

THE GERMAN SETTLERS OF CAT SPRING
AND THEIR
SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF AGRICULTURE

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THESIS

Presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School of
Southwest Texas State Teachers College
in Partial Fulfillment of
the Requirements

For the Degree of

MASTER OF ARTS

By

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San Marcos, Texas

August, 1945

FOREWORD

In compiling this thesis, the author aims at originality rather than transposing, recasting and reproducing reading matter contained in books of like import. The field covered by this thesis is not entirely neglected. For instance, the narratives of Rudolf F. Lafrentz, F. W. Luhn, Dr. R. L. Bieseke, Mrs. Ottilie von Goethe, Dr. S. W. Geiser, Charles Nagel, C. W. Schmidt, Moritz Tilling, Hugo Moeller, and others are carefully preserved. Then, too, about the year 1899, W. A. Trenckmann, editor of "Das Wochenblatt," then located at Bellville, published a booklet entitled "Austin County." About the year 1914, the eminent writer and historian, Professor Duncan of Chicago, began the compilation of a most comprehensive treatise on pioneer life. Valuable bits of information were gotten from the Original Minutes of the Austin County Agricultural Society, the First Public School Society of Cat Spring, and from the diary of Robert J. Kleberg, Sr.

In this thesis an effort will be made to deal only briefly with educational, social, religious, and political activities, because Dr. Bieseke in his book "The History of

German Settlements in Texas," has written very extensively on these subjects. However, an effort will be made at a more extensive study of the Founding of Cat Spring, and of the "Scientific Studies in Agriculture" made by the German immigrants at Cat Spring and surrounding communities.

It is only a little more than four score years since the colonization of Cat Spring began. The pioneers of that period are all dead, and of their sons and daughters only a few remain to tell their children of the life and the struggle of the early frontiersmen.

The present generation, living in well organized cities or communities, surrounded by all comforts and luxuries, seemingly indispensable in modern life, can hardly conceive or properly appreciate the hardships and privations of the early German pioneers at Cat Spring; but it has every reason to hold these men in cherished and revered remembrance. In order to preserve the highly interesting records of the "scientific studies of agriculture," and the important part the Germans took in the colonization of Cat Spring and surrounding communities, the author has compiled this thesis.

The writer wishes to express his appreciation to Dr.

Alfred H. Nolle and Dr. Claude Elliott. Special acknowledgment is made to Mr. H. M. Greene, special advisor, for his helpful suggestions, criticisms, and courtesies shown in the preparation of this manuscript. Thanks are also due to Miss Alma Lueders, Mr. Joe Malecek, and the many friends who have helped in making this study possible.

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CHAPTER I

THE FOUNDING OF CAT SPRING

It may be an unnecessary repetition of the published materials to cite the operation of the Austins in their colonies in Texas. It is felt, however, that their activities are an integral part of this narrative, because the center of the greatest progress of the German settlers was in the original grant to the Austins.

On February 1, 1822, some of the first Anglo-Saxons settled on the banks of New Year's creek in Washington County, near the county line of Austin County in the original grant to the Austins.¹ On April 3, 1831, however,

¹Eugene C. Barker, Readings in Texas History, pp. 69-70.

Fritz Frederick Ernst and his family from the Duchy of Oldenburg, Germany, settled and founded the town of Industry, Austin

County.² Although individual German travelers and

²Moritz Tiling, The German Elements in Texas, pp. 17-19.

adventurers had been in Texas at an earlier date,³ Mrs.

³Tiling, Ibid., pp. 3-6. See also L. F. Lafrentz, Deutsche-Texanische Monatshefte, vol. 11, No. 1, July 1, 1906. Gilbert G. Benjamin, The Germans in Texas, pp. 11-16.

Ernest is generally credited with having been the first German woman in Texas.⁴ Frederick Ernest, the father of

⁴Tiling, Ibid., p. 18. See also Benjamin, Ibid., pp. 30-32.

the German immigrants in Austin County,⁵ became the chief

⁵Ottillie von Goethe, Was Grossmutter Erzaehlt, pp. 30-32. Also R. L. Bieseke, The History of German Settlements in Texas, pp. 44-47.

factor in causing the German immigrants to settle and

found Cat Spring, instead of selecting one of the northern states. A few excerpts from the diary⁶ of Robert J.

⁶Owned by Miss Lulu Kleberg.

Kleberg, Sr.,⁷ will help to substantiate this statement.

⁷Robert J. Kleberg, Sr., was born in Herstelle, Westphalia, Germany, on September 10, 1803. He graduated from the gymnasium at Holzminden. He studied law at the University of Goettingen. He became dissatisfied with conditions in Prussia and came to Texas. In his adopted country he became an outstanding leader. In 1841 he was appointed the first Justice of the Peace at Cat Spring, and in 1846 he was appointed Chief Justice by President Houston. He served under General Houston and took an active part in the battle of San Jacinto. He was with General Rusk in his campaign which drove the Mexican Army from the Texan soil.

In his diary Kleberg writes:

We had accidentally gotten hold of a letter⁸

⁸"Ein Deutscher Brief aus Texas vor hundert fuenf Jahren," Neu-Braunfelser Zeitung, vol. 85, No. 17, December 31, 1936. Also Bieseke, op. cit., pp. 44-45. Tiling, op. cit., p. 25. Benjamin, op. cit., pp. 16-19.

written by a gentleman who had emigrated some time before us from the Duchy of Oldenburg, describing Texas, then a province of Mexico, in a very glowing color, mentioning also the advantages offered to the immigrants by the Mexican Government, namely, a league and a labor of land to every married man with a family and one-half league to every single man. This letter caused us to change our first intention to go to one of the northern states, and choose Texas for our future home. . . . We sent our company, namely, Louis, Albrecht, and Joachim von Roeder, and their sister Valeska, ahead of us to come to Texas for the purpose of selecting a point where we all could meet and commence operation. They were all well provided with money, clothing, and farm utensils. They aimed to go to Mr. Ernest, the writer of the letter that induced us to come to Texas. We followed on the last of September 1834. After a voyage of sixty days we arrived at New Orleans.

At the time we left hardly anything was known of Texas, except that my ideas and those of others were formed by the above mentioned letter in which Texas was described as a beautiful country, with enchanting scenery and delightful soil and republican government, with unbounded personal freedom and political liberty, free from so many disadvantages and evils of the old countries. We were enthusiastic lovers of republican institutions, full of romantic notions and believed to find Texas before all the countries the blessed land of our hopes.

Here at New Orleans we heard very bad accounts of Texas, and we were advised not to go there; for, they said there were only robbers, murderers and wild Indians in the country. But we were determined to risk it and would not disappoint our relatives who had gone before us.

C. C. Amsler⁹ had come to Texas as early as 1832. He

⁹C. C. Amsler (Charles Amsler) was born in Schintsnacht, Switzerland, November 28, 1808. He became a locksmith and was considered a master in his profession. He and his young wife sailed for America, January 19, 1833, and finally settled at Cat Spring. Here he opened an Inn which became famous in the history of Cat Spring.

had been granted a league of land by the Mexican government, which was very profuse in donating land to attract immigrants. When the War of Texas Independence broke out, he left his young wife with friends at Industry and went to fight in the Mexican War. Land was granted to him by the Republic of Texas in payment for his service. He now had plenty of land but not a cent in his pocket to pay for its location and survey. Happily for him at this time Louis, Albrecht, and Joachim von Roeder, and their sister Valeska made their appearance. Louis von Roeder had \$8000, which was considered a large sum of cash to have on hand. Now with the help of a loan from Louis von Roeder, Amsler succeeded in purchasing what is now called the Louis von Roeder league and other lands in the neighborhood, but in payment on this loan he had to give one-third of the

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league to Louis von Roeder.

¹⁰The Original Deed is on file in the County Clerk's Office, Bellville, Austin County, Texas. See also W. A. Trenckmann, Austin County, pp. 16-31.

Kleberg continues in his diary:

When we finally reached them (von Roeders), we had learned that Joachim and Valeska had died. I found Louis and Albrecht in a miserable hut and in a pitiful condition. They were emaciated by diseases and want of proper treatment and nourishment.

We had formed a partnership with the view to aid each other and to build farms and homes for each head of the family in our party; and we went to work in good earnest to break up and fence land and build houses. It was our intention to move the balance of our party from Harrisburg to our new settlement, as soon as we could erect the necessary houses. Although we were very industrious, we got along very slowly, none of us being accustomed to hard work.

Early in September we had finished building two comfortable log houses. One of them even had floors below and above. We sawed the planks from post oak trees and inclosed and planted a field of ten acres in corn and cotton. We moved the members of our family whom we had left at Harrisburg to our settlement with our wagon and teams. Such goods for which we had no room as yet we left at our houses in Harrisburg to get at our leisure. . . .

The first night after landing in Austin Colony, the

von Roeders pitched camp near a clear, never-failing spring on which the settlers were relying for their water supply. They called this spring "Katzenquelle" (Cat Spring). This famous landmark later became known as Wild Cat Spring, and J. H. Bostick served the community as the unofficial postmaster until one could be appointed. The name "Wild Cat Spring" was changed to "Cat Spring" on December 13, 1853, when the United States Government established a post office with C. C. Amsler as the first commissioned postmaster.¹¹

¹¹W. W. Howe, First Assistant Postmaster General, in a letter dated February 29, 1936.

Thus "Cat Spring" became the official name of the community.

Although there are several versions of how and why this never-failing spring got its name, it seems that it came from the fact that the large area of timberland surrounding the spring was the natural home of the wildcat. C. W. Schmidt in his booklet, "Footprints of Five Generations" writes that "one of Mr. Roeder's sons shot and killed a Mexican puma on Gloor's farm. The puma had come to the spring, when spied by the successful hunter."

Rosa J. Engelking, a relative of the von Roeders, in giving information on this subject, relates that "the first night that my ancestors, great uncle and aunt von Roeder camped at this spring a wildcat came to drink at the spring and they promptly gave it the name of 'Katzenquelle' (Cat Spring)."¹²

¹²Bieseke, op. cit., p. 49. See also the map of Austin County, Infra., p. 9. That part inclosed with a circle is the immediate center of the narrative.

It is interesting, but of little value, how this spring got its name, because pioneers had no set rules for selecting names for their communities. The names that men selected for certain localities were based on certain peculiarities of the localities, or the influences of Indian, Mexican, or Anglo-Saxon lore.

The year 1846 brought a good many immigrants to Cat Spring. John Hollien, also a soldier of the War of Texas Independence had gone back to Germany and brought over his wife, her brother, F. Ramm and his wife. Other newcomers were, C. Welhausen, F. Laas, Jacob Kinkler, John Glaum, Christ Dittert, C. Palm, Amslers, Klebergs, Klosses,

AUSTIN COUNTY,

STATE OF

TEXAS.

APRIL 1899.
CORRECTED & REDUCED BY
A. LUDWIG, C.S.A.C.
Scale 8000 feet = 1 inch

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Gez. von A. Ludwig
County Verm. A. C. Tex.

Trenckmanns, Anthors, Bergmanns, Maetzes, and others.¹³

¹³Bieseke, op. cit., pp. 48-50. Also Trenckmann, op. cit., pp. 29-31.

New community activities soon began. Louis von Roeder erected a grist mill driven by the waters supplied by the spring. In 1834, Robert J. Kleberg, Sr., who is generally called the founder of Cat Spring,¹⁴ although the

¹⁴Tilling, op. cit., pp. 24-29.

von Roeders settled at Cat Spring before he did, built the first store. Marcus Ansler built a dance hall, and C. C. Ansler erected the famous Ansler Inn. This Inn became a place of gaiety, of pioneer fashion for the Anglo-Saxon as well as for the German settlers. Many men of importance-Prince Solms, Castro and Meusebach- rested their tired bodies at this Inn as they passed through from Harrisburg to their Settlements at Frelsburg, Bastrop, Rutersville, New Braunfels, and Fredericksburg.

About 1850, H. Langer of Hamburg erected a saw mill,

and F. Laas built a cotton gin and grist mill. After Langer's death Fedor Soder rebuilt the gin building and used it for a store. Later Rev. E. Bergmann¹⁵ used this

¹⁵This real name was supposed to have been Rev. Joseph A. Bergmann. Infra., p. 151, Footnote No. 4.

store as a church. This log building was located at the present site of the Kollatschney cemetery. It was later destroyed by a hurricane. C. C. Amsler then built a cotton gin and grist mill powered by oxen. He later used steam. He sold his gin and grist mill to F. Schlapota and moved to Spring Creek. Some time later Hassler and Kinkler, and Henry Langhammer built a store at Cat Spring.¹⁶

¹⁶"Cat Spring," The Austin County Times, vol. 4, No. 44, September 15, 1883. Also Bieseke, op. cit., pp. 48-50.

Karl Palm and Jacob Peshek established the first blacksmith shop, while Kollatschney opened up a harness and saddle shop. The Rev. Mr. Bergmann, Hartmann, and Mastze served as the first school teachers in the Cat Spring community. The Rev. Mr. Bergmann, the Rev. Mr.

