

The Pagel Family Times

Volume 5

2000

THE PAGELS IN TEXAS



**Friedrich and Wilhelmine
Pagel Fischer**

This is the fifth in a series of biographies of our earliest Texas Pagels.

Caroline "Wilhelmine" Pagel, the oldest daughter of Gottfried and Friedrike Dieckow Pagel, was born in Kreis Greifenhagen in the Pommern region of Prussia on February 20, 1840. When Minna was ten years old her family sailed to Galveston aboard the "Brasilian" (sometimes listed as the "Bessilian"). Gottfried Pagel settled his family on a farm at Willow Springs in Fayette County where Wilhelmine's mother died some time soon after giving birth to a ninth child in 1853. In 1855, Gottfried married again to Johanna Zorn Fritzsche, a widow with a fifteen year-old daughter.

Meanwhile, in 1852 Franz Fischer (1803-1886) had immigrated to neighboring Colorado County aboard the "Magnet" with his son, Carl "Friedrich". Friedrich (or Fritz) Fischer was born January 16, 1832 in Kirchlengern Kreis Buenden in Westphalia. His mother's name is unknown and it is believed that she died before her husband and son immigrated. Several family members have said that Franz and Friedrich lived for one year under a live oak tree on their property in the Pisek area until a log cabin was built.

Ruby Mae Henrichs tells the story that one day Franz Fischer told his son

that they needed a woman in their family and that Friedrich should go to Gottfried Pagel and ask him for his oldest daughter. When Friedrich did as he was instructed, Gottfried told him that the oldest daughter (his stepdaughter) had to help her mother, but that he could have Wilhelmine. It's not a romantic story, but the fact is that Wilhelmine Pagel married Friedrich Fischer on August 10, 1856 in Colorado County. He was twenty-four. She was sixteen and the first Pagel to marry in Texas.

The Fischers eventually built a frame house on that farm in Colorado County where they spent their entire married life. Lillie Mae Berger says that her mother often said that Minna had thirteen children and that two of them were stillborn and buried under a live oak tree on their property. We are certain of the identity of eleven of those children who were all baptized by the pastor of the Trinity Evangel-

ical Lutheran Church at Frelsburg:

1. Anna "Caroline" Friedrike (5 Sep 1858 - 23 Mar 1933) first married Charles (Charlie) Gautel on December 17, 1884
(Continued on back page)

In Remembrance

This issue of *The Pagel Family Times* is dedicated to the memory of those who passed away in the last year:

Donald Dowes Burch
Vercy Wilhelmine Fischer
LaVeta Prause Gavoille
Lenora Marr Pagel
Julia Sralik Roeber
At our 1999 reunion we also learned of the following deaths:

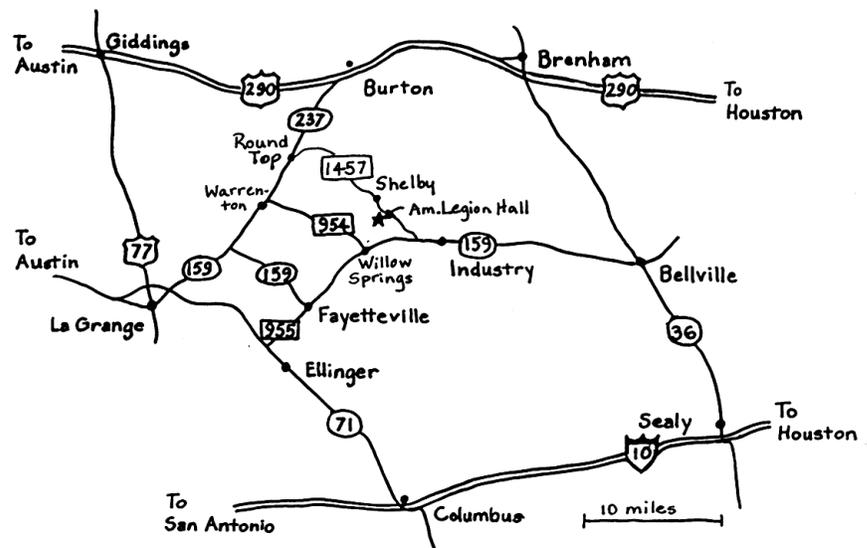
Harry Horn, Jr.
Gladys Minnie Blank Kaiser
Velma Lee Shelby Pagel

2000 PAGEL FAMILY REUNION

11:00 a.m. on Sunday, July 9 at the Shelby American Legion Hall

Please bring a covered dish with serving utensil for our noon luncheon. Coffee, tea and tableware will be provided. Contributions for our silent auction are welcome.

