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Arless Treybig

THE NICOLAUS TREYBIG FAMILY  
(including Wasserman and Wunderlich Lines)  
Celebrating 140 Years in Texas in 1986

El Campo TX 77437

Johan Nikol Carlman (Nicolaus) Treybig, his wife Maria Barbara Plonne, and ten of their eleven recorded children were born in the small village of Veilsdorf on the Werra River in a part of Germany called Thuringia. Now in East Germany, Veilsdorf is near the West German city of Coburg. The village will celebrate its 1125th anniversary in 1985.

Baptism records of the children in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Veilsdorf show that Nicolaus was both a farmer and a weaver. Marriage and burial records from both the paternal and maternal lines indicate that Nicolaus's father and grandfather (both named Johan Nikol) were also born in the Veilsdorf area; the grandfather had been a farmer, a linen-weaver, and a member of the Sixth Regiment. Maria's father, Friedrich Wilhelm Plonne, was also born in Veilsdorf.

The Nicolaus Treybig family left Veilsdorf and journeyed to Texas as part of the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas (the Verein) in 1845. According to family tradition in the Friedrich Treybig family, Nicolaus did not want his sons Friedrich and Bernhardt drafted into the German army. Nicolaus signed an immigration contract on November 24, 1845, at Antwerp prior to sailing. Nicolaus, Maria, and the four surviving children, Kaspar Friedrich (born 1829), Katharina Carolina (born 1836), Margaretha Elise (born 1839), and Gustav Bernhardt (born 1841), sailed from Antwerp on the ship "Nahant" on November 25, 1845. The ship was wrecked off the coast of Torbay (Berry Head, Brixham), England, on March 18, 1846, during a storm. Since the ship had only traveled such a short distance in nearly four months, the weather conditions were evidently very bad. According to Otilie Fuchs whose family sailed from Bremerhaven on November 13 of the same year, "Our journey in the fall of the year was the worst imaginable time to sail. The food was wretched, the water barely drinkable, and we were seasick through most of the voyage. It was particularly rough in the North Sea, with its choppy green waves." (1) The authors of A New Land Beckoned, indicate that the "Nahant" was the only Verein ship that did not reach Texas. (2)

After a stay in England of nearly two months, the passengers were picked up by the ship "Timoleon" on May 5, 1846, and finally arrived in Galveston on August 8, 1846. Prior to their leaving, each family was presented with a Bible by the British and Foreign Bible Society. The Bible presented to the Nicolaus Treybig family is in the possession of Mrs. Laura Cordes, a descendant of Friedrich. The Bible is inscribed to Nicolaus Treybig of Saxe Meiningen with the date and place of shipwreck. Nicolaus entered the names of his children and the dates and times of their births in the Bible. The Bible as well as his inscriptions are in German.

Although immigrants on earlier Verein ships traveled from Galveston to Indianola and then inland, the Treybig family stayed in the Houston area. Perhaps, after nine months of travel, they wanted to remain settled for a time. Perhaps they had heard of the problems many of the other immigrants faced earlier in the year as they were stranded at Indianola before setting out for the New Braunfels and Fredericksburg areas settled in 1845.

Several traditions exist in the family concerning the first stage of their life in Texas. One tradition which seems to tie the others together is one told to Lawrence Treybig of Houston, grandson of Friedrich, by his father Ewald. According to this tradition, the family lived at Spring for two years before they moved to Shelby in Austin County. Spring possibly refers to the Spring Branch area which had a small German Lutheran settlement at that time. While living in Spring, they would go to Houston but would leave before sundown to get away from the mosquitos and the threat of yellow fever.

By 1850 the family was living near Shelby in Austin County. The census of that year gives the spelling as Derwick; since a marriage license for Caroline gives the spelling as Dreiwich, the name was evidently pronounced according to these spellings. The census includes daughter Fredericka who was born in Texas and was three years old at the time of the census taking.

