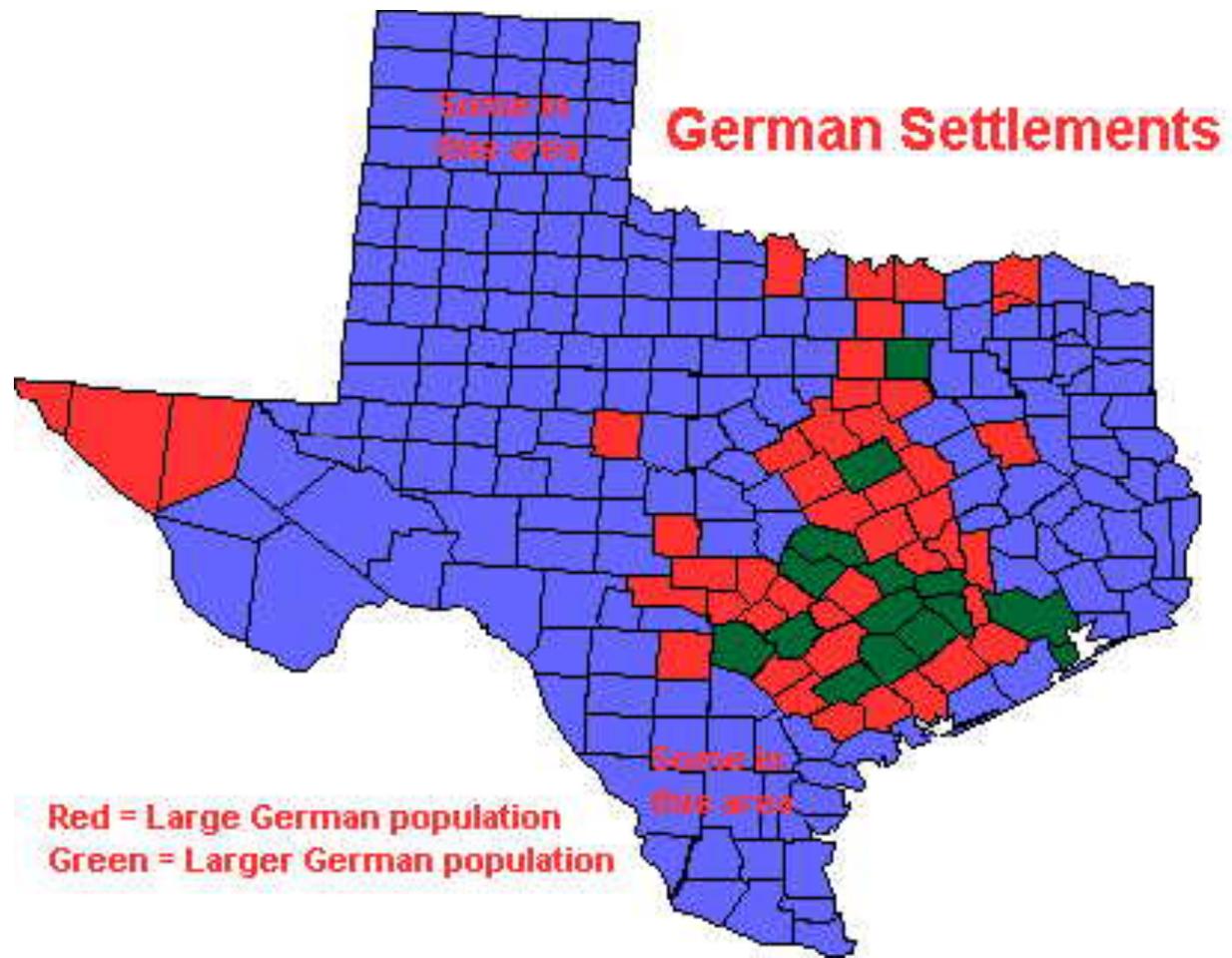


# **JHG TEXAS LECTURE SERIES**

**October 1, 2016**

German Colonization  
in the Republic of Texas



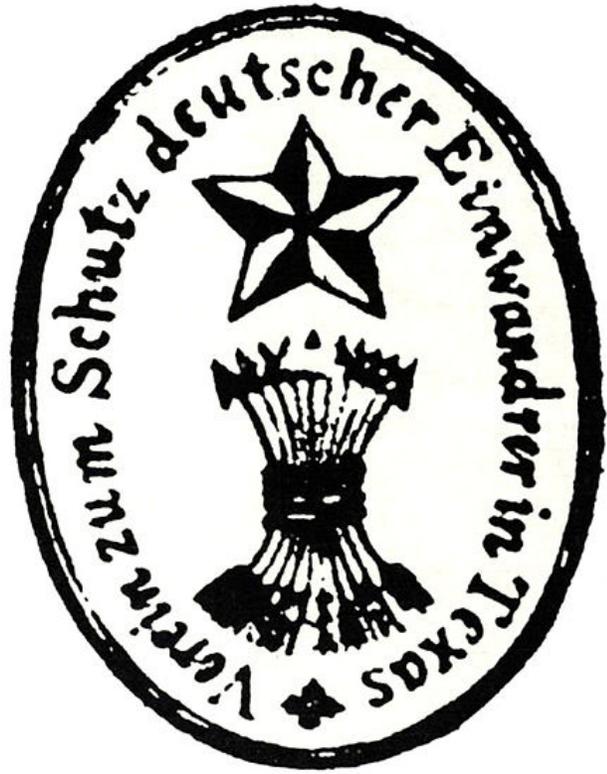


Schloss Biebrich

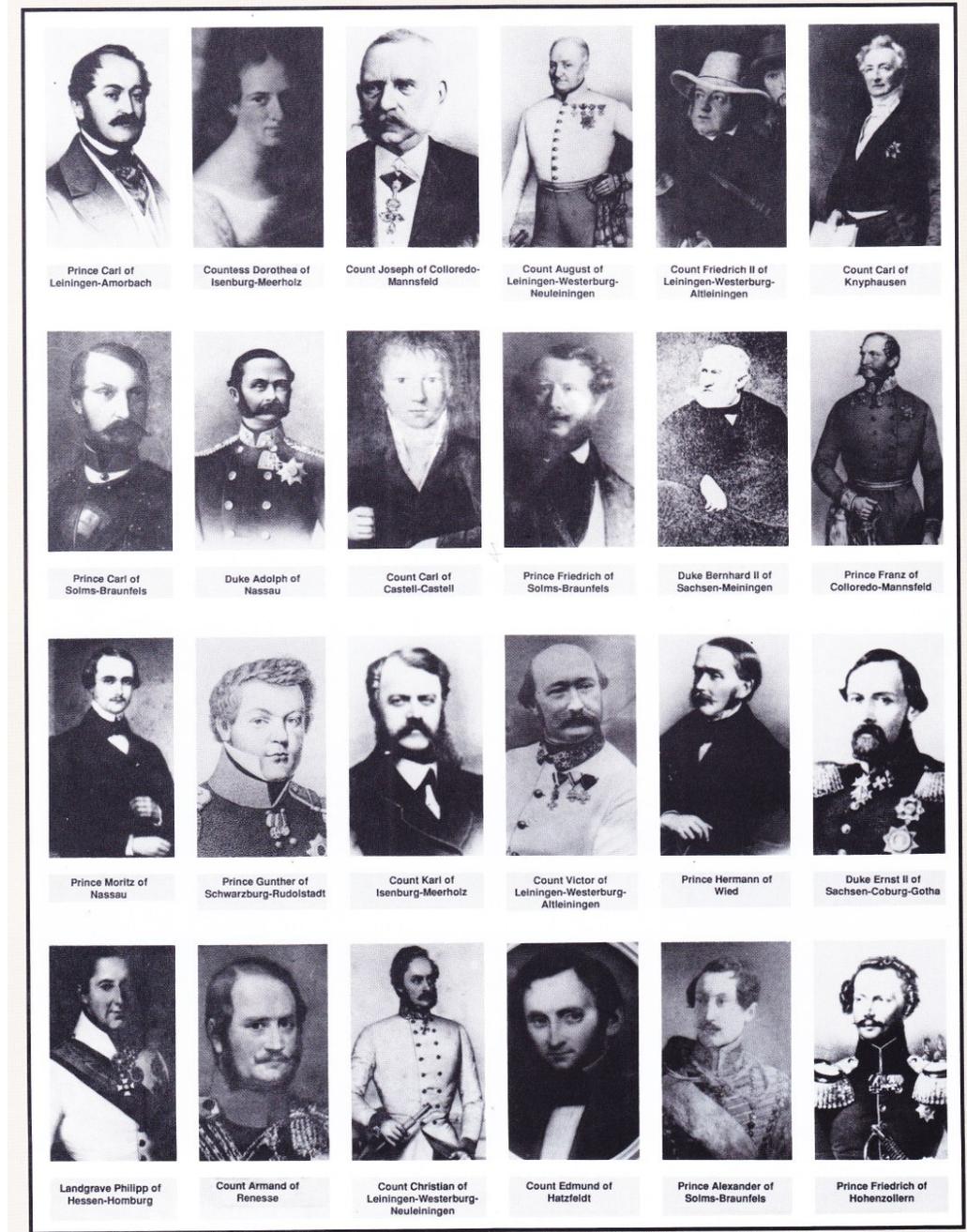


Herzog Adolph von Nassau

1839 – German Nobles meet for private assessment of a Texas Colony  
April 20, 1842 - First Organizational Meeting  
**Verein zum Schutze Deutscher Einwanderer in Texas**  
“Mainzer Adelsverein”



# Members of the Mainzer Adelsverein



# Why a German Colony in Texas?

---

- International Geo-political Considerations
  - ✓ Great Britain – financial interests in Mexico
  - ✓ Republic of Texas – 1836 1846 - bankrupt; on verge of collapse
  - ✓ United States of America – westward expansion (to Coahuila silver mines?)
- Political Motives
  - ✓ Land and Statecraft – the family business of [mediatized] Princes, Dukes, and Counts
  - ✓ Political benefits – ties to the Crown of Great Britain
- Trade and Commercial Incentives – British vs. German Models
  - ✓ The Industrial Revolution
  - ✓ Colonial resources for fibers and minerals
  - ✓ 39 “German” principalities or duchies; the Zollverein
- Financial Incentives
  - ✓ land profits 1,9 million acres
  - ✓ Rumored silver mine might yield enough bullion to pay for entire venture