Erdrvenberg, Rev. J. C. Roehm, and Rev. F. Gerstmann assumed the role of spiritual guides, while Dr. H. Nagel,¹⁷

¹⁷Dr. H. Nagel was the father of the late Charles Nagel, Secretary of Commerce in Taft's cabinet. Charles was born at Cat Spring.

and Dr. F. A. Schmidt were the first ones to practice medicine at Cat Spring.¹⁸

¹⁸Joe Malecek's letter dated 1936. Mr. Malecek has kept a record of the events as they happened. He has furnished valuable information about the early Czech and German settlers at Cat Spring.

Now began a life of work and hardship and privation of these families for which they were ill-fitted. In Germany they belonged to the best classes, had moved there in high society and in the best circles, and their education was of high order. They bore the change bravely. Their social gatherings were very attractive; their conversations moved on a high plane, and were animated by wit and humor.¹⁹

¹⁹"Cat Spring," The Austin County Times, vol. 4, No. 44, September 15, 1883.

CHAPTER II

EDUCATION

The cultural background of the German immigrants at Cat Spring demanded that educational facilities for their children be supplied, because to them illiteracy was a stigma, if not a crime. Those who could afford it engaged private tutors for their children, others, who were less fortunate financially, taught their own. It is interesting to note at this point that "Emile," a book written by Rousseau, became the basis for character building.¹

¹R. L. Lafrentz, "Die Deutschen in der unabhaengigen Republik Texas," 22. Jahrbuch, New Braunfels Publishing Company, New Braunfels, Texas, pp. 25-27.

As early as 1842 Rev. Joseph A. Bergmann,² A. F.

²In a letter quoted in the Sealy News, July 15, 1936, Joseph Mikosovsky stated:

"Joseph Arnost Bergmann was born 1798 in Zapudov, Bohemia, of Roman Catholic parents. He graduated from the gymnasium at Mlada, Boleslav, 1816-1825. He entered the monastic order. He taught for many years in the college of Litomysl. In 1826 he renounced the monastic order and priesthood. He then studied philosophy and Protestant theology in the University of Breslau, Silesia, and became a

member of the Evangelical church in 1827. He was ordained to the Protestant ministry in 1830 at Breslau, and until 1849 was pastor of the Czech Evangelical Church in Strousny, Prussian Silesia. In 1849 he migrated to Cat Spring, where he engaged in farming and also preaching to those early settlers, both Czech and German language, as there were quite a number of Czech immigrants in Cat Spring. He died at Cat Spring in 1871."

The minutes of the Agricultural Society reveal that the Rev. Mr. Bergmann took the leading interest in agriculture. He was instrumental in having the Agricultural Society organized. He gave many lectures dealing with problems in agriculture. When signing the constitution he signed his name E. Bergmann. He was always referred to as Rev. Bergmann. See Infra, p. 151, Footnote 15.

Trenckmann, and other leaders were entertaining the thought of establishing an institution of higher learning at Cat Spring.³ This idea not only found favor among the German

³Lafrentz, loc. cit., pp. 25-27. Also Tiling, op. cit., pp. 55-56. Biesele, op. cit., p. 215.

settlers at Cat Spring, but also among the Anglo-Saxons. When the German settlers at Cat Spring began an active campaign for a German University, President Houston seemed to look favorably upon their utopian plan.⁴ On

⁴Tiling, loc. cit., pp. 55-56.

January 27, 1844, the Texas Congress granted a franchise to the "Herrmann University," which was to be the "alma mater" of philosophy, medicine, theology, and jurisprudence. The professors of these four faculties must be competent to lecture in both the English and German languages, while the professor of theology should not belong to a special religious denomination nor teach doctrines of any sect. Section 7 of the act authorizing the university stated the following: "Section 7. Be it further enacted that no person shall be eligible to a professorship in said university who does not understand both the German and English languages, unless by a unanimous vote of the trustees such qualifications shall be disregarded."⁵

⁵Lafrentz, loc. cit., pp. 27-28. Also Tiling, Ibid., p. 56. W. von Rosenberg, Kritik Geschichte des Vereins zum Schutze der deutschen Auswanderer nach Texas, pp. 8-9. S. W. Geiser, Naturalists of the Frontier, pp. 120-121.

This shows plainly the influence and prominence accorded to the German elements in Texas at this early date.

The location of the prospective university apparently was intended to be somewhere between Will and Cummings Creeks either in the present Austin, Colorado, or Washing-

ton County. To finance the undertaking the charter authorized the board of regents to levy an excise tax on spirituous liquors within the radius of fifty miles from the university and to raise money selling shares, and "a large grant" was also authorized for the benefit of the university. The management was to consist of one president and twelve trustees. L. C. Erdvenberg,⁶ F. Ernst,

⁶Geiser, op. cit., pp. 106-158.

"E. L. Erdvenberg was born May 3, 1809, in Rhoden, Waldeck, Germany. He came to America about 1837-38. He married in Chicago in 1839. Here he served a congregation until he moved to Houston, Texas in late December, 1839. In Houston he preached in the Protestant Evangelical German churches, and organized churches at Cat Spring, Austin County, also in Washington and Colorado Counties. In 1846 he founded the Western Texas Orphan Asylum at New Braunfels. In 1850 he became president of the Western Texas University. He established an agricultural experiment farm at New Braunfels. He became a prominent member of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of Comal County. In 1855 Erdvenberg went to Mexico, leaving his wife to care for herself. Here he lived at the German Colony, Wartenburg. He died in Mexico." Dr. Geiser concluded the biography as follows: "Out of obscurity he came, into obscurity he went."

H. Schmidt, H. Amthor, J. G. Lieper, G. Stoehr, F. W. Huesmann, and E. Franke are listed as the incorporators.⁷

⁷Ibid., pp. 120-121.

For a time everything seemed propitious for the undertaking, but, when the trustees tried to sell the "university shares," they met with insurmountable obstacles. The par value of the shares was fifty dollars, but money was so scarce that the shares could only be exchanged for land, a commodity with which the university was already overstocked. The attempt to raise the necessary funds, therefore, proved a failure, and in January, 1846, the franchise was annulled, but it was renewed on April 11 of the same year. The incorporators were: H. Anthor, E. Franke, H. Draub, H. Ernest, Jacob Rien, E. Miller, E. H. Yordt, Dr. E. Becker, William Trieb, Charles Yordt, Herman Frels, and Ed. Ruhmann. To make the shares more attractive, the subscription price was reduced from fifty to fifteen dollars. By this means the trustees succeeded in obtaining enough money to build a large, two-story stone building,⁸

⁸See photostat, Infra, p. 19.

at Frelsburg instead of at Cat Spring, where it was originally planned to establish the university. Why it was located at Frelsburg, a German settlement about twenty miles

west of Cat Spring, was not recorded. The building was later used for a public school, and thus in a measure fulfilled its mission, even though it did not bear the proud name of "university." In later years it became known as "Herman Seminar" and was used as a public school until 1926, when it was destroyed by fire. The school was immediately rebuilt with funds obtained from the sales of land to which it had retained title.⁹

⁹Lafrentz, op. cit., pp. 25-27. See also Bieseke, op. cit., pp. 215-216.

The plan of establishing a higher institution of learning in Texas in 1845 was premature. Even if the trustees had succeeded in raising funds for the operation of the university, there would have been few students to enroll, because, at that time there were no schools in Texas equipped to prepare students for college.¹⁰

¹⁰Tiling, op. cit., pp. 55-57.

The idea of establishing an institution where their



The "Herrman University" was erected in 1846 under the charter of April 11, 1846. It was never used for the purpose for which it was built. . It became known as "Herrman Seminar" and was used as a public school until 1926, when it was burned.

children could be educated survived the failure to establish a university. Adolphus Fuchs¹¹ and thirty other

¹¹Mrs. Ottilie von Goethe, Was Grossmutter Erzaehlt, pp. 127-136.

Adolphus Fuchs was born on September 19, 1805, in Guestrow, Germany. He lost his talented mother when he was only four years old. He was more interested in books than work. He received his elementary education at home. Later he studied at the universities of Jena, Halle, and graduated in Theology at Goettingen. His later action and life was very much the results of the teaching of Fries at Jena. His philosophical thoughts brought him in conflict with the orthodox. His first sermon was severely criticised for not being in harmony with the Bible. He was, however, appointed pastor at Koelzow and served there from 1835 to 1845. In 1845 he, like so many young Germans, was caught with the "wanderlust" and came to Texas. He finally landed at the Ansler's Inn at Cat Spring, Texas. Here, instead of following his profession, he started to teach music. He had inherited his mother's rare musical talent. Wherever he went and stayed he became the recognized leader and director in singing societies. From Cat Spring he moved to Independence, Texas, here he was engaged as a music teacher at the Young Ladies Institute of Independence.

German settlers of Cat Spring petitioned the Legislature of Texas on October 29, 1848, for aid in building and maintaining a public school. Fuchs stated that English schools were "undeniably the best way to Americanize the German population of Texas and to make good citizens of them."¹²

¹²Bieseke, op. cit., p. 213.

Whether the petition presented by Fuchs was acted upon by the Legislature of Texas was not recorded. Under the leadership of the Rev. Mr. Bergmann, Adolphus Fuchs, and Ernest Maetze,¹³ some of the best minds that Germany

13A. F. Trenckmann, "Ernest G. Maetze," Wochenblatt, vol. 40, No. 51, September 17, 1931. Trenckmann writes:

"Ernest G. Maetze was born September 12, 1817, in Silesia, Germany. He graduated in the Protestant Theology at the University of Breslau. It is said that he preached only one sermon. He was appointed rector of the town school at Bernstadt, Silesia. In 1848 he was elected to represent his city in the Prussian National Assembly. He joined the democratic wing of the Assembly. This wing was persecuted because it opposed the king. He took active part in the Revolution of 1848, and while in the National Assembly he had many sharp verbal duels with the "mad junker," Bismarck. Since the revolution was a failure, Maetze had to flee. He barely made it across the border. He came to America and finally landed at New Ulm, Texas. Here he worked as a common laborer on the farm. Later he settled at Millheim, near Cat Spring, and opened up a private school."

Charles Nagel, Secretary of Commerce in Taft's administration, in his book "A Boy's Civil War Story" writes: "One of the most influential in our midst was Maetze, who was to be our teacher, giving impressions and inspiration far beyond our youthful appreciation. As I look back upon that time, I cannot resist the feeling that Gustave Maetze was probably as great a teacher as I ever had."

Maetze was a natural-born teacher. All his pupils admired and revered him. The training that the students received from him in that little log cabin at Millheim was equal to that of many colleges. Later years he served Austin and adjoining Counties as state senator. He was a

trained theologian, but he was a born teacher. He never preached a sermon in Texas.

had had, private schools were opened wherever the demand justified it. The Rev. Mr. Bergmann opened a private school in the log cabin that was located on a hill near the present Kollatschney Cemetery.¹⁴

¹⁴Joe Malecek in a letter, dated 1936. Supra, p. 11.

True to the traditional German love for education, about fifty-one farmers, doctors and businessmen met December 1, 1875, and organized the first Public School Society of Cat Spring. The more important sections of the original minutes and by-laws are:

The purpose of this society shall be: To establish and build a school house that will meet the requirements with reference to proper size, safety, convenience, and to guarantee our children a good education. To accomplish this we have, therefore, drawn up the following by-laws:

First, The society solemnly declares that religious instructions would be forever excluded from the curriculum, and the use of the school-house for religious services would be strictly and forever forbidden.

.....

Eleventh, Parents, who are not members, must pay an annual tuition of two dollars per child. The board of trustees shall have the right to admit children free. If their parents were not able to pay the tuition, it is to be paid by the society.

.....

Thirteenth, Every member must pay the annual dues of fifty cents, to help pay for the necessary expenses that may occur.

.....

Finally, It is resolved that as soon as the society's fund permits it, the society would pay the tuition for all children whose parents are in financial stress.

.....

Amendment two: If any member took the liberty to criticize the teacher, or openly slander without cause the school society, or do things that were detrimental to the welfare of the school, he would, if two-thirds of the members sustain the action, be openly dismissed from the society, and should not be permitted to send his children to the school.¹⁵

¹⁵See Appendix "A." The Charter members.

The first unofficial board of trustees consisted of Samuel Gloor, president; C. Dittert, treasurer; and Dr.



The first public school house built in Cat Spring in 1876. Here the children of the early settlers of Cat Spring were taught to read, write and cipher. Prof. Thomas Meyer was the first teacher. The trustees were; Samuel Gloor, president; C. Dittert, treasurer; and Dr. F. A. Schmidt, secretary.

F. A. Schmidt, secretary. They were elected January 1, 1877, to serve temporarily as trustees. On August 17, 1837, the County Judge appointed H. Sens, Chas. Dittert, and Joe Hirsch to serve as the first official trustees. This board elected Prof. Thomas Meyer (some say that it was Theodore Meyer) to serve as their first teacher.¹⁶

¹⁶From the original minutes and by-laws of the first Public School Society of Cat Spring. They are in the German language, and are now in possession of the secretary of the present Cat Spring Independent School District, Cat Spring, Texas.

Photostat, Supra, p. 24.

