

# The Pagel Family Times

Volume 9

2004

## THE PAGELS IN TEXAS



**Ernst and Anna Appelt Pagel**

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

Ernst Pagel was an infant when his parents left their home in Kortenhausen, Pommern and began their journey to America. Born on April 12, 1850, he was only four months old when he was carried aboard *the Brazilian* by Gottfried and Friedrike Dieckow Pagel. Landing in Galveston, the family headed for the farmland of Willow Springs in Fayette County. It was here that Friedrike died soon after giving birth to a ninth child in April 1853. Ernst became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1855.

Gottfried remarried in 1855 and in 1858 relocated his family to a larger farm southeast of Hallettsville in Lavaca County, an area that became known as Pagel Settlement. Ernst received little formal education there, but he did learn to read and write in both English and German. He was only fifteen by the time the Civil War ended, but he told stories of driving an ox-drawn wagon with his brothers in a wagon train hauling coffee

and salt from Matamores, Mexico to New Orleans during the war.

When their father died in 1873, Ernst and his younger brother, Julius, were the only children still living at home. Gottfried's will specified that his second wife, Johanna, would return to Fayette County to live with his oldest son's family. Ernst would have one-half the homestead, including all the houses and pens and the well, but that he would be obliged to help his brother Julius to build houses, dig a well, and make other necessary improvements on the other half. The horses, farming utensils, beds, household and kitchen utensils would be divided equally between Julius and Ernst. Furthermore, they and some of the other children were each to receive three cows with calves.

On September 18, 1877, Lavaca County Justice of the Peace Jesse Green married Ernst Pagel to 23-year-old Anna

*(Continued on back page)*

## 2004 PAGEL FAMILY REUNION

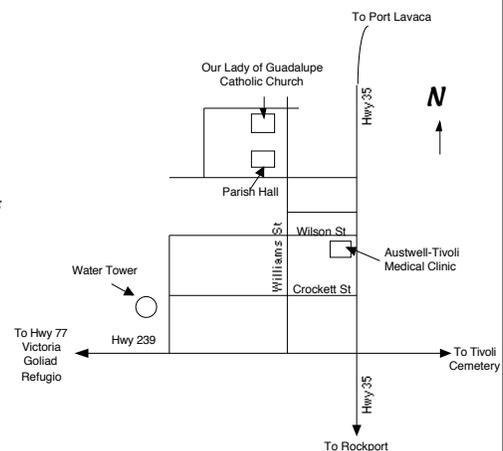
**11:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 10  
at St. Kathryn Parish Hall  
of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church  
in Tivoli, Texas**

*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 5<sup>th</sup>. 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.*

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



## In Remembrance

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

William E. Allen  
Margaret Deschner Afflerbach  
Myrtle Pagel Duncan  
Hilton Elstner  
Vera B. Gisler  
Leona Henkel Leffingwell  
Willow Vera Willis Maeker  
Rudolph Frank Pagel  
Randolph Eric Pfeil  
Helen Repschleger Porter  
Randy Davis Randall  
Rachel Farenthold Studstrup  
Amye Pagel Wimberly

At our 2003 reunion, we learned that Marvin Wehman had died and was not mentioned in the last newsletter.

We were also saddened to learn that Father Timothy John Kinast of St. Kathryn Parish at Tivoli died last November.

*(The Pagels in Texas continued)*

Appelt. Anna's first cousin, William Appelt, had married Ernst's sister, Emilie, ten years earlier.

Anna (or Annie) was born July 4, 1854 at Neustadt in the Austrian province of Bohemia, the third child of Anna Ressel and Wilhelm Appelt. Neustadt was a village of weavers who worked in its large textile mill. Located in the Czech Republic near both the German and Polish borders, Neustadt is now called Nove Mesto pod Smrkem. The Appelt family immigrated through Galveston in November 1871, joining other Appelt relatives in Lavaca County who had immigrated years earlier.

