

The Pagel Family Times

Volume 8

2003

THE PAGELS IN TEXAS

William & Emilie Pagel Appelt

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

Emilie Pagel was just two years old when she immigrated to Texas with her parents Gottfried and Friedrike Dieckow Pagel and seven brothers and sisters. The Pagels left their home in Kortenhausen, Pomerania, where Emilie was born on April 6, 1848, and traveled to Hamburg, probably by a boat on the Oder River.

The family arrived in Galveston on the "Besselian" and moved inland to Willow Springs in Fayette County. When Emilie was five another baby brother was born, but any joy over the new infant was gone when she lost her mother soon afterwards. It's not known whether Friedrike died in childbirth or from another malady some months later, but Gottfried remarried in April 1855 and Emilie had a new fifteen-year-old stepsister as well as a new mother. In 1858 Gottfried Pagel moved his family again. Leaving behind his married children, Gottfried bought farmland southeast of Hallettsville in an area that later became known as Pagel's Settlement.

William Appelt was born on January 5, 1844 in Neustadt, Bohemia, Austria to Franz and Antonia Appelt who immigrated to Lavaca County around 1854. On February 25, 1867 at the age of twenty-three, he married Gottfried Pagel's



William Appelt



Emilie Pagel Appelt

2003 PAGEL FAMILY REUNION

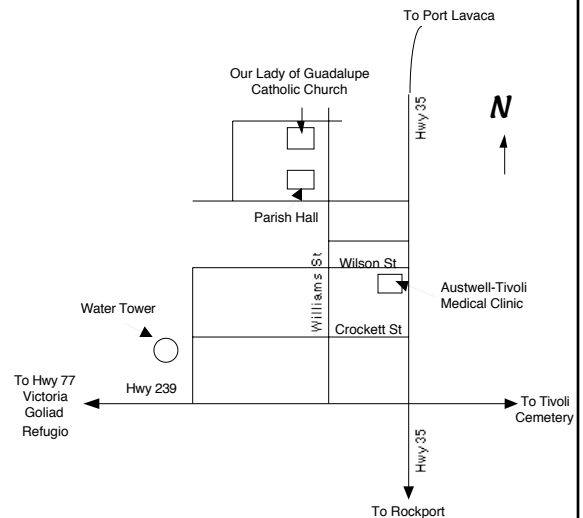
11:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 12
at St. Kathryn Parish Hall
of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
in Tivoli, Texas

Frank and Marilyn Pagel are our hosts. Grilled fajitas, onions, and peppers with homemade tortillas will be catered, but each family should bring a compatible side dish like rice, beans, salads, fruit or dessert (with serving utensil). Please return the enclosed r.s.v.p. form by July 5th. Contributions for our silent auction are welcome.

To get to the Parish Hall from Hwy 35, turn west on Wilson Street. Go one block and turn right on Williams Street. The Parish Hall is two blocks ahead on the left.

Tivoli is thirty miles north of Rockport and thirty-five miles south of Victoria.

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.



old daughter, Emilie. Their children came quickly and soon numbered ten:

1. W. Emil Appelt (14 Nov 1867 - 17 Feb 1943) married Annie Speary on December 5, 1891 and ranched in Lavaca, Jackson and Ector Counties.
2. Antonia (Tony) (26 Mar 1869 - 18

Aug 1952) married Stephen Alblinger on May 1, 1889 and they farmed in Lavaca County.

3. Julius H. Appelt (8 Sep 1870 - 23 Jan 1939) lived in Lavaca County and married Clara Poretz on September 16, (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:

Ruby Blaschke McDonald
Otto E. Orsak

Dudley Meryl Pagel
William Edgar Pagel
Lillie Breithaupt Tietjen

Eugene Stewart Turner

At our 2002 reunion, we also learned that Helen Schultz Pratt had died and was not mentioned in the last newsletter.

(The Pagels in Texas continued)

1899. He later married his first cousin, Nathalie Helena (Tallie) Ladewig on June 6, 1906, but she died just three years later. He then married Myrtle Breeden on December 14, 1910, but they divorced.

4. Helene (16 Feb 1872 - 22 Apr 1958) married Charles J. Elstner, a Lavaca County businessman and farmer, on October 21, 1891.

5. Bertha (7 May 1875 - 22 Jan 1957) married Willie J. Miller on March 2, 1897 and later William Frederick (Bill) Umbach, a Hallettsville barber.