The preceding narrative has dealt mainly with the theories and attempts of the German settlers at Cat Spring to establish some means of educating their children. Now an effort will be made to show the practical application of the knowledge of those who planned so well for the youth of their community.

One of the first acts after they had organized the Agricultural Society was to order the "Southern Cultivator," a paper published in Georgia. Later other papers were added to the list as a source of information on matters pertaining

to agriculture. Among these papers were, "Farmers Advocate," "Milwaukee Agricultural Journal," "Southern Ruralist," "Farm and Ranch," "Farm and Garden Journal," "American Agriculturist," and several local papers. Members who could read the English papers were detailed to study the articles of greatest importance and explain them in the next meeting. The Rev. Mr. Bergmann, Andreas Trenckmann, E. Kloss, and A. Himly¹⁷ did most of this

¹⁷Alex Himly was born in the beginning of the nineteenth century. He was a highly educated man, progressive and liberty-loving. Revolution and oppression caused him to leave Germany in 1848. He landed at Galveston, Texas, and from there he went and settled at San Bernardo, adjoining German settlement of Cat Spring. He had studied "Oekonomie" (Agriculture pursuit) in Germany. This accounts for his great interest in the Agricultural Society.

type of work. According to the minutes they were well qualified for this assignment.¹⁸

¹⁸Minutes of July 10, 1856; August 2, 1857; August 30, 1857; September 19, 1858; November 6, 1859; October, 1861; February 6, 1876; December, 1858; March, 1873.

Such topics as these were discussed and debated;¹⁹

¹⁹Minutes of September 19, 1858; October 17, 1858; November, 1858; December, 1858.

1. An article dealing with the method of improving soil.
2. The poisonous effects of wild cherry seed.
3. A simple method of making cheese.
4. Cold water as a remedy for burns.
5. Love, patience, and persistence, the secret in breaking horses.
6. A method of curing lampas, or overheated horses.
7. Spirit of Hartshorn, necessary medicine for travelers as a remedy against bites of poisonous insects.
8. An experiment with a steam plow.
9. Sheepraising and cross-breeding of various breeds of cattle, etc.
10. The farm, the natural home or habitation of the human race.

At Cat Spring in those days farm papers were the most important papers in the household, because the people were

intensely interested in farming. The officers of the Society were authorized to spend annually a sum not to exceed ten dollars for obtaining information and data dealing with agriculture for the benefit of its members.

The records indicate that, when discussions did not bring about the desired answer, someone was appointed to search for the answer. If it involved carrying on an experiment and making a report at the end of the season, the one to whom the task was assigned took it in good faith and made his report explaining his findings.²⁰

²⁰Minutes of June 7, 1857; July 10, 1856; September 7, 1856; March 13, 1859; October 6, 1859; March 17, 1867.

Diverse viewpoints on various matters appeared frequently, a natural sequence for intellectuals. It would be unnatural for men with the training of those German settlers of Cat Spring to agree. Those who lived on hilly and less fertile land recommended certain ideas dealing with cultivation of the land, while those who lived on level, fertile, or bottom land ridiculed these ideas. Mr. Constant²¹ suggested that Mill Creek should be made

²¹Dr. S. W. Geiser and the author have made several attempts to trace the life story of Constant, but without success. All traces of this person seemed to have vanished. All that we know about him is that he was an actor by profession.

navigable, others considered the idea fantastic, because the stream was not flowing during the summer. One member pointed out that the Texas Bluebonnet²² was a soil building

²²minutes of September 7, 1856.

plant, and suggested that it should be cultivated for that purpose, others said: "Why this unnecessary work, our land is fertile enough and will never wear out."

Those who lived on upland wanted a fish hatchery, but their neighbors, who lived on the creeks and had plenty fish, recommended that the Society should point its endeavors in another direction more to their liking. This continual competition in ideas and friendly opposition meant progress for these German settlers of Cat Spring.

However diverse their opinions may have been, they were usually and eventually tested by actual experiments

and observation.²³

²³minutes of August 10, 1856; September 7, 1856;
June, 1858; October 6, 1858; October 4, 1860.

CHAPTER III

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The German immigrants at Cat Spring were pre-eminently a social minded group of people. They cultivated with reverence the strongest family life and ties. They were bound together in friendship by innumerable social, benevolent, literary societies, and secret orders. In all these organizations "Die Gemuetlichkeit" (good fellowship) predominated, diffusing good cheer among the members.

After the first few strenuous years had passed and the German settlements at Cat Spring had been firmly established, the German's love for sociability, intellectual entertainment, mutual protection and pleasure asserted itself. Soon such organizations as "The Singing Club," "The Sons of Hermann," "The Turners' Society," and "Agricultural Society" were formed. They were all, aside from their main purpose, aimed to further the cause of cultural progress.¹

¹Tilling, op. cit., p. 48. See also Bieseke, op. cit., Chapter XI.

On the evening of Whitsunday, 1841, a number of German settlers from Cat Spring and neighboring communities, under the leadership of Frederick Ernest, organized the "Teutonic Order." Within a month the order had fifty-three members. Aside from bringing the Germans together, the order wished to further immigration, facilitate correspondence between Texas and Germany, practice philanthropy, and preserve the German traits and character. The order was made up of many degrees. Talent, ability, and education were requisites for admission to the second and third classes of the order. Intellectual entertainment to compensate for the lost joys of the Fatherland was provided for. On Palm Sunday, 1842, it had a great celebration on Mill Creek. On March 2, 1843, the members gave proof of their patriotism by celebrating the anniversary of Texas Independence. Although the Teutonic Order was of short duration, it clearly demonstrated the tendency of the Germans of the first half of the last century to try the establishment of a New Germany on this side of the Atlantic. They spoke of a rejuvenated German State, which would, of course, have to be a member of the United States.²

²Bieseke, op. cit., pp. 220-221. Also Tiling, op. cit., pp. 51-52.

The love for music was another distinguishing characteristic of the German settlers at Cat Spring. Amthor's Inn became famous as a rendezvous for singers and singing societies. It was here that Adolphus Fuchs made his first appearance, and, while Mrs. Amthor accompanied him, he sang arias from Haydn's "Creation" and Beethoven's "Adelaide." Their music and songs were of the highest type, and cheered frontiersmen and brightened the homes of many depressed and home-sick settlers. This further reveals the class of people that had settled at Cat Spring.³

³Bieseke, Ibid., pp. 219-220. Also Tiling, Ibid., pp. 14-15.

The younger set, beside keeping their interest in music and literature alive, enjoyed dancing and horseback riding. John C. Amsler writes: "My mother and her sisters were accomplished riders. When Count Solms spent a night or two at the Amsler Inn, the young ladies, thrilled

with the horsemanship of the Count's followers in riding unbroken horses, reciprocated by demonstrating their skill."⁴

⁴John G. Amsler, Hempstead, Texas, is a grandchild of C. C. Amsler. See Footnote 9, p. 5.

The Agricultural Society had their regular festivals. Their picnics gradually grew into annual affairs, such as "Das Stiftungs Fest" and "Ernte Austellung." "Das Stiftungs Fest" was their anniversary celebration on June 7. It dates back to the founding of the Agricultural Society on June 7, 1856.⁵ On June 7, 1936, the centennial year,

⁵Photostat, Infra, p. 35.

this celebration was attended by approximately 8,000 people.

"Die Ernte Ausstellung," or Harvest Festival was held twice a year, in June and October. The Harvest Festival became a miniature fair. Prizes were offered for the best display of agricultural products and livestock. Prominent speakers were invited to address the people.



Twenty-fifth Anniversary Fest of the Austin County
Agricultural Society, at Cat Spring, Texas, June 6, 1881.

The festival became so famous that it was attended by thousands of people. Other Agricultural organizations and cities sent delegates to study the exhibits, and find out how a community as small as Cat Spring could have such successful fairs. Further, the Society was represented at fairs at other places, and its exhibits generally carried away the honors. At the Houston Agriculture Fair, May, 1877, The Austin County Agricultural Society received a diploma in recognition of the best exhibits and reports on agriculture.⁶ The Society was urged to

⁶Photostat, Infra, p. 37.

to send an agricultural exhibit to the Exhibition at Philadelphia.⁷

⁷Minutes of August 30, 1857; October 4, 1869; May, 1872; July 11, 1875; July 11, 1876; June 18, 1881.



DIPLOMA

AWARDED TO

The Austin County
Agricultural Association
For Best Annual Report for 1877
AT THE EIGHTH ANNUAL

Texas State Fair,

HELD IN THE CITY OF

HOUSTON, TEXAS.

MAY, 1877

President.

Geo. F. Dumble
Secretary



CHAPTER IV

RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

The German settlers at Cat Spring, who were so greatly interested in agriculture, education, literature, music and art, manifested little interest in religion. A number of these settlers, who showed so little interest in religion, were descendants of religious parents. Some of their sires were Lutheran pastors in Germany. Even to this very day they continue the "Laissez faire" attitude in religion. They were descendants of those men and women, who, when writing the constitution for the first Public School for Cat Spring, said: "We solemnly declare that religious instruction shall forever be excluded from the curriculum of the school, and the use of the schoolhouse for religious service shall, strictly and forever, be forbidden."

The German settlers of Cat Spring worshiped free land, free air and sunshine, and freedom to work out their own social and economic problems. Their descendants have maintained and cherished this attitude.

Perhaps the first church or congregation was organized by Rev. Louis Cashand Erdvenberg. He landed in Houston

in December, 1839, and there organized a Lutheran congregation. He was forced to leave Houston for a higher altitude for his health's sake. His travels in 1840 led him through Cat Spring, Industry, and other places where he organized congregations. He organized the First Evangelical Church at Cat Spring in 1840. Some of his parishioners were the Amalers, Stoeltges, von Roeders, Klebergs and Dannkers. His influence in religion and educational endeavors were far-reaching.¹

¹Geiser, op. cit., pp. 106-158. See also Bieseke, op. cit., pp. 52-64.

Following the Rev. Mr. Erdvenberg was the Rev. Mr. Bergmann, teacher, farmer and theologian. The Rev. Mr. Bergmann preached in a small church near Cat Spring. In later years the church was discontinued. A new church was built at New Burg in November, 1877, a small German settlement about seven miles west of Cat Spring. Cat Spring was without a church until 1927, when the old church at New Burg was torn down and rebuilt at Cat Spring. This work was accomplished by the Rev. Mr. Poch of Bellville.

During all the years of struggle the Lutheran Church was the only one to survive. The present congregation has about thirty-five members. The pastors serving the congregation after the Rev. Mr. Bergmann were the Reverend Messrs. Gerstmann, Lens, Harder, Szillat, Otto Lindberg, all of Frelsburg. The Reverend Messrs. Poch and Schlisser of Bellville, the Rev. Mr. Wolff of Eagle Lake, and the Rev. Mr. Mansur of Welcome.

The German settlers at Cat Spring affiliated themselves with the Democratic party, because the principles and tendencies of that party appealed to them. They believed with the Democratic party in equality.

When the people of Texas were asked to decide the annexation question, only eight Germans at Cat Spring voted for it. The voting was done at Carl Ansler's house. The eight Germans that voted were C. Ansler, M. Ansler, J. Hollien, Levermann, Weltt, C. A. Mattern, Louis Kleberg, and Robert Kleberg.²

²Trenokmann, op. cit., pp. 17-18.

Early in 1861 at the Cat Spring-Millheim voting box

ninety-nine votes were cast against and only eight for withdrawing from the Union. This vote did not indicate opposition to slavery but a desire to preserve the Union. In general, however, the German settlers at Cat Spring were against slavery. This attitude was clearly expressed by Robert J. Kleberg, Sr., when he wrote in his diary: "We wished to live under a republican form of government, with unbounded personal, religious, and political liberty, free from the petty tyrannies and the many disadvantages and evils of the old countries." At the San Antonio convention it seemed that the slavery question was the paramount issue, and in one of the resolutions passed at this convention reads: "Negro slavery is an evil which threatens the continued existence of the Union. Its abolition must be left to the several states in which it exists. We German-speaking Texans are not in a position to suggest a solution but feel that the federal government should not interfere in this question."³

³Biesele, op. cit., pp. 26, 195.

Soon after the Civil War was over and after the

Society had reorganized, the matter of forming a Union Club was discussed, and it was decided that all union men of Austin County make preparation and take the necessary steps to organize. They proposed to hold a convention to adopt a platform, and accept a ticket for State and County officers. After the Civil War the South was under the control of the North, or Union men. These northern politicians organized union clubs throughout the country. The German settlers at Cat Spring joined in with this movement, not because they were in sympathy with the Union men, but because they wished to establish a sound government as soon as possible.

CHAPTER V

AGRICULTURE

If you look for something new, seek among
the old; if you look for something old,
seek among the new. Anonymous.

The early German immigrants at Cat Spring were mostly agriculturists. Some of the Germans at Cat Spring were better fitted for the drawing room than for the hardships of cultivating the soil, yet they cheerfully embraced their new vocation.