## Adelsverein Founders and Relationship with Great Britain



Karl Fürst zu Leiningen  
Half-brother to Victoria, Queen  
of Great Britain

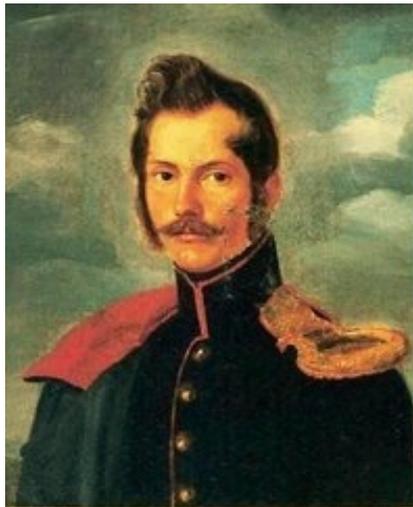


Herzog Ernst von Sachsen-  
Coburg und Gotha - brother of  
Prince Albert, consort of  
Victoria, Queen of Great Britain

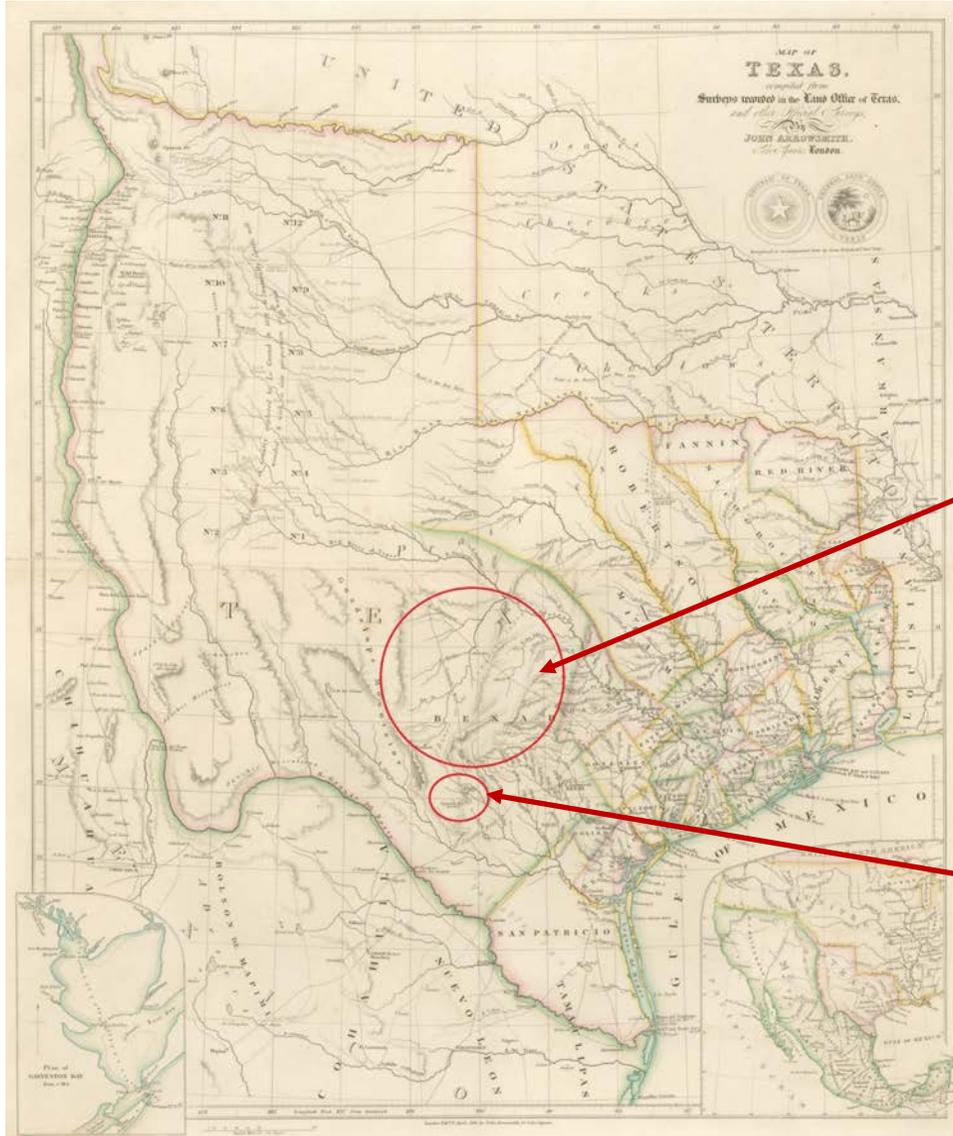


Prinz Carl zu Solms-  
Braunfels. 2nd cousin to  
Victoria, Queen of Great  
Britain.

# Adelsverein's Military Officers in Texas



- Graf Carl Frederick Christian von Castell-Castell (Founder and General Secretary of Adelsverein) **herzoglich nassauischer Oberst**
- Prinz Carl zu Solms-Braunfels (Founder and General Commissioner of Adelsverein in Texas) **Feldmarschalleutnant, Captain of 3rd Cuirassier Regiment of Saxony**
- Joseph Graf von Boos zu Waldeck (Founder of Adelsverein and Nassau Farm) **herzoglich nassauischer Oberstleutnant und Flügeladjutant**
- Graf Viktor August von Leiningen-Westerburg-Alt-Leiningen (Founder of Adelsverein and Nassau Farm) - **österreichischer Feldmarschalleutnant**
- Johann Jakob von Coll (Adelsverein Bookkeeper) **staff** of the Duke of Nassau's **army**
- Heinrich Carl Rudolph Hans von Specht - **Hussaren Offizier**
- Captain Friedrich Wilhelm von Wrede, Sr. (in charge of Nassau Farm) - a former **cavalry officer**; previously served as a **Captain of the Hessian Army** in Waterloo
- **Leutnant** Oskar von Claren
- Nicolaus Zink (engineer and surveyor laid out the town of New Braunfels and its roads) former service in **Austrian cavalry**



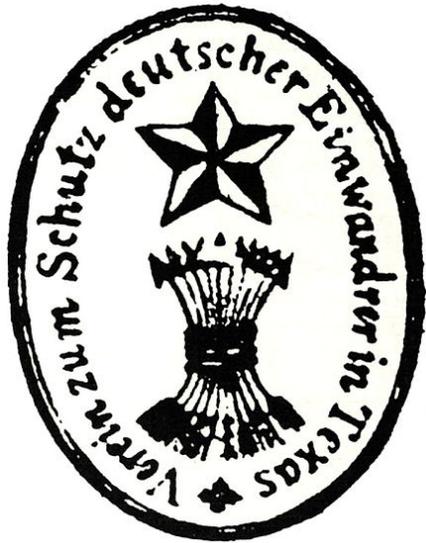
# Texas in 1841

“Range of the Comanche Indians”



“Silver Mines”

# The Experiment: Nassau Farm



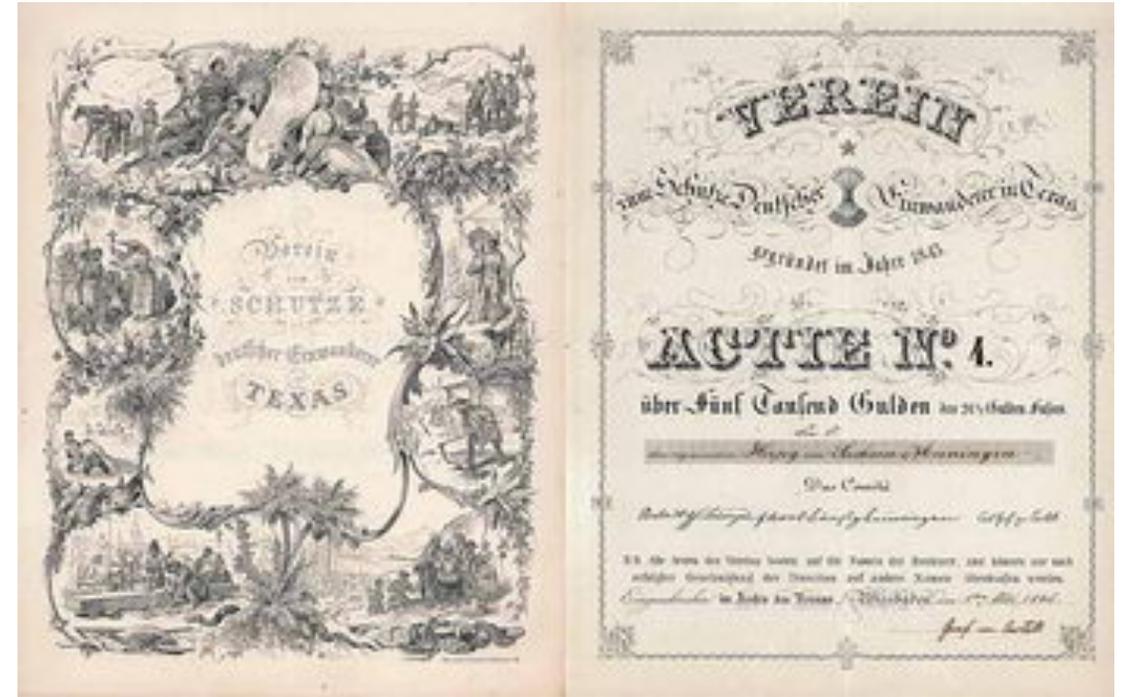
- May 1842 the *Adelsverein* sent Viktor Graf Leiningen-Westerburg-Altleiningen and Joseph Graf Boos-Waldeck to Texas to establish a trial farm.
- Graf Leiningen returned to Germany in 1843 and reported in favor of large scale colonization in Texas.
- Lobbied with President Sam Houston
- Graf Boos-Waldeck returned to Germany In January 1844 and recommended against colonization on a large scale, since it would require too large a financial outlay.

