When they finally reached the Winedale area, they must have been very grateful and thankful, for traveling in those days was a very frightful and grueling experience. They lived in a log house that was on the North side of a hand-dug water well that was cased out with flat sandstone.

As the years passed and their family grew, Daniel and his wife built a three-room house on the west side of the well they dug. This house was built on rock piers for a foundation. It had a large family room on the right side with a hallway between the other two bedrooms on the left with a stairway upstairs to the children's bedrooms. Later, as the children grew older and needed more room, they added a kitchen, a dining room and a large porch.

In addition to farming, Daniel Wickel also worked with Peter Jaeger on the ox wagon freight line to Houston.

According to monuments in the Burkhardt's Cemetery, Daniel Wickel was born January 25, 1812 and died November 29, 1885. His wife, Marie Schneider Wickel was born June 24, 1826 and died May 16, 1864. They were blessed with six children.

1. Henry Wickel b. February 17, 1852 - d. April 4, 1938
m. (1st) Louise Hastedt b. February 21, 1855 - d. April 14, 1903
m. (2nd) Amelia (Grams) Muske
b. January 3, 1868 - d. November 9, 1955
2. Louise Wickel b. July 25, 1854 - d. March 17, 1933
m. Heinrich Steffen b. September 30, 1856 - d. September 30, 1913
3. William Wickel b. July 24, 1857 - d. July 12, 1929
m. Wilhelmine Marburger b. February 8, 1856 - d. December 30, 1931
4. Gustav Wickel b. May 24, 1859 - d. January 25, 1913
m. Emilie Mueller b. November 29, 1863 - d. April 11, 1934
5. Edward Wickel b. March 29, 1861 - d. November 17, 1931
m. Friederike Ratzeburg b. August 20, 1862 - d. December 6, 1934
6. Hedwig Wickel b. March 21, 1864 - d. February 24, 1943
m. (1st) Emil Ratke (birth and death unknown)
m. (2nd) Henry Kleine b. February 12, 1859 - d. July 7, 1937

Each child of the Daniel Wickel family have their own family not mentioned in this family tree, but are a family of importance in both the Winedale and Greenvine community.

The ones living the closest to the Winedale area through their life times were Henry Wickel and his sister Louise Wickel Steffen. They never left the Winedale community their entire life. Both of these, brother and sister, reared their families to maturity and die on the land they loved and cherished.

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Hans Heinrich Naegeli and His Descendants

Hans Heinrich Naegeli was born in Kilchberg, Canton, Zurich, Switzerland on March 2, 1817. He married Anna Maria Vogler. She was born in Tuttingen (Wuttemberg, Germany) on December 31, 1817. While living in Kilckberg, they were blessed with four children.

1. Johann Heinrich Naegeli b. 1850 - d. 1856
2. Emil Naegeli b. August 18, 1851
3. Mina Naegeli b. April 26, 1853
4. Johann Albert Naegeli April 24, 1854

The family emigrated to Texas in 1857 and settled in the Winedale area. Besides farming, Heinrich was a skilled craftsman in woodwork. Together with his son, Emil, Heinrich made many large or small cisterns, wooden tubs, bath tubs, buckets and other necessities. In addition, they built furniture such as tables, benches, cloth closets, rawhide-skin chairs and rockers. This was a great help for all the settlers who had no furniture whatsoever.

Heinrich Naegeli and his wife lived on their farm until their deaths. Heinrich Naegeli died December 10, 1885. Marie nee Vogler Naegeli died October 9, 1909. Both are buried in the Latium Cemetery.

Emil Naegeli and His Descendants

Emil Naegeli, the second son of Hans Heinrich Naegeli and his wife, Anna Maria Vogler Naegeli, was born in Switzerland on August 8, 1851.

Emil was six years old when he came to America with his parents, sister, Minna and brother, Albert. He probably went to the Burkhardt school.

After a few years and becoming of age, he married Lena Mayer, the daughter of Martin and Julian Burkhardt Mayer.

Emil and Lena lived the typical life of pioneers. They endured the hardships, built a home, cleared the land, and planted crops. The home was probably constructed in the usual German style architecture. The house was a two bedroom structure with sleeping quarters upstairs for the children. The houses in the Winedale area were built of hand-hewn oak and cedar logs with a rock foundation.

Emil and Lena Mayer Naegeli were blessed with a family of four sons and three daughters. One son, Emil, was born February 23, 1897 and died March 16, 1897. The other children were:

1. August Naegeli - never married
2. Minna Naegeli
m. Oscar Heins - son, Emil Heins and daughter, Lena Heins
3. Emilia Naegeli
m. Albert Graeter - three sons, Oliver, Ben, Willie
4. Henry F. Naegeli
m. Annie Bergmann - son, Henry and daughter, Anita
5. Ida Naegeli
m. Willie Bergmann - son, Milton Bergmann
6. Louis Naegeli
m. Frieda Wolf - no children

Lena Mayer Naegeli was stricken by fatal sickness. She died March 27, 1892 leaving the father of six children in despair, sorrow and grief.

Later, Emil Naegeli met Henriette Keller from Hongg, Zurich, Switzerland. She also had emigrated to America. They became engaged and were married. The couple continued to engage in farming. After a few years, Emil built a larger home. He lived in this house until his death. The small house was used for the boys. Emil Naegeli and his second wife, Henriette Keller Naegeli were blessed with four boys and two girls.

1. Fred E. Naegeli
m. Lillie Wunderlich - daughter, Leafie Mae
2. Walter Naegeli
m. Emma Mertz - three sons, Lloyd, Arlin, Claude
3. Erna Naegeli
m. Gussie Noak - no children
4. Max Naegeli
m. Ellen Etzel - son, Boyd and daughter, Henriette

5. Ada Naegeli
m. (1st) W. Pfeiffer
m. (2nd) Alvin Behrens
6. Emil Naegeli
m. Gertrude Schoenemann - two daughters, Virginia and Sharon

In addition to farming, Emil continued to use his woodworking skills that were taught to him by his father. The Naegeli family was a well-known pioneer family who settled the Winedale Community. All of the Naegeli children received their education in the Winedale School and also attended church there.

After the death of Emil Naegeli on November 12, 1924 and his wife, Henrietta Keller Naegeli on February 28, 1941, the farm was sold to Miles and Wilma Kraus Eckermann. They demolished both dwellings and a new brick home was built in its place.

In July, 1986, the Naegeli families in America were informed of their long lost relative, Johannes Naegeli, brother of Hans Heinrich Naegeli, who mysteriously disappeared on the eve of World War I. The following writing was found in an Arab newspaper in July of 1986:

A Swiss glacier has surrendered a secret it has kept for 72 years: The mystery surrounding Johannes Naegeli, an elderly mountain climber who disappeared on the Oberaarhorn Mountain on the eve of World War I. Swiss police said the body was found in a glacier at the foot of the 3,638 meter (10,606 feet) mountain last week was that of Naegeli. He had been staying at the mountain shelter on the Oberaarhorn mountain when his companion left him to join the army on the outbreak of World War I. Naegeli, 66, probably fell trying to get down by his own means. Naegeli was identified through missing person reports. Police said a document on the body confirmed Johannes Naegeli identity. His remains were discovered by two mountain climbers who spotted his studded boot sticking out of the ice. Rescuers also found an ice axe. Parts of the body were decomposed, possibly from being exposed to air where some of the winter snows icings of glacier melted over the years. Other parts were preserved, officials said.

Gottfried Braun and His Descendants

Gottfried Braun was born on December 12, 1812 in Prussia, Germany. He arrived in Texas on April 16, 1846 along with his brother Christian Braun and his family. Christian Braun was born December 3, 1809 in Brandenburg, Germany. They sailed on the English boat, The Hamilton, and docked in Galveston after seventeen weeks on the ocean.

Being on the rough ocean for seventeen weeks caused Christian Braun's wife to become ill. She died in childbirth and had to be buried at sea. The baby survived the ordeal. Two weeks later, the ship docked at Galveston. The baby had to be left with the Immigration officer in Galveston with whom she remained and was reared.

Christian took his older daughter, Amalia age six, and his brother, Gottlieb, and continued their journey to the Winedale area. Later, Christian married Sophia Marburger in 1848. They settled close to the Philip Stork farm.

During these years, great tragedy struck the Peter Stork family. Peter Stork got sick of an contagious disease and died. He left his wife, Caroline, with six small children stranded in a wild, open, unfamiliar, and unknown land. The loss of a husband and father must have been very sad and a great shock to his wife and children. However, Caroline carried on with the guidance of God. She definitely needed a helpmate for her children and the farm.

Gottfried Braun heard of the Stork family tragedy and came to the rescue. After their acquaintance, meeting Caroline and her children, their friendship grew and in 1850 they were married. They continued living on the Peter Stork farm, living the typical life of pioneers. They endured the hardships of their new land but with their prayers and the help of God, they made progress in Texas. Through their efforts, they were able to buy additional land.

Life went on for the Stork-Braun family. Caroline and Gottfried reared the children to maturity. In addition to the Stork children, Caroline and Gottfried had two daughters of their own - Karolina Braun was born February 22, 1851 and Rofina Braun was born February 24, 1853.

Gottfried and Caroline Braun sold all of their land before retiring. Being Christian people, they reserved one acre so that a Lutheran church could be built. At a meeting held at the Burkhardt School, Pastor Graul and the congregation decided to build a Lutheran Church building on the acre of land. The church was built through the year of 1868.

Gottfried and Caroline Braun probably continued to live on the original Stork land until they sold it to their daughter, Karolina and her husband, Henry Bergmann. The Bergmann's probably moved into the house at that time. It is presumed the Gottfried and Caroline moved in with their younger daughter, Rofina and her husband, Henry Fuchs in the LaBahia area. They stayed until their deaths for both are buried, side by side, in the LaBahia Cemetery. Gottfried Braun was born on December 1, 1812 and died January 6, 1888. Caroline Braun was born October 23, 1811 and died February 21, 1896.

They were indeed some of the first pioneer settlers in the Winedale Community.

Had it not been for people like these, who were steadfast, strong, with love and loyalty, this community would not have progressed so rapidly.

Their faith and trust in God remains in the Winedale Lutheran Church building as a monument on the land they donated to have it built.

Peter Jaeger and His Descendants

Peter Jaeger was born in Koenigreich Hannover Freiburch an der Elbe, Deutschland, on the 24th day of August, 1833. Together he with his two older brothers sailed from Bremen, Germany to Galveston, Texas. They were joined by other close friends. The party left Germany because of the lack of opportunity for the working man and his family to make a decent and comfortable living. All the land was owned by princely landlords who took a disproportionate share of the crops that were raised leaving only a small share of the crops for the renters. The system of government forced the working man and his family to eat very little food, while the rich nobility dined on the choicest meats and wine that the land could produce. Many hardworking German people did not have any future to look forward to, if they would continued. Their children were doomed to inherit their fate. Therefore, the fundamental vitality of the German people began to exert itself. They began to look toward America where they would be free and equal and not government controlled.

Upon his arrival in Galveston, Texas, Peter Jaeger, along with other immigrants, received his immigration papers and left Galveston by raft. They made their way up the Buffalo Bayou to Houston, Texas. When they arrived in Houston in 1852, they were most likely to be assisted by the "German Union" which had been incorporated by the Texas Congress in 1840. The Union received and cared for the needy immigrants, and to provid work. It also assisted in locating their land or a settlement of their friends who had earlier come to America. At Houston, arrangements were made for oxcart transportation inland.