As this discourse is continued it will be shown that these German farmers (sometimes referred to as book-farmers) dealt with many problems. These book-farmers built better than their descendants; they refused to be carried away by theories and hearsay. They insisted on experimentation as a basis for adoption or rejection of procedures in agriculture. This little group of book-farmers at Cat Spring were among the first in Texas to apply the modern method of field research or "the scientific method" for solutions of their problems.¹ It was in this field that they

¹T. C. Richardson, "Glory to Them Who Trust in the Plow," Farm and Ranch, June, 1936.

made the greatest contributions to their adopted state.

When these German immigrants landed at Cat Spring, they were mostly inexperienced in the art of agriculture as practiced in this country. They knew what had been practiced in Germany, but when they came here they had to deal with a different environment and with virgin soil. In Germany they owned their land and had it tilled by their servants; in their adopted country where everyone could own land, each had to till his own farm. Inheritance did not count. Dr. Roemer in his book "Texas" made this statement: "Army officers, counts, barons, noblemen are seen here transformed to exdrivers, teamsters, innkeepers, farmers, and servants."²

²Tilling, op. cit., p. 129.

Some of these German settlers at Cat Spring could speak several languages, but it took a negro to make the oxen perform. When these book-farmers quoted Pliny or recited the Odyssey, or even resorted to polysyllabic High German, the oxen placidly stood supine and chewed their cud. Often resigning the thankless task to a negro, the

university graduates stood aside and watched with astonishment and disgust as the oxen leaned against the yoke, the chain tightened, the axle groaned and the wheels turned. All that the negro said was a loud "I-i-ike!"

Mrs. Ottilie von Goethe³ in her book, "Was Grossmutter

³Ottilie von Goethe was the daughter of Adolphus Fuhs. See Footnote 11, Supra, p. 20.

Erzaehlt" drew a very pathetic picture of these book-farmers after they had settled at Cat Spring, when she wrote:

Wie mochten dem Gelehrten hintern Pfluge zu mute
sein, wie ungeschick and schwerfaellig ihm alles
von der Hand ging, die Violinbogen und die
leichtere Garten Scheere zu Handhaben gewusst.
Aber diese Ochsen, dieser Pflug! Was nuetzte
all Geometrie, sechs Sprachen un Logarithmen,
es ging nicht. Und hielt da nicht zu Pferde am
Felde Mephistopheles in hoellischer Person und
spottete wie einst in der Hexenkueche;

'Ernaehre dich mit ungemischter, Speise,
Leb 'mit dem Vieh als Vieh und acht'
es nicht fuer Raub,
Den Acker, den du erntest
selbst zu duengen.'

Freely translated, it reads:⁴

⁴Miss Alma Lueders, Teachers College, San Marcos

Texas, made the translation.

What feelings the learned men must have had;
how difficult and awkward the work of follow-
ing the plow when his hand was accustomed
only to handling the violin bow and the light
garden shears. These oxen! This plow! Of
what use were geometry, six languages and
logarithms. It was futile. And wasn't that
Mephistopheles himself on the horseback, stop-
ping at the field, mocking as he once did in
the witch's kitchen:

'Nourish thyself with unmixed food,
Live with cattle as cattle,
And do not consider it theft
to manure the soil from which
thou must reap.'

But the futility of their classical learning in the
simple task of primitive farming did not prevent their
making other uses of it. Contemptuously dubbed the
"Latin Farmers"⁶ by their less learned but more experienced

⁶ They were frequently referred to as "Latin Farmers"
because of their university training and their knowledge of
Latin.

neighbors, this group of German immigrants at Cat Spring,
Austin County, proceeded to organize an Agricultural So-
ciety of Austin County⁶ which must be credited with the

⁶Infra, p. 75?

first efforts in Texas directed to the study of agriculture and related problems with what we now call the "scientific approach."

Prior to June 7, 1856, A. F. Trenckmann,⁷ Rev. Joseph

⁷Andreas F. Trenckmann was born at Efendischen, Magdeburg, Prussia, July, 1809. After receiving his education in a seminar, he became a successful teacher in a private school at Magdeburg. The citizens of Magdeburg appointed him to go before the King of Prussia and ask for political reforms. In all activities he was progressive, however he opposed uproar and rebellion. He came to Texas in 1853 and settled at first in Colorado County, from here he moved in 1858 to Millheim, Austin County. He took active part in the development of his adopted state and community, and was largely the driving force that brought about the organization of the Austin County Agricultural Society. He served as the first president.

A. Bergmann,⁸ E. Kloss,⁹ M. Hartmann,¹⁰ and others were

⁸See Footnote 2, Supra, p. 13.

⁹Emil Kloss was born at Rostock, Germany. His father was rector in the St. Petri Church at Rostock. Emil, after finishing at the gymnasium, entered the university and graduated in the jurisprudence. He came to America

about 1850. He took great interest in everything pertaining to agriculture, and was elected the first secretary of the Agricultural Society. Later he moved to Llano County and operated a sheep ranch. This ranch life was too lonesome for his wife. He sold out and moved to Italy, where he bought a villa at Lake Garda, Tyrol. Here he lived as a retired lawyer the rest of his life.

¹⁰M. Hartmann was born in Berg-Rheinfeld, Unterfranken, Germany, on September 5, 1817. He studied to be a merchant. He came to Texas and settled at Cat Spring in 1847. He took active part in organizing the Agricultural Society. He was alternate to the first secretary. Later he was elected secretary and served for a number of years. Besides serving as Justice of the Peace for Cat Spring and surrounding community, he also taught school.

discussing the practicability of having some kind of organization in which they could come together and discuss problems pertaining to agriculture. A. F. Trenckmann and the Rev. Mr. Bergmann called a meeting and about thirty farmers met at the church building at Cat Spring, and after a thorough and lengthy discussion, they organized a "Landwirthschaftlicher Verein zu Cat Spring" (Agricultural Society of Cat Spring) for the purpose of developing interest in agriculture and to solve related problems. This organization was perfected on June 7, 1856,¹¹ and incorporat-

¹¹See Original Minutes. Infra, p. 94.

ed on September 15, 1888.¹² The emblem of the Society is

¹²Photostat of the Article of Incorporation, Infra, pp. 50-53.

a plow, accompanied by a motto, "Heil dem Volk das ihm vertraut." Freely translated, "Glory to the people who trust it (the plow)." This organization is still in existence and keeps its minutes in the German language.

Regenbrecht in his book "The German Settlers of Millheim Before the Civil War" stated: "In this Society the book-farmers of Millheim met and exchanged ideas with the practical farmers of Cat Spring." During its existence the organization had made valuable contributions in the field of agriculture. In its early period of activities it became so important that the United States Department of Agriculture¹³ designated it as an experiment station.

¹³This Department, at this period was a branch of the United States Patent Office.

The records of the Society constitute a rare contribution to the story of agriculture in Texas.

See SWHQ XX, 23-34

Articles of Incorporation

The State of Texas:

County of Austin:

Whereas divers of the members of "The Agricultural Society of Austin County, at Catsprings" an association duly organized and holding its meetings in the town of Catsprings in said Austin County and the said members being citizens of said Austin County and being desirous of being enabled in a corporate capacity to acquire and improve certain lands in the said town of Catsprings with a view to the encouragement of agriculture and horticulture by associations for the maintenance of public fairs and exhibitions of Stock and farm products, under the provisions of the Revised Statutes of the State of Texas and the several amendments thereto. Now therefore we Joachim Suhr, August Kinkler and Julius Cornelius and such other members and associates as now are and may hereafter become members and associates of this association and owners of shares therein, availing ourselves of the rights conferred by law upon private corporations do hereby form and incorporate ourselves into a voluntary association for "the purpose of the encouragement of agriculture and horticulture by association for the maintenance of public fairs and exhibitions of stock and farm products" in the said town of Catsprings in Austin County, Texas, and to that end we hereby adopt and subscribe the following Charter for ourselves our associates and successors, viz:

First.

The corporation shall be known by the name of "Austin County Agricultural Society Catsprings, Texas". association and by that name and style shall have and exercise all the powers conferred by law upon private corporations.

Second.

The purpose shall be the encouragement of agriculture and horti-

culture by associations for the maintenance of public fairs and exhibitions of stock and farm products,

Third.

The business of said association shall be transacted at the town of Catsprings in Austin County Texas, and the lands to be acquired as above set forth shall be not more than two miles from the said town of Catsprings.

Fourth.

Until otherwise provided by the By-laws there shall be three (3) directors or trustees whose powers, duties, terms of office shall be regulated by such by-laws as may be made under the provisions of law, and all to be residents of said Austin County, and said persons afore named to-wit: Joachim Suhr, August Kinkler and Julius Cornelius residents of said County are hereby made and declared such directors or trustees to hold their said offices from and after the filing of this Charter until the 28th day of December 1888 or until their successors are duly elected according to the provisions of the by-laws.

Fifth.

The Capital stock shall be One Thousand Dollars, and the same shall be divided into two hundred (200) shares of Five (\$5) dollars each.

Sixth.

That it shall be and it is hereby made the duty of the directors as soon as practicable after the Charter shall have been filed with the Secretary of State to prepare suitable by-laws, for the government and for the management, of the business of this Corporation made in accordance with and subordinate to the laws of the State.

Witness our hands this Febr'y 4th A.D. 1888:

(signed)

Joachim Suhr.
August Kinkler.
Julius Cornelius.

The State of Texas:

County of Austin:

Before me Wm. Viereck, Notary Public in and for the said County of Austin on this day personally appeared Joachim Suhr, August Kinkler and Julius Cornelius all of whom are known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument and who each acknowledged to me that they executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

Given under my hand and seal of office on this
(L.S.) the 4th day of February A.D. 1888.

(signed) Wm. Viereck, Notary Public

Austin County, Texas.

(Endorsed)

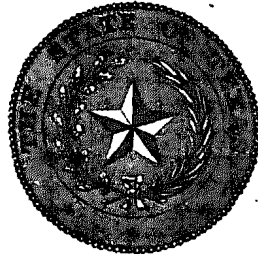
Charter.

The Austin County Agricultural Society.

Filed in Department of State, September 15th A.D. 1888.

(signed) J. M. Moore.

Secretary of State.



Department of State.

I, J. M. Moore, Secretary of State of the State of Texas, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the ORIGINAL Charter of the
AUSTIN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

with the endorsements thereon as now appears of record in this Department

Witness my official signature, and the Seal of State affixed, at the City of Austin, this 15th day of SEPTEMBER A. D. 1888

J. M. Moore
Secretary of State.

To preserve the records for further use of anyone who might be interested, the author has translated the original minutes of the Society, covering the period from 1856 to 1890. That part of the minutes, however, covering the period from 1856 to 1862 is made a part of this thesis.

When reading these minutes, one cannot help admiring the farsightedness of these settlers. The Society was organized for "the purpose of developing an interest in agriculture and of solving related problems." Hence their teachings were not based altogether on information gotten from books, but on actual results of soil depletion and erosion as it had transpired in their "Fatherland." Their familiarity with the history of ancient peoples, and the disasters that always followed the decline of agriculture gave these men an intellectual perspective far beyond that enjoyed by others in their adopted country.

It is unfortunate that the results of their observations and experiments,¹⁴ repeatedly mentioned in the

¹⁴Minutes of September 7, 1856; July 18, 1858; May 15, 1859; June 19, 1859; October 6, 1859; April 1, 1860; October 13, 1861; April 29, 1866.

minutes, were lost. Reports of the results of the experiments were sent to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, and doubtless in some forgotten pigeon hole somewhere in the Department these reports still repose. So far only one report has been located in the Agricultural National Archive at Washington.¹⁵

¹⁵E. Kloss, Report to the Department of Agriculture, National Archives, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., vol. XX, pp. 89-92. Infra, pp. 56-59.

As one studies the minutes of the Agricultural Society, it will be discovered that these German farmers did not merely discuss problems dealing with agriculture, but gave lectures on matters pertaining to geology, law, human diseases, social activities, astrology, botany, and meteorology. This will be illustrated by the following translation and comments on important parts of the minutes of the Agricultural Society.

Record of Marks and Brands

Perhaps one of the first records of cattle "marks and brands" in Texas was established by the German farmers at

Hon. J. Holt
Commissioner of Patents
Washington D. C.

Sir:

Millheim P. O. Austin Co.
Texas May 22th 1858

The Patent Office favored us so very liberally in the distribution of seeds, that we feel obliged to utter our thanks, adding a few words relating to the efficiency of our society, as it hitherto has been, not presuming that we could detect results, which in any way would promote the science of Agriculture, but to prove, that we hold the seeds, we received, in high value, and endeavor, to make them useful to ourselves and to our country.

The Austin Co. Agricultural Society was constituted on the 7th day of June 1856 in the meeting-house to Catyspring, where immediately 40 members subscribed and resolved, to hold a regular meeting every month, designed for lectures and debates, relating to agricultural subjects. These meetings since that time took place nearly without any interruption and these as well as the books and agricultural papers, the society procured, cer-

tainly contributed highly to animate the interest in agriculture in every respect and gave frequent occasion to mutual exchange of experience.

The members are as well american as german settlers, though most of them german, from its settlements Millheim, Latospring, Bernarde, Big Settlement and Bellville, the Society now containing about eighty members. Lectures were delivered on cattle raising, on bees and their management, on the best way to raise irish and potatoes, on diseases of children (by a physician) on the influence of shade on the soil, on the culture of lupines for manure, of tobacco etc.