A year after Ernst and Anna married their children began to arrive, finally numbering eight:

1. Paul (6 Sep 1878 - 7 Mar 1963) married Mary Jank and farmed at Tivoli
2. Oscar (28 Nov 1882 - 14 Apr 1960) married Adelheid Katherine Gyllenband and farmed at Tivoli
3. Helen (30 Oct 1884 - 22 Nov 1962) married Richard J. Schultz who farmed at Tivoli and Ganado, had a cotton gin in Tivoli and later had a gin and feed-mill at Hallettsville.
4. Martha K. (10 Sep 1886 - 28 Jan 1976) married and later divorced Leonce (Frenchie) Poimboeuf, who was a self-employed auto mechanic at El Campo among other work at other locales. After the divorce Martha had a boarding house in Robstown and later lived at Corpus Christi.
5. Annie (29 Nov 1889 - 5 Sep 1978) married Gottlieb M. Gisler Sr., who had a mechanic's garage in Victoria
6. Lydia (Jul 1892 - 9 Jul 1953) met Harry Horn while they were both employed at the San Antonio Country Club. During the depression, Harry owned a very successful domino parlor and billiard hall in San Antonio. He later ranched at Helotes and then farmed briefly at Dilly before returning to San Antonio.
7. Gustav Adolph (Gus) Pagel (29 Oct 1895 - 1 Jul 1979) married Elenora Louise Stanzel and farmed at Tivoli
8. Hilda Dorthea (28 Aug 1897 - 3

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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*Ernst and Anna Pagel's Home at Tivoli*

Nov 1979) married Alton Allee Turner. They farmed at Tivoli, then owned a grocery store at Port Lavaca. Later Alton had the Ford car dealership at Robstown.

Although Anna had been raised as a Catholic, her husband was Protestant and their children were raised as Protestants. Some of the children's baptismal records can be found at the Zion Lutheran Church at Sublime. The children attended the Pagel Settlement School where Ernst served as a trustee. They learned to read and write in English, but German was spoken in their home. The boys were all fine musicians and belonged to several bands. Paul even studied at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music.

By 1907 Ernst's two oldest sons were grown but still living at home. To improve their prospects, Ernst moved his family to a 320-acre farm in Refugio County that was bought from the promoter, Preston Austin. Austin founded Tivoli that same year. Ernst contracted with Ernst Rickaway of Hallettsville to build a two-story frame house with lumber that had to be shipped by barge from Port Lavaca. Gus and Hilda were the only ones still young enough to attend school at Tivoli. Eventually all three boys earned their livelihood on the Tivoli farm. Ernst and Anna lived long lives surrounded by their children. They were quite elderly by the time Gus Pagel married and he and his family lived with them helping with daily chores. Lois Pagel Darden has many fond memories of her grandfather talking to her in German telling her stories of when he was a young man. One he retold again and again was about arriving in New Orleans in June 1870 just in time for the beginning of the great steamboat race between the *Robert E. Lee* and the *Natchez* up the Mississippi. Lois remem-

bers her grandfather wearing an old brown felt hat year round and smoking a pipe while Anna fussed at him for being messy with his tobacco. Lois remembers, too, Ernst's labored breathing late in his life as he suffered with severe asthma.

Ernst was eighty-eight when he passed away at Tivoli on April 7, 1939. In her later years Anna suffered from senility and lived with the Turners at Robstown. Anna was ninety-five when she died there on November 27, 1949. They are both buried in the Tivoli Cemetery as are four of their children.

The Pagels' house still stands, surviving hurricanes and floods, but no one lives there today. Ernst left his farm to his three sons. About twenty-five acres of the old farm was taken for State Highway 35. William Pagel inherited his father Paul's share on one side of the highway. Gus bought Oscar's share to add to his own and that lies on the other side of the highway. Gus's children, Lois Darden and Frank Pagel, have inherited that acreage where Frank has a thriving truck farm, growing crops like tomatoes, peppers, squash, cucumbers, and onions.

*Information for this little biography came from interviews with Lois Darden, Frank and Marilyn Pagel, Victoria Orsak, and Pam Reinhart.*

## **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.