Traveling through the rutted pathways of Texas in the 1800's was a slow, grueling process. The pioneers had to travel through dense brush and cross swollen creeks and rivers without the aid of a bridge. The shortage of food, wagon breakdowns, and illness also made travel a hardship. Upon their arrival in the Winedale community, they were met by their good friends, the Graul family. Shortly after their arrival, Peter Jaeger's brothers decided to leave Texas and go North. However, Peter refused to join them and chose to stay in Texas.

Peter Jaeger worked with Dr. John Graul and became acquainted with the people in the neighborhood. He met Regina Ullrich. Regina was born in Obergimpern Umt, Necterbischoffheim Baden, Germany. She immigrated to America, working as a servant girl, the same year. Their friendship continued and later were married on April 8, 1860. Pastor Jacob Graul performed the ceremony.

Enjoying this locality, they bought the farm adjacent to the Graul farm from George Weyand on February 10, 1866. Later, they bought a second tract of land from J. W. Elder on March 26, 1870.

Peter Jaeger was a very energetic, kind, and sympathetic person. He saw that people were not able to prosper and progress because of the lack of tools, food and seed for planting. So in connection with his farming, he started an oxcart freight line. He hauled freight from Houston and was soon joined by many volunteer friends. They used oxen to plow their crops which mainly consisted of cotton, corn and rye.

During the early years, they lived in a log house. As the family grew, they built a larger home. The house was most likely constructed in the German style. The house was built of hand-hewn oak and cedar wood with a rock foundation. It was a two-room structure with the children's sleeping quarters upstairs under the steep roof.

The front porch was the full width of the house with handmade doors opening from each room onto the porch. The other rooms consisted of the kitchen, dining room, the parents' bedroom and a stairway leading to the children's bedrooms.

All of Peter and Regina's children were born in this house. They were blessed with four sons:

1. Henry Jaeger b. March 12, 1864
2. Rudolph b. July 7, 1867
3. Herman b. February 2, 1870 - d. July 31, 1877
4. Gustav b. January 12, 1880

As the years passed, they constructed another house and moved into it in 1890.

Their oldest son, Henry, and Alvine Tonn were married February 21, 1893. They lived in the original house close to Peter and Regina until they bought their own farm in 1899.

Peter and Regina retired from farming in 1902 and moved to Carmine, Texas. They bought a home and lived there the remainder of their lives. Peter Jaeger died August 14, 1918 and Regina Jaeger died February 23, 1920. They are buried in the Carmine Cemetery.

Henry Bergmann and Family

Henry Bergmann was born February 21, 1850 in Germany. He came to Texas when he was twenty-one years of age, landing in Galveston in 1871. His destination was the Winedale community.

After a few years working as a farm laborer, helping families with their farms, he met Karolina Braun, the first child of Caroline (Stork) Braun and Gottfried Braun. They became engaged and was married on February 13, 1874. She was twenty-three years old when she married Henry.

Henry and Karolina bought the original Peter Stork $66\frac{4}{10}$ acres of land from Caroline and Gottfried Braun on September 28, 1880. Later, they purchased adjoining land as the children grew older.

After eleven years of marriage, Karolina died at the early age of thirty-four. Karolina and Henry Bergmann had eight children.

1. Fritz Bergmann
m. (1st) Anna L. Kuehn
m. (2nd) Amelia Dornhoefer
2. Rofina Bergmann b. December, 1872 - d. October, 1967
3. Wilhelmine Bergmann b. January 18, 1876 - d. November 18, 1939
m. Henry C. A. Ullrich b. January 1, 1880 - d. November 2, 1931
4. Paulina Bergmann b. August, 1878 - d. January, 1919
5. Heinrich Bergmann b. August 16, 1880 - d. March 22, 1902
6. Friedrich Jacob Bergmann b. January 25, 1882 - d. April 10, 1953
7. Maria Bergmann b. December 17, 1883 - d. February 1, 1907
8. Emelie Johanne Bergmann b. April 19, 1885 - d. August 1, 1889

After Karolina's death, Henry Bergmann married Blundina Ullich. She came with her older sister, Regiene - Peter Jaeger's wife, and her brother Adam Ullrich from Germany. They continued to live on the homestead and farm. They were blessed with seven children.

1. Willie Bergmann b. April 8, 1889 - d. January 8, 1945
m. Ida Naegeli b. March 5, 1887 - d. February 12, 1914
2. Herbert Bergmann
m. Stella Giese
3. Otto Bergmann
m. Frieda Spies
4. Henriette Bergmann
m. Heinrich Eichler
5. Anna Bergmann
m. Henry Naegeli
6. Louise Bergmann b. October 21, 1902
m. Arthur Quade
7. Bertha Bergmann
m. (1st) Paul Krause b. April 4, 1894 - d. April 22, 1929
m. (2nd) ? Paine

Each of the children have their own families and are living throughout Texas.

Henry Bergmann died February 5, 1930 and was buried in the Burkhardt Cemetery. After a short time, Blundina sold the historic 66⁴/₁₀ acre tract that was first bought by pioneer families in 1848 along with two more tracts originally bought by Gottfried Braun. This tract of land has been sold several times. Blundina Bergmann moved to Houston and stayed with her youngest daughter, Bertha, until her death. She is buried in a Houston cemetery. Bertha is also buried in this cemetery.

Geo. Adam Ullrich and His Descendants

The Ullrich family was born at Obergimperntal, Nectersbruschoffheim Baden Germany. All of the old records were lost because of the World Wars. The names of the father and mother of the Ullrich children were destroyed and unknown. Geo. Adam Ullrich along with an older brother and two sisters, Regina and Blundina, sailed from Bremham, Germany to New York City. The older brother decided to stay in New York however, Adam, Regina, and Blundina decided to leave for Texas in the Spring of 1854.

After landing in Galveston, the main port of entry to Texas, they had to clear immigration regulations at the Immigration office. They, with other immigrants, made their way to Houston by raft up Buffalo Bayou. The "German Union" which aided needy immigrants, assisted them to reach their destination inland. Arrangements, also were made for oxcart transportation inland.

They continued their journey to the Winedale area where they met the Burkhardt Spies, Wickel and Mayer families who had settled in the area. Soon they became friends. Through close relationships and acquaintances, Adam met and married Louise Spies, the daughter of Christian Spies. Christian Spies was born at Teutingen, Germany and with his wife emigrated to Texas a year before the Ullrichs.

They bought a tract of land adjacent to the Peter Stork land and built a log house in which they lived and reared their family. As the family grew older, Adam built a cotton gin on his place. This gin and mill was operated with the power of eight horses or mules that walked in large circle to create the power to operate the gin. Willie Ullrich, the oldest son of Adam Ullrich, Jr., spoke of how his father helped his grandfather, Adam Ullrich, Sr. This gin was built next to a small tract of land owned by Tiehle, in relationship to Daniel Wickel. On this small tract of land, there was a grocery store and post office. The store was operated by H. F. Windwehn. This small cluster, consisting of a store, post office and gin was called Truebsal. According to my Grandfather Peter Jaeger's ox wagon freight line log book, he hauled a lot of merchandise to this store. Also, a shipment of muscadine grapes were shipped in from Europe for the American settlers. These grapes were planted in this area. They were very sweet and suitable for producing wine and jelly. The grapes spread throughout the entire vicinity and soon the area became known as Winedale.

Adam and Louise Spies Ullrich were blessed with thirteen children. One son and two daughters died at an early age.

1. Adam Ullrich, Jr. b. June 3, 1872 - d. August 20, 1908
m. Lina Birkelbach b. April 16, 1873 - d. August 14, 1962
2. Charlie Ullrich b. 1878 - d. 1934
m. Anna Louise Wendland
b. September 27, 1879 - d. December 29, 1970
3. Rudolph Ullrich b. January 29, 1859 - d. March 23, 1921
m. Christana Burkhardt
b. September 16, 1856 - d. December 26, 1947
4. Henry C. Ullrich b. January 1, 1880 - d. November 18, 1931
m. Wilhelmine Bergmann b. January 18, 1876 - d. November 18, 1939
5. Sophia Ullrich b. March 30, 1860 - d. August 28, 1925
m. Ernst Burkhardt b. February 25, 1866 - d. June 15, 1945
6. Blundine Ullrich born in Germany, died in Houston, Texas
m. Henry Bergmann b. February 21, 1850 - d. February 5, 1930

7. Alvine Ullrich
m. Heinrich Dickmann
8. Otto Ullrich
m. Emma Klatt b. June 21, 1877 - d. August 26, 1961
9. Bertha Ullrich
m. ? Burkhard
9. Louise Ullrich
m. Johannes Koch

Geo. Adam Ullrich was born June 25, 1834 and died March 9, 1917. Louise Spies Ullrich was born September 18, 1834 and died September 10, 1912. After their deaths, the farm was sold to their youngest son, Henry Ullrich. He continued to farm and live on this tract of land throughout his life. After the deaths of Henry and Wilhelmine Ullrich, the farm was sold to their son, Harry Ullrich. He is the owner of the original Geo. Adam Ullrich farm at this time.

Rudolph Ullrich Family

Rudolph Ullrich was the oldest son of Adam and Louise Spies Ullrich. The family lived close to the John Burkhardt family. Through this close friendship and acquaintance, Rudolph Ullrich and Christianna Burkhardt became engaged and were married.

They lived and farmed together with her father and mother. After the deaths of her parents, Rudolph and Christianna bought the farm and reared their children. In addition to farming, Rudolph fattened many cattle with corn and later slaughtered them. He sold the meat to people from the entire surrounding areas. He became known as "Butcher" Ullrich. Remains of his butchering place can still be seen on the farm today.

The Ullrich family were typical farmers having their home and field crops well taken care of. Rudolph and Christianna lived and reared their family on this farm. All of the children attended school in the Burkhardt, Mayer or Windale Schools. John and Fritz were very fond of hunting and trapping animals. They had many pet raccoons that were as playful as a house cat.

In addition to the Rudolph Ullrich farm, the Ullrich family joined together to buy the original Peter Stork land from Anton Sklar. This land had been sold to Henry Bergmann and had been sold to Anton Sklar after the death of Blundina Bergmann. The Ullrich children did not use this land for agriculture but as ranch land for their cattle. The house in which the Braun and Bergmann families lived, is now used to store hay and as barns.

The faith of this historical farm is unknown, the land where Peter Stork was buried alone under a cluster of oak and cedar trees, the land where the first cotton gin in Washington County was built where the hand-dug water well is still at this sight, the rock foundation embedded in the ground upon which the cotton gin building was built, leaving a wandering mere ghost shadow or semblance.

Rudolph and Christianna Ullrich were blessed with eleven children. Two daughters died in infancy.

1. Alma Ullrich b. March 30, 1904 - d. July 20, 1963
one child out of wedlock - Almita Ullrich
2. John Ullrich b. July 29, 1895 - d. March 28, 1974
3. Bessie Ullrich b. August 25, 1900 - d. August 16, 1985
4. Marie Ullrich b. 1892
m. Reinhardt Fisher b. January 21, 1892 - d. September 12, 1978
5. Jacob Ullrich b. June 9, 1899 - d. November 24, 1983
m. Tonie Spies
6. Anna Ullrich - never married
7. Lena Ullrich - never married
8. Wilhelmine Ullrich - never married
9. Fritz Ullrich b. July 23, 1907 - d. September 16, 1980

Out of this family, only Jacob and one sister, Marie, were married. Rudolph Ullrich was born January 25, 1859 and died March 23, 1921. Christianna Burkhardt Ullrich was born September 16, 1856 and died December 26, 1947. Both are buried in the Burkhardt Cemetery.

