

The Pagel Family Times

Volume 10

2005

THE PAGELS IN TEXAS



Anna Rother and Julius Pagel

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

Herman "Julius" Pagel was the youngest child of Gottfried and Friedrike Dieckow Pagel and their only child born in Texas. He arrived on April 18, 1853 at Willow Springs in Fayette County, almost twenty-one years after the first of the Pagel children were born. His father was already fifty-three and his mother was forty-three years old at the time of his birth. Only three years earlier, his parents and his five brothers and three sisters had immigrated to Texas from Kortenhausen in the Pommern region of Germany. The cause and date of her death is unknown, but Friedrike died within two years of little Julius's birth. Gottfried married the widow Johanna (Anna) Zorn Fritsche on April 15, 1855 and she must have been the only mother that Julius could remember.

Gottfried Pagel, his wife, and all but his two married children moved to Lavaca

County where they founded Pagel Settlement just south of Hallettsville in 1858. Julius's formal education came from the Pagel Settlement School. He received religious instruction from Rev. Roeber and was confirmed into the Lutheran Church on April 15, 1866.

In 1873 when their father died, twenty-year-old Julius and his brother, Ernest, were the only children still living at home. Gottfried's will specified that his second wife would return to Fayette County to live with his oldest son's family. Ernest would have one-half the homestead, including all the houses and pens and the well, but he was 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 Ernest. Furthermore, they and some of the other children were each to receive three cows with calves.

In the following year, on May 11, 1874 Justice of the Peace A. G. Nolen

married Julius to Anna (Annie) Rother, the daughter of Ambrose Rother. He was twenty-one and she was twenty-two, having been born in Germany on April 25,

(Continued on back page)

2005 PAGEL FAMILY REUNION

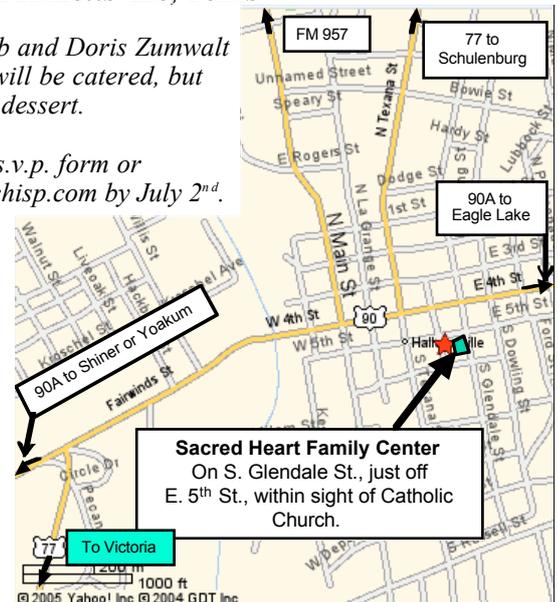
**11:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 9
at the Sacred Heart Family Center
in Hallettsville, Texas**

Mary Ann Defibaugh and Bob and Doris Zumwalt are our hosts. A BBQ lunch will be catered, but each family is asked to bring dessert.

Please return the enclosed r.s.v.p. form or e-mail Bob at rezumwalt@techisp.com by July 2nd.

Contributions for our silent auction are welcome!

We will have a scanner on hand to duplicate photos. This is always a good opportunity to get your old photographs identified! Compare yours to the photos 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:

Harvey Leon Henry Albert
Virginia Hathaway Blaschke
Theodore Boening
Jack Marshall Darden
Hilda Grahmann Sobotik Elstner
Helen Mary Garbade Fraser
Gottlieb M. (Jimmy) Gisler
Ruby Mae Sebastian Henrichs
Charles "Kyle" Kaiser, Sr.
Patricia Hart Pagel
Virginia "Allene" Carter Pagel
William Elmer Repschleger
Adrian Dale (Turk) Young

(The Pagels in Texas continued)

1852. Her grandson, Clyde Pagel, says the Rother family immigrated when Anna was just a baby. Within a year of her marriage to Julius, their only child, Ernest "Henry" Pagel was born at Pagel Settlement on February 11, 1875.

Julius continued to farm at Pagel Settlement until 1900 when Henry married Mathilda Einkauf. Henry had a mercantile store on the square in Hallettsville by this time, and Julius and Annie sold their farm and moved in with the newlyweds. The elder Pagels lived with their son and daughter-in-law for the rest of their lives. Henry and Mathilda's daughter, Selma was born in Hallettsville the following year. Unfortunately the Pagels extended too much credit, the store went broke, and in about 1904 the two families bought a farm of approximately 300 acres near Ganado where they grew rice and cotton. Guy, Myrtle and Clyde Pagel were all born in Jackson County. In about 1916 the Pagels all moved near Hebronville in Webb County, about forty miles from Laredo, where they had a 1200-acre ranch.