In the spring of last year we sowed the ryegrass sent by the Patent Office and got an abundant crop as well of forage as of seed, notwithstanding the excessive drought of that season a good deal even gave a double crop, growing up again after the first cutting and ripening seed. In this year already whole acres of sorghum are seen on many farms and attempts will be made, to make syrup and sugar, while formerly it was only used as a forage plant. — The different varieties of turnips were sown in Jan 1857, grew very well and furnished us with gr

well flavored roots. — In the culture of the pear etc. you sent us, we succeeded so badly on account of the excessive drought, that it was impossible, to decide on their value. Only the Sanger's early pear^s excelled in every respect. — The three varieties of wheat, forwarded to us last summer, were most heartily bidden welcome to and soon mostly in January h. a., the produce of which is still to be expected. The barley and the lentils from Peru, as well as the Quinoa did not come up, though a good many of members sowed them on different soils. The Chicharras, Lima beans, the many kinds of lettuce, of clover, cabbage, peas and other vegetables are likewise under trial.

In the spring of this year we received from Europe the boxes containing many plants, the Society bought from Booth & Co. in Hamburg. This collection contained especially eight dozen of spanish chestnut trees, some dozen of horse chestnuts, some persian black mulberry and plum trees the Catherine, as well as a plenty of seeds for the kitchen garden. Several members had availed themselves of this opportunity and had ordered at the same time some apple- and pear trees and flowering shrubs, the sending by that way having become

a rather considerable one. All these plants arrived here in fine condition and apparently thrive very well. But most part of the seeds of vegetables in consequence of the long voyage had lost the capacity to germinate.

In this way, by means of that praiseworthy institution, the Patent Office and by our own efforts enjoyments of life amongst ourselves are enhanced and multiplied and the fruits, vegetables and flowers both of the old and new world by and by will fill our gardens and embellish our homes.

We should be very glad, to get some more of the barley and lentils from Peru and of the white Qu all of which did not germinate, and perhaps you will favor us by sending some rice, Japan p silver buckwheat, Chinese yam, lupines, seed carrots, of crape and some cuttings of grape (only the Catawba being here). A better kind of melons and watermelons would be most desirable. We want still a good grass for pasturing purposes, the of Timothy and blue grass of Kentucky we procured having either spoiled or not adapted to our climate; neither of them did germinate. — Finally I state the receipt of one package containing 9 varieties of seeds viz. safford, parsnips etc. and of a package containing 12 parcels of Chufa.

Yours

most respectfully

E. H. Loof.
of Austin Co. Agric. Soc.

Cat Spring, because at the very beginning of the Agricultural Society, a resolution was passed, requesting all owners of livestock to write their "marks and brands" on a slip of paper and give it to the secretary, who would make a record of them.¹⁶

¹⁶Minutes of July 10, 1856; March 24, 1860.

The Immigration Question

In view of the fact that these German settlers at Cat Spring knew what it meant to leave their homeland and settle in an unknown country, they felt very sympathetic towards their kinsmen who fled Europe. The Society used its good name and influence in helping the immigrants. A resolution offering aid to these immigrants was drawn up and published in one of the leading German newspapers -- The Vossische Zeitung.¹⁷ Louis Constant, a member of the

¹⁷These articles are in the Archives of the State Library, Berlin, Germany. Hitler suspended the Vossische Zeitung, because it was too democratic.

Agricultural Society, wrote an essay attacking the article sent in by the Society. After Constant's article was read by the leading members, a meeting was called and a heated debate followed. At the end of this debate a resolution was drawn up, requesting Constant to withdraw as a member of the Society. In later years this resolution was withdrawn and Constant was reinstated as a member of the Society.

The Agricultural Society continued to give aid and advice to the immigrants, and together with the "Houston Turner Verein," issued warnings against the immigration lust, against accepting contracts from slave owners, and paying any fees for their passage before they left their homeland. The Agricultural Society and the "Houston Turner Verein" offered to aid those who were not able to pay for their own passage.¹⁸

¹⁸Minutes of April 28, 1866; September 16, 1866.

Care and Culture of Fruit Trees

Since the Society encouraged the planting of fruit trees, much attention was given to the culture of fruit

trees. The Rev. Mr. Bergmann, Huver, Trenckmann, and Himly, from time to time, offered to teach the members how to graft and bud fruit trees, and how to improve their orchards. The Rev. Mr. Bergmann brought young fruit trees to the meetings and demonstrated the various steps in budding. He recommended that fruit trees should not be planted too deep, and the trees should be trimmed low in this climate to prevent the sun from injuring the bark on the stem. He said the usefulness of fruit trees may be greatly improved by proper pruning and fertilizing.

The members brought out in their lectures and debates that lye and ashes were good for sickly-looking fruit trees. A pear tree belonging to one of the members had sprouted weakly in spring. He transplanted this pear tree and treated it with lye and ashes. It started to grow and produced fruit the next year.

A mixture of liquid cow manure, or a mixture of urine and clay painted on the stems of fruit trees would prevent rabbits from destroying the bark of fruit trees. This mixture was also recommended for damaged trees.

Grape cuttings, it was taught, would grow better when laid in the ground with one end up and tied to a stake and

sand piled around it, so that at least one of the scions would be above the ground.

It was suggested that one pint of salt thrown directly around the stem would stimulate the growth of transplanted trees. In the question box an inquiry was made whether pecan trees could be transplanted. The answer given was, that a pecan tree could not be transplanted. It was thought that the pecan would grow only from seeds.¹⁹

¹⁹Minutes of March, 1870; October 13, 1872; April 26, 1874; September 4, 1881; February 18, 1882; March 18, 1882.

The Culture of Irish Potatoes

Since the Irish potato was one of the chief sources of food for these German settlers at Cat Spring, it became necessary to develop some methods of preserving them. They discovered that Irish potatoes, when piled up in small hills with holes in the center, were better preserved. One member of the Society stated that Irish potatoes could be best preserved by using the following method: "Spread the Irish potatoes out on a floor and cover them with hay or straw. A flue built out of boards is placed in the middle of the room

where the potatoes are spread out. This flue will permit the moisture that is given off by the potatoes to escape, and thus, they will stay dry and not rot."

To protect the Fall crop of Irish potatoes against early frost, it was urged that the stems be chopped off close to the ground and then covered with dirt. Some members asserted that half-ripe Irish potatoes, when planted, would produce a larger crop than ripe ones. Early Irish potatoes, as one member stated, could be had by planting them in a hot-bed.²⁰

²⁰Minutes of March, 1870; April 26, 1875.

The Culture of Cotton and Corn

Quite naturally cotton, which was of perennial interest to the Agricultural Society, received much attention. They experimented with different varieties of cotton, because they were anxious to learn which variety would produce the greatest amount of lint, and which one would be rust resistant.

The more experienced farmers undertook the task of

teaching those who had little or no experience in cotton raising. In several meetings the members of the Society discussed the subject, "How to raise cotton successfully." During some of these discussions several members pointed out that it would be better if the land were "flat-broken," and before planting laid off in squares with a bulltongue. Every farmer should plant his cotton with a planter, then, after it had come up, he should plow the cotton and then chop it. After it was chopped it should be plowed with a cultivator. This method of cultivation would protect the cotton from grass, weeds, and, in case of a drought, it would conserve the moisture.

A variety of silk cotton, either Peruvian or Sea Island, was discussed by the members. However, the majority of the members were of the opinion that they should continue to plant the variety of cotton now in general use.

A. F. Trenckmann reported the results of his experiment made with cotton. He stated that the cotton plants which he had topped yielded more than the untopped plants. The topping, they thought, should be done after the sap had ceased to pass too freely.

The members of the Society gave very much attention to

the selection of proper cotton seed. To them a profitable yield depended largely upon proper and careful selection of seed. The best method of selecting seed, they decided, was for the farmer to go through the field and gather the cotton from the stalks that had the best fruiting limbs and the largest bolls. They thought it best to select the bolls that would open far enough that the locks could be easily gathered with one pull. Bolls that opened too far, they thought, would let the locks hang out, and each lock would have to be gathered separately. By this method the farmers were able to select the desirable types and keep pure varieties.

Farmers were urged to interchange cotton seed produced on sandy land with seed produced on black land. If this were done from time to time, they thought, better cotton could be produced.

Cotton, it was believed, should not be planted immediately after the land had been manured, because fresh manure would form gas when it started rotting. This gas, they thought, was harmful to young and tender cotton plants.

In one of the minutes one finds this resolution:

"It was unanimously decided to make use of all available means to destroy the cotton-leaf worms." Every farmer was urged to build fires around their cotton patches to attract the moths during the night. The moths would fly into the fire and would be destroyed. Pans filled with molasses, or water melons cut into halves and poisoned with cobalt were put at various places in the fields. The moths would be attracted by the sweet scent. They would feed on the sweet liquid and thus be poisoned.

The United States Department of Agriculture appointed a committee, consisting of members of the Agricultural Society, to study the origin of the cotton-leaf worm. After several months of careful observation, the committee made the following report: "The moths of the cotton-leaf worms come from the west, and Mexico, and the moths stay over during the winter."

Cotton planted in dry sandy land, the Society believed, should be treated with ashes to prevent rust. A member claimed that cotton land treated with salt water would prevent cotton root rot. A general experiment was carried on by some members of the Society with manure mixed with urine and salt to prevent cotton from dying from root rot.

Corn, a necessary crop for the pioneer, came up for frequent discussion. The question of proper cultivation and proper seed selection was discussed on numerous occasions. One member of the Society gave a lecture on "How to raise forty bushels of corn per acre." He stated that the land should be prepared in January. It should be plowed from six to eight inches deep. A second furrow should be drawn in the same furrow with a bulltongue so that the subsoil might be thoroughly stirred and exposed to the weather. In March the field should be laid off in squares, and a handful of barn-yard manure and cottonseed meal thrown where the furrows crossed each other. After this was done and the corn was planted, the land was to be cultivated in the usual manner.

Another member of the Society delivered a discourse on "How to raise corn without rain." In his discourse he stated that a furrow should be drawn first with a two-horse bulltongue and then followed with a scooter sweep thus throwing up "beds." The "beds" should be broken open with a scooter sweep and the corn planted in the furrow thus formed. This method, he thought, would prevent the moisture from escaping, and the roots of the corn would

seek the fertility and moisture stored during the winter months. This method, if properly done, he maintained, would enable the farmer to raise a fair yield of corn in spite of a dry season.

With the culture of corn came insects and diseases. This produced for the farmers at Cat Spring new problems. The corn weevil in particular caused a great deal of discussion. In spite of all the debates the weevils persisted. A member of the Society stated that he had a sure method of destroying this pest. He suggested that the corn should be husked in spring and moved about occasionally. This method would disturb the weevils, which would leave the corncrib and die, because they would be unable to find any food on the outside. Several members revealed that they had kept their corn free from weevils by sprinkling strong salt water, wormwood and tobacco dust on and between the corn. This method had proven to be very effective in destroying the pest.

The question, "What causes blight and rust in cotton and corn?" "How did it attack the plants?" "How could it be prevented?" were discussed frequently and a considerable amount of research work was done. The questions remained

unanswered for the time being. However, after several years of observation and experimentation, the members of the Agricultural Society arrived at the conclusion that these diseases were hereditary, but that they could be prevented by practicing crop rotation, and planting seed from healthy cotton and corn stalks.²¹

²¹Minutes of October 17, 1858; February 13, 1859; May 15, 1859; July 10, 1859; October 6, 1859; February 17, 1861; March 21, 1861; April 13, 1862; April 26, 1866; March, 1867; August 2, 1868; October 25, 1868; February 13, 1869; August, 1868.

Care and Improvements of Livestock

The German settlers at Cat Spring did not only show great interest in the care and improvement of crops, but also in livestock. During the early days of existence of the Agricultural Society, one of the first acts of the members was to pass a resolution to ascertain whether there were laws on Texas Statute books that would permit a community to do away with "scrub bulls" that were roaming over the prairie. After a thorough discussion of the matter, the Society went on record demanding the removal

of such livestock. According to experience, and as generally admitted, a good many bulls with the herd would produce a greater number of calves than would fewer bulls.

In order to keep the members of the Society informed on the conditions of cattle and range the secretary was instructed to subscribe for the "Brenham Enquirer" and the "Colorado County Citizens." One of the members was appointed to prepare a discussion on articles dealing with the range problems, and present it at each meeting, or as often as such articles would appear in the newspaper. Subscription for the newspapers were to be discontinued as soon as they had served their purpose.

Hogs received little attention, at least not very much was found in the minutes that would indicate a great interest in hog raising.

The Society received several Chufa plants from the Department of Agriculture to be planted for hog feed. The Chufa plant is a kind of sage. It produces small tubers of which hogs are fond. It is a plant that grows in Southern Europe, but it is also cultivated in many other countries.

To prevent hogs from eating chickens or breaking

through fences, a member recommended to sew their eyelids together with a few stitches. Some members offered to try this suggestion.