Because the spelling of the name varies greatly from record to record, including various spellings beginning with an F, a researcher has difficulties in proving some family history. This situation is especially difficult in instances where full names are not given, and only initials are used. Since the family used nicknames or diminutives at various times, the use of initials can cause problems. For instance, one assumes that Nicolaus Treavisch, who was granted citizenship in 1856, is Nicolaus Treybig since the date of arrival in Texas is the same as that of Nicolaus Treybig; or that B. Frigling is Bernhardt Treybig since a record with this spelling is with



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~~Bernhardt's~~ Confederate service record. At least thirteen different spellings have been found which seem to apply to this family.

Although Nicolaus had left Germany so that his sons would not be drafted into the German army, he could not prevent their being drafted into the Confederate forces during the War between the States. Both Friedrich and Bernhardt served with Waul's Texas Legion. Friedrich was captured on July 4, 1863, at Vicksburg and paroled on July 15, 1863. Bernhardt was captured at Yazoo C on July 13, 1863. According to Friedrich's son Ewald, Friedrich would get a leave from the army in order to plow and plant a crop before going back to the army. When they returned to Texas, Friedrich and Bernhardt became part of Timmon's Regiment, Texas Infantry. They did not serve outside the state after their return.

Thus far Nicolaus and Maria Treybig have not been found on the 1870 census. The 1880 census lists Mary (mother) as living with Bernhardt and his family so Nicolaus had evidently died prior to that time. Tradition in Shelby and with the older members of the family indicates that both Nicolaus and Maria are buried on the Shelby cemetery. However, the graves are not adequately marked for identification so they have not been located.

Various baptism, marriage, and burial records of family members are found in Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Round Top. Elise died young although no record has been found which gives the exact date. Friedrich, Caroline, Bernhardt, and Fredericka married, and their families settled in that area in or around Austin County. The log cabin built by Nicolaus is still standing in the Shelby area; it has been added to and is used to store hay. Another log cabin nearby is believed to have been Friedrich's.

For many years the descendants of the four children held annual reunions. The first reunion was held on September 22, 1940, in La Grange; 175 descendants attended that reunion. The number of reunions gradually declined, and a reunion has not been held for nearly ten years. Because the 140th anniversary of the family in Texas coincides with the Texas Sesquicentennial, a number of descendants hope to revive the reunion, at least for 1986. Representatives of each of the four lines are willing to coordinate plans for the reunion, but they need the names and addresses of descendants of any of these lines:

- I. Friedrich TREYBIG/Katherina Wunderlich
  - A. Charlie Treybig/Lena Bietendorf
  - B. Mary Treybig/Louis HAVERMAN
  - C. Lena Treybig/Otto MISCHER
  - D. Max Treybig/Menna Mischer
  - E. Henry Treybig/Dora Illse
  - F. Emil Treybig/Emma Hassler
  - G. Anna Treybig/Charles LAMBECK
  - H. Ewald Treybig/Aline Stork
  - I. Fritz Treybig/Minnie Mischer
  - J. Nellie Treybig
- II. Carolina Treybig/George WASSERMANN
  - A. Emma Wassermann/Louis WOLF
  - B. Louise Wassermann/Herman MENN
  - C. Edward Wassermann
  - D. Emil Wassermann/Rosie Pavelka
  - E. George Wassermann/Augusta Sternberg
  - F. Bernhardt Wassermann/Dorothea Stahmann/  
Stammann
- III. Bernhardt TREYBIG/Elise Heine
  - A. William Treybig/Lena Marx-Muesse
  - B. Gustav Treybig/Katie Woods
  - C. Paul Treybig/Emma Georg
  - D. Ernest Treybig/Della Krumholz
  - E. Benny Treybig/Althea Rogers
  - F. Adolph Treybig/Annie Muesse
  - G. Meta Treybig/Edward WOODRUFF
  - H. August Treybig
- IV. Fredericka Treybig/Henry WUNDERLICH
  - A. Henry Wunderlich/Emlly Warnasch
  - B. Ernst Wunderlich/Louisa Schulze
  - C. Emma Wunderlich/Adolph SCHROEDER
  - D. Emily Wunderlich/Emil PETRICH
  - E. Marie Wunderlich
  - F. Emil Wunderlich/Anna Holocher/Holscher
  - G. Mina Wunderlich/Ernst WARNASCH
  - H. Hetwig Wunderlich/Henry WARNASCH
  - I. Lena Wunderlich/Paul HETGEL/HATSEL/HET
  - J. Ida Wunderlich/
  - K. Edwin Wunderlich/Hulda Hermsdoerfer
  - L. Willie Wunderlich/Emily Dochel/Dockal
  - M. Tillie Wunderlich

