

The Pagel Family Times

Volume 14

June 2009

FINDING FACES FOR OUR ANCESTORS



Magdalena Fritsche & Friedrich "Wilhelm" Pagel. This portrait is 20" X 16".

Last year I wrote that old unidentified portraits should not be thrown away. The story of how I finally discovered a portrait of Gottfried's oldest son after a twenty-year search explains why.

Last June a Pagel cousin brought me several large crayon portraits she found in a dusty trunk after her father, P. C. (Mike) Heinsohn, passed away. She had no idea who they were, but I recognized several immediately and was excited to have the chance to scan them. When I took a photo of Frank and Wilhelmine Schiller Pagel out of its frame there were two more portraits hidden under it that I didn't recognize. All the known photos were Mike's close relatives and I figured the others were, too, but who were they? I took the photos to two reunions last summer, but no one recognized them.

Luck and perseverance play a huge part in genealogy. It was luck that soon brought the identity of the portrait when Cathie Bass in Louisiana happened upon the Pagel Family web site and read my request for a photo of Magdalena Pagel. Her husband's family had a carte de visite of Magdalena and Cathie sent a copy to me by e-mail (see photo at right). Imagine my surprise when I recognized Magdalena as having the same hair, clothing, and jewel-

2009 PAGEL FAMILY REUNION

**Mary Ann Defibaugh, Bob & Doris Zumwalt will host
the 2009 Pagel Family Reunion**

**Saturday, July 11th, 10:30 a.m. until 3 p.m.
at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall,
corner of East 4th (Hwy 90A) & S. Dowling Streets,
Hallettsville, Texas (See map on reverse side.)**

Our catered lunch of fried chicken will include dessert and is \$10 per plate for adults, free for children under 12. Please r.s.v.p. to Bob Zumwalt as soon as possible by e-mail to r_zumwalt@sbcglobal.net, phone (361) 798-2786, or return the enclosed form.

We'll have lots of family heritage displays and a scanner on hand if you'd like to share your old photos or memorabilia.

Please consider bringing something interesting for our silent auction. Canned and homemade food items do especially well.

Last year we met cousins living in California, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Kuwait. We look forward to seeing everyone!



The original photo of Magdalena at approximately the original size.

ry as my mystery lady. And, if she was the lady in the photo, Wilhelm Pagel had to be the man. They were Mike Heinsohn's great-grandparents, evidently placed behind the portrait of his grandparents for safe keeping.

Admittedly, the crayon portrait of Magdalena is not a very good likeness. This is common with these retouched photographs. It was probably made well after Wilhelm died in 1873, and probably
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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:

Dorothy Wallace Albrecht
Consuelo Monreal Albert
Curtis Dean Herms
Julia Marie Roznovsky Pagel
Walter Peterson
Wanda Smith Westbrook

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after Magdalena passed away in 1886, when the practice of enlarging photos and enhancing them with charcoal became popular. Often, as in the case here, two photos were combined into one. Sometimes pastels were used to make the portrait colorful.

Magdalena looks much younger in the retouched version. Wilhelm was only 39 when he died, so the artist may have attempted to make her look equally youthful—though he also gave her a nose job. We don't know whether the portrait of Wilhelm is an accurate likeness, but it certainly looks like his brothers, Charles and August. Now, if only we can locate an original of his photo . . .

PAGEL SETTLEMENT

We had another work day at the old Pagel Settlement Cemetery on November 15th. Pagel descendants were joined by members of the Rother, Einkauf, and Meyer families to cut brush, shred high grass, and trim around the markers and grave enclosures.

Descendants who live nearby had shredded the large grassy areas and applied weed killer to the fence lines several times during the year, making the work day go much quicker. The neighbors have all noticed the huge improvement to the grounds and one has even burned brush for us.

Work on the Historic Texas Cemeteries application came to a halt this winter, but should resume soon. We also have someone looking into replacing the deteriorated wooden grave enclosures with something similar.

If you would like to help out next fall, please contact Rox Ann (info below).

This issue of *The Pagel Family Times* was edited by Rox Ann 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 78750-3607, (512) 250-8424, e-mail roxannjohnson@sbcglobal.net. Please notify us of family births, deaths, and marriages.

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ANNA PAGEL'S GRAVE STONE



Marker in 2006 before it fell.

After years of leaning precariously, Johanna (Anna) Zorn Fritsche Pagel's monument at the Pagel Cemetery at Willow Springs has split and toppled. Anna was Gottfried's second wife and the stepmother who raised the younger Pagel children. Because of the obelisk's size, we are asking for small donations to get it professionally repaired.

If you can help, please send a check with the note it's for Anna Pagel's marker repair to the Pagel Cemetery Association, c/o Rosemary Heinsohn, 324 Parkhill Street, Huntsville, TX 77340. If extra is collected, it will go toward maintaining the cemetery grounds. The next association meeting will be October 10th at the cemetery in Fayette County.

A Personal Note of Thanks

I can't express enough thanks to the many of you who sent cards and e-mails or attended the memorial service last February for my mother, Dorothy Albrecht.

A Pagel only by marriage, she was a friend to our family reunion in so many ways. It was Mom's own interest in genealogy that encouraged me to begin recording the Pagels' family history. She helped me get started with information she had collected from long-deceased relatives and regularly contributed information for our reunion notebooks from her visits to nearby courthouses and archives and the many hours she spent reading microfilm of old newspapers. Mom's interest in old cemeteries made her a driving force behind obtaining the historical marker, the marker dedication, and the formation of the cemetery association for the Pagel Cemetery at Willow Springs. Though not able to help with the physical work, she showed up for the recent Pa-

gel Settlement Cemetery work days with boxes of kolaches to cheer us on.

Mom looked forward to every reunion, having made so many dear acquaintances there. It was very reassuring for me to see and hear from so many of you at such a difficult time.

Love to you all,
Rox Ann

Our cousin, Clay Maeckel, generously provides space on his server for our Pagel Family Reunion web site which includes many old photos, our family history and family tree, old Pagel homes, the three Pagel cemeteries, reunion information and photographs from recent reunions.

Check it out to see what's new!

www.pagelfamily.org