Since horses were the only means of power and of locomotion, the members were encouraged to raise horses and mules, with emphasis on mules. In a general discussion it was brought out that horses have smaller stomachs than any other animal. Hence they should be given less feed, but fed more frequently.

Ernest G. Maetze gave a lecture on the best method of giving medicine to horses. The old method was too dangerous, so he said, because the tongue was pulled out, and this prevented the animal from swallowing the medicine, thus allowing it to run down the windpipe and cause pneumonia. The newer method, he said, was far the most successful, because the medicine was smeared on the tongue of the sick animal in the prescribed amount.

The ages of horses, they taught, could be determined by counting the ringlets under the eyelids, because horses between the ages of eight and thirteen would develop one ringlet for each year. The ages of the older horses could be told by counting the vertebrae in the tail.

As livestock raising increased, diseases became more prevalent, and the farmers lost many valuable heads of horses and cattle, because they did not know how to care for them. Veterinarians were scarce at that time, and the farmers had to resort to home remedies. To be of greater service to its members, the Society ordered a book dealing with livestock diseases. No records were left showing the results of their self-made veterinarian art. No doubt such records would be of great interest to the reader.

It might be of interest to mention, at this point, some of the remedies suggested by some of the members.

Chimney soot, salt and alum were recommended for "flaps." This disease might have been the "foot and mouth" disease. The loin disease, which is still a problem in the Gulf Coast Country, was discussed, but no remedy was offered. For the "bloody murrain" one bottle of whisky mixed with one bottle of raw milk was recommended, to be repeated if necessary.

Symptoms indicating that horses were afflicted with bots were, that when working moderately, the horse would lose weight, or it would not eat, or the animal would frequently appear to look at its own sides. Chloroform

mixed with mucilage and hickory ashes, or meat and herring brine were highly recommended for bots. To prevent horses from being afflicted with these diseases, it was thought one should frequently give them hickory ashes with their feed.

"Hypochondriasis" (sic) might be cured by giving the animal a small knife point full of tartar of emetic every one-half hour until it belches. "Hypochondriasis" is a splenic disorder so prevalent among animals.

The Rev. Mr. Bergmann declared that lockjaw could be cured by pouring chloroform on a rag and holding it against the nose of the afflicted animal until it falls down, or a pistol fired near the head of the animal would also cure it. When horses were foundered, it was thought, the hoof of the afflicted animal should be filled with turpentine and then burned out.

Injuries caused by the pressure of saddles or collars should be treated with several applications of grease from the axle of a wagon, or by washing the areas with a strong solution of water obtained by boiling the leaves and fruits of thornapples (Bois D'Arc).

One of the members of the Society pointed out that

worms in the stomachs of horses did not cause the death of the animals. However, if the horse had any other disease that would cause gas to form in the stomach, this gas would cause the worms to eat through the walls of the stomach and bring on death.

Colic, it was claimed, was the result of feeding horses when they were overheated. Since the horses were overheated, the feed did not get a chance to digest and it would start to ferment. This fermentation would create a dampness or shortwindedness through the accumulation of gases in the intestinal tract. This gas would not release itself and colic would result. This malady, it was taught, could be cured by giving the animal one tablespoonful of saleratus-bicarbonate of soda, or one-half ounce of spirit of hartshorn very much diluted. This treatment was to be followed by aloe. The aloe should be well mixed with a teaspoonful of saleratus, to make it easier to administer.

When the president, Trenckmann, raised the question, "whether salt was harmful to livestock during wet seasons?" Mr. Himly stated that the surest way to determine this was to leave it to the instinct of animals, because in its unrestrained and free way nature would guide it.

A member of the Society recommended pulverized verdigris mixed with honey as a good remedy for screw-worms in wounds, and warts would disappear when coated several times with grease, or animal might be fed three or four times a week a teaspoonful of sulphur for twenty-one days until the warts would disappear.

Garlic or shallots were recommended by a member as a sure remedy for chicken cholera. It was thought that a good many chicken diseases were caused by too much exposure to cold weather. Farmers were urged to build chicken houses to keep the chickens warm and dry.²²

²²Minutes of September 7, 1856; November 9, 1856; May 3, 1857; August 2, 1857; October 17, 1858; March 13, 1859; July 10, 1859; August 17, 1859; October, 1859; October 13, 1861; February 17, 1867; February 21, 1869; March 21, 1869; August 15, 1869; May 8, 1870; October 17, 1869; March, 1870; June 12, 1870.

Soil Conservation

Although the German settlers at Cat Spring had virgin soil that had not been affected by erosion, they advocated conservation of the soil and other natural resources, because in their "Fatherland" they had witnessed the results

of both, erosion and lack of conservation.

Mr. Himly recommended that sorghum should be planted to check erosion.²³ This suggestion came fully seventy-

²³Mr. B. Youngblood, Principal Experiment Station Administrator, Department of Agriculture, Washington, remarked: "The minutes of August 18, 1861 making reference to soil erosion and its control, antedates anything that I have heard of concerning soil erosion work." Letter dated June 20, 1938.

five years ahead of the recent discovery of Agronomic methods of combatting erosion, and their adoption by professional soil conservationists.

It was pointed out by a member that everyone should dam off creeks and branches. This practice, he stated, would not only prevent soil from being washed away, but would conserve water for use in the future.

The German farmers and members of the Agricultural Society maintained that "sourland" could be made fit for agriculture by using proper drainage. To drain swampy places, it was suggested that pipes be laid in the ground to enable the water to drain. After the swampy places were drained, they were covered with a layer of sand.

This, they asserted, would make the land very productive. Sandy places should be treated with clay to make them more productive. The members were urged not to burn crop grass or weeds in their fields, because it would destroy the humus so necessary to retain the fertility of the soil.²⁴

²⁴Minutes of July 1, 1860; August 18, 1861; April 13, 1862; February, 1873; August 23, 1874; April 18, 1875; October 21, 1877; March 6, 1887.

Farm Implements

To create a greater interest in the development and improvement of farm implements, the Society invited artisans, blacksmiths, and wheelrights to design and manufacture any kind of farm implements, and, when completed, to bring their inventions to the meeting for inspection by a committee appointed for that purpose. The Society would pay a premium of ten dollars to the one whose implement or invention should be found to be the most practical and economical.

Mr. Adelbert Malecek²⁵ exhibited one plow with bull-

²⁵Adelbert Malecek was born in Mahous, Austria, April 21, 1834. He received his elementary education at Nentzize. At the age of twelve he started to work as an apprentice in a blacksmith shop. At the age of eighteen he enlisted in the Austrian Technical Artillery, and served until 1859. In 1857 he helped to construct an ice plant at Vienna. After his release from the army he worked in a railroad manufacturing shop until 1860. He left Austria in September, 1860, and landed at New Burg, Texas in November the same year. Here he opened a blacksmith shop. In 1867 he moved to Cat Spring where he erected a blacksmith shop. Here he manufactured many practical farm implements. He invented and improved a double shovel plow, cultivator, cotton planter, a well boring outfit. He was very much interested in agriculture and welcomed the opportunity to join the Agricultural Society, and later served as president of this Society.

tongue, and one cultivator, both of his own design. The committee, after inspection, declared that the plow and bulltongue were good and practical and ordered that the ten dollars premium be paid to Malecek. Later he reported that he had designed and built a new cultivator, and invited the members of the Agricultural Society to come to his farm and inspect it. He promised to explain the mechanism and demonstrate its usefulness.

Since the so-called "buggy plow" had appeared on the market at this time (1867), the members of the Society suggested that they should take the surplus money of the

Society and buy one of the "buggy plows" for demonstration. This suggestion found favor among the members. At this time the mowing machine also appeared on the market. The question, whether it would be wise for the Society to buy one for "community use," was discussed. However, it was finally decided that it would be far more profitable for an individual to buy one to do the mowing in the community.

Every farm implement that was put on the market by some concern was inspected by a committee. If the committee found the implement useful, it was recommended to the members. The Society by this means tried to protect its members against fraud. A certain agent tried very persistently to sell a Brinkly plow to the farmers in the Cat Spring community. Because he tried so persistently, the Society appointed a committee to make an investigation. The committee went into action and made a thorough investigation and made its report at the next meeting. The following report was recorded: "The Brinkly plow works well, but it has several objectionable features, namely, it pulls too heavy, it wears out too easily, and is too expensive for farmers living on sandy land farms."

The members were urged by the Society to have their

implements made by the local blacksmith so that they could see what they were getting and their money would stay in the community.²⁶

²⁶Minutes of July 22, 1866; August 19, 1866; March 17, 1867; November 10, 1867; December 8, 1867; February 2, 1868; March, 1870; January 29, 1871; April 30, 1871; May 28, 1871.

A Plan for Killing Rats

When the question of how to get rid of rats came up for discussion, one member suggested a sure method. He said: "One should take four boards, about twenty-four inches long and three inches wide, and nail them together to form a two inches square box, large enough that a rat can crawl through easily. Before nailing the last board on, nail a bacon rind in the middle of the box, then scatter a spoonful of flour mixed with a thimble full of arsenic over the bacon rind, and then nail the fourth board on to prevent the rind from falling out. The flour and arsenic should be replaced two or three times during the year. Several boxes should be placed in the cornerib. Arsenic is better than strychnine, because the latter had

a bitter taste and kills rats and mice immediately and the carcasses would remain and it would be necessary to remove them. Arsenic, on the other hand, when eaten by the rats, would cause them to go for water and die outside, thus eliminating the trouble of gathering the dead ones.

To make a corncrib rat proof, the Society thought, one should build it on posts, two or three feet off the ground. A piece of tin should be nailed on top of the post so that the side of the tin extends six inches over. This would prevent the rats from climbing up the post into the house, because they would not be able to get over the sides of the tin.²⁷

²⁷Minutes of July 22, 1866; August 19, 1866; March 17, 1867; November 10, 1867; December 8, 1867; February 2, 1868; March, 1870; January 29, 1871; April 30, 1871; May 28, 1871.

The Production of Honey and Molasses

Since honey and molasses were in general used as a substitute for sugar, the farmers had a few bee hives to raise their own honey, or went out into the woods, hunted for bee trees, and robbed them of their honey supply. The members

were told by the more experienced ones to plant Reseda, or Mignonette,²⁸ as a honey producing plant. One acre, they

²⁸Reseda is an annual plant, a native of Egypt, but universally cultivated in gardens on account of the sweet scented flowers.

said, would furnish enough nectar for one hundred bee hives.²⁹

²⁹Minutes of July 23, 1877; April 14, 1878; August 11, 1878; January, 1879.

To make molasses resemble honey, it was thought that one should build several containers to catch the juice as it came from the press. When the containers were full, a bucket full of liquid clay was supposed to be poured into each container and stirred thoroughly and then left to settle. All impurities were expected to settle with the clay and the juice would look like water. This, too, would save the work of removing the foam, when cooking the juice.³⁰

³⁰Minutes of January 4, 1879.

The Ramie or Boehameria Plant

The Department of Agriculture sent the Society several specimens of the Ramie plant, and asked the Society to carry on an experiment with them, and make a report to the Department.³¹

³¹The Ramie, or Boehameria plant, is a genus of plants belonging to the nettle family, one specie of which is the source of the commercial fiber ramie. Ramie is cultivated chiefly in China, but also in Japan. It is commonly propagated by root cuttings. In China the fiber is stripped from the stalk by hand, while in American factories a chemical process is used to remove it. It is a fine quality, very durable, white and lustrous. In the Orient it is woven into attractive fabric. In America the yarn is chiefly used for gas mantles. Ramie is now being raised in California and Arizona as an experiment.

The Cork Oak

The Department of Agriculture sent the Society several boxes of cork oak acorns, which the members were asked to plant to determine whether they would grow in Texas. Some of the members who planted the acorns, reported that they were sprouting. Reports, to throw light on the result of the experiment, are not available. It is quite possible that somewhere around those old homesteads the cork oak is still growing.³²

³²Minutes of April 1, 1859. Also Farm and Ranch, December, 1941, p. 41.

How to Raise Good Shepherd Dogs

A lecture dealing with a method of raising a good shepherd dog was recorded in the minutes. The speaker said: "You should take a very young puppy and let him nurse on an ewe that dropped a dead lamb, and let him roam and play constantly with the sheep. During this period of training he should not play with any human being. After he had grown up he would stay with the flock and take care of it."³³

³³Minutes of August 19, 1877.

Human Diseases and Insect Bites

Due to the scarcity of doctors, frontier settlers had to depend largely on home remedies. The German settlers of Cat Spring were no exception to this rule. The minutes of the Agricultural Society reveal several suggestions and proposed remedies for diseases. The following are some of

the remedies recorded in the minutes:

1. Sores could be cured by washing them with kerosene.
2. A solution made by boiling the leaves and fruits of Bois D'Ara was recommended for itch and other skin diseases.
3. Sweet milk was recommended for snake and centipede bites.
4. Eucalyptus Globulus was a good preventive medicine for fever. Some plants were obtained from the Department of Agriculture.
5. Water containing lime was indispensable as a bone builder for children.
6. Since smallpox was becoming more prevalent, doctors were urged to provide themselves with the proper vaccine.
7. Sunstroke and overheating could be cured by applying hot water.
8. Every farmer was urged to plant fruit trees, because fruit was absolutely essential for children's health.³⁴

³⁴Minutes of September 19, 1858; April, 1870; November,

1871; February 19, 1872; March 20, 1875; August 19, 1877; March, 1882.