# “Verein zum Schutze Deutscher Einwanderer in Texas”

Reorganized and Recapitalized

March 25, 1844

Issued 200,000 Gulden Share Capital



“Verein zum Schutze deutscher Auswanderer nach Texas”

“Verein zum Schutze Deutscher Einwanderer in Texas”

# Texas Empresario Land Grant #1 Swindled!

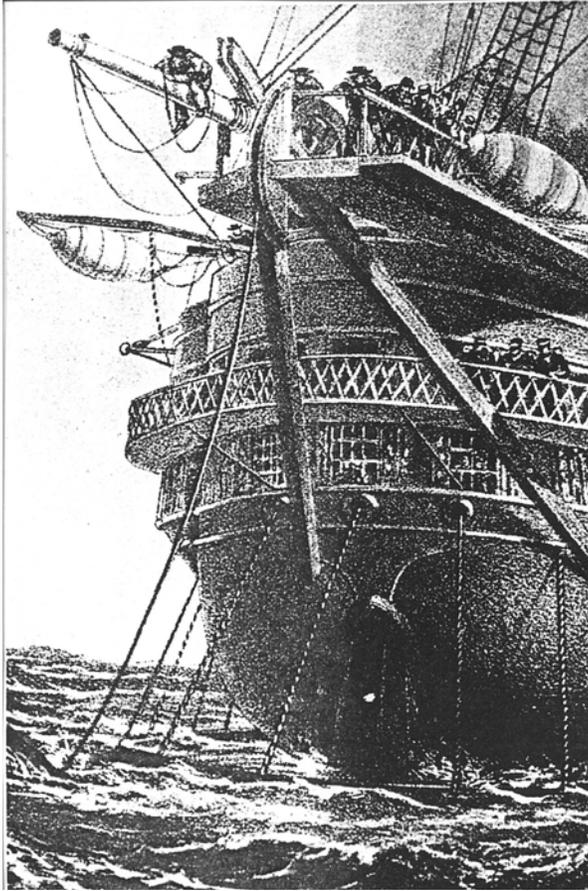
- Alexander Bourgeois d'Orvanne sold an expired *Empresario* land grant consisting of millions of acres in West Texas to the *Mainzer Adelsverein* on April 7, 1844, with hope that the grant could be renewed.
- July 1, 1844 Prince Carl zu Solms-Braunfels arrived in Texas as the Adelsverein's Commissioner General in Texas. Bourgeois d'Orvanne was appointed to be Prince Carl's Colonial Administrator in Texas.
- Prince Carl was responsible to oversee the task of colonizing the *Empresario* land grant. His immediate task was to supervise the logistics of transporting and settling a target of 12,000 German speaking immigrants in the Colony.
- Prince Carl and Bourgeois d'Orvanne petitioned to extend the expiration date of d'Orvanne's *Empresario* land grant, but their petition was rejected.
- The *Adelsverein* had been swindled out of 9,000 Gulden for a worthless land grant.

# Texas Empresario Land Grant #2

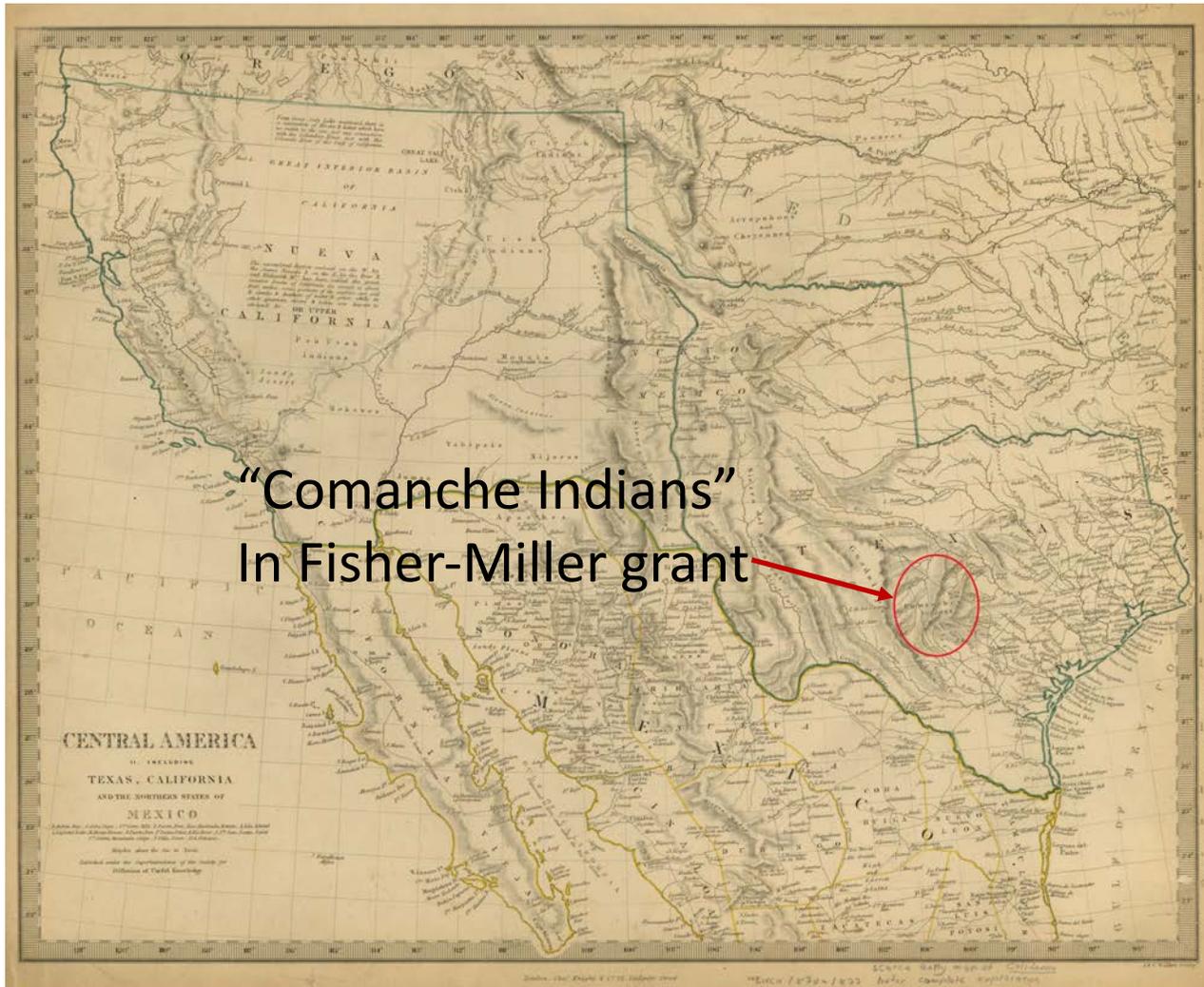
## A Swindle or just a “Shaky Deal”?

- Heinrich Franz Fischer (Republic of Texas Consul in Bremen) and Burchard Müller offered a second empresario land grant, consisting of 3,878,000 acres in west Texas, to the Adelsverein in 1844.
- Fisher and Miller’s empresario rights had already been **forfeited** for noncompliance with the terms of their land contract.
- 6,000 German families had to be settled on the Grant by August, 1847.
- The Empresario grant was essentially a pyramid sales scheme. 6,000 families X 320 Acres = **1,920,000 Acres land profit** to the Adelsverein’s members
- Prince Carl zu Solms-Braunfels advised against purchasing the Fisher-Miller Grant.
- The Mainzer Adelsverein purchased the Fisher-Miller Land Grant.

# From Bremerhaven to Galveston in the 1840's



# Map of Texas (1846)



“Comanche Indians”  
In Fisher-Miller grant



# Nermernuh

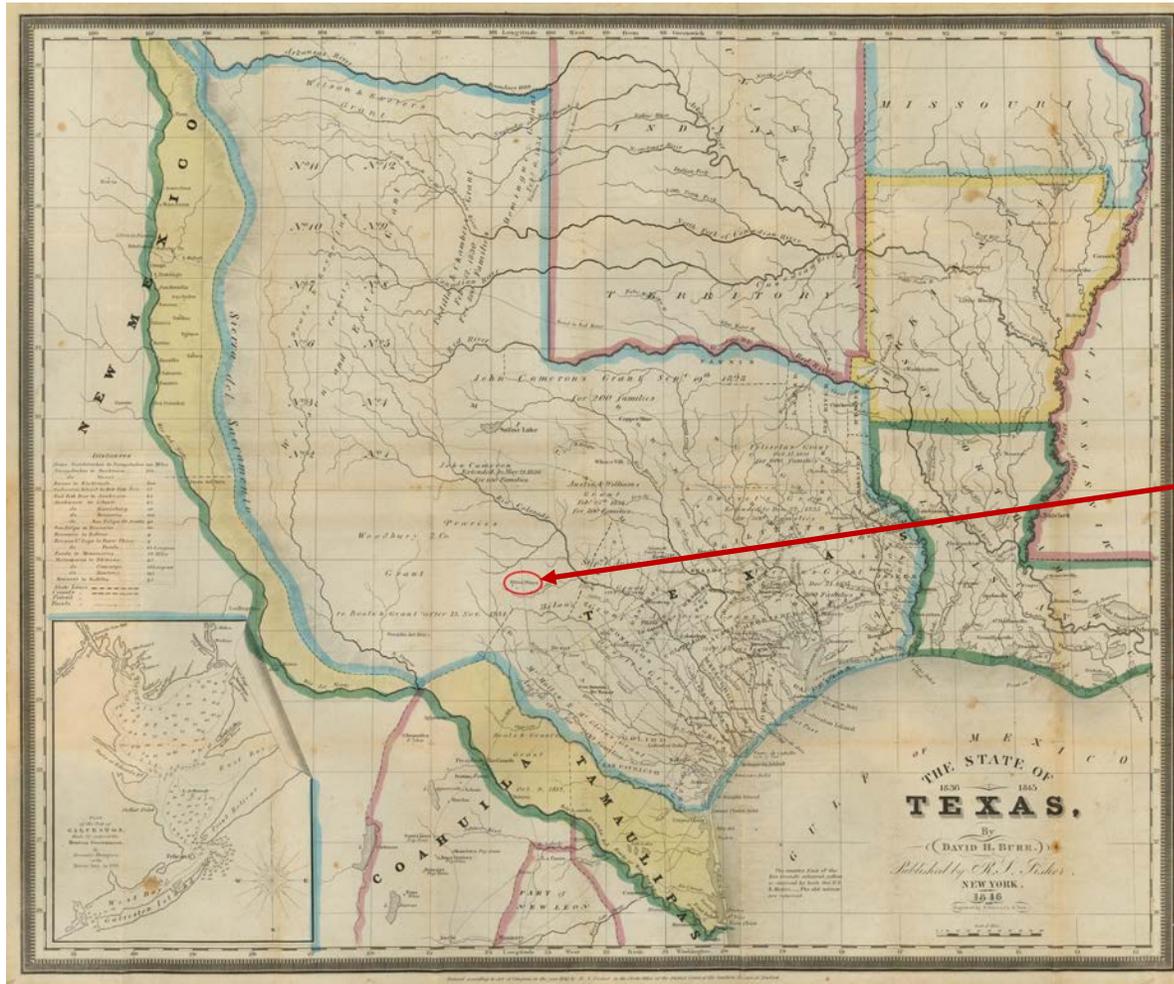


## Texas Map (1839) Logistics



- Galveston transshipment point.
- By late 1844, Prince Carl established „Carlshafen” at Indianola to receive the first wave of 700 German migrants.
- German immigrants were camped in Carlshafen, dying of typhus and dysentery. Texas was becoming a German grave.
- March 15, 1845 Prince Carl acquired land to establish New Braunfels as an emergency measure.
- 165 Mile Ox Cart Trail – shortest German Immigration Route from Carlshafen to New Braunfels.
- October 1845 to April 1846: 5,257 Germans were brought to Texas, but more than 2,000 perished miserably.