Marie Ullrich married Reinhardt Fischer. They had a son and daughter. Jacob Ullrich married Tonie Spies. They farmed various farms throughout Washington County. They

bought a farm on FM 389, which they farmed last and reared all their children and later retired. They were happily married and were blessed with nine children.

1. Lynwood Ullrich
m. (1st) Georgia Beetner
m. (2nd) Betty Surovik
2. Alliene Ullrich
m. Fritz Finke
3. Kathrine Ullrich
m. Vernon Wellmann
4. Christianna Ullrich
m. Edward Buscha
5. Jacob Ullrich, Jr.
m. Doris Probaski
m. Gupsi Young
6. Tonetta Ullrich
m. James Schlemmer
7. Ernest Ullrich
m. Martha Arlington
8. Berdie Ullrich
m. John Praesel
9. Minnie Mae Ullrich - died in infancy

Jacob Ullrich, Sr. was born June 9, 1899 and died November 23, 1983.
Tonie Spies Ullrich was born August 8, 1911. They are buried in the Florida Chapel Cemetery in back of the Round Top to LaGrange highway.

Wilhelm Marburger and His Descendants

The Marburger family traces back to Germany where Johann Jost and his brother Wm. Marburger were born in Ernlebruck Kreis Witgenstein Germany on March 4, 1840. They left as very young men and came to America. They landed at Galveston and ended their long journey in the Winedale community.

After becoming acquainted with neighbors and neighborhood friends in the area, Wilhelm met and married Catharine Trude. After only a short married life, Catharine died in childbirth on February 17, 1860.

Wilhelm later married Anna Sophia Weyand. They engaged in farming and were blessed with three sons, Herman, Ludwig and Wilhelm Marburger, Jr. He was married to Justine Muesse Marburger.

The Marburger farm was owned by the family for decades. The tract of land is between the Bergmann, Wagner and Wickel farms. It was not far from the Winedale Inn and the Winedale Church and School. On the farm was a beautiful one and one-half story house in which two generations of the Marburger family were reared. Besides the larger home, a smaller home was built by Wilhelm and Justine for their son Emil who married Mary Ludwig. Wilhelm and Justine continued to farm. After years of hard labor, advancing years, and declining strength, they retired. Wm. Marburger was born September 9, 1831 and died January 27, 1915. Justine Muesse Marburger was born June 26, 1837 and died July 1, 1917. Both are buried in the Burkhardt Cemetery.

After the death of Wm. Marburger, Emil and his wife Mary Ludwig moved into the larger house with his mother, in order to care for her and to continue farming. They planted their fields with cotton, corn and other grain and raised cattle. Emil Marburger is probably the last known Winedale area farmer who used a pair of oxen to farm with even though he did have horses and mules.

Emil and Mary Ludwig Marburger were blessed with three sons and one daughter.

1. Edwin Marburger
m. Frieda Kraemer
2. Anna Marburger
m. Herman Muske
3. Walter Marburger
m. Hilda Noak
4. Robert Marburger
m. Alma Rhode

After the deaths of Emil Marburger and his wife, Mary Ludwig Marburger, the farm was sold to Benno Wagner and his wife Nita Oppermann Wagner. Later, the farm was sold again.

Emil Marburger was born February, 1865 and died July 8, 1937. Mary Ludwig Marburger was born June 4, 1868 and died March 3, 1942. Both are buried side by side in the Burkhardt Cemetery.

Dr. and Pastor Jacob Graul and His Descendants



Pastor Jakob Graul
founder and organizer of the
Winedale Lutheran Church

Dr. and Pastor Jacob Graul was born in Horcheim, near Worms, Germany on May 13, 1834. He was the son of Nicholas and Lucia nee Schmidt Graul.

He grew up in the Catholic religion, however, in 1857, Jacob Graul gave up Catholicism and entered the St. Chrischonona Pilger Mission, a Lutheran Theological Seminary, in Basel, Switzerland. There he studied to become a missionary.

When the Texas Synod of Lutheran Church wrote to the Pilger Mission in Basel asking for more co-workers for the Kingdom of God in Texas, six men were sent to Texas, one of whom was Jacob Graul. Another was Adam Neuthard who was sent to serve the Round Top Church.

Pastor Graul was sent to serve Eben Ezer Lutheran Church at Berlin, Washington County, Texas which is located just west of Brenham on Highway 290. Eben Ezer is the oldest Lutheran Church in Washington County having been founded July 1, 1855. Pastor Graul arrived there in 1861. Pastor Graul also received medical training so he was able and qualified to serve the new Texans in two capacities — as a doctor and as a minister.

The first Eben Ezer Lutheran Church was built of post oak logs, donated by the landowners, labor to build the building was donated by the members. This log building served as a church, a school and as a parsonage. It was in this parsonage that Pastor and Dr. Graul took his young bride Wilhelmine Stork in the year of 1864.

Perhaps Wilhelmine Stork met Pastor Graul while he was visiting his friend Pastor Neuthard who served Round Top and also held services at the Burkhardt School which was close to the farm where she lived. On December 4, 1864, during the Civil War, Wilhelmine Stork married Dr. Graul. Wilhelmine was twenty years old and Jacob was thirty. The marriage ceremony was performed by Jacob's friend, Pastor Neuthard.

Wilhelmine Stork was born on March 20, 1844 in a small town of Nassau, on the Lahn, in the Duchy of Nassau, Germany to Philip Peter Stork and his third wife, Marie Karoline Goeth.

When Philip Peter Stork and his wife Karoline and their family of six children decided to come to Texas in the fall of 1846, Wilhelmine was only two and one-half years old. They established their new home in Texas in the Winedale Community.

While at Berlin, Texas, Wilhelmine and Jacob had their first two children, Jacob, Jr. born in 1865 and Friedrich Wilhelm born in 1867. With their two sons, they moved to the Winedale Community and bought a farm. They had a family of eleven children in all. Three of them died at an early age, Adolph died at seven years, Heinrich at three years, and Philipp at eleven months and eleven days. All of the Graul children fell

victim to contagious diseases such as yellow fever, malaria, cholera, influenza and pneumonia which were prevalent at the time. These diseases proved to be very fatal and filled the cemeteries quickly. The children were buried in the Burkhardt Cemetery.

Of the surviving sons, three of them, Robert E., John D. and Henry P. left the Winedale area in their youth and went to St. Louis to study medicine. William and Ernest followed later to become pharmacists. Minnie, the only daughter, married Pastor Francis M. Rudi.

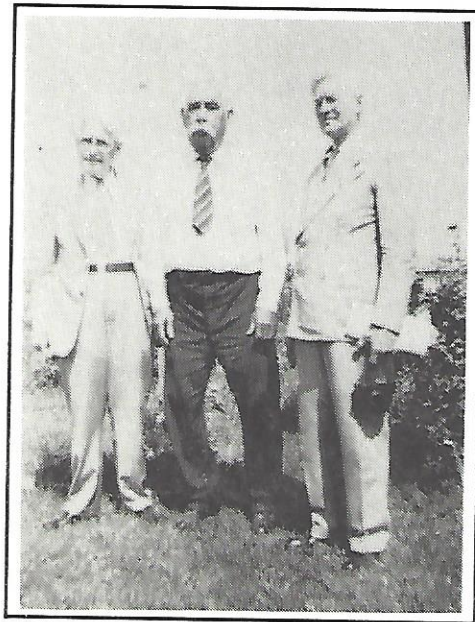
Pastor Graul continued preaching and healing in the Winedale area until 1900.

Their five sons who had moved to St. Louis, Missouri and established successful careers there, urged their parents to move to St. Louis.

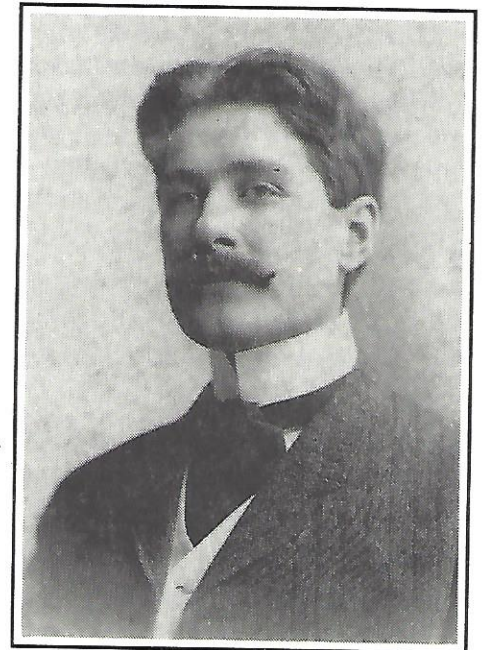
The Grauls sold their Winedale farm in 1900 and moved to be with their son in St. Louis.

The farm was sold to George Bartels and his wife Lena Wunderlich Bartels. They reared their family on this farm and after their death the farm was sold to Henry Jaster. He demolished the beautiful two-story Graul homestead and replaced it with a brick house as of today.

Jacob Graul and his family were very close friends and neighbor to Peter Jaeger and his family. their children grew up together as brothers with their main amusement being riding horses, playing dominoes, and singing songs together. Many years later, Dr. John D. Graul and his brother-in-law, Pastor Francis Rudi came to visit my father in the spring of 1941. Staying with my father refreshed their boyhood memories. They spoke of the many, many excitements and fun they had together when they were young. We enjoyed their two day visit with us very much, especially my father who had been parted from them for so many years. Upon his return to St. Louis, Dr. John Graul mailed a card to my father in which he said: Dear Henry: We arrived here yesterday from San Antonio. I never forget the happy days we spent with you and your lovely family in Port Arthur. Your dear friend, J. Graul



Dr. Jakob Graul, Grandpa Henry Jaeger,
and Pastor Francis Rudi



Dr. John D. Graul
Age 26

This was probably the last visit that Dr. John Graul and Pastor Francis Rudi made to Texas, for he was stricken with a heart condition and died April 6, 1946. Then nine months later, Rev. Francis Rudi died February 26, 1957.

The Graul family was a very prominent, outstanding family and widely known and loved for being a doctor and a leader in his ministry and being the founder of the Lutheran Church at Winedale. A pioneer family whose memories will not be forgotten.

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George Bartels and Family

George Bartels was born in Aldenburg, Germany. The names of his parents are unknown. It is presumed that he came to America with two brothers, Heinrich and Johannes. Both of his brothers died, Heinrich Bartels died September, 1871 and Johannes Bartels died in 1878. Both are buried in the Round Top Church Cemetery.

George Bartels was married to Lina Wunderlich. She was the daughter of Henry and Elisa Wunderlich. They bought the Pastor Graul farm after Pastor decided to move to St. Louis. They were engaged in farming, raising cotton, corn and grain along with cattle.

When Pastor Graul moved to St. Louis, he left his beautiful bunch of peacocks in the yard which had a large wood picket fence around the house. They remained with the Bartels family for a long time.

George Bartels and Lina Wunderlich Bartels were blessed with two sons and three daughters. The children grew up in the Winedale Community and attended the Winedale School. They were active members in the Winedale Lutheran Church.