Preserving Food, Vegetables and Wood

Modern ways of preserving food, or meats and vegetables, as well as wood, were unknown to the pioneers. Hence they had to resort to other methods of preserving these articles. Some of these methods are still in use.

It was taught that eggs might be kept fresh by covering them with butter, or packing them in lime. Butter could be kept fresh by putting it in small sacks and packing it away in salt.

Although wood was plentiful around Cat Spring the settlers there tried to conserve it. They had been reared and educated in a country where wood was scarce. Their training was not forgotten. They passed their knowledge on to their less fortunate neighbors. The members of the Society maintained that fences could be made to last longer by painting them with several coats of kerosene.

Meat and vegetables could be preserved by treating them with Boro-Gliceside. Cabbage could be kept fresh by burying the heads in the ground with the roots up.³⁵

³⁵minutes of August 19, 1877.

Miscellaneous Items of Interest

One must not get the erroneous idea that these German farmers at Cat Spring were interested only in agriculture. The minutes make frequent mentioning of matters pertaining to botany, meteorology, astrology, geology, and surveying. As one continues to study the minutes it will be discovered that the members were interested in the topics listed.

Rose Kleberg, wrote in her diary: "Ferdinand Lindheimer, an amateur botanist, came to Cat Spring to collect various plants for a concern in Berlin. While on a collection tour, he got lost in the Brazos river bottom. My husband found him, two days later, dead. He had hanged himself."

A member interested in botany claimed that the "larch tree" was a useful tree, because it grew in any warm climate, and the wood was just as good as oak wood. It was beautiful for furniture. It would mature in fifty years, while it would take an oak tree one hundred fifty years to mature. It was recommended the seed be planted in the

fall, and that every farmer set aside a plot of land for larch trees.

Some members were always ready to discuss matters dealing with meteorology and astrology. They brought out in their discussions that the moon greatly influenced plant and animal life. They said fresh meat, except fish, would spoil immediately when butchered during full moon. Calves should not be castrated during declining moon, because the incisions would not heal. They also taught that all vegetables growing in the ground should be planted eight days before the new moon.

Some members on an occasion predicted a wet summer, because there had been a long and heavy snow in the Rocky Mountains.³⁶ Past experiences and observations, they

³⁶Minutes of February 6, 1881.

thought, had proved that, whenever there was so much snow in the north, it would generally mean a wet summer in the south..

Mr. Hinly, an amateur geologist, gave an interesting and instructive lecture on artesian wells drilled in

Illinois. He illustrated his lecture by using maps showing the formations of the earth. He suggested, when drilling wells, one should drill where ants had their nests, because water was shallow at these places. A resolution was passed instructing Himly to do more research work in this line, and to make his report as soon as he had collected sufficient data on this matter.

The Hempstead Farm Club asked the Agricultural Society to support a resolution that they had sent to the State Legislature. This resolution asked the State Legislature to enact a law that would make cattle stealing a felony. The members discussed this resolution, but no action was taken. The Society sent a petition to the State Legislature asking it to pass a law to give protection against the increasing menace of wolves.

Some members had discovered that, when a surveyor would make a resurvey the field lines would vary, because in this part of Texas the magnetic needle did not point directly to the north. It was recommended that the surveyors be instructed to set their instruments correctly to overcome this variation.

The members argued that they could not have a meeting

or a social without a glass of wine and their favorite pipe. To encourage the making of wine a reward was offered to anyone who would produce a recipe for making good wine. They said: "Such recipe would be a real contribution."

Since they liked their pipes tobacco raising was encouraged. To produce, they maintained, a good quality of tobacco they suggested that the seed should be sowed under cotton stalks. They discouraged the gathering of tobacco leaves from old plants, because the tobacco would be of poor quality.

Various kinds of grasses were discussed with reference to their merits and food value. Some members claimed that mesquite grass was the best yet discovered in this country. Eighty years later, after importing hundreds, perhaps thousands of grasses from all parts of the world, the Texas mesquite specie is still supreme for certain soil and climatic conditions.

The Society found that when milch cows were fed too much sorghum hay the milk would turn sour immediately after milking, and turkey eggs should be moistened with lukewarm water during the last week of incubation, thus

preventing poults from sticking to the shell before hatching.

One member of the Society instructed the farmers in protecting fruits against birds. He stated: "To protect grapes and other fruits against birds, one should take a double mirror and hang it conspicuously in a tree so that the sun and win could strike it. As the wind moves the mirror back and forth reflections from the sun would be thrown in various directions and thus frighten the birds away."

To prevent rust in wheat one member recommended the following recipe to his fellow farmers: "Take three parts of unslaked lime, well mixed with ten parts urine, and pour it at the rate of two quarts on one peck of wheat. One should stir it thoroughly until all grains are well soaked, and plant it eight hours after this treatment."³⁷

³⁷Minutes of May 3, 1856; October 12, 1856; April, 1866; February 13, 1859; March 13, 1859; April 1, 1859; March 4, 1860; May 8, 1870; September 4, 1872; July 13, 1872; January, 1873; March, 1873; December, 1873; April 18, 1875; August 13, 1875; September, 1870; February, 1873; September 13, 1875; November 7, 1875; April 2, 1876; June 21, 1876; July 1, 1877; September 16, 1877; August 11, 1878; May 5, 1879; February 22, 1880.

Throughout Chapter Five frequent references were made to reports and experiments. Although the fact that the reports and experiments were made, there are no records of the full reports on the results of these experiments.

CHAPTER VI
THE ORIGINAL MINUTES

The minutes of the first meeting of the Agricultural Society of Cat Spring, and surrounding territory, which was held in the church at Cat Spring, June 7th, 1856,
3:30 P. M.

As a result of an invitation extended to the public by Rev. Bergmann and Messrs. Kloss and Trenckmann, a number of persons assembled today to discuss the feasibility of organizing an Agricultural Society. After a few introductory words by Rev. Bergmann concerning the purpose of calling this meeting and the usefulness of an Agricultural organization, a temporary chairman and secretary were elected by acclamation. The secretary placed before the meeting an outline of the constitution¹ which was adopted after a

¹Infra, p. 146.

thorough discussion.

After the constitution was adopted forty men organized themselves into a society and gave evidence of their membership by signing the constitution. Immediately,

preparations were made for the election of permanent officers for the coming year. The following were elected:

Mr. A. Trenckmann, president,
Rev. Bergmann, first vice-president,
Mr. Kleberg, second vice-president,
Mr. E. Kloss, secretary,
Mr. Hartmann, assistant secretary, and
Mr. Soder, Treasurer.

The newly elected officers declared themselves willing and ready to accept their official positions.

A resolution, that the annual dues for every member for the year beginning June 7th, 1856, and ending June 7th, 1857, should be fifty cents, was adopted. Mr. Soder was instructed to receive the dues and issue a receipt to each member who had paid them.

It was decided to have the next meeting on July 10th. The meeting adjourned.

Trenckman, president

E. Kloss, secretary

SECOND MEETING

July 10th, 1856, 3:00 P. M.

After reading and approving the minutes of the first

meeting, a resolution was adopted requesting owners of cattle to write on a slip of paper their "marks and brands," and to give it to the secretary who would enter it on record for further reference.

The best way of providing for feed-shortage caused by the drought was debated.

A resolution was adopted that hereafter all regular meetings must be held on every second Sunday after each new moon, at 2:00 P. M.

It was decided to establish a "question box."

It was decided that the Society should subscribe for the "Southern Cultivator." The contents of this paper should be read and explained in German to the members at each meeting. Thereafter, it might be loaned to individuals, but for no longer period than eight days and only one copy at a time.

The best ways of protecting corn against weevils was debated.

Trenckmann

E. Kloss, secretary

THIRD MEETING

August 10th, 1856, 3:00 P. M.

The usefulness of summer rye, which would ripen in May and would be of good value next spring, was discussed and debated.

Mr. Schluens reported his experiences and the results of fishing in the neighboring streams and ponds.

Ways and means of ascertaining the best way of measuring and weighing corn when selling it was discussed and determined.

Rev. Bergmann showed some samples of improved pears, which received the unanimous approval of those present.

E. Kloss

FOURTH MEETING

September 7th, 1856

Mr. Soder attempted in a lengthy discourse, and by quoting examples and results obtained in Germany, to prove that the bluebonnet was of great value as green manure, especially the blue and the yellow kinds. After several debates concerning this question between Schulz, Himly and Soder, it was decided to ask the Patent Office to send a large quantity of seed, so that several members would be

able to carry on experiments simultaneously.

Messrs. Trendemann and Schulz offered to carry on an experiment with buckwheat and report the result to the Society. However, it was decided that the Society should furnish the seed. (The reports are not available).

Upon the question by the president whether salt was harmful to stock during wet weather, Mr. Himly answered that the surest way to determine this was to leave that to the instinct of the cattle, because in their unrestrained and free ways nature would guide the cattle.

Rev. Bergmann stated that lye was a good remedy for a brood sow, which was to be fattened during the heat period; it would make her quiet and cause her to gain weight. Mr. Reibenstein stated that he had a brood sow which had worms in the spleen, the symptoms were that the animal's hindpart broke down and it appeared to have a broken back. The animal was cured by soaking its feed with lye.

Upon a proposal by the president, Mr. Reibenstein declared himself ready and willing to accept one-twelfth part of raw cotton for his ginning toll, since the cotton crop was so short and the price was so high.

The meeting adjourned.

Trenckmann

E. Kloss

FIFTH MEETING

October 12th, 1856, 3:00 P. M.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The proposal by the directors that the Society should be called the Agricultural Society of Austin County was approved. The Patent Office² was instructed to address all

²The Department of Agriculture was a division of the Patent Office.

communications to that name. The "Southern Cultivator" from January to July inclusive was returned by Rev. Bergmann and loaned to a few other members. The loan period was extended to fourteen days.

How to prevent the unlawful burning of the prairie was debated. The Society would make it its business to prevent such unlawful burning of the prairie, if possible, and hold the violators accountable for causing fires. A public notice dealing with this matter was to be placed before the

next meeting and discussed.

These minutes were read and approved.

Trenckmann

Kloss

SIXTH MEETING

November 9th, 1856, 3:00 P. M.

Mr. Soder's offer to have the meetings of the Society during the months of December, January, and February at his store was accepted.

The reply from the Patent Office was read (this reply is not on record). However it was decided that five packages of sorghum seed just received from the above office should not be divided among the members until the expected larger quantity of seed had arrived.

The secretary placed before the meeting a draft of a notice concerning prairie fires, as agreed upon in the previous meeting. After some discussion it was decided to add the Society's request that all strange stock should be removed immediately. Messrs. Huber, Engelking and Hagemann were appointed to draw up a notice setting forth the two points agreed upon and to bear the responsibility of publishing it.

The minutes were read and approved.

Trenckmann

E. Kloss

SEVENTH MEETING

Meeting held at Soder's store,

December 7th, 1856, 3:00 P. M.

The varieties of seed corn were discussed and debated.

Huber finished his educational discourse concerning the bee culture which was begun in the fifth meeting. It was decided that in every meeting a short report of the prevailing farm work for each month be given. Rev. Bergmann was instructed to tend to this matter.

It was ordered to subscribe for an agricultural journal published in the German language. Mr. Huber was instructed to investigate whether such a journal was published for the South.

These minutes were read and approved.

E. Kloss

EIGHTH MEETING

January 1st, 1857, 3:00 P. M.

Rev. Bergmann gave a report on the approaching farm

work for the month of January, especially the method of treating pear trees.

Rev. Bergmann, and Mr. Huber offered to give instructions on the method of budding and improving pear trees.

The best method of planting Irish potatoes and the raising and preserving; green hedges were discussed and debated.

A committee consisting of Messrs. E. Kloss of Millheim, Trenckmann of Bernardo, and Rev. Bergmann of Cat Spring was appointed to distribute the seeds received from the Patent Office.

NINTH MEETING

February 8th, 1857, 3:00 P. M.

President Trenckmann divided the surplus seed packages.

Mr. C. Welhausen gave a lecture on raising tobacco. A debate followed.

Upon the request of the president it was decided to hold all future meetings of the Society in the church at Cat Spring, the regular meeting place.

Rev. Bergmann recommended that potatoes should not be planted near trees, especially young trees, because gophers and other vermins would be drawn to them and would be drawn

to them and would damage the roots of the trees. He offered young vine settings to any one who wanted some.

Meeting adjourned.

N. Hartmann

TENTH MEETING

March 7th, 1857, 3:00 P. M.

Rev. Bergmann explained the meaning of an article appearing in the "Southern Cultivator" concerning the cultivation of potatoes, and hedges.

ELEVENTH MEETING

May 3rd, 1857, 3:00 P. M.

Mr. Nimly described a simple method of keeping flies and worms from getting on livestock. (The method is not available).