# State of Texas 1846



“Silver Mine” shown on American map

# USA and Mexico 1846



“Silver Mine” shown on additional American map

# Estados Unidos de Méjico - 1846



“Indios Comanches”

“Misión Santa Cruz de San Sabá”

“Apaches Mescaleros”

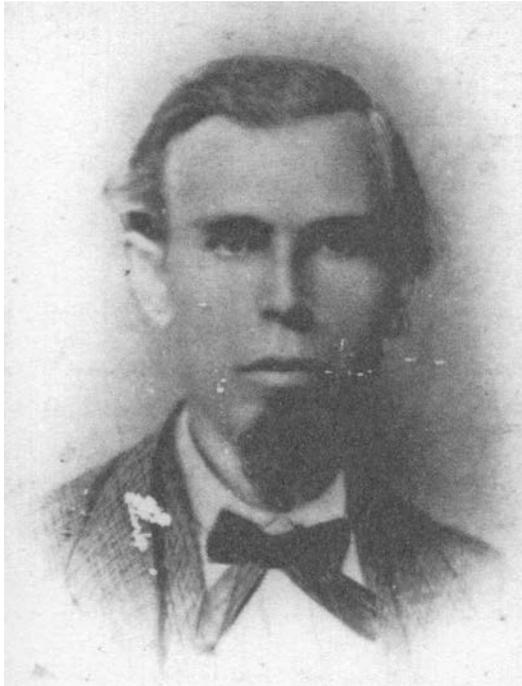
**No mention of  
Silver Mine on  
Mexican map.**

## Mainzer Adelsverein – New Commissioner General in the Republic of Texas in 1845



- Solms-Braunfels departed and Otfried Hans Freiherr von Meusebach Arr. Texas May, 1845
- Educated in Law
- Commissioner General of Mainzer Adelsverein
- Dropped his baronial title, became “John O. Meusebach” to get along with the Texans
- Threatened by disillusioned immigrants

# New Braunfels first Settled – 1845



Julius Voelcker „apothekary”  
Arr. Carlshafen Jan. 20, 1845  
Drew Town Lot No. 59

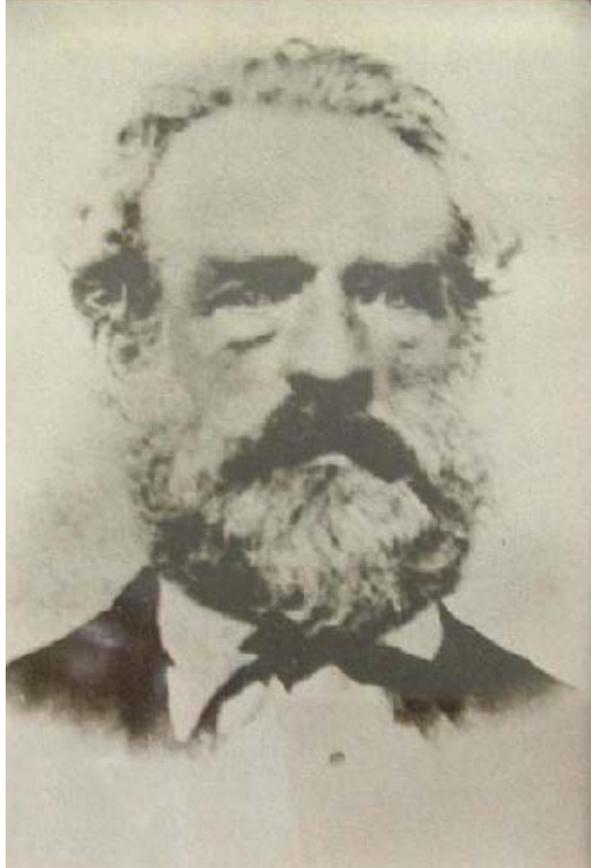
- Nicolaus Zink surveyed and laid out New Braunfels streets and lots for Prince Carl zu Solms-Braunfels.
- March 21, 1845 – first wave of immigrants arrived in New Braunfels from Carlshafen, including Julius Voelcker.
- Late 1845 Meusebach distributed New Braunfels town lots, all drawn from a hat.
- By end 1845, 300 wooden houses, less than 1,500 souls.

# *Adelsverein Officers Massacred, Scalped!*



- Captain Friedrich von Wrede, Sr. and Lieutenant Oskar von Claren traveled with their companion, Wessel, on horseback from Austin to New Braunfels in October, 1845.
- While they camped overnight at Live Oak Springs (about twelve miles south of Austin), they were attacked by Comanche.
- Wessel escaped after killing one of the Indians and reported back to Meusebach.
- von Wrede and von Claren were tragically murdered and scalped. The Indians collected not one, but two scalps from von Claren, since they also cut off his beard!

# Georg Klappenbach appointed Colonial Director in New Braunfels



- December 29, 1845 – Annexation of Texas
- Adelsverein's plans for a German State ended but interest in silver mine and land operation and continued
- Meusebach nominated Georg Klappenbach to be Colonial Director in New Braunfels.
- Georg Klappenbach, Arrived in Texas July, 1846 with his family.

# Meusebach Negotiates a Private Treaty with Comanche and Kiowa



**Meusebach**



**Satanta**

Treaty parlay with Comanche, Kiowa and Delaware Indians  
John O. Meusebach, Dr. Ferdinand von Roemer and Texas Ranger Jack Hayes  
March 9, 1847

# Meusebach's Parlay with Indian Council



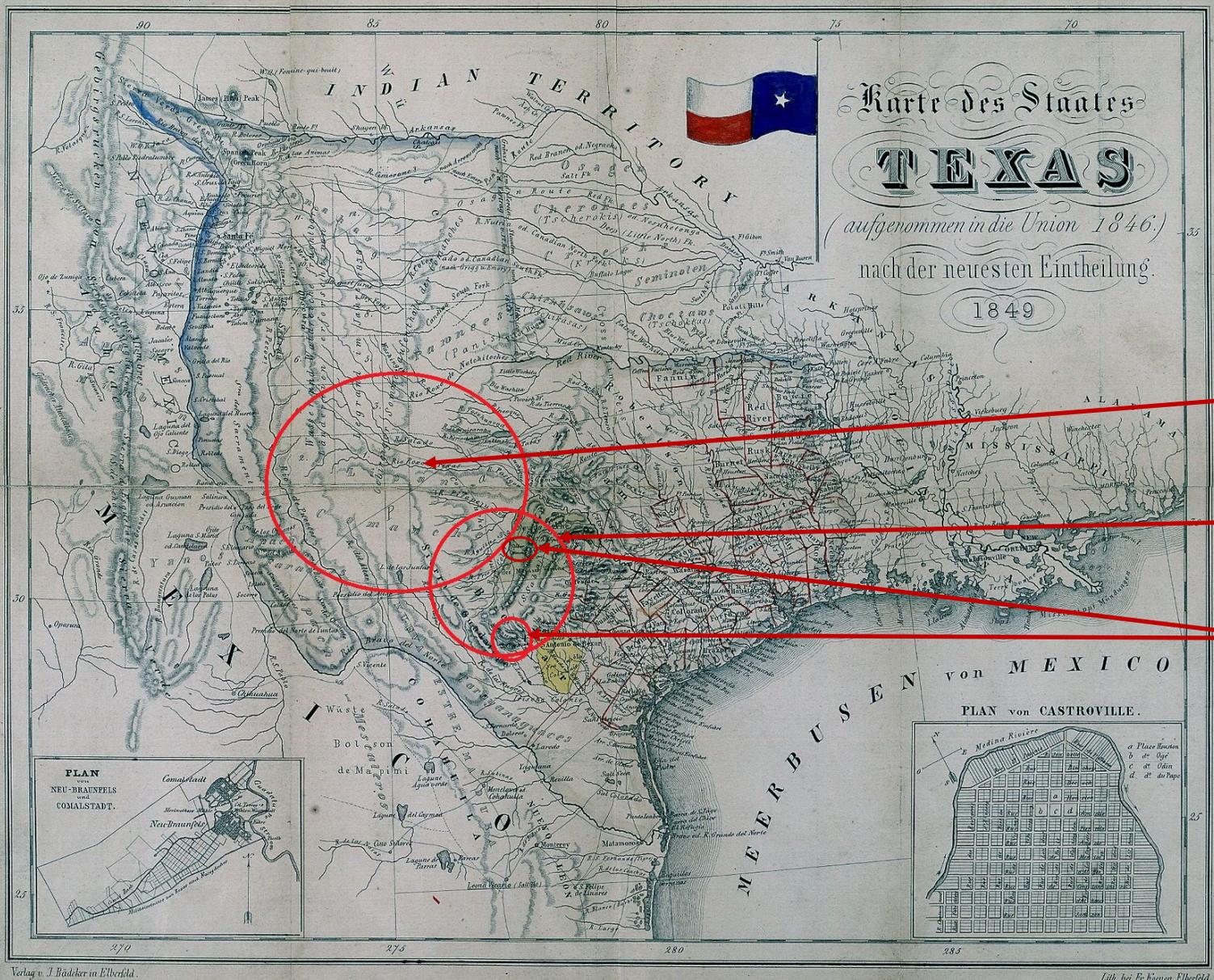
# The Treaty



# Summary of Meusebach's Time Line

- Arrived May, 1845 in the Republic of Texas; met with angry immigrants
- Between October 1845 and April 1846 alone, a total of 5,257 German emigrants were brought to Texas; more than 7,000 in total.
- December 29, 1845 – Texas annexed as a state by U.S. President James K. Polk. Meusebach first resigned as Commissioner General, but his resignation was not accepted by the Mainzer Adelsverein.
- May 8, 1846 established Fredericksburg – named after *Adelsverein* founder member, Friedrich Prinz von Preussen. Ongoing conflict with Comanche and Kiowah Indians.
- March 9, 1847 negotiated peace treaty with Indians
- In 1847 established five settlements - Bettina, Castell, Leiningen, Meerholz, and Schoenburg - in the Fisher-Miller grant on the banks of the Llano River. Schoenburg and Meerholz were unsuccessful from the start. Bettina had a brief life. Only Castell remains (named after Carl Graf Castell). Leiningen still exists as a small unincorporated Lutheran community in Llano County.
- July 20, 1847 – Meusebach finally resigned as General Commissioner of the *Mainzer Adelsverein*
- Elected Texas State Senator where he continued to serve his compatriots by passing special legislation on March 20, 1848, finally enabling them to lay claim to their land patents in Texas.
- Meusebach's friend and Colonial Director, Georg Klappenbach, stayed on to become elected Mayor of New Braunfels and then Comal County Judge (administrative) in New Braunfels until 1868.