Over 900 descendants were listed in a booklet prepared in 1957 by Elsie Glass of Garwood, a descendant of Bernhardt Treybig; this booklet needs to be updated. Help is requested with this ambitious project as well as with suggestions for a date and place for the reunion. Please send ideas for date, place, and program as well as family update by August, 1985. Names and addresses are requested by early 1986. Any additions or corrections to this brief history are also requested.

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Family representatives are

- Friedrich TREYBIG family-Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Treybig, 2007 W. 14th, Houston 77008
- Caroline Treybig WASSERMAN family-Mrs. Roy (Jan)Kelm, 4022 Greensboro Circle, Garland 75041
- Bernhardt TREYBIG family (and corrections)-Arliss Treybig, Box 1236, El Campo 77437
- Fredericka Treybig WUNDERLICH family-Arliss Treybig, Box 1236, El Campo 77437

References cited:

- (1) Otilie Fuchs Goeth, Memoirs of a Texas Pioneer Grandmother, Burnet, Texas: Eakin Press. 1982, page 37.
- (2) Chester W. and Ethel H. Geue, A New Land Beckoned, Waco: Texian Press. 1966, page 158.

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Mary C. Bond (nee Neuse)  
Rt1, Box 142  
Nixon, Texas 78140

RECOLLECTIONS OF EARLY YEARS

ALTE ERINNUGEN

On page 4 of the Neu Braunfesler Zeitung, August 18, 1904, Carl Erck tells the following story, which was reprinted in the Zeitung Chronicle, January 19, 1964. (Cark Erck, the writer, was the great-great-grandfather to my husband, Billy George Bond. Carl Erck was the son of George Erck and Barbara Fink Erck, early settlers in Comal County. George Erck was born January 1801 in Oberkatz, Meiningen-Saxony. He married Anna Barbara Fink on June 1839. She was born 17 August 1820 in Helmarshausen, Saxony. The Ercks moved in Texas January 1846. They came aboard the sailship B. Bohlen.)

Carl's story:

Dear Editor: Looking through some old newspapers a few weeks ago, I came across a story in the Neu-Braunfelser Zeitung, February 26, 1903, by Bohemian in which he told of experiences he had when, as a young man in early times, went along on an oxen wagon trip. So I decided to also write the story of my experiences with oxen wagons in early times.

It was in August of 1869. We left with four wagons for Spring Creek, which is 30 miles below Houston, to get lumber from a sawmill there. My younger brother and I each had six yokes, our older brother Ludwig had seven, and Gustav Schubert, who was going with us, had five yokes oxen.

On the second day out, Wilhelm developed a fever. We did not have any medicine. We boiled corn and made a broth and gave it to him. The fever was gone.

Arrived at the mill without any further mishap. Wilhelm and I each loaded 2100, Ludwig 3000, and Schubert 2000 feet of lumber and started on the return trip.

A mile from the mill there was a bridge. Schubert, Wilhelm, and I got easily over with our wagons, But with Ludwig's heavy load the bridge collapsed. We had to unload the lumber to get his wagon out.

Two days after that, Ludwig said: "I have to lie down, I am sick." And the following day I, too, had to lie down. Schubert and Wilhelm drove the four wagons to the Brazos. And on the ninth day, it was the 23rd of September, Ludwig died.

After burying the body, we crossed the Brazos the following day. Night fell before we came out of the river's bottom. And a wheel of Wilhelm's wagon broke. So he rode to San Felipe the next morning to find a wheelwright. The man said: "Today is Sunday and I do not work. Are you among those of whom one died on the other side?"

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TREYBIG Family

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GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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