The George Bartels' Children and Home
Gussie, Hedwig, Lydia, Tony, Adolph

The George and Lina Wunderlich Bartels' children are as follows:

1. Hedwig Bartels b. November 20, 1895
 m. Emil Kluck
2. Gussie Bartels
 m. Norma Seibert

3. Adolph Bartels b. March 27, 1901 - d. June 16, 1980
m. Josephine Neumann b. October 3, 1902 - d. April 3, 1983
4. Lydia Bartels
m. ? Hughes
5. Tonie Bartels b. February 20, 1903 - d. May 12, 1989
m. Walter Noak b. September 1893 - d. September 26, 1973

George Bartels and his wife, Lina, lived on their farm for their entire lives. They were well known in this area and appreciated by all acquaintances. George Bartels was born September 13, 1869 and died March 23, 1930. Lina Wunderlich Bartels was born October 31, 1865 and died July 30, 1944. They are buried side by side in the Richter Cemetery.

Victor Witte and His Descendants

Victor Witte was the first son of Johann Ernst Witte and Christiane Elizabeth Linnemann. He was born in Blomberg, Germany on October 13, 1820.

Working with his father on the farm and also being a veterinary, he became interest in the veterinary business. He went to college where he received his degree as a veterinary surgeon. During the years in college, he married Anna Maria Hagedorn.

Victor Witte with his wife, Anna Maria and two children left from Bremen on their voyage to America. They arrived in Galveston around June 13, 1850 and continued their long journey to the Winedale Community. There they probably had their land granted to them to farm.

Their life was in constant danger from savage Indians and had to be on constant watch. Their life in this raw and dangerous land was not an easy one. Like many other pioneer families, food and clothing were in short supply and if sickness occurred, medicine was very scarce and very hard to get.

Victor Witte and Anna Hagedorn were blessed with a family of nine children. They were:

1. Marie Lisette Witte b. November 20, 1847 - d. ?
2. Franziska Witte b. July 25, 1849 - d. September 21, 1935
m. Albert Schlick b. December 1, 1840
3. Emily Sophia Witte b. September 17, 1851 - d. February 12, 1933
m. Gustav Guerr b. ?
4. Marie Witte b. December 18, 1855 - d. August 29, 1936
m. Wm. Brandt b. October 4, 1853 - d. January 2, 1938
5. Ida Witte b. 1857 - d. ?
m. Henry Windwehn
6. Rudolph Witte b. February 10, 1896 - d. October 8, 1969
m. Henrietta Menn b. December 26, 1856 - May 15, 1917
7. Armin Witte b. 1862 - d. 1943
m. Bertha Menn b. June 16, 1863 - d. November 30, 1943
8. Francisca Witte b. April 28, 1864 - d. December 20, 1938
m. Albert Naegeli b. April 24, 1865 - March 16, 1901
9. Anna Witte b. 1867 - d. 1939
m. Joseph Suter b. ? - d. 1922

Each of these Witte children have their own families which are not mentioned in this family tree. Only one of the Witte sons stayed on the Victor Witte farm and bought the homestead and reared his family.

Victor Witte and his wife Anna Maria Hagedorn Witte remained on this farm until their deaths. Victor Witte was born October 13, 1820 and died October 12, 1900. Anna Maria Hagedorn Witte was born July 14, 1827 and died December 16, 1900. Both are buried side by side in the Jaeger-Witte Cemetery.

Rudolph Witte Family

Rudolph Witte was the son of Victor and Anna Maria Hagedorn Witte. He was born in the Winedale area. He farmed with his father, growing cotton, corn and grain along with raising cattle.

When he became of age, he married Henrietta Menn and took over the farming operation after his parents retired. He was well known in the Winedale Community and respected as a good neighbor to all who knew him.

Rudolph and Henrietta Menn Witte were blessed with a family of seven children. They are:

1. Laura Witte b. September 29, 1881 - d. October 16, 1900
2. Emma Witte b. January 22, 1884 - d. January 11, 1975
m. Willie Williams b. September 10, 1882 - d. July 3, 1965
3. Elsie Witte b. Septmeber 20, 1885 - d. May 7, 1969
m. Paul Allmann b. October 30, 1884 - d. April 20, 1958
4. Lillie Witte b. 1889 - d. ?
m. John Giessel
5. Hedwig Witte
m. Rudolph Zieger
6. Rudolph Witte b. February 10, 1896 - d. October 8, 1918
7. Hilda Witte b. May 7, 1899 - d. May 28, 1986
m. Fritz Steenken b. January 4, 1894 - d. August 30, 1969

Rudolph Witte, the only son of Rudolph and Henrietta Menn Witte, served in World War I. He contracted the deadly influenza disease which took many lives during World War I. His remains were returned to America and were buried in the Jaeger-Witte Cemetery.

Each of the Rudolph Witte Children have their own families not mentioned herein.

The Witte family has been of great importance to the Winedale Community. Rudolph Witte sold the original Victor Witte homestead to his daughter, Hilda who married Fritz Steeken and stayed with them until his death. He was buried in the Jaeger-Witte Cemetery. After the death of Fritz Steeken, the Witte homestead was sold to Charles Hodges and his wife who own the farm at this writing.

Henry Steffen Family

Heinrich Steffen was born in Brandenburg, Preussen, Germany on September 30, 1856. He came to America in 1875 searching for employment and a place to live. He settled in the German community of Winedale.

He met Louise Wickel, the oldest daughter of Daniel and Marie Wickel and soon they became engaged. They were married in the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Winedale on November 18, 1877 with the Pastor Jacob Graul officiating.

They first moved to Lee County and farmed for a few years but later they moved back to Washington County. They settled on the original Daniel Wickel homestead which they bought and farmed throughout their entire lives.

Heinrich and Louise Wickel Steffen were blessed with nine children. They were:

1. Lena Steffen b. December 20, 1878 - d. November 20, 1921
m. Adolph Mackenroth b. March 10, 1874 - d. March 30, 1943
2. Otto Steffen b. May 20, 1880 - d. June 10, 1954
3. Marie Louise Steffen b. April 8, 1882 - d. September 12, 1885
4. Charles Steffen b. May 24, 1883 - d. May 7, 1947
m. Adeline Oberender
5. Ella Steffen b. September 17, 1885 - d. March 29, 1979
m. Willie Oberender b. August 10, 1875 - d. June 10, 1938
6. Herman Steffen b. September 25, 1887 - d. ?
m. Olga Braeuer
7. Hedwig Steffen b. August 15, 1889
m. Alfred Kraemer
8. Alma Steffen August 9, 1891
m. Grover Brandstetter
9. Louise Steffen July 18, 1895 - d. December 22, 1944
m. Benno Jaeger b. August 30, 1898



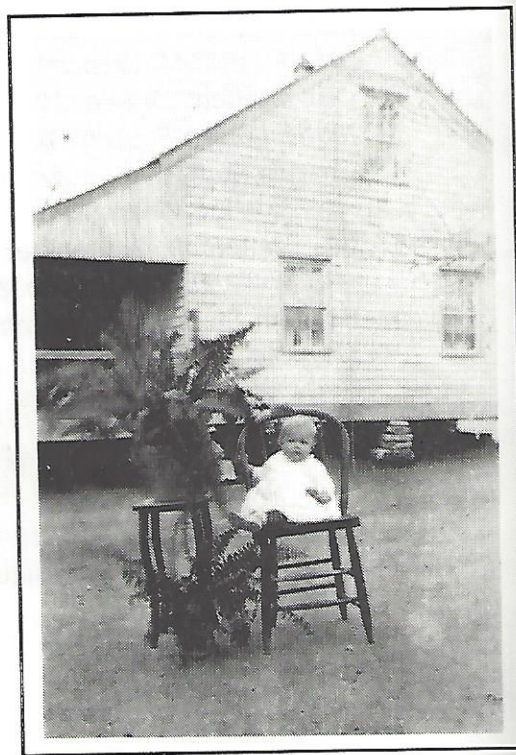
L to R: Alma Steffen Brandstelter, Olga "Braeuer" Steffen, Lena Mackinroth, Hedwig Kraemer, Grandma Steffen, Emma Williams, Adeline "Overender" Steffen, Alvine Jaeger, Ella Overender

After a short but severe illness, Heinrich Steffen died September 30, 1913 on his fifty-seventh birthday. His wife, Louise Steffen, continued to live on the farm until her death on March 17, 1933. She was buried besides her husband, Heinrich Steffen, in the Burkhardt Cemetery.

After her death, the farm was sold to Fritz Steenken. The house was rented to Cefus Ray who was taking care of the cattle. This house caught on fire and burned to the ground.

The original log house in which Daniel Wickel lived was torn down and demolished as well as all the other barns and smaller buildings and the land converted to ranch land. The only remaining surviving construction work that remained on the Daniel Wickel farmstead is the hand-dug water well that was cased with sandstone rock to support its wall from caving in. It continued to provide fresh water to generations who were totally dependant upon it for water. Today this farm is owned by J. W. Dube.

There were great activities at the Steffen homestead when Grandma Steffen celebrated her birthday. All of her sisters and brothers along with their families and her own children with their families came to observe and commemorate this special day along with friends and neighbors. Today this is only a memory that is of a shadowy apparition and a haunting memory.



The old Henry Steffen house that burned down when Cefus Ray was living in it. The Steffen place was sold to Fritz Steenken.

Henry Wickel and Family

Henry Wickel was the oldest child of Daniel and Marie Sneider Wickel. He lived on part of the tract of land which was bought by his father.

He was married to Louise Hastedt and lived in a three room house with a stairway to an upstairs bedroom. They were farming with cotton and corn as their main crop along with cattle, chickens, hogs, and a vegetable garden.

Henry and Louise Hastedt Wickel were blessed with two daughters and two sons. They are:

1. Anna Wilhelmina Wickel b. January 15, 1878 - d. December 31, 1912
m. Jacob Stoerner b. September 12, 1871 - d. December 26, 1957
2. Richard Ed. Wickel b. February 23, 1879 - d. June 29, 1954
never married
3. Minna Louise Wickel b. July 17, 1881 - d. December 31, 1957
m. Richard Reinke b. April 26, 1887 - d. October 19, 1969
4. Otto Heinrich Wickel b. April 9, 1886 - d. February 28, 1887

Henry Wickel's first wife died April 14, 1903. After a few years, farming became a hardship and Henry was lonesome and unhappy. Henry met Amelia Grams Muske who experienced the same misfortune. Her husband, Berthold Muske died in 1905. She was a widow left with seven children. Amelia Grams was born in Posen Province, Germany. Details about her voyage to America are unknown. After their acquaintance, they soon became engaged and were married.

They continued to farm and built a larger home in which they lived to the end of their lives.

All of the Muske children were educated in the Winedale School and also the Church of which they were members. When they became of age, they all were married and have their own families.

The Henry Wickel family were well known in the Winedale Community for they lived and spent their entire lives on this one and only farm which they bought from Daniel Wickel.

Henry Wickel was born February 17, 1852 and died April 4, 1938. Amelia Wickel was born January 3, 1868 and died November 9, 1955. Both are buried in the Burkhardt Cemetery. The Wickel farm was sold after their deaths.

Henry Jaeger And His Family

Henry, the oldest son of Peter and Regina Jaeger, took full operation charge of the family farm while his father, Peter, was operating the freight line.

While living on his father's place, he and his brother, Rudolph, built the first sorgum can mill to cook molasses. They started to cook molasses in 1890. This was a great step forward helping all the people to eat molasses with their food. All the farmers in the entire community brought their cane to have it cooked into molases. This operation continued on the Peter Jaeger farm until 1915, when the cane mill was moved to Henry Jaeger's farm where it was continued.

Henry Jaeger and his wife, Alvina nee Tonn, bought the Bieberstein farm in 1899 and moved there in 1900 with it being their first crop year. Their main crop was cotton, corn sorgum cane and feed. This land is a part of a larger tract of land owned by Hamilton Ledbetter and Samuel K. Lewis who sold one hundred acres of their tract to Charles and Mary Hagedorn and was resold to their children then to Henry and Alvine Jaeger.