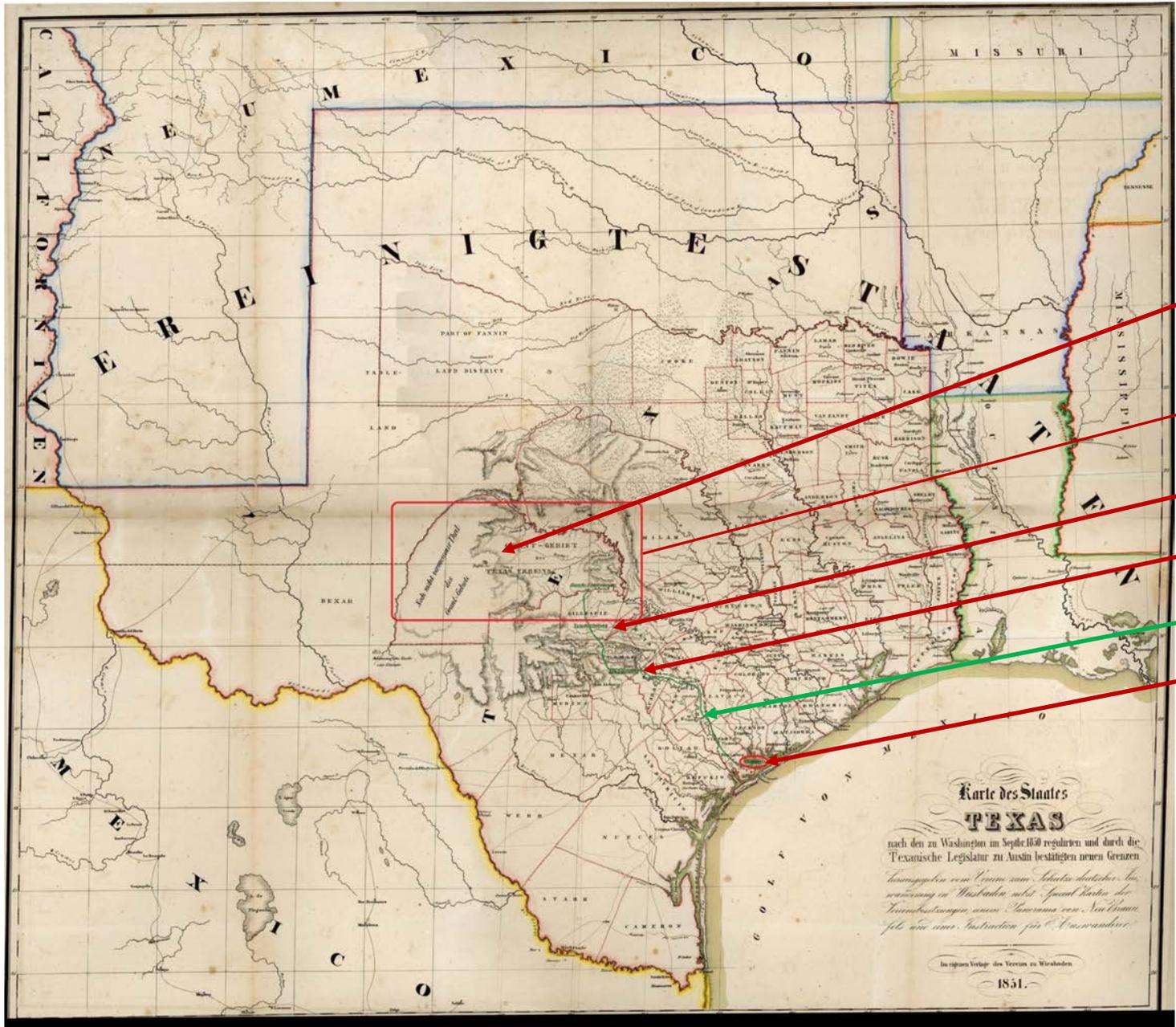
# Karte des Staates Texas 1849



„Lipan“  
„Comanches“

„Deutsche Colonie des Mainzer Vereins“

„Silber Mine“



Mainzer Adelsverein  
official Map:  
„Karte des Staates Texas  
1851“

„Noch nicht vermessener  
Theil des Grant-Gebiets“

„Grant-Gebiet des Texas  
Vereins“

Friedrichsburg

New Braunfels

German Immigration Route

Indianola

Karte des Staates  
**TEXAS**  
nach den zu Washington im Sept. 1850 regulirten und durch die  
Texanische Legislatur zu Austin bestätigten neuen Grenzen  
*ausgegeben von Lorenz von Arnim d. Älteren. Im  
Verlag von W. Neumann, Neudamm, bei  
Verkaufsstellen, unter Aufsicht von W. Neumann,  
als eine vom Institute für Vorkurs.*  
Im Auftrag des Vereins zu Wiesbaden  
1851.

# Mainzer Adelsverein Liquidation

- After Meusebach's daring 1847 expedition into the Fisher-Miller territory, Dr. Ferdinand von Roemer sent a negative report back to the *Adelsverein's* European headquarters: **there was no basis for the fabled Spanish silver mine**. This disappointing news was received as **the final blow** to the society's plans in Texas.
- Mainzer Adelsverein members lost interest in Texas and withdrew financial support.
- Numerous German military officers in Texas had returned to the Prussia after statehood; others stayed on to make a life in the new world.
- By the end of 1847 the Adelsverein faced bankruptcy. August Freiherr von Bibra, business manager of the *Adelsverein*, presided over the *Adelsverein's* final liquidation in Texas.
- Without the *Adelsverein's* continued subsidies, the colonists had to fend for themselves independently.
- Henry Fisher revived the society under a new name "German Emigration Company" until September 1853, when the company assigned all its properties and colonization rights to its creditors.

# Eugen Voelcker Land Records

U. STATES OF AMERICA. STATE OF TEXAS. COUNTY OF COMAL. KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:—

I, *Eugen Voelcker* one of the emigrants introduced as a colonist under a certain contract of colonization entered upon between the Government of the Republic of Texas and Henry F. Fisher and B. Aisher, bearing date the 1st day of September, A. D. 1843, and by the latter assigned and transferred to the German Emigration and Railroad Company, do by these presents acknowledge and declare, that I arrived in Texas on board the *Marian* from Bremen at the port of Galveston on the *ninth* day of *July* A. D. 1846 and that by virtue of said colonization contract, I am being a single man over the age of 17 years entitled to a conditional grant of *Three hundred and twenty* acres of land. Now be it known, that I the said *Eugen Voelcker* do by these presents accept the same upon the terms and conditions in the said colonization contract at forth and contained, and I do for myself, my heirs and administrators, in consideration of the trouble and expenses of the said Company, had for transportation and otherwise, also in consideration of One Dollar to me in hand paid by the said Company, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, and in pursuance of the permission granted to me in the said colonization contract, by these presents release, assign and set over, unto the said German Emigration and Railroad Company, the one-half of the said *Three hundred and twenty* acres being *One hundred and twenty* acres of land, together with all my right, claim and interest, if, in and out of the same, in fee simple. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal by way of seal, this *Twenty second* day of *January* A. D. 1847

Witness, *Eugen Voelcker*  
*Henry F. Fisher*

160 Acres grant  
 Eugen Voelcker - Henry Fisher  
 January 22, 1847

STATE OF TEXAS, SURVEY No. 1442  
 District of Bexar.

FIELD NOTES of a Survey of 320 acres of Land, made for *Eugen Voelcker* being the quantity of land to which he is entitled by virtue of certificate No. 148 issued by W. F. Lewis Commissioner of Fisher & Aisher Colony in San Antonio County.

Said Survey is No. 1457, in District No. 3, Situated on the waters of *San Saba* river, about *6 1/2* miles West of the old San Saba Fort: Beginning at *Point A* on the *North* bank of the course of Survey No. *San Saba River* the *North* corner of Survey No. 1051 from which a *Short Oak* 10 inches in diameter bears *28 W. 20 degrees* a *Long Oak* 10 inches in diameter bears *S 18 W. 20* varies *Thence* *North 7 1/2* varies to a *North* corner of *Survey* *West 1/2* varies to a *State* and *measures* *Thence* *South 18 1/2* varies to a *State* on the *North* bank of the *San Saba River* *Thence* *from the river* to the *North* corner of *Survey* to the place of beginning.

Be it remembered, that I the said *John S. McDonald* Surveyed 12 day of *August* 1853. Witness *John S. McDonald* *John S. McDonald* *John S. McDonald*

J. J. GIDDINGS, Deputy Surveyor, Bexar District, do hereby certify that the foregoing Survey was made according to law, and that the limits, boundaries and corners, with the marks, natural and artificial, are truly described in the foregoing plat and field notes.

SAN ANTONIO, *May 18<sup>th</sup> 1853* Deputy Surveyor, Bexar District.

J. S. McDonald, District Surveyor, Bexar District, do hereby certify that I have examined the foregoing plat and field notes, and find them correct; and that they are recorded in Book 5 No. 2 page 107.

SAN ANTONIO, *May 18<sup>th</sup> 1853* District Surveyor, Bexar District.