This is always a good opportunity to get those old photographs identified! Compare your photographs to those in our Pagel Family notebooks. We will have a scanner on hand to duplicate any photos that are brought in.



The American Legion Hall is at the intersection of FM 1457 and Krebs Road. It is 3.7 miles north of Hwy 159. Call Rox Ann at (512) 250-8424 for more info.

The Pagel Family Reunion

11105 Scotland Well Drive
Austin, TX 78750-3607

The Pagels in Germany

Frank and Marilyn Pagel of Tivoli brought a treasure trove of old family documents to the 1999 reunion. Two German documents from 1850 pertain to the imminent departure of the Pagels to Texas and disprove the idea that there were two additional daughters who died during the voyage. They list Friedrike Pagel's maiden name, although it was spelled in two different ways: Dieckow and Dickow. They also provide the date of birth for Friedrich Wilhelm Pagel: June 13, 1834.

These documents also contain references to Greifenhagen and Stettin which confirm the location of the Pagels' home in Kortenhagen in present-day Poland. Kortenhagen was in the region of Pommern (or Pomerania) that was given to Poland as part of the Yalta Agreement in 1945 and, during the next few years, its German residents were driven from the area. Today Kortenhagen is known as Kartno. It is located about ten miles east of Gryfino (Greifenhagen) and south of the city of Szczecin (Stettin). Records from Kortenhagen have not been microfilmed.

This issue of *The Pagel Family Times* was edited by Rox Ann Albrecht Johnson, secretary/historian of the Pagel Family Reunion, who takes full responsibility for its content. Comments and questions may be directed to her at 11105 Scotland Well Drive, Austin, TX 78750, (512) 250-8424, roxannjohn@aol.com.

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(The Pagels in Texas continued)

and later married Henry Wiechring on December 6, 1905. She had no children and lived in the Shiner area in her later years. She is buried in the Pagel Settlement Cemetery in Lavaca County.

2. Franz Dietrich (Frank) Fischer (7 Jan 1860 - 3 Jun 1943) never married. He had a wooden leg from a logging industry accident in California, but Ruby Mae Henrichs remembered him chopping wood and getting around very well despite that handicap. He is buried in the Breslau Cemetery in Lavaca County.

3. Louise "Emilie" (6 Sep 1861 - 22 Dec 1943) married Friedrich G. Sebastian in 1884. They farmed in Lavaca County and are buried in the Hallettsville City Cemetery.

4. Johanna Louisa Friedrike (b. July 14, 1864) died while still a child. She was listed in the 1870 census as "Eliza", but she must have died before the 1880 census was taken.

5. Pauline Wilhelmine (b. 25 Feb 1866) died as a very young child. She was baptized on March 25, 1866, but did not live to be listed in the 1870 census.

6. Friedrike "Wilhelmine" (4 Nov 1867 - 16 Feb 1919) married Henry Dreyer, a musician and teacher, in 1885. She is buried at Moody in McLennan County.

7. Maria "Christine" (b. 21 Jul 1871) married Oscar Rosse and owned a large ranch in the Sinton area. She died some time after 1943 and is buried in the Kingsville Cemetery near Robstown.

8. Carl (or Charles) Fischer (16 Sep 1875 - 7 Mar 1917) married Anna Zimmermann. He died of complications from diabetes and is buried at Robinson.

9. Friedrich "William" Fischer (14 Jul 1878 - 2 Aug 1907) never married and was a railroad agent at Palestine when he died of typhus at age twenty-nine. He is buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery at Frelsburg.

10. George "Ernst" Fischer (13 May 1880 - 26 Mar 1928) married Agnes Lange in Houston on March 29, 1906. He farmed on the original Franz Fischer property and is buried at the New Ulm Cemetery in Austin County.

11. Louise Martha Fischer (12 Mar 1885 - 26 Mar 1910) was born when her mother was forty-five years old. Louise married Albert A. Schultz, a farmer who lived nearby, on December 3, 1903. She died less than three weeks after giving birth to her only child and is buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery at Frelsburg.

Friedrich Fischer died on May 2, 1915 at the age of eighty-three. Wilhelmine Fischer lived another twenty-one years. At some point she moved to Shiner where her daughter, Caroline Wiechring, cared for her until Caroline's death in 1933. Wilhelmine's son, Franz, was also living with them by 1933. When Wilhelmine died in Hallettsville at age ninety-six on November 29, 1936, she had outlived all but three of her children. She and Friedrich Fischer are buried in the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery at Frelsburg.

The old farm was later sold. Kervin and Ruth Hartfiel Albers now live there.

This little history could not have been written without the help of Lillie Mae Berger, Ruby Mae Henrichs, Mildred Schultz and Teddy Schultz who shared many stories and beautiful old photographs of the Fischer family.