Within about two years drought forced the Pagels back to Ganado, where they had a farm of about 125 acres east of town. Julius had a large vegetable garden with peach trees at one end and at least part of it was irrigated. About twice a week from approximately May through September Julius would hitch two horses to a hack he had loaded with his vegetables, then drive into Ganado and peddle them. He would pull up in front of a house and announce his arrival by ringing a school bell he had mounted to the hack. Julius was good with figures and kept a record of his sales in a black ledger book. He did really well peddling his vegetables, making as much as \$500 over a summer. When Julius got home, his grandchildren knew they could look forward to the candy wrapped in colorful waxed paper that he had picked up in town. Clyde Pagel remembers his grandfather as a quiet man. Unlike some of the other Pagel families, the only time Clyde heard German spoken at home was when Julius was talking to his brother, Ernst.

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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Pagel Cemetery To Have Historical Marker

The Pagel Cemetery at Willow Springs in Fayette County was designated a Historic Texas Cemetery in January of this year. The HTC designation was developed to address the destruction of historic cemeteries and the illegal removal of cemetery fixtures. It also increases public awareness of cemeteries as important cultural resources.

Funds have been pledged and raised to mark the Pagel Cemetery with a Historic Texas Cemetery medallion and interpretive plaque. The marker application is now being reviewed by the Texas Historical Commission and we hope to be able to dedicate the markers as part of the 2006 Pagel Family Reunion.

Six generations of the Friedrich Wilhelm Pagel family are buried in this cemetery, including Johanna Pagel, Gottfried's second wife. We suspect that our matriarch, Friedrike Pagel, may also be buried there in an unmarked grave. Additionally, many of the Pagel's neighbors in the Willow Springs community are buried there. The Pagel Cemetery lies beside Darden Loop off FM 159 in southeastern Fayette County, just west of the Willow Springs community.



In about 1925 the three generations of Pagels moved to San Antonio where Henry unsuccessfully looked for work. In 1926 they moved near Boerne in upper Bexar County, where Henry found work on a big farm. He later worked on a truck farm for someone else in that area.

Julius Pagel died of prostate cancer at Boerne on March 19, 1928 at about 9:30 in the evening. He was seventy-four years old. His remains were taken to the home of J. J. Zappe in Hallettsville where funeral services were held and interment took place in the Hallettsville City Cemetery. Besides Julius' wife, son and grandchildren, one brother, Ernest, and two sisters, Wilhelmine Fischer and Fredericka Ladewig, survived him.

Soon after Julius' death, Henry Pagel moved his family, including his mother, to Kerrville where they leased a farm and grew vegetables. It was when the family moved to the Hill Country that they began pronouncing their surname as "Pay-gull." No one in that area was familiar with their surname and it made things easier to change the pronunciation. In the early 1930's the family moved to Kendall County near Boerne where they leased about 600 acres for raising sheep and goats.

Annie broke her hip in about 1938 and was bedridden for the rest of her life. The Pagels moved to Johnson City in 1940 and Annie died there at the family home on September 28, 1942. She was ninety years old. Funeral services were held at the home of her niece, Mrs. Joe Zappe, in Hallettsville and she was buried alongside Julius in the city cemetery. Annie's granddaughter, Selma, who died in a car accident in San Antonio in 1935, pre-

ceded her in death.

Julius Pagel is remembered for his great love of hunting. Clyde says when Julius was a young man he and a friend would load up a wagon with supplies and go off hunting for two weeks at a time. Julius was a member of the local shooting club and entered marksmanship contests and turkey shoots all over South Texas. He was so proud of his shooting medals that he was photographed with his wife Anna wearing them on a ribbon across his chest.

Today Julius' great-grandson, Henry Ellis Pagel, is the proud owner of a cherry dresser that Julius won at one of those contests. He also has Julius' 1873 Winchester brass-belly rifle and the mantel clock that Julius and Anna received as a wedding present.

As you might suspect, the Julius Pagel branch is the smallest of our Pagel family's nine branches. In fact, today there are only eleven Julius Pagel descendants living. However, no other branch can truthfully claim that a fourth of their group is routinely counted at our annual reunions.

Many thanks go to Clyde and Henry Pagel for their help with Julius's story.

www.PagelFamily.org

Our cousin, Clay Maeckel, has generously provided space on his server to the Pagel Family Reunion for our web site. The site includes photos, the family history, a family tree, old Pagel homes, cemeteries, and reunion information. Check it out and see what's new!