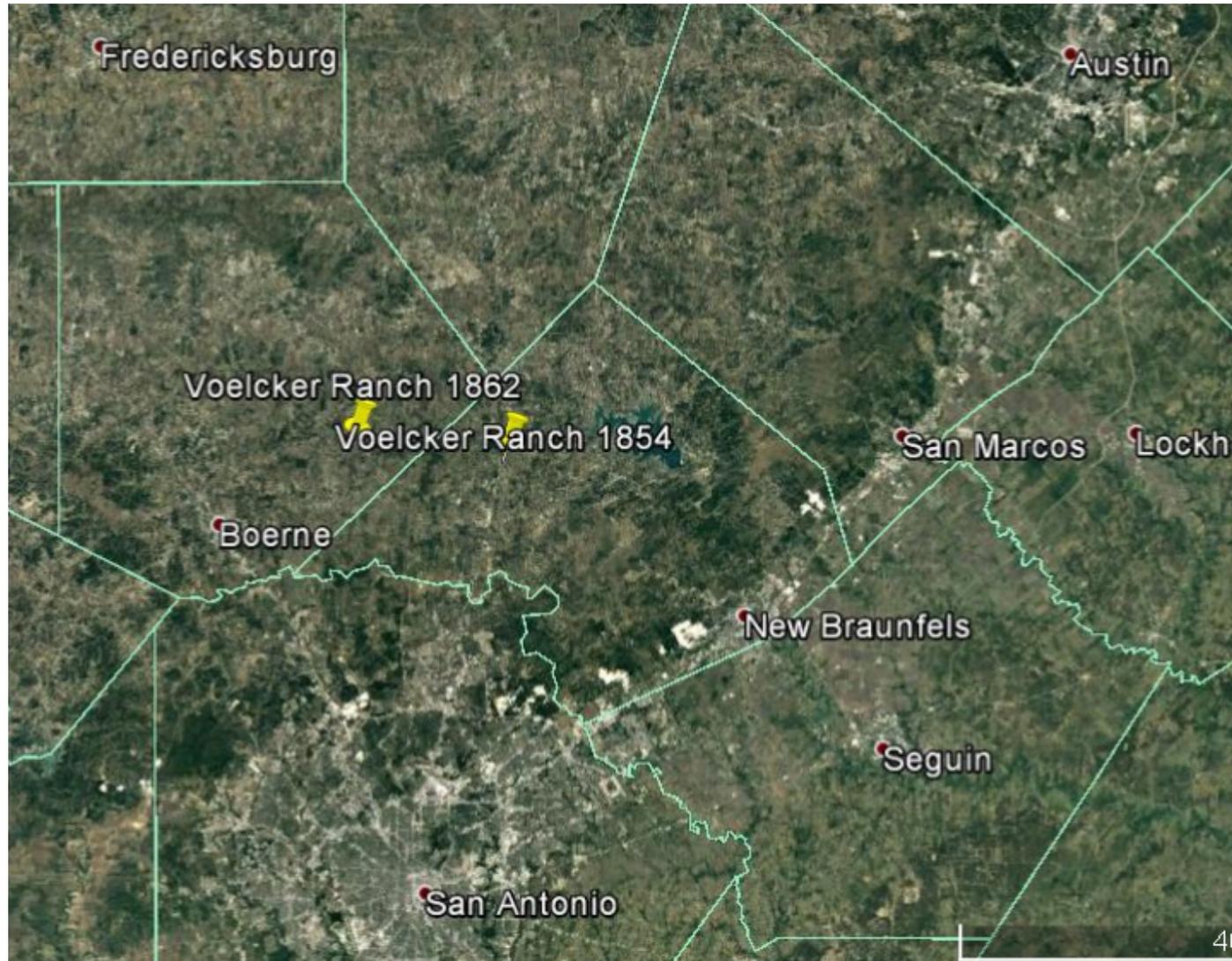
Voelcker Lot Survey 320 Acres  
 By John S. McDonald  
 May 18, 1853

# Survey Map: Fisher & Miller's Colony 1855



John S. McDonald  
District Surveyor and  
San Antonio Mayor

# Voelcker Ranches Location Map



# Eugen Voelcker's Pioneer Fachwerk Ranch House





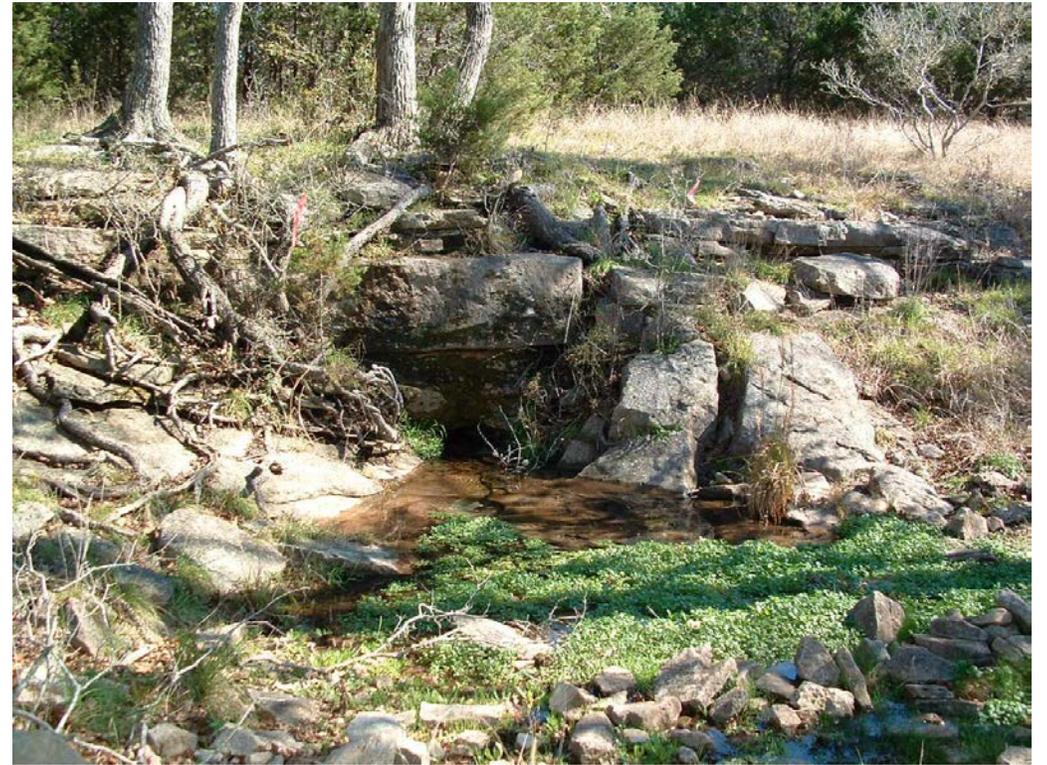
**Voelcker Ranch House  
Front Porch and Cow Bell**



# Voelcker Ranch Scenes



Farm Meadow with Stone walls



Artesian Spring

# Eugen Voelcker Ranch Brands

13      *Marks & Brands Kendall Co Court House*

62. Christian Jacob - Lueddale.  
Brand for cattle, mules and horses CJ  
Mark on cattle and hogs   Underbit out of the left ear.  
Presented and recorded July 9<sup>th</sup> 1862.

---

63.  
Eugen Voelcker, Lueddale Creek.  
Brand **EV** on cattle on the right hip, on horses on the right shoulder.  
Mark on cattle and hogs   swallowfork out of each ear.  
Mark on mare colls: split in each ear  
Presented & recorded on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 1862



EV Branding Iron and Registration dated 14<sup>th</sup> July, 1862

# Texas Germans during the “Civil War” 1861-1865



Casper Sueltenfuss  
in Union Army Uniform

- Most Germans in Texas had voted against secession and were loyal to the Union.
- July 1862 - 60 German ranchers protested the Rebel conscription movement and set out for political asylum in Mexico.
- July 12, 1862 camped on the Nueces River on route to Mexico.
- Surprised by a detachment of 100 rebel soldiers. A large number of Germans were killed or hung.
- Casper Sueltenfuss, neighbor to Eugen Voelcker, missed traveling with the group of 60 by three days and traveled alone. Paid a Mexican with a boat 10 cents to bring Sueltenfuss across the Rio Grande. There he worked as a clerk for an English merchant.
- Left for Matagorda, met Captain Ad Zoeller, Joined Union Company “C”.
- Sueltenfuss married Eugen Voelcker’s daughter, Anna.

# German Pioneers' Ranch Life

- Every child was given daily work responsibilities.
- Tend to the family cornfield and kitchen garden, where they harvested their fruits and vegetables.
- Hand washed all the family's clothes and hung out to dry.
- Lard from the kitchen was dumped with ashes into a big vat and processed into lye soap.
- Candles were hand-made to light their ranch house.
- Kindling wood was chopped and gathered for use in the wood-burning stove, where all the meals were cooked.
- Water had to be gathered from the nearby spring for cooking, drinking and cleaning.

# Meal preparation at the Voelcker Kitchen

- Breakfast eggs had to be gathered from the chickens and bacon sliced from the slab in the smokehouse.
- Cornbread was handmade from corn meal, ground from the Voelcker's corn, then baked in the wood fired oven, which needed stoking and tending.
- While one child milked the cows, others hand churned the butter.
- If fried chicken was to be served at lunchtime or dinner, then someone had to catch the chicken, chop its head, pluck the feathers, and then dress the chicken. The chicken was then fried in bacon grease from the Voelcker's home-cured bacon, again on the wood fired stove.
- Salt pork and sausage were regular fare for frontier families. Some meat was crudely immersed in a kettle of lard to preserve the meat from spoiling. Fresh meat was kept sitting out in the kitchen under the protection of a fly-screen.
- The kitchen garden provided fresh ingredients in season. Some vegetables had to be pickled in brine. Fruits had to be preserved and canned for consumption out of season.
- Other ranch food consisted of honey, harvested venison.
- Purchased in New Braunfels: flour, salt, sugar

“A great country for men and dogs, but hell on women and horses”

**Frontier ranch life for Eugen Voelcker:**

- He could ride across his broad acres; see far horizons, beautiful hills, and limestone cliffs.
- He could feed his dreams with plans for expanding his herds
- The frontier era was a tremendously exhilarating time for a young stalwart rancher like Eugen.
- The Guadalupe River valley is a beautiful area with abundant nature and wildlife, which would have inspired Eugen with a sense of freedom and exuberance.