On this place was a superb five-room house which was far superior to any wood frame or log house built in those days. The entire framework was mortised and secured with wooden pegs. The sills were made of tree trunks 18" in diameter placed on solid stone foundation with only man hole openings as a vent. The plate line has 8" x 8" hand-hewn, the full length or width of the house and framed with 6" x 6" studs and ceiling joist in full length without a splice in any single piece of framework.



Jaeger's Homestead

Left to right: Marvin, Herbert, Benno, Dad Henry, Almeda, Elsie, Ida

The rafters are of full length cedar trees hewn flat on one side on which a hand-split shingle roof was installed. The inside walls between studs were filled with fine wet clay made of oat or wheat straw that was wrapped around fitted narrow boards to hold the rock and clay to exact size and dried. All of the inside walls were plastered with a mortar made of lime that was carefully troweled and smoothing the lime plaster to a beautiful straight wall that became as white as snow when dried.

The outside wall has cedar boards with the insides of solid stone with clay mortar and was covered with lime to match the inside walls. The winding stairway has two landings which is handmade and all of cedar wood. When repairing and replacing some of the worn out boards, one board was discovered with a writing on it which had the statement on it as follows:

Dieses Haus wurde von Heinrich Lebenheim einem zimmermanns
gesellen mit der hilfe von 47 sklaven im jahre 1847 erbaut.

Translated this means: This house was built by Heinrich Lebenheim a skilled craftsman with the help of 47 slaves in the year of 1847. Heinrich Lebenheim must have been a very knowledgeable person, selecting timber that would not warp or rot, stone that would not crumble and clay taken out of the ground than when mixed with sand would not easily wash or dry out of its place. He was a man of wisdom. The windows were very large handmade twelve light with glass panes measuring 14x14 inches square. The lower half of the twelve light windows was hung with sash rope and iron weights for easier opening. All frames were made out of cedar wood and all doors and door frames were made of cedar wood that was grown in the vicinity.

Ima Hogg, a historian who had the Stage Coach at Winedale restored, intended to move this historical home to Winedale as a museum but found it was entirely too heavy to be moved.

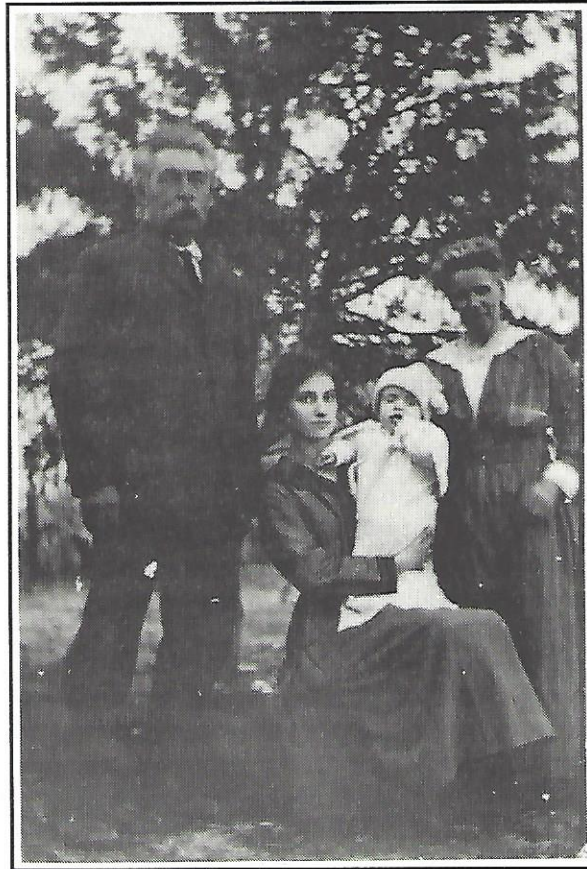
Henry and Alvine Tonn Jaeger sold this farm to their youngest son Henry C. and Lillie Neumann Jaeger who continued to farm and cooked molasses and later operated a dairy and grocery and feed store for many, many years. They later sold the grocery and feed store to his older brother.

After a few years, they decided to move to Houston and sold the dairy business and part of this homestead to their daughter and her husband, Delvin Gummelt who later remodeled the house as of today.

Henry Jaeger and his wife were blessed with four daughters and five sons. They are as follows:

1. Alma Jaeger b. July 28, 1894 - d. July 29, 1894
2. Ida Jaeger b. August 3, 1896 - d. April 22, 1977
m. Adolph Pietz b. ? - d. May 24, 1963
3. Elsie Jaeger August 1, 1898
m. Henry Teufel b. ? - d. September 26, 1976
4. Benno Jaeger b. August 30, 1899
m. Louise Steffen b. June 18, 1895 - d. December 22, 1945
5. Herbert Jaeger b. January 12, 1902 - d. December 12, 1972
m. Estella Kraemer b. ? - d. October 11, 1983
6. Marvin Jaeger b. September 3, 1905
m. Dollie Mayer b. June 14, 1911 - January 1970
7. Almeda Jaeger b. July 29, 1908
m. Norbert Breauer b. December 5, 1901 - d. March 10, 1977

8. Henry C. Jaeger b. September 17, 1910
m. Lillie Neumann b. April 8, 1913
9. Helmuth Jaeger b. January 11, 1919 - d. January 11, 1919



Standing: Henry Jaeger, Alvina Jaeger
Their daughter, Elsie and her baby boy
Earl Teufel

Henry and Alvine sold the farm to their son, Henry C. and his wife Lillie in 1932 and remained living with them for the remainder of their lives.

Alvine Tonn Jaeger was born in Pudewitz Posen, Germany on February 15, 1872 and died March 7, 1936. Henry Jaeger was born in Winedale, Texas on March 12, 1864 and died February 1, 1943. Both are buried in the Jaeger-Witte Cemetery.

Rudolph Jaeger And His Descendants

Rudolph Jaeger, the second son of Peter and Regina Jaeger, was born August 7, 1867. He met and became engaged to Sophia Leonhardt who was born September 18, 1873 in Berwangen, Baden, Germany. They were married October 25, 1894 in Round Top, Texas by Rev. Neuthardt.

Rudolph and Sophia bought a tract of land between Peter Jaeger and Henry Jaeger where they engaged in farming with cotton and corn being their main crop. They continued to farm until 1912 when their daughter, Laura married Hugo Noak. They bought the farm from them.

When Rudolph and Sophia bought a home in Carmine, Texas in 1912 which was not too far from Peter Jaeger's place.

Rudolph with his brother Gustav bought the A. J. Winnesterfer hardware business. On December 1, 1919, Edwin Jaeger became a partner in the hardware business in the early part of 1925. When Rudolph retired he sold out his hardware store part to his son Edwin.

Rudolph and Sophia Jaeger were blessed with two daughters and two sons. They are:

1. Lillie Jaeger b. September 25, 1895 - d. September 22, 1967
m. Otto Jacob b. April 30, 1892 - d. September 10, 1976
2. Laura Jaeger b. June 17, 1897 - d.
m. Hugo Noak b. November 9, 1890 - d. June 29, 1955
3. Willy Jaeger b. June 1900 - d. August 13, 1900
4. Edwin Jaeger b. April 19, 1904 - d. August 31, 1985
m. Frieda Marx b. July 10, 1907

Rudolph Jaeger was born August 7, 1867 and died April 29, 1939. Sophia Leonhardt Jaeger was born September 18, 1873 and died February 4, 1955.

Gustav Jaeger And His Descendants

Gustav Jaeger was the fourth child born to Peter and Regina Jaeger in their home in the Winedale area. He grew up with his parents in the Winedale area but did no farm work.

When he was twenty-two years old, he moved to Carmine with his parents and was employed as a clerk in the Neese Pharmacy. Later, he became engaged in the Hardware Store with his brother, Rudolph. He later sold his shares of the partnership to Otto Jacob.

He married Ella Dickmann on June 12, 1921 and continued to live on the Peter Jaeger homestead until their deaths.

They were blessed with three daughters. They are:

1. Bernice Jaeger b. February 18, 1922
m. J. R. Loewe
2. Berdie Jaeger February 18, 1922
m. Max Siegmand
3. LaVerne Jaeger December 14, 1926
m. Roger Hinze

Gustav Jaeger and his wife both died in the same year. Gustav Jaeger was born January 12, 1880 and died May 24, 1966. Ella Dickmann Jaeger was born on January 13, 1890 and died June 19, 1966. Both are buried in the Carmine Cemetery.

Henry Leonhardt and His Descendants

The Leonhardt family, mother Justine Hanyorg Leonhardt with her four children, Henry, Jacob, Sophia, and Louise along with her brother George and two sisters, Kathrina and Susanna left Berwangen, Baden, Germany for their voyage by boat to America in 1883. They landed in Galveston, Texas.

After landing, they had to clear immigration regulations. They left Galveston by raft and made their way up Buffalo Bayou to Houston where they were assisted by the German Union. This was an organization to help and assist them in reaching an interior settlement or location of their desire.

Traveling deep rutted pathways, they made their trip to the Winedale - Shelby area where they all lived together for a little while until they became acquainted with other settlers who also gave them assistance in finding jobs where people needed help.

Justine with her two sons, Henry and Jacob, and her brother George were engaged in farming, while the two sisters found jobs working as servant girls for other families with small children and who needed help. Being young boys and girls and forced to work, none received much education. They all helped their mother to make a living.

Henry was very young when he came to America. He was only seven years old. He and his brother, Jacob, worked very hard starting at an age since they had no father, it was left for them and their mother to do all the farming. Henry and his brother Jacob were confirmed in the Greenvine Lutheran Church and later became a member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Round Top. There he met and later married Christiana Kneip in the Round Top Church on December 9, 1902.

They bought a tract of land from Gustav Mayer in 1907 on which they started their farming and bought additional land to it later on.

Henry's mother, Justine, made her home with her daughter Louise Leonhardt who married Heinrich Reuter on January 1, 1891. They were also engaged in farming in the Round Top area. Later they provided a permanent home for her retirement until her death. She is buried in Round Top Church Cemetery.

Henry and his wife, Christiana stayed in the Winedale community until all of their children were educated, confirmed and married and made a home of their own. Then they retired from farming, divided the land between their children and moved to LaGrange where they lived until their deaths. Henry Leonhardt was born June 17, 1876 and died March 26, 1956. Christiana Kneip Leonhardt was born on May 9, 1878 and died October 3, 1965. Both are buried side by side in the Round Top Church Cemetery at Round Top, Texas.

Eight children were born to this union. They are:

1. Johanna Leonhardt b. November 11, 1903
m. Edmund Schulze b. September 5, 1895 - d.
2. Clara Leonhardt b. May 9, 1905
m. Willie Rebarske b. December 14, 1903 - d. May 27, 1970
3. Olga Leonhardt b. September 6, 1906
m. Leslie Mayer b. March 31, 1904
4. Ellen Leonhardt b. May 17, 1908 - d. December 27, 1975
m. Stancel Hill b. February 25, 1915 - d. August 20, 1978

5. Sylvia Leonhardt b. June 10, 1911
m. Albert Mertz b. January 4, 1913
6. Alice Leonhardt b. December 20, 1914 - d.
m. Ernest Seidel, Jr. b. January 1, 1911 - d.
7. Rosa Lee Leonhardt b. January 13, 1917
m. Delphine Hinze b. January 28, 1919
8. Edgar Leonhardt b. January 1, 1925
m. Loretta Hartfield b. May 20, 1933

All of the Leonhardt family were married and have their own family and in various parts of Texas. The Leonhardt family were of great importance to the Winedale Community and some their children are still engaged in a lot of Winedale activities.

