

The Pagel Family Times

Volume 7

2002

THE PAGELS IN TEXAS

Friedrich Samuel & Helena Fehrenkamp Pagel

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

Born December 28, 1844 in the village of Kortenhagen in Pommern, Friedrich Samuel Pagel was the sixth child of Gottfried and Friedrike Dieckow Pagel. When Fritz was five years old the Pagels and their eight children journeyed to Hamburg where they boarded the "Besselian" which was bound for Galveston.

They arrived in Texas on November 13, 1850 and eventually made their way to the small German-speaking community of Willow Springs in eastern Fayette County. By April 1853 when Friedrike Pagel gave birth to her ninth child, the Pagels' farm at Willow Springs had grown to 192 acres on the eastern bank of Cummings Creek. Some time shortly afterwards Fritz's mother died. His father, left to raise a large family with only the help of the older children, remarried in 1855 to Johanna Fritzche, a widow who had just arrived in Texas with her fifteen-year-old daughter.

In 1858 Gottfried Pagel bought land in Lavaca County and moved there with his new wife and unmarried children. In his will, Gottfried Pagel mentions that he expected his sons to work with him until age twenty-two, but Fritz had worked with him only two years and had already received two hundred dollars from his father. It is not known where Fritz was during his early twenties, but on December 30, 1869, just after his twenty-fifth birthday, he married Johanna "Helena" Friedrike Fehrenkamp. Her family lived a few miles from Willow Springs at Frelsburg in Colorado County. Pastor J. C. Roehm of Frelsburg performed the ceremony.

There is some confusion as to Helena's birth date and place. Her parents, Johann Gerhard and Helena "Wilhelmine" Weete Fehrenkamp, brought their family to Texas from Jaderberg in Oldenburg on the "Helen and Elise". The ship docked in

2002 PAGEL FAMILY REUNION

10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 13
at the Hallettsville Garden & Cultural Center
Hallettsville City Park, Hallettsville, Texas

Due to difficulties in reserving a hall, the reunion will be held on Saturday this year. To get to the Garden Center, turn west on Fink Drive off US Hwy 77 on the north side of town. You will see City Park and Masonic Lodge signs. The Garden Center is a white house in a fenced lot just past the Masonic Lodge.

Our hosts, Mary Ann Defibaugh and Bob and Doris Zumwalt, will have kolaches for those who come at 10. Lunch will be served at noon. Barbecue will be provided, but bring a side dish or dessert and the appropriate serving utensils. Please fill out the accompanying r.s.v.p. form.

A family history area will be set up and we encourage you to bring photographs and keepsakes to display. Rox Ann will bring her scanner to copy photographs and make them available for sharing.



We are indebted to Henry Ladewig for bringing these photos of Fritz and Fredericka Pagel Ladewig to last summer's reunion. You may recall we hadn't located photos of the couple to accompany their biography in the 2001 Pagel Family Times.

Galveston on December 7, 1847 and listed on its register were Helena's parents and siblings Johann Hinrich, Sophie, and Johann Gerhard. Baby Helena was not listed. Her tombstone lists her birth date as March 13, 1847. Helena's place of birth on official records was consistently listed as Frelsburg, or simply Texas. Either Helena was born in Germany or her birth year was something later than 1847. Another brother, George, was born in Texas.

In the 1870 Lavaca County Census, Fritz and Helena Pagel were listed as liv-
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In Remembrance

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

Blossom Burch Adler
Mary Taylor Albrecht
Osborne West Appelt
Sybil Kaiser Hermes
Valecia Loomis Hudson
Ella Huber Maeker
Martha Blohm Maeker
Malcolm Doss Robinson, Jr.
Richard (Dick) Schultz
Freda Burch Winsett

New Road Names Wreaking Havoc with Pagel Mailing List!

As the counties convert their county road numbers to names, our mailing list is becoming obsolete. Please help keep our reunion strong, by updating your address and those of your close family.



Childhood Days, Wildwood Ways

Growing up in Lavaca County 🐾

This charming little paperback was written by Helen Zumwalt in the 1970's. Helen, a granddaughter of Carl Friedrich Pagel, described her life on one of his tenant farms in the early 1900's. Topics include wash days, hog killing, cow milking, free time, the neighbors, and much more. Copies will be available at the Pagel Reunion for \$8.00. All sales will be donated to our reunion fund.

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. Please notify us of family births, deaths, and marriages.

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(The Pagels in Texas continued)

ing near Hallettsville on a farm valued at six hundred dollars with six hundred dollars in personal property. Their family began to grow the following year and, finally, included six children:

1. George "Emil" C. Pagel (10 Mar 1871 - 12 Jan 1892), died at age twenty of tuberculosis and is buried at the Breslau Cemetery.

2. Johanna Luise "Wilhelmine" (Minnie) Pagel (22 Jun 1874 - 2 May 1957) married Otto Fahrenthold on October 25, 1894 in Lavaca County. They lived near Hallettsville, and later at Brady and San Antonio. Minnie died in Cleveland, Ohio where her oldest son lived.

3. Auguste Helen (Gussie) Pagel (April 26, 1877 - ca 1958) married Gustave William Prause on February 5, 1902. The Prauses moved to Chicago.

4. William (Willie) Pagel (born September 1880) is a mystery at this point, although it is known that he lived with both the Gus and Annie Pagel Family and his Afflerbach cousins before striking out on his own.

5. Emma E. Pagel (born ca 1883) married C. J. Hudgeons on September 26, 1906. She is said to have died in a wreck in Florida some time before 1916.

6. Julius Samuel Pagel (27 Apr 1886 - 27 Aug 1916) was a merchant in San Antonio and Beeville. He married Norma Adams on June 5, 1907, but was electrocuted at age thirty when he came into contact with a live electric wire after a storm in Beeville, leaving two young sons.

Emil was baptized by the pastor of the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

of Frelsburg. Minnie and Augusta were baptized by the pastor of the Zion Lutheran Church of Sublime and the others' records have not been located.

Family tradition says that Fritz, Helena, and their son Emil all contracted tuberculosis. Fritz died on November 30, 1887 at age forty-two. Helena died just over a year later on January 8, 1889 at the age of forty-one. Both are buried in the Breslau Cemetery in Lavaca County. At that time, little Julius was only two and Emil, the oldest, was just seventeen.

Julius and Emma and probably some of the other children were taken in by their uncle and aunt, Charles and Johanna Pagel, prosperous farmers with a large family who lived nearby.

Part of this history is based on research by the late Cordelia (Dee) Cherry Pagel. I'm also indebted to Dee's husband, Bill Pagel, as well as Norma Rogers, John Preston Rogers, and Victor Roeber, for their help in writing this little history. There are no known photographs of Fritz or Helene Pagel.



www.PagelFamily.org

Our cousin, Clay Maeckel, has generously lent space on his server to the Pagel Family Reunion for our website.

The site includes the family history, a family chart, old Pagel homes, cemeteries, and reunion information.

Look for more photographs to be added soon. Check out last summer's panoramic photo!