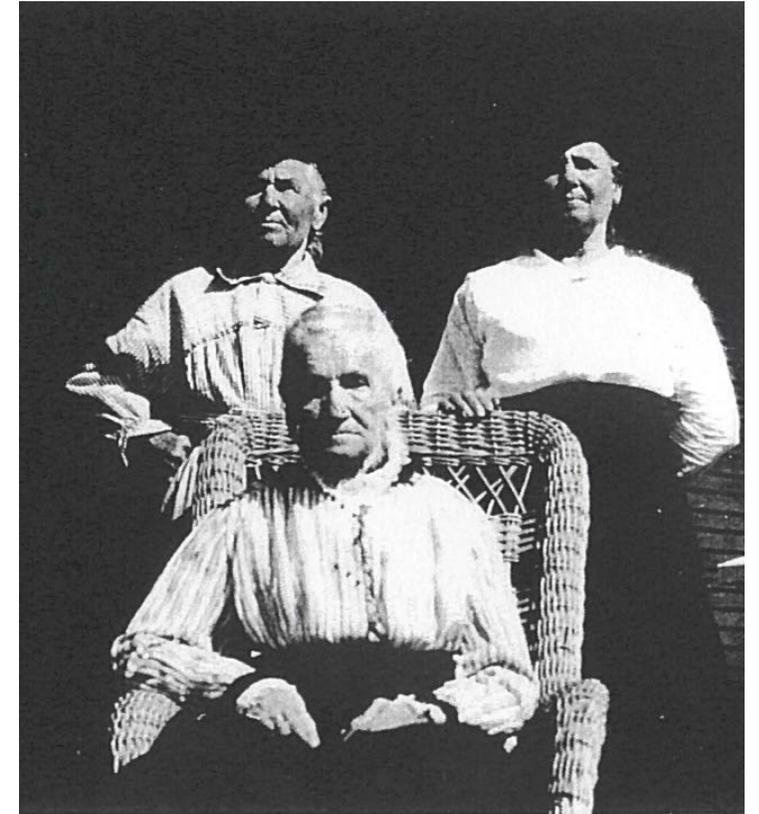
# Pioneer German Ranchers in Texas



*Eugen Voelckery*



Luise Voelcker (1830-1921)



Anna and Lena Voelcker  
Luise Voelcker

# “A great country for men and dogs, but hell on women and horses” (Part 2)

## **Frontier ranch life for Luise Voelcker:**

- Ranch life nearly drove pioneer ranch wives mad.
- Isolated, Luise went for days and weeks without seeing a neighbor, and without the security and comforts of the civilization she had left.
- Luise had very few luxuries. Factory-made goods and clothing were only just beginning to appear along the frontier in the 1860's. Such basics as soap, shoes, candles, shirts and dresses, and even coffins were only available as “home-made.
- Luise's life consisted of long days of monotonous work and desperate loneliness.
- Her life would have seemed very narrow as compared with the cultural life she enjoyed as a girl in her hometown of Lenzen in the Prignitz.

# „auf der Comanchegrenze“



Comanche Warriors

- U.S. troops withdrew during the Civil War (1861-1865) leaving ranchers isolated and defenseless
- Indian raiders became bolder
- Indians burst into the Voelcker kitchen
- Anna Voelcker guarded the horses by day, rounded up livestock during raids
- Indian raiders stole hundreds of horses and cattle from the Voelcker ranch.

# Tonkawa Luncheon Guests



Tonkawa Indians appeared at the Voelcker Ranch House to beg for food. Luise Voelcker hid the children in a back room and cautioned them to be as quiet as possible.

Luise would prepare a meal for the Tonkawa, fearing to refuse them, as she did not trust the Indians.

The Tonkawa never resorted to any violent action nor molested the settlers in any way.

# Comanche Moons over the Voelcker Ranch



- Eugen Voelcker disappears and perishes in 1868
- Moonlight nights filled the settlers with fear, as this was the time the Comanche liked to conduct their raids. Comanche, Kiowa and other Indian raids on German ranchers worsened during and after the War Between the States causing the frontier to recede up to 100 miles eastward in some areas. Clara Voelcker said that on many occasions they saw the Comanche raiding parties ride along the bluff of Swede Creek in the moonlight, renting the still of night with their savage war whoops.
- During the full moon period of the month the Voelckers would tie their horses to the ranch house front railing to secure the horses from the Indians.

# Clara Voelcker (1864-1949)

## A Pioneer Childhood Fighting Indians



- A constant concern during Clara's childhood was protection from the frequent Comanche Indian raids
- When an alert of Indian raids was spread through the territory, every available child was marshaled into a unit of defense. Rifles and six shooters were primed and loaded.
- All the children that were able to handle fire arms were stationed at windows and other firing posts to defend the house against the Indian raiders.
- Clara Voelcker explained to her grandchildren that her first job as a little girl during Indian raids was to keep the firearms reloaded, while her older brother and sisters shot repeatedly through the windows to keep their attackers at a safe distance from the ranch house.
- Clara learned to shoot fire arms by the age of ten (in 1874) and was equipped with a rifle and stationed at one of the firing posts.

# Strange Occurrences



- Clara Voelcker described how stealthy the Indians could be.
- Strange disappearance of freshly baked German Kaffee Kuchen
- The Voelckers were under surveillance and constantly vulnerable to Indian depredations at any time.

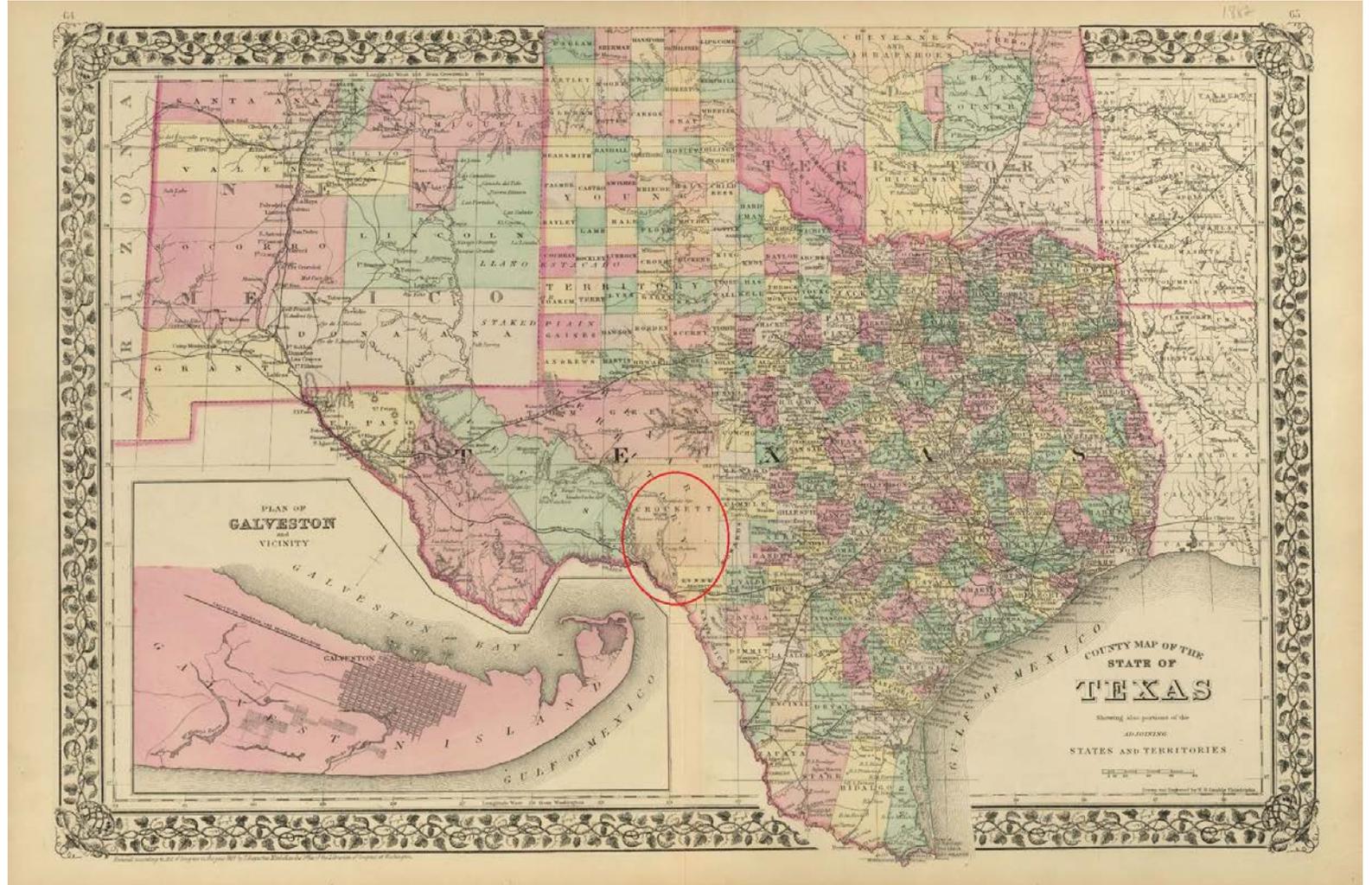
# Other Indian Stories

- Clara told many stories of Indians murdering and scalping settlers
- The fugitive hermit
- Neighbor Schuchardt's security alarm.
- One night, a settler named Becker thought he heard Indians outside his family cabin, so he fired his rifle through a window in the direction of the noise. Investigating later, Herr Becker discovered that he had shot one of his horses.
- A few nights later natives were trying to steal horses from Becker's corral but, the story goes, Fritz Wendler was on guard in the adjacent hayloft. Wendler was so agitated by the raiders' appearance that he fell out of the hayloft. The ensuing commotion scared the natives away.