Emil Pietz and His Descendants

Emil Pietz was born in Province Germany and with his sister Bertha came to America and settled in Texas. His sister met Wilhelm Teufel. They were married and moved to Minnesota.

Emil remained in Texas and moved to the Winedale Community. There he met and married Bertha Mayer, the daughter of Martin and Julian Burkhardt Mayer. They were married at Bethlehem Lutheran Church with Pastor Neuthardt officiating.

They bought a tract of land north of the Winedale Church and School where they were engaged in farming and reared their children. The children were educated at the Mayer's and Winedale Schools.

This happily married couple had the pleasure of celebrating their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary with a large crowd of relatives, friends and neighbors joining them in the celebration.

They were blessed with a family of ten children:

1. Adolph Pietz b. ? - d. May 24, 1962
m. Ida Jaeger B. August 3, 1895 - d. April 22, 1977
2. Frieda Pietz b. July 26, 1889 - d. May 7, 1973
m. Henry Mackel b. February 24, 1881 - d. January 22, 1964
3. Willie E. Pietz b. October 22, 1890 - d. July 20, 1915
m. Elsie Braeuer
4. Rudolph Pietz b. February 16, 1887 - d. July, 1943
m. Hertha Jacob b. September 12, 1893 - d. November 6, 1978
5. Julian Pietz b. February 28, 1892 - d. April 13, 1922
m. Herman Jacob
6. Robert Pietz
m. Ida Seibert
7. Alex Pietz b. August 15, 1898 - d. July 11, 1943
m. Hildegard Jacob b. December 1905
8. Hugo Pietz b. December 27, 1903
m. Marie Falkenberg b. February 10, 1901 - d. September 22, 1931
9. Albert Pietz b. June 7, 1883 - d. December 2, 1883
10. Otto Pietz b. June 8, 1888 - d. November 2, 1888

Albert and Otto died very young and together with Willie Pietz, all are buried in the Mayer Cemetery where their parents are also buried.

After the death of Bertha Pietz, the Pietz farm was sold to Otto Bergmann who owns the farm at the time of this writing.

Adolph Neumann Family

Adolph Neumann was born at Strasburg Prussian Empire, German and as a young man of twenty-three years of age left Strasburg. He traveled to Bremen and set forth on his voyage across the Atlantic Ocean on a sailboat along with some of his close friends. They landed at Galveston, Texas where he cleared all the regulations at the immigration office and received his immigration papers on March 12, 1891. He became a naturalized citizen on October 19, 1896 in Fayette County, Texas.

His long voyage and trip inland ended in the Winedale area where he first worked as a farm laborer. During this time, he became acquainted with the community. After a few years, he developed close acquaintances with neighbors and friends. Through these friendships, he met Helene Hinze, the daughter of Herman and Henrietta Wendland Hinze. They were married on January 6, 1897 in the Round Top Church with Pastor Adam Neuthard performing the ceremony.

They rented and farmed close to the Round Top area. Later, they bought a farm in the Winedale area close to the Rudolph Witte farm from Wm. and Elisabeth Piehl. They lived and farmed this place their entire lives.



Annie Neumann, Helen and Adolph Neumann, Lillie Neumann

Adolph Neumann was a hard working, diligent and industrious person. He had come to America because of the drastic economic situation in Germany but his heart and soul were in his homeland, Germany, of which he often talked about.

Helen and Adolph Neumann were blessed with two children.

1. Lillie Neumann
m. August Jacob
2. Anna Neumann b. August 16, 1903
m. Arthur Neumann b. August 28, 1899

Adolph Neumann was born on October 4, 1868 and died January 8, 1931. After his death, the farm was sold to Ernest and Olie Hinze Allhaus. Helene Neumann stayed with them for the rest of her life. Helene Hinze Nuemann was born December 6, 1878 and died February 3, 1956. Adolph and Helene are buried side by side in the LaBahia Cemetery.

Rudolph H. Mayer And His Descendants

Rudolph Mayer was the oldest son of George and Lena Melchior Mayer. George was the son of Heinrich and Eva Katrina Burkhardt Mayer who were early pioneers that settled in the Winedale area.

Rudolph was born in his grandfather's house in which his father, George, was also born - proof of the magnificent close family relationship, unity and love. Rudolph met and admired the servant girl, Selma Seibert, who was hired by his father George. They became fond of each other, became engaged and were married on November 8, 1906. Selma Seibert was the daughter of Kasper and Amelia Seibert from the Shelby Community. They also remained living in the same house for a short while. They moved into one of the Mayer rent houses and lived there for a short time. Later, they bought a tract of the George Mayer land and built a home of their own. They engaged in farming and reared their family.

All of the Rudolph Mayer children attended the Winedale School and were confirmed in the Winedale Church. When the children became of age, they married and moved to various parts of Texas. Rudolph and Selma retired from farming and moved to the Waldek Community where they remained until their deaths.

Rudolph and Selma Seibert Mayer were blessed with six children. They are:

1. Clinton Mayer b. October 25, 1908
m. Josephine Werchan
2. Nola Mayer b. December 5, 1910
m. Wilhugh Weyand
3. Barney Mayer b. October 11, 1913
m. Alma Brinkman
4. Calvin Mayer
m. Lidia Krupala
5. Gladys Mayer
m. Louis Weyand
6. Nelda Mayer
m. Walter Muesse

Rudolph Mayer was born September 2, 1884 and died September 8, 1972. His wife, Selma Seibert Mayer was born December 22, 1883 and died November 3, 1970. Both are buried in the Mayer Cemetery. Rudolph's brother, Richard Mayer, also was laid to rest in the Mayer Cemetery. Richard was born June 6, 1886 and died June 11, 1982. Richard Mayer was never married.

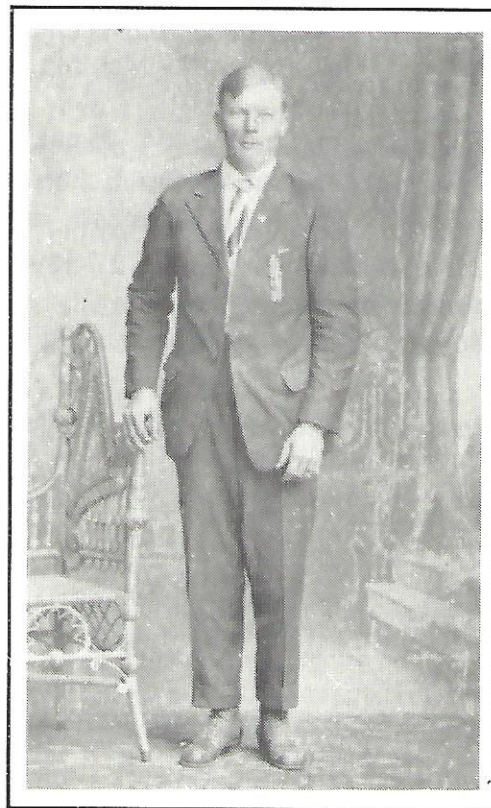
Willie Neidig Family

With the second marriage of George Mayer to Lena Menn, four children blessed this union. They were Alvin, Laura, Hilda and Jacob. Jacob died at a very early age. Alvin never married and the two Mayer sister married two Neidig brothers. Laura Mayer married Herman Neidig and Hilda Mayer married Willie Neidig.

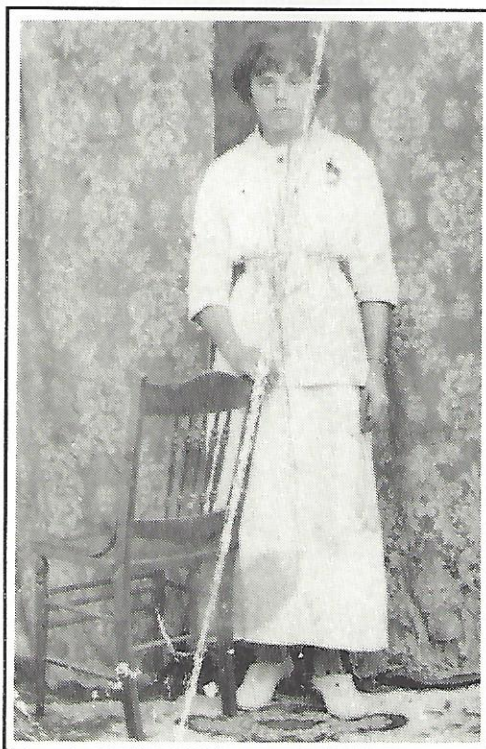
The Neidig brothers along with their wives settled in the Bastrop - Elgin area and engaged in farming.

Willie Neidig and his wife with their family moved back to the Winedale Community in 1931 and continued to farm. All of their children received their education in the Winedale School and were confirmed in the Lutheran faith.

During World War II, their sons, Oliver, Hugo and Lancelot were drafted into the Army. All three were fortunate to come back home alive. Oliver was discharged with a Good Conduct Medal. Hugo received an American Theater Campaign Medal, E.A.M.E. Campaign



Willie Neidig



Hilda Mayer Neidig

Medal with one Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, and a World War II Victory Medal. Lancelot served in the Asiatic-Pacific as a heavy machine gunner. During combat, he was hit by a bullet which penetrated deeply into the spinal cord thereby leaving him partially paralyzed. He received a Bronze Service Star, Good Conduct Medal, Purple Heart, World War II Victory Medal and an Overseas Service Bar. These three brothers were appreciated for the proud, honest and faithful service they showed for this country.

Through the duration of World War II, Willie and Hilda Neidig kept farming until their boys came back from the service. They were then kept busy taking care of Lancelot who became a total invalid because of his injuries received from active service during the war.

Due to their war conflictions and injured body, Lancelot and Oliver were never married and both died at a very early age. Only Hugo

survived the gruesome horrors of war and escaped injury.

Willie and his wife Hilda Mayer Neidig farmed throughout their entire lives. They were blessed with three sons:

1. Oliver Neidig b. July 30, 1918 - d. September 14, 1976
2. Hugo Neidig b. December 14, 1921
m. (1st) Anna Mae Muske b. September 20, 1923 - d. February 10, 1970
m. (2nd) Zelda Womak
3. Lancelot Neidig b. June 4, 1925 - d. January 21, 1972

Willie Neidig was born October 12, 1896 and died January 18, 1971. Hilda Mayer Neidig was born November 27, 1897 and died July 10, 1984. They are all buried in the Mayers Cemetery.

Otto Warnasch and Family

Otto and his wife Ella Warnasch were well known in the Winedale area. They were known for their companionship with friends.

Otto John Warnasch was the son of the late Henry and Justine Wagner Warnasch. He was born at Shelby, Texas on September 18, 1879. He grew up with his parents farming during his young childhood. At the age of twenty-nine, he met and became engaged to Ella Mayer, the daughter of Adam and Louise Menn Mayer. They were married on February 25, 1908 at Shelby Lutheran Church with Pastor Karl Mueller officiating.

They bought a tract of land that was owned by the Mayer brothers, Heinrich and Martin. They farmed throughout their lives raising cotton, corn and grain along with cattle.

Otto and Ella Mayer Warnach were blessed with five children, two sons and three daughters. One daughter died in infancy.

