

WELCOME WILKOMMEN WELCOME WILKOMMEN

SCHEDULE AND PROGRAM

**30th Annual Meeting of the German-Texan Heritage Society,
OCTOBER 9-10, 2009
WINGATE (Wyndham) Hotel and Conference Center
Round Rock, Texas**

Friday afternoon, Oct. 9 – Pre Meeting Genealogical Workshops – 1-5 p.m.

All sessions will be in the **Conference Center in the High Tech room**

Directed by Liz Hicks, GTHS, Genealogical Editor

1-1:45 p.m.” Internet Genealogy,” Randy Whited, An avid genealogist for over twenty-five years, Randy is a member of the Texas State Genealogical Society and an active member of the Austin and Williamson County Genealogical societies. Bring a laptop.

2 -2:45p.m. “Using DNA for genealogical research,” Max Blankfield, Vice-President, Operations and Marketing, <http://www.FamilyTreeDNA.com>

3- 3:45 p.m. “German Land Grants and Immigration Contracts,” Kevin Klaus , Texas General Land Office, How to access this information and other aspects of the TGLO collection.

4-4:45 p.m. "Passenger Lists and Passports," Elizabeth “Liz” Nitschke Hicks, GTHS, Genealogical Editor, erootrot@usa.net

Let The Meeting Begin.....

All sessions are held in the Conference Center, first floor, WBH

Friday, October 9 – 7-10 pm - Reception:

7-8 p.m. - Supper (Abendbrot) with mingling and chatting; pick up registration packets
Buffet - Immediately Outside the Banquet Hall

SESSION 1

8-10:30 p.m. “Meet the German-Texan Authors”. Williamson Banquet Hall

An interesting way to find out about new books to read. These authors will be reading:
Gail Folkins; Janice Shefelman; Gretel Baacke; Ute Carson; Kaye Abikhaled; Suzann Thompson; Jim Kearney; Hans Boas; Robert Spencer; Ray Grasshoff

**Saturday, October 10 – Sessions 2-8, 9a.m.-5p.m.
8a.m.-noon Registration**

9 -9:30 am - Welcome

Ewing K. Evans, GTHS President
GTHS Slide Show
Rufus Honeycutt, RR City Councilman, Proclamation

SESSION 2

9:45- 10:30 - Slide Show: "A Cape Codder in search of her German-Texan Roots -- Folks of Volks and Schaub in San Antonio", **Cheryl Ryder**, Musicologist, Boston, MA

SESSION 3

10:45 – 11:30 - "OAKWOOD: Austin's oldest Cemetery, 1839", **Dale Flatt**, City of Austin Firefighter, and cemetery preservationist. Many of our older headstones 1840 - 1900's were made of limestone and marble. Many of these are degrading to the point they are hard to read or have been broken and lie fragmented. Photo documenting these stones is easy and will provide a history of the craftsmanship and art of the period.

11:45 am- 1:00 pm BUFFET LUNCH –
Immediately Outside the Banquet Hall

Skit - German (with translations) - Austin Waldorf School

Prayer - Father Wilhelm

Awards Presentations – Connie Krause

SESSION 4

1:15-2:00 " The Primary Sources are in the Mail" – a case history in preservation of an immigrant family's story. The Staffel family came to Texas in the 1850s, bringing with them what they considered to be important documents. They exchanged lengthy letters with relatives back in the old country and meanwhile accumulated new paperwork. A few interested relatives in each generation made sure that it wasn't all thrown out; preserving this record is a continuing responsibility, while making it accessible is a challenge. **Robert Spencer**, retired electrical engineer in Narberth, PA.

SESSION 5

2:15 - 3:00 – Sarah Reveley: 6th generation German-Texan, retired commercial interior designer.

Part 1: Saving our Centennial Back in 1936 the State of Texas decided to hold a Centennial celebration, and like everything else Texas does, it was the biggest and best celebration the world has ever seen. Almost all of the items from that centennial celebration are still around, and thanks to the recent acquisition of the 1938 book produced by the State of Texas, she can show these items to you. We need your help in finding and saving many of those artifacts.

http://www.picturetrail.com/neglected_tx_centennial

Part 2: Saving our Cemeteries: Her travels around Texas have led her to all kinds of old cemeteries, many in need of your help. A grass roots effort is needed to protect them.

http://www.picturetrail.com/texas_cemeteries

SESSION 6

3:15–3:45 - 2009 GTHS Scholarship Winners

Ewing Evans, GTHS President: In 2009, the German-Texan Heritage Society offered five Scholarships, in the category "German-Texan Research Papers", at the Texas State German Contest. The winners were announced on February 28 at the awards ceremony at the University of Texas in

Austin. 2009 GTHS Scholarship Winners are **Alexis Clark**, Westwood High School, Round Rock, Teacher: Evelyn Saucier, Topic - *Waltzing Across Texas: The German Texan Dance Halls*; **Sasha Heinen**, Lyndon B. Johnson High School/LASA, Austin, Teacher: Keri Jaworski, Topic - *Comfort, Texas*

SESSION 7

4:00 - 4:15 - Saarlander and Saarland Friends linked to the home of their ancestors, Colonel Volker Bertel (ret), SHS-Foundation, Vice President for International Relations. He lives in the Saarland, a very small German State. Check it out at: <http://www.shsfoundation.de/>

SESSION 8

4:30 - 5:00– GTHS Business Meeting: Closing session with elections and evaluation

7 p.m. - Dinner & Oktoberfest celebration at Walburg Restaurant (optional) (see map)

8 -11 p.m. FILM (optional) – shown in the Conference Center in the High Tech Room (second floor). Title: **DRESDEN**, a made for TV miniseries, 180 minutes Winner, German TV awards for best miniseries and best actress, 2006, in German with English subtitles

A love story set amidst the chaos and horror of World War II, *Dresden* tells the tale of a beautiful young German nurse who falls in love with an injured British pilot. Anna (Felicitas Woll) is engaged to a wealthy doctor, but she wants more than the bland certainty he can offer her. While on her rounds at the hospital, she discovers Robert (John Light), who is in hiding. Anna knows little about him and is initially unaware that he is a British soldier, and therefore her enemy. What starts as a quiet, private romance escalates into an affair that the couple has a difficult time containing. Woll and Light make beautiful leads, but it's the supporting characters who stand out. Dr. Carl Mauth (Heiner Lauterbach), Anna's father, is a complicated and compelling man who will resort to stealing morphine if his patients are in need. Watching his emotive face, viewers understand his intent without having to hear him speak. *Dresden's* filmmakers do a formidable job of presenting both the Brits and the Germans as flawed people who aren't sure what is right and wrong. Set in January, 1945, prior to the Allied bombings of Dresden, the German production team does a fine job of meshing soap opera type melodrama with feverish action. There are some scenes that are horrific and gruesome to watch. But more often than not, they succinctly set the tone for the violence that accompanies war. Though the three-hour miniseries (which offers both English and German with English subtitles) has been favorably compared with the epic love story portrayed in *Titanic*, it also shares some of the sweet aspects of *Summer of My German Soldier*, a 1978 made-for-TV movie that depicts the unlikely friendship between a young Jewish girl and a German POW. As with war, there sometimes is no explanation for love. It just happens. --Jae-Ha Kim (*Amazon.com*)

ROOMS WHERE THINGS ARE HAPPENING!

Vendors, Exhibitors, and GTHS Gift Shop: Conference Center, first floor, WBH, 2B
Silent Auction: Conference Center, 2nd floor, Travis Room