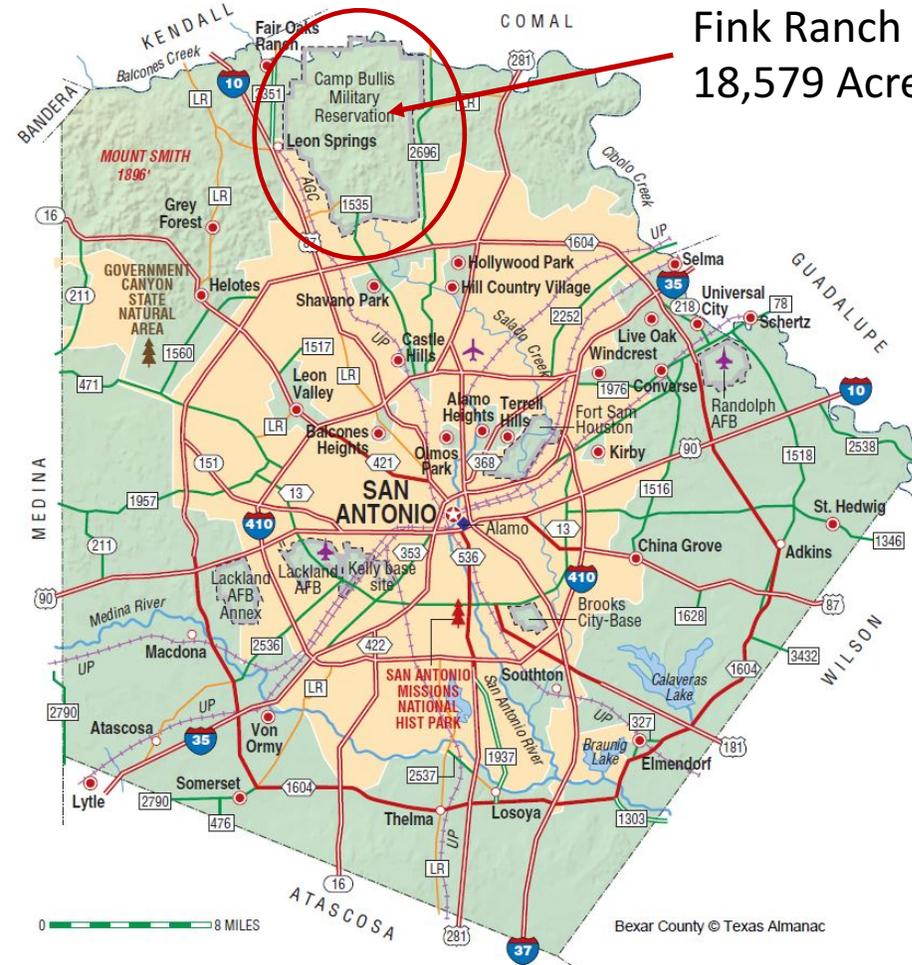
# Emma Voelcker



# Heinrich Fink, German Rancher in West Texas 1879-1882



# Fink & Co. – German Texan Ranchers 1883



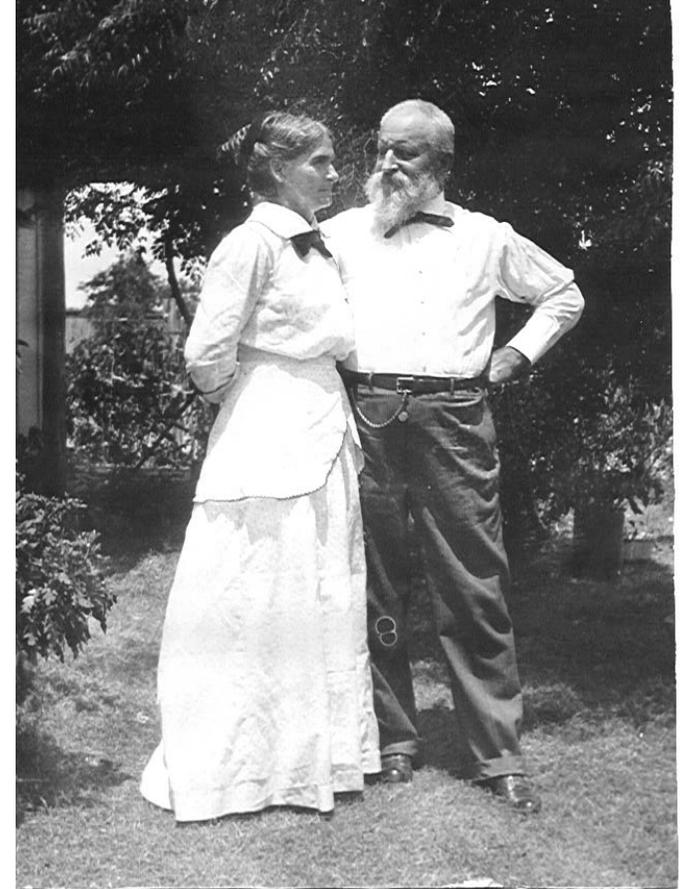
# Fink & Co. – Cattle and Horse Brands



# The Fink Ranch in 1915



Heinrich Fink (1850-1916)



Clara Voelcker & Heinrich Fink



**Clara Fink (geb. Voelcker)  
(1864-1949)**

Born on the Comanche  
frontier

Pioneer childhood  
defending ranch against  
Indian raids

Family reunion at Fink  
Ranch in 1946

# German Texan Pioneers in 19<sup>th</sup> Century

## A Very Diverse Demographic

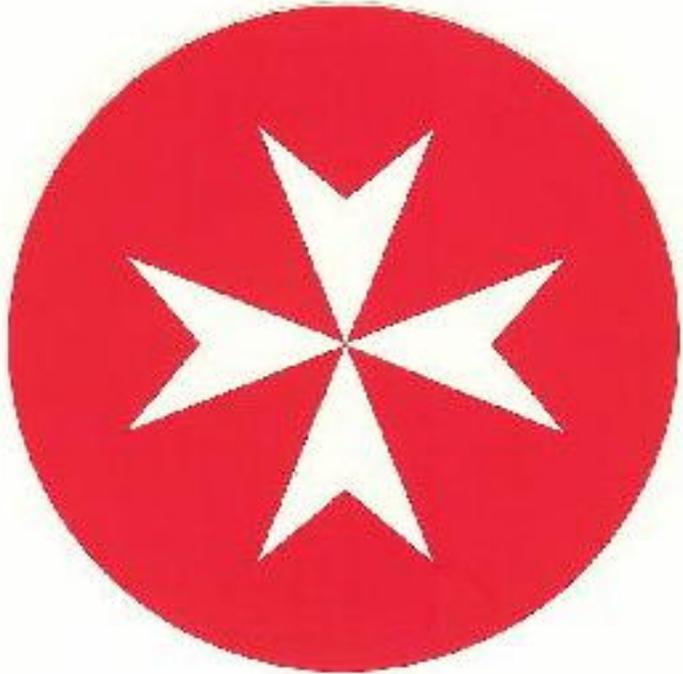
- Aristocrats, peasant farmers and townsfolk, tradesmen, and intellectuals
- Protestants, Catholics, Jews, and atheists
- Prussians, Saxons, Hessians, and Alsatians
- Abolitionists and slave owners
- frugal, honest folk and an axe murderer
- A majority had been farmers in Germany; most came seeking economic opportunities.
- A few liberal democrats sought political freedom
- Few, except the Wends, came for religious freedom.

# Hill Country German settlements Differed in Dialect and Customs

- The Llano River valley was settled by stern, abstemious German Methodists who denounced dancing and fraternal organizations;
- In the Pedernales River valley, fun-loving, hardworking Lutherans and Catholics enjoyed drinking and dancing
- Atheist Germans descended from intellectual political refugees in the Guadalupe River valley

# German Texans Today

- The Pioneer Germans retained their ethnicity in Texas for two or three more generations
- Surviving immigrants became naturalized United States citizens and hundreds of thousands of their descendants naturally integrated into U.S. society as full-fledged American citizens.
- The German community in New Braunfels sponsors an annual German Heritage Fest (until recently presided over by **John Henry von Specht**)
- The ***Germania Farmer Verein*** was originally organized among German ranchers to apprehend horse and cattle thieves, but later transformed into a German social organization. **Heinrich Fink** served as President of the Germania Farmer Verein from 1893 until his death in 1916.
- Since the 1870s, the *Germania Farmer Verein* has sponsored an annual *Oktoberfest* and a *Maifest* in Anhalt, Texas where one still hears occasional greetings *auf Deutsch* amongst the older folks in today's German-Texan Hill Country.



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# A First Hand Account:

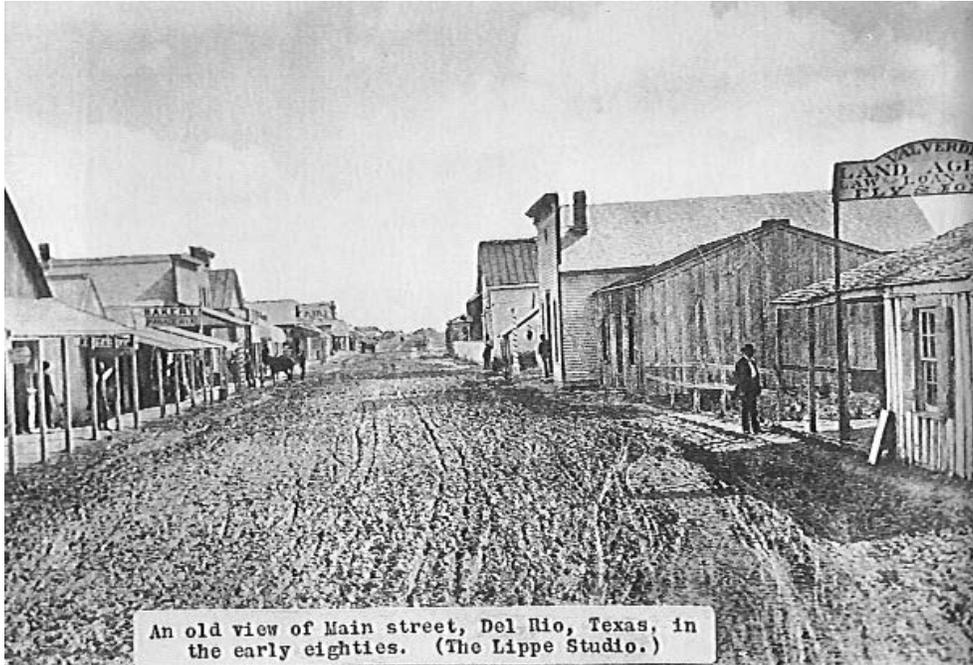


**Satatanta**

Dr. Ferdinand von Roemer, accompanied Meusebach to the treaty meeting and described that the three chiefs:

“... differed much in appearance. **Mope-tshoko-pe** (Old Owl), the political chief, was a small old man who in his dirty cotton jacket looked undistinguished and only his diplomatic crafty face marked him. The war chief, **Santa Anna**, presented an altogether different appearance. He was a powerfully built man with a benevolent and lively appearance. The third, **Buffalo Hump**, was the genuine unadulterated picture of a North American Indian. Unlike the majority of his tribe, he scorned all European dress. The upper part of his body was naked. A buffalo hide was wound around his hips. Yellow copper rings decorated his arms and a string of beads his neck. With his long straight black hair hanging down, he sat there with the earnest (to the European almost apathetic) expression of countenance of the North American Savage.”

# Sheep Ranching near the Pecos River West Texas 1879 - 1882



Del Rio in the early 1880's



Sheep shearing time on the open range