1. Kermit Warnasch b. October 21, 1910
m.
2. Melba Warnasch b. April 21, 1913
m. John Lehrmann
3. Myra Warnasch
m. Lorenz Behnke
4. Melvin Warnasch b. December 23, 1914 - d. December 7, 1989
m. Alma

All of their children were educated in the Winedale School. They were members of the Winedale Lutheran Church where the children were all baptised and confirmed. As the children became of age, they married, had families and moved to various parts of Texas and Arkansas.

Otto Warnasch was born September 18, 1879 and died November 4, 1960. After his death and the death of his wife, Ella Mayer Warnasch, the farm was sold to R. Hankamer.

Johann Albert Naegeli and Family

Johann Albert Naegeli was the fourth child born to Hans Heinrich and Anna Maria Voegler Naegeli at Kilchburg Canton, Zurich, Switzerland on April 24, 1854. He was the youngest child of the family when his parents, brother and sister came to America.

Albert stayed with his family and farmed with them until he married Francisca Witte, the daughter of Victor and Anna Marie Hagedorn Witte. The couple was happily married and farmed their entire lives. They bought a farm on the north side of the Rudolph Witte farm that was once owned by Victor Witte.

Albert and Francisca Witte Naegeli had a family of five children - four daughters and one son. They were:

1. Agnes Naegeli b. 1884 - d. 1960
m. Walter Lehmann
six children were born to this union.
2. Alfred Naegeli b. 1889 - d. 1936
m. Lena Stoerner
five children were born to this union
3. Elsie Naegeli b. 1861 - d. 1914
m. Otto Dittrich
one child was born to this union but died in infancy
4. Lucile Naegeli b. 1894
m. August Diess
six children were born to this union
5. Frances Naegeli b. 1898
m. Wlater Jacob
two children were born to this union

Albert Naegeli died at the young age of forty-seven leaving his wife with five children ranging in ages from seventeen to three years of age. It must have been very sad, lonely and forlorn to be left without a father. Rearing a family, raising a crop and providing for the entire farming operation alone was a great burden for Francisca Witte Naegeli.

Albert Naegeli died on March 16, 1901. His wife, Francisca Witte Naegeli, was born April 28, 1864 and died December 20, 1938. Both are buried in the Jaeger-Witte Cemetery along with their daughter, Elsie Naegeli Dittrich and her baby.

When Alfred Naegeli married Lena Stoerner, the daughter of Louis and Julia Mayer Stoerner, they continued to farm the land. They had five children, three of whom died in infancy and are also buried in the Jaeger-Witte Cemetery. Clarence and Florence were reared in the Winedale Community and attended the Winedale School. After Alfred and Lena Naegeli died the farm was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Mertz who own the farm at this time.

Willie Williams Family

Andrew Jackson Williams had immigrated to America from Wales, England and settled in Lauderdale County, Alabama. Later, he moved to Texas and settled around the LaGrange area. Willie was the oldest child of Andrew Jackson Williams and his wife Margaret Mills Williams. Willie had four brothers and three sisters.

Willie married Emma Witte, the oldest daughter of Rudolph and Henrietta Menn Witte on November 15, 1905. They farmed on a tract of land adjacent to the Rudolph Witte farm. It was a part of the original Victor Witte land. Cotton, corn and grain were their main crops. They were blessed with five children who were all educated in the Winedale School.

1. William Olaf Williams
m. Mildred Mayer
2. Rud Aurel Williams
m. Alita Cordes
3. Arnold Williams
m. Estha Schmidt
4. Lawrence Williams
m. Ruth Werchan
5. Eileen Williams
m. Thomas Barnes

Willie A. Williams was born September 10, 1882 and died July 3, 1965. Emma remained on the farm for a few years. She then stayed with her son, Rud Aurel and his wife, Alita, until her death. Emma Witte Williams was born January 22, 1884 and died January 11, 1975. Both Willie and Emma are buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham.

The farm was sold to Robin Elverson and his wife a year after Emma's death. The land was converted to ranch land and the raising of all agricultural crops were discontinued.

Fritz Steenken Family

Fritz Steenken was the son of Carl Steenken and his wife, Amilia Giese Steenken, of Stockdale. He married Hilda Witte, the youngest daughter of Rudolph and Henrietta Menn Witte on October 19, 1919 in the Round Top Church.

The couple stayed with Hilda's father, Rudolph Witte. They bought this homestead and continued their farming operation, planting cotton, corn and grain along with raising cattle.

Fritz Steenken and his wife Hilda Witte Steenken were blessed with four children and lived in the Winedale community nearly all their lives.

1. Odie Steenken
m. Patsy Helmkamp
2. Quida Steenken
m. Leslie Rhode
3. Laverne Steenken
m. Arnie Knittle
4. Doris Steenken
m. Gregg James

The children attended the Winedale Church and also received their education at the Winedale School.

The Steenken family was well appreciated at all the social gatherings and celebrations in this area and were welcomed by all.

Fritz Steenken was born June 4, 1894 and died August 30, 1969. After his death, Hilda stayed with her daughter, Laverne for the remainder of her life. Hilda Witte Steenken was born May 7, 1899 and died May 28, 1986. Both, Fritz and Hilda, are buried in Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham.

Paul Krause and Family

Paul Krause was the son of Daniel and Emilie Koerth Krause. He was born in the LaBahia area. Throughout his youth, he farmed with his parents. It is presumed that he received his education in the LaBahia area schools and attended the Greenvine Lutheran Church. There he probably became acquainted with Charlotte Henrietta Hueske, the daughter of Fredrick and Henrietta Luedke Hueske. Like the Krause family, the Hueskes came from Germany and settled in the German community of LaBahia and Greenvine which is adjacent to the Winedale area.

Paul Daniel Krause married Charlotte Henrietta Hueske. They bought a tract of land in the Winedale area from L. C. Neutzler who was a school teacher at the Winedale School in 1904. They grew corn and cotton as their main crop and raised cattle. They attended the Winedale Church. All of their children were educated in the Winedale School. All of the Krause family were baptised members of the Winedale Lutheran Church.

Paul and Charlotte Krause were blessed with a family of ten children:

1. Norma Krause b. April 19, 1903
m. Clinton Dippel b. January 31, 1905 - d. March 2, 1961
2. Dora Krause b. January 2, 1906 - d. November 6, 1988
m. Bennie Sommerfield
3. Lorena Krause b. September 10, 1908
m. Muesse
4. Clarence Krause b. December 28, 1910 - d. ?
5. Laura Krause b. August 6, 1913
m. Vastine Dippel
6. Rubin Krause b. November 4, 1915
m. Ira Nustedt
7. Clinton Krause b. December 22, 1917
m. Lorine Gering
8. Alice Krause b. August 21, 1920
m. Earl Stork
9. Nelson Krause b. April 30, 1922
m. Mary Bell Eichler
10. Wilbert Krause b. April 24, 1924
m. Vera Spies

Paul D. Krause and his wife, Charlotte, were well known in this area. Paul D. Krause was born September 22, 1874 and died February 10, 1949.

Henry C. A. Ullrich and Family

Henry Ullrich was the youngest son of Adam and Louise Spies Ullrich. He was born and reared in the Winedale Community. Henry helped his parents with the farming and cattle business until he became of age.

He became engaged and was married to Wilhelmine Braun, the daughter of Gottlieb and Caroline Stork Braun by Pastor Jacob Graul. For a few years Henry and Wilhelmine lived in the original Peter Stork log house. Later they moved to the Adam Ullrich, Sr. place where they continued farming on his parent's farm. Later he and Wilhelmine bought the farm. They were blessed with four children.

1. Erna Ullrich b. June 5, 1906
m. Ira Regiene b. November 10, 1908
2. Harry Ullrich b. June 13, 1908
m. Evelyn Mertz
3. Nola Ullrich b. August 13, 1913 - d. November 30, 1989
m. Oscar Shaw
4. Curley Ullrich
m. Von Minden

Each of these children have their own families and are living in various places.

Gustav Adolph Wunderlich Family

Gustav Adolph Wunderlich was born at Haw Creek on August 31, 1873, the son of Henry and Elisa Wunderlich. He grew up in the Haw Creek area which is close to the Round Top area. He helped his parents with their farm until he became of age.

He was married to Hulda Muske the daughter of Berthold and Amalie Grams Muske on December 10, 1912. They bought a tract of land adjacent to Pastor Graul's place and the Peter Jaeger farm and engaged in farming in the Winedale area. They continued their successful farming operation throughout their lives. Gustav and Hulda were blessed with four children.

1. Alton Wunderlich
m. Lucile Jaster
2. Elsie Wunderlich
3. Melvin Wunderlich
m. Everlin Meinen
4. Melda Wunderlich
m. Adam Ullrich

All of the Adolph Wunderlich family were members of the Winedale Lutheran Church and all attended the Winedale School.

The History of Truebsal

A small community consisting of a grocery and mercantile store, a post office, and blacksmith gathered in a cluster was called Truebsal. Later a cotton gin was built close by and a Lutheran Church was built not very far from this location in 1868 to 1869. This was one of the stopping places which my grandfather, Peter Jaeger, delivered a lot of merchandise which was shipped from Houston on the oxen wagon freight line to this community.

One shipment from Europe consisted of a load of muscadine grape cuttings to be planted for its sweet flavor to make jelly and wine. These grapes spread throughout the entire community. Some of these grapevines are still growing in the area today. When the farmers of the area began to raise fine grapes and put them into production, shipping, and selling some of the grapes in Houston, Truebsal changed its name to Winedale. They were very fond of the wine. The creek valleys were very fertile and good grapes were raised.

And interesting newspaper clipping from the Banner Press related the following:

80 years ago: March 24, 1881

Wednesday morning the body of Mr. H. F. Windwehen, a merchant doing business in Winedale, a post office in this county near Fayette County line and four miles from Round Top, was found sitting on a log on the creek bank near his house, with a bullet hole in his chest. He is supposed to have shot himself sometime during the night.

Mr. Windwehen was well known in this city and was quite popular among his acquaintances.

He was married and leaves a family.

We were unable to learn any further particular last night and no cause is assigned for the act, if he did shoot himself. He was about thirty or thirty-five years of age and his business were generally thought to be in a prosperous condition.

It was said that after the death of H. F. Windwehen no one would take the challenge to continue the grocery store. Soon business declined and the store closed. Other businesses soon declined and started businesses in Round Top or at Winedale Inn. The buildings were slowly moved away and only the embedded rock foundations on which the building was built was left to whither.

This tract of land has been sold and resold. Today this tract of land is owned by Leon Hale, a columnist for the Houston Chronicle. He moved here and restored an old farm house in the German style of construction and architecture design.

In the Chronicle, Mr. Leon Hale states:

Where Autumn lies light on land

Winedale - a moist morning early, not yet sunup. I'm on the front porch of the old country house in Washington County. The aroma of autumn that lay over the land twenty-four hours ago has gone away. The air smells like spring now because of the moisture. Not much rain though. Just a shower that barely wet the bottom of the gauge, but the air is heavy. The hoot owls evidently like this damp air. They live in the hol-

low of that big post oak yonder. They begin talking at about 4:00 a.m. and they're still at it, softly, "Hoo, hoo, hoo, hoo."

Ever since we spent the first night under this old roof, we've expected ghosts. Parts of the house are close to 150 years old. We're sleeping and eating in rooms where generations of people were born and got married, and had babies, and lived, and died. But we've not felt that anything terrible ever happened here. We don't have any spirits floating around looking for justice, or whatever it is they might be looking for if they came.

We do have the ghost fog, though.