6. Anna (1 Mar 1879 - 27 Nov 1879) was an infant who died at the age of eight months.

7. Oscar Appelt (1880-9 Jun 1954) married Josephine (Josie) Hunt, ranched in Sonora and San Angelo and later moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado.

8. Frank Appelt (19 Mar 1882 -28 Jan 1940) never married and was in the cattle business in Lavaca County, as well as in Jackson County.

9. Augusta (Gussie) (30 Jun 1886 - 20 Sep 1970) married Robert Ragsdale on November 10, 1908. She later married Robert Ratliff. She lived in both Hallettsville and San Antonio.

10. William Appelt, Jr. (1887 - 16 Dec 1961) married Polly Robertson and lived in Hallettsville and Louise, Texas.

William Appelt was an energetic and shrewd businessman who was very successful in the Hallettsville area as a merchant, cattleman and farmer. The *Hallettsville Herald* later stated, "He never knew what it was to be tired, for a constitution of iron backed his business career. He was a man of strong traits of character, true to his friends and fearless of his enemies."

Wm. Appelt & Sons general mercantile store was established in Hallettsville in 1867, the year the Appelts married. In 1889, Appelt built a two-story stone building on the southeast corner of the square. The lower floor housed his store and a saloon, while the upper floor acted as an opera house for traveling shows. The building was completely gutted by a huge fire in the early 1890's that spread to all but one store on the east side of the

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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We are indebted to Glenn & Sally Fahrenthold for sharing these photos of Fritz and Helene Fehrenkamp Pagel. You may recall we had not located photos of the couple to accompany their biography in the 2002 Pagel Family Times.

square. His sons, Emil and Julius, and son-in-law, W. J. Miller took over the business in 1897 and Appelt concentrated on his land holdings. They included 2300 acres located three miles north of Hallettsville, as well as a large ranch in Jackson County.

In 1905 when he was sixty-one, William became ill and was diagnosed as having stomach cancer. His doctor accompanied him to New Orleans for treatment at the Tulane Infirmary where the cancer diagnosis was confirmed and he consented to an operation. Emilie, Bertha and Emil traveled to his bedside. The operation was performed on a Thursday morning, but by Sunday morning his doctor wired home to Hallettsville that William Appelt was dying. At noon that day, May 7, 1905, a second message followed announcing his death. His remains were shipped to Hallettsville for interment in the Catholic Cemetery that Tuesday. The local paper proclaimed that locals had lost "one of the most prominent citizens of Lavaca County and probably the wealthiest one."

Five years later on September 8, 1910, Emilie married a widower, Fredric "William" Schott. Mr. Schott had been born in Segesheim, Hessen, Germany on May 21, 1842 and immigrated with his parents in 1850, settling in Galveston where just five years later his parents died of yellow fever. In 1858 he moved to the Sublime area in Lavaca County where he lived until he joined the Confederate Army and served throughout the Civil War. When he was discharged he returned to Sublime and married Bertha Wilhelmine Albert in 1866. Five years later they moved to Oakland in Colorado County where he was a blacksmith and they raised their nine children. In 1889 the Schotts returned to Lavaca County to farm near

Hallettsville, but Bertha died in 1891.

Upon their marriage, Emilie and Mr. Schott moved into Hallettsville. However, their marriage was of only short duration. On Christmas Eve of 1912, Emilie died after suffering for several weeks from paralysis on her right side. She was sixty-four years old. Although William Appelt had been Catholic, Emilie was a member of the Lutheran church as her parents had been. She was buried in the Hallettsville City Cemetery on "a cold and blustery" December 26th. At the time of her death the *Hallettsville Herald* stated that "her life was filled with deeds of kindness and charity; in her home she always had a cordial greeting for visitors, friends and relatives."

William Schott lived another twenty years, moving at some point into the home of his daughter, Ernestine (Mrs. Manfred Fahrenthold), near Hallettsville. When he died, just five days after an exuberant ninetieth birthday party, he was buried in the Hallettsville City Cemetery alongside his second wife, Emilie Pagel Appelt Schott.

This little history could not have been written without the help of Brenda Fisseler at the Fiench Simpson Library in Hallettsville and the late Millie Elstner Appelt. We are still searching for better quality photographs of the couple.

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 photos, the family history, a family chart, old Pagel homes, cemeteries, and reunion information.