The only thing ghostly about the ghost fog is it hangs over the highest place on the property. You expect a patch of fog to look for a low place. But this patch appears, again and again, on moist mornings, just to the right of the front gate and it stays suspended there, over about half an acre, and it hangs around after all other patches of fog in the neighborhood have faded away.

We have found things out about that little plot of land where the ghost fog hangs. People lived there, long ago. We know that their names was Thiele. They had a house on the place where the fog is right now. No other fog is in sight. We've been told that the man named Thiele farmed the small acreage in front of this house. He and his wife grew old here and the wife died first.

So the Thieles' kinfolks to the north moved him closer, so they could watch after him. Not just him. They moved the house too. Jacked it up on wheeled timbers. Mules pulled it across the creek, and left this acreage empty. We have established where the house stood. One of the neighbors said, "There was a big crepe myrtle in the front yard." We cleaned away some brush and found the crepe myrtle. It was sick from the competition of native shrubs, but we cleaned the jungle away and pruned the bush and fertilized and watered it and it has come back. That bush seems reborn, and I think it'll be fine if we ever get rain again.

I am talking about a yard shrub that may be more than a century old. I can see Mrs. Thiele planting that crepe myrtle in maybe 1880 or before.

We have bought a cheap metal detector and worked it over the house site and found a lot of rusty square head nails. I'm thinking if we persist we might turn up better stuff. Coins, maybe, because we're told that near the house there was a store, and a saloon. All these improvements were right here on this little old ten acres, because this was the original site of the town of Winedale and we didn't even know that when we bought the place.

What we call the ghost fog, when it comes, hangs exactly over the spot where the crepe myrtle grows.

I agree with Mr. Hale. As a small boy many, many years ago, I used to go along with my parents to visit the Ullrich and Bergmann families as relatives and friends and many times my father and all the rest of the men and kids went to see the old

Ullrich gin. Next to it was the ruins and remains of some smaller buildings that were devastated and decayed which my father said were the remains of the Windwehen Grocery Store with only the rubbish left. The once prosperous trading post in the community called Truebsal now is only a haunting memory. Many, many real nice farms fell victim to the modern tradition and were completely demolished — yes, you guessed it for weeds, grass and cattle.

The Old Ox-Wagon Freight Line

The freight line between Houston toward Austin was organized by a group of gallant, and courageous men who faced great difficulties and dangers. Extreme weather conditions such as heat, ice, rain, and sleet and meeting savage Indians from uncivilized tribes who were ferocious and brutal to the immigrants were problems faced by these men. Sometimes they were stopped and robbed with violent fighting even murder occurring. However, their families and other families were totally depended on the products, merchandise and medical supplies that the freight lines carried to them in order to survive.

The ox-wagon freight line worked as a chain reaction which gave each group of men their length of traveling and their destination to their linkage and to rest then exchange their loads to go either north or south.

One of these stops was at the Jaeger Farm where the freight line had a log house with a porch and windows that opened like small wooden doors. Their beds were made of corn shuck mattresses where they could lay down to rest while waiting on the next load to go to the next meeting place. Not too far from this house, they had a corral and a hand dug water well, with a long cypress wood water trough to water their oxen and feed and rest them.

My grandfather, Peter Jaeger, was in charge as a boss or foreman of the freight line from the Winedale Community to Houston. In wet seasons, as many as three teams of oxen were used to pull the heavy wagon load of freight through axle deep mud and there were as many as three covered wagons in one caravan.

My Grandfather spoke of many of his early adventures he had through the freight line years. The gruesome, horrifying, grisly sights that made you shudder in fear, the terrifying danger and brutality the Indians left such as scalped women and men with arrows still in their chests. Many of them left laying along the roadway not buried. At these times, the freight men would stop long enough to bury the corpses and place a rock on them for a headstone or as a marker.

Grandfather Peter Jaeger said the immigrants that traveled by oxcarts or oxwagons had no communications with the folks that they were to see or to meet for there were no telegraph offices, telephones or mail systems.

Once travelers left Houston on the westward trail, they were cut off entirely from the world behind them unless they might overtake or meet other caravans of passing immigrants. However, going through the open prairie land where hardly nothing could be seen for miles, a man needed some kind of system to know of their whereabouts. Direction writing on a wooden board could not survive the sun and storms. So Grandpa said they used "Bone writing". The smooth surface of a large animal's jaw bone or the head of a dried clean animal's head was always a good place to write messages, directions, and warning of Indians approaching. These bones were placed on a pile of rock or on a post that they stood up to hold the message. This way they could be easily seen and read. In the woods, these bone messages were hung on the branches of trees for directions through the dense brush and woodland. The bones would direct travelers to low embankments of rivers and creeks so they could cross for there were no bridges, or ferries. The wagons needed low water crossing. As the great trek became a steady stream of westbound travelers, bone writing became a means of communication to help other immigrants come to the Winedale-Round Top area where

a lot of German immigrants settled and new ones welcomed.

Another story or legend of the freight line that my grandfather told me was of a load of freight he and two other men were taking to Houston. After crossing the Brazos River, they camped out to eat and rest for a while before continuing their way to Houston. While they were resting, my grandfather walked down to the river which was a short way from camp when he heard a cry of a small child. Not knowing of an abandoned child, he thought it was a trick of the Indians to use the cry of a child to lure him away from camp and his back up men. He went back to the camp and got his shotgun and went in search of the child's cry. He heard the child's cry so with great precaution, he followed the cry. He found a small Negro boy who was left by the river by other travelers. It was common in those days of slavery that the large plantation owners who had slave workers to abandon the small Negro children so that all their time was devoted to work. Grandpa Jaeger said he took the small boy into the river and took off all of his clothes and gave him a bath and cleaned him up. Then he took his own shirt off and wrapped the child with it so he could wash the child's clothing. He took him back to camp to warm him up and to dry his clothes by the campfire. He took the child with him to Houston, unloaded their freight and headed back home. He brought him home with him, gave him a name - McNeil, a home and a place to eat and sleep. He reared him to become a well respected man. After he became of age, he decided to get married. My Grandfather wanted to pay him for helping him on the farm so he offered him one hundred acres of land or a team of oxen with a plow. McNeal chose the team of oxen and plow for there was plenty of land to get but nothing to plow with to raise a crop. McNeil and his wife were happily married and had three children. The two boys were named Henry and Lee McNeal and the daughter was Ella. She married Cyfus Ray.

Oscar Heins' mother said she remembered the Peter Jaeger freight line with three pair of oxen to pull the wagon. In winter when it was raining and sleeting and the roads were muddy, her mother would cook a pot of hot coffee for them to drink and warm up. Then they would continue on to their destination.

The ox-wagon freight line was very important to the pioneer farmers in the community for they provided them with certain food, clothing, and medical supplies from Houston. It was their only source of getting any supplies for there were no railroads or trucks. The freight line was a provider and a lifesaver to them.

In additon to food, clothing and household supplies, the freight line also brought fruit trees and grape cuttings from Europe. One variety was the muscatel grape which made a rich sweet juice for jelly and wine. This grape flourished throughtout the entire community. Every family grew grapes which grew very vigorously and spead rapidly. This community once called Truebsal changed their name to Winedale in honor of the Muscatel grape. Some of the vines are still found in the area.

The ox wagon freight line was in operation until the railroads were built between Houston and Austin. Then all of the freight was shipped by rail and the ox wagon freight line was discontinued.

The Burkhardt School and Mayers School

In 1856, the Burkhardt School was built on land owned by John Burkhardt. He owned a larger tract of land and donated approximately three acres for cemetery (dated December 21, 1868) and a school for the community.

The school house was built of cedar boards for the outside walls and a floor of oak wood. The building also served as a church. Pastor Neuthard of Round Top and Pastor Graul served as pastors during this time. It is believed that Mr. Sprenger was the first teacher for a few years. The second teacher was Mr. Kromko.

A few years later, the Mayer brothers, Heinrich and Martin, donated five acres of their land to be used as a cemetery and built a school house on it. The school became the Mayers Cemetery and School with Mr. Kromko as the first teacher.

It has been said the Burkhardt School was sold at auction. Leslie Mayer said that his father bought the building and moved it on his farm and used it as a storage room and corn crib. The Mayers School building stood on the Mayers Cemetery for many years and was then torn down.

Heinrich Mayer and his wife and Martin Mayer and his wife are buried side by side in this cemetery together with other family members as well as other neighborhood acquaintances.

The Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Round Top

Surrounded by a quiet cemetery where many of its founders are interred, the small Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Round Top, Texas stands as a memorial to the courage of the early congregation. The pioneer families whose sweat and blood paved the way for their future generations.

With its cornerstone laid in May 6, 1866, the Bethlehem Lutheran Church stands as an austere chapel. It is surrounded by a hand-built tall rock fence that has enduring strength for it has fared better than some of the tombstones. The stone built walls with white interior provides a gallery setting of German architecture and craftsmanship with Gothic windows. It probably contains the oldest handmade pipe organ in the State of Texas. The pipes are made of wood, but gleams as if made out of gold.

Outside beneath the arms of the large oak and cedar trees are the tombstones and plots that record in epitaph some of the history that has touched Round Top and made it so great and historic with pride and religious leadership.

The church was served by brilliant men who were educated and had knowledge in two capacities as doctors and ministers therefore they were able to heal the people physically as well as spiritually. Dr. and Pastor A. Neuthard and Dr. and Pastor J. Graul served the Round Top-Winedale area for many years. They were well remembered by almost all of the first pioneer families as their doctors and pastors. Their memories will remain as friends of Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Winedale Lutheran Church.

The Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church of Winedale

In the years of 1868, the Evangelical Lutheran Church was built on one acre of land that was donated to the Evangelical Lutheran Church by Gottfried Braun. The church was given a deed to the one acre of land. It was dated November 4, 1887 and filed for record in LaGrange, Texas on the same day. It was officially recorded on November 19, 1887.

The Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized and dedicated by Pastor J. Graul with the official name being "Die Deutche Evangelish Lutherische Dreifaltigskeit Germinde" bei Round Top, Fayette County, Texas Gegruendet January 1, 1869. Translated this means: The Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Congregation by Round Top, Fayette County, Texas founded January 1, 1869. The constitution signatures to this church are as follows: Pastor J. Graul, Christian Braun, Gottfried Braun (who donated the one acre of land) Wilhelmina Marburger, H. Marburger, Peter Loehr, Adam Burkhardt, W. Stork, Daniel Wickel, T. Stork, Heinrich Wunderlich, Gottlieb Kuehn, George Neschwitz, and Ludwig Marburger plus a few more unfamiliar names that could not be read.

This building served as a church only for twenty-five years. With the closing of the Burkhardt and Mayer Schools, they started using the Evanglical Lutheran Church also as a school and called it Winedale School. The first year was in 1896 with L. M. Casis as teacher. Other teachers were:

1896 Fritz Richter	1919 Roy Giese
1897 A. J. Went	1920 Herbert Knebel
1902 L. C. Neutzler	1921 Oscar Feist
1904 B. Seibel	1936 E. A. Kuschke
1907 Otto Brandt	1941 Victor Witte
1914 W. F. Finck	1942 Ruth Scholl

The Winedale School closed when it consolidated with the Burton Independent School District in 1943. But the Lutheran Church continued with services for approximately three years when Pastor Leon Simons decided to decline his services leaving the entire congregation stranded without a pastor, without a release or transfer to other churches. The members were left depressed and deserted. Their church doors closed with only their faith and trust in God remaining in the Winedale Lutheran Church building. Sad, but true, as of this writing the church building is being used as a barn.