It was decided that at the next meeting the range-rent problem should be discussed and considered. It should be ascertained whether there is a law that would permit farmers to do away with "scrub bulls."

Mr. Trenckmann gave information concerning his experiences with suckers from cane stalks. He stated that they could be taken off and planted, and that they would grow

successfully.

It was decided to have the General Annual Meeting³ of

³It will be noted that throughout the entire translation, two kinds of meetings are mentioned, namely, (1) the General Annual Meeting ordinarily held on the first Sunday in June of each year to hear the annual reports and to elect officers for the year, and (2) a general Meeting held whenever the majority of the members demanded it. In this meeting matters of general routine were transacted and discussed. (Ref. Article VIII of Constitution).

the Society on Sunday, June 7, 1847, and to inform the public by posting a notice on the store.

E. Kloss, Secretary

TWELFTH MEETING

General Annual Meeting

June 7, 1857, 3:00 P. M.

It was moved and unanimously carried that the annual dues for every member in good standing in the Society should remain fifty cents. The president, Mr. Trenckmann, gave a resumé of the activities and accomplishments of the Society during the past year. The Society now had fifty-five members of which an average of twenty-one members had attended the meetings during its first year of existence. The

treasurer, Mr. Soder, made his report dealing with the financial condition of the Society. His report showed that the Society had a cash balance of twenty-one dollars.

Messrs. Bergmann and Hagemann were appointed by the president to audit the treasurer's books. They found the books to be correct.

The following officers were elected to serve for the ensuing year:

Mr. Trenckmann, 22 votes, president

Mr. Hagemann, 22 votes, vice-president

Mr. Bergmann, 13 votes, second vice-president

Mr. Kloss, 19 votes, secretary

Mr. Hartmann, assistant secretary

Mr. Reimershofer, treasurer.

"A two-third's majority of the members present at the meeting is necessary for the approval and acceptance of any change in the Constitution."

Paragraph nine was amended to read:

"The administration is authorized to spend annually a sum not to exceed ten dollars for obtaining information and data dealing with agriculture for the benefit of the Society.

This expenditure is subject to the approval of the Society at its General Annual Meeting."

Paragraph six was amended to read as follows:

"For the adoption of resolutions and like matters two-thirds majority of the members present at the meeting is necessary, and resolutions so passed are binding upon members not present."

The minutes were read and accepted.

Trenckmann

E. Kloss

THIRTEENTH MEETING

July 5, 1857, 3:00 P. M.

The turnip seeds received from the Patent Office were given to Messrs. Trenckmann, Bergmann, and Kloss for distribution among the members.

It was agreed to order from Europe an amount of assorted seeds for a sum not exceeding five dollars. This seed was to be distributed among the members. An equal amount should be spent for trees and shrubbery. Messrs. Himly, Bergmann, and Kloss were instructed to make the selection.

The minutes were read and adopted.

E. Kloss, Secretary

FOURTEENTH MEETING

August 2nd, 1857, 3:00 P. M.

It was ordered to subscribe to the "Brenham Inquirer" and the Columbus Paper in order that the Society could keep posted on the cattle and ranch conditions. M. Hartmann accepted the responsibility of reading and interpreting the articles in these papers dealing with this matter.

At the next meeting Mr. Schluens should give a report on the Government's charges for leasing the public lands for cattle range purpose.

The members debated the usefulness of sorghum, chicken corn, Oregon and Japanese lentils, and Chinese prolific peas.

E. Kloss, secretary

FIFTEENTH MEETING

August 30th, 1857, 3:00 P. M.

Rev. Bergmann acted chairman pro tem.

Mr. Huber delivered the seeds received from the Patent Office, namely: twenty-two bags of red wheat, and eleven bags of white wheat from Turkey; eleven bags of hard wheat from Algeria; nine bags of Tuscany soft wheat; five packages of Argentine Schickarras or Spanish peas; nine packages of

Peruvian or Lima beans; and a hundred bags of English black-seeded lettuce.

At least one member in each community- Cat Spring, Millheim, and Bernardo- should have the responsibility of dividing the seed among the members residing in these communities. The Peruvian lentils and barley was divided between Trenckmann and Reibenstein.

The causes for the creamy color of lint cotton were discussed and debated.

It was decided to have a frolic for the members and their families at the next meeting. Each member was to bring his own lunch, and he was also permitted to invite some friends. He would be held responsible for the behavior of his guests. This camp meeting or frolic was to be held at a place near the Cat Spring school house on Konow's farm.

SIXTEENTH MEETING

November 29th, 1857, 3:00 P. M.

Mr. Welhausen explained an article that appeared in a German newspaper printed in Germany (Vossische Zeitung). This article dealt with the immigration to East Texas. Since

Mr. Welhausen's report was not complete, Messrs. Himly, Welhausen, and Rev. Bergmann were ordered to study the article in question and make a report at the next meeting.

EIGHTEENTH MEETING

December 27th, 1857, 3:00 P. M.

Messrs. Himly, Welhausen, and Rev. Bergmann requested that they be given time until next meeting, because they had not completed their study. (The report on the East Texas Emigration was not recorded).

It was ordered to call a special meeting to be held on next Sunday at Mr. Schluen's residence to divide the expected plants ordered from Germany. If the plants should not arrive by that time, the meeting was to be postponed and held eight days later.

NINETEENTH MEETING

Held January 18th, 1858, 3:00 P. M. at

Mr. Huber's house

As per agreement in a previous meeting several members met in Mr. Huber's house to divide the twelve "magnum bonum" plum plants. Other plants that were ordered are still in Hockley. Mr. Kleberg was elected by acclamation to act as

president pro tem. After the names of the members present were written on slips of paper and placed in a hat, the following names were drawn; Sievert, Reinicke, Anthor, Engelking, W. Schneider, Eckelberg, Franz Meyer, and Reichardt, each was declared the winner of one of the above named plants.

E. Kloss, secretary

TWENTIETH MEETING

January 30th, 1858, 3:00 P. M.

Meeting was held in Mr. Kloss' home

The plants ordered from Germany arrived on January 27th. Mr. Robert Kloss delivered them. Several members met upon the request of E. Kloss at his house and drew for the plants. After drawing the following members received the blue Katharine plum trees; August Goebel, Bolten, John, Himly, Litzmann, Hartmann, Kueffel, Liemann, and Nagel. Dross and Vorbeck each received a mulberry tree.

Meeting adjourned.

E. Kloss, secretary

TWENTY-FIRST MEETING

The meeting was held at Schlue's home, February 21st, 1858, 3:00 P. M.

It was ordered that hereafter all meetings should be held in the church.

It was decided to prepare a list of the names of the members of the Society for each officer and one for the public. Each member should report his name to the secretary who would prepare a list and make a report at the next meeting.

Mr. Maetze offered to each member a sample of Wyndott corn for trial.

It was ordered to instruct Mr. Huber, with the assistance of the members, to prepare a report on the work of the Patent Office, Rev. Bergmann gave a report, prepared by his committee, on the progress of immigration to East Texas. The report was given to Mr. Nagel for eventual publication.

TWENTY-SECOND MEETING

There is no record of this March meeting.

TWENTY-THIRD MEETING

April 25th, 1858, 3:00 P. M.

Mr. Schulz, a member of the Bellville Agricultural Association, raised some objections to the report on the immigration to East Texas; however, it was signed by the

Association. It was decided to mail this report to the *Vossische Zeitung* for publication. Mr. Huber read his report, and it was ordered to send it to the Patent Office.

It was decided to discontinue the subscriptions to the "*Branham Enquirer*" and "*Colorado Citizens*," but to continue the "*Southern Cultivator*."

It was decided that the Society have a fitting Fourth of July celebration. A committee consisting of Umland, Maetze, Schluens, Reimershofer, and Himly was elected by acclamation to prepare plans and make recommendations for this celebration at the May meeting.

Mr. Huber, representing Mr. Hagemann, showed samples of Garrison prairie clover.

Mr. Gleum was instructed to build ten benches.

E. Kloss, secretary

TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING

May 23rd, 1858, 3:00 P. M.

After reading and accepting the minutes of the previous meeting, the ground almonds were divided among the members. Mr. C. Ansler showed his patent board fence.

Mr. Himly made his report prepared by the Fourth of July

committee. As a result of this report the majority decided in favor of having the celebration on Chas. Ansler's place, between H. Ansler and Junker's farm. The band should play from noon until the next morning, or as long as the management permits. Messrs. A. Ansler, Gottlieb Hillboldt, H. L. Swearingen, Hartmann, John Reimershofer, J. Laas, Koy, Schluens, and Hollien were elected as the committee to work out rules and regulations for this celebration and make a report at the next meeting. The subscription totaled thirty-nine dollars and fifty cents. This money should be used for the Fourth of July celebration. The committee was instructed to buy a United States Flag.

TWENTY-FIFTH MEETING

June 21st, 1888, 3:00 P. M.

General Annual Meeting

A debate concerning the Fourth of July celebration followed. Mr. L. Swearingen sent a written protest requesting that the celebration should be held on Saturday instead of Sunday. This question was put to a vote. A large majority voted to have the celebration on Sunday, the regular holiday. Feast committee offered its program for acceptance or rejection. After a debate the program was

accepted.

The constitution was read. After the constitution was read, a vote was taken on the question whether Mr. Constant should remain a member of the Society after what he had written concerning the members of the Society taking issue with the East Texas Emigration. He was barred from the meetings by a vote of twenty-eight to twenty-two. The voting was done by writing "yes" or "no" on a slip of paper.

Paragraph three of the constitution was amended so as to read "annually at the General Meeting in June." It was decided that the annual dues should remain fifty cents per member.

Mr. Kloss was elected president,
Mr. Welhausen was elected first vice-president,
Mr. Himly was elected second vice-president,
Mr. Maetze was elected secretary,
Mr. Hartmann was elected assistant secretary, and
Mr. Reimershofer was elected treasurer.

TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING

July 18th, 1858

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

After some discussion it was decided that it was not necessary to change the constitution so as to bar, or exclude members from attending meetings, because the members were of the opinion that the president was vested with sufficient power to bar any intruder.

The turnip seeds received from the Patent Office were divided among the members. The letters and report forms on which to make reports to the department were read and explained.

It was decided to inform the Patent Office that the Society was ready to perform the experiments proposed by the Patent Office, and requested the department to furnish the necessary seeds.

Maetze made a report dealing with the management of Austin County during the time that he served as county commissioner.

Mr. Reimershofer made a report dealing with the expenses incurred by the Fourth of July celebration. He pointed out that the expenses had exceeded the amount previously subscribed by eight dollars and sixty cents. To cover this deficit the subscription list was to be placed before those members who had not contributed at the time

when the first subscription list was circulated.

It was decided to save the boards bought for the Fourth of July celebration and give them to Charles Amsler who promised to take care of them.

Rev. Bergmann gave a discourse on "The Method of Ploughing in Horizontal Furrows," an article appearing in the "Southern Cultivator."

A proposal to amend the constitution with reference to the admission and exclusion of members was put on the agenda of the next meeting according to the order of the day.

A proposal to adopt a definite order of the day or parliamentary rules was turned down.

TWENTY-SEVENTH MEETING

August 22nd, 1858

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The following merchandise had been received:

1. Seven large bags of white Tuscan wheat.
2. Monthly bulletins from The United States Department of Agriculture.
3. A biography of Dr. Brown, and an article on the manufacturing of sugar and molasses.

4. A discourse on an article appearing in the "Southern Cultivator" dealing extensively with raising of French chickens and how to dry fruit.

The proposal, held over from the last meeting, to amend the constitution was tabled. An amendment dealing with the acceptance of guests was added to the constitution.

To make the distribution of seed more convenient, the Society was divided into eight sections representing various communities.

It was decided to sell the boards bought for the Fourth of July celebration to the highest bidder on August 29th at the place of celebration. Notice of this order should be posted at the stores in Cat Spring, Millheim, and Bellville. The money to pay the deficit left over from the celebration should be taken out of the Society's treasury.

TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING

September 19th, 1858

Rev. Bergmann and Mr. Kloss explained the following articles appearing in the "Southern Cultivator;":

1. Dealing with the different methods of improving soil.

2. A simple method of making good cheese and the necessary refreshments.
3. The poisonous effects of wild cherry seeds.
4. Cold water as a remedy for burns. (Mr. Reibenstein, in connection with the preceding subject, recommends heat for curing sunstroke, or overheating).
5. A remedy for curing lampas among horses.

The chairman reported that the boards left over from the Fourth of July celebration had been sold on August 29th, according to a resolution passed at a previous meeting. However, a report was not available because the treasurer could not be present.

Mr. Himly gave a lecture dealing with artesian wells in general, with special emphasis on those drilled in Illinois. He presented several illustrations and pictures showing the formations of the earth. Upon request of the members, Mr. Kloss agreed to get more information and details concerning these wells.

Max Meissner and Adolph Schulze were accepted, and if no objections were raised, they would become members of the Society at the next meeting, by signing their names to the

constitution.

Mr. Kloss gave a report dealing with the usefulness of the sewing machine bought from Mr. Fissler, and suggested that one should be bought by the Society. This matter was left for later discussion.

More informations were given about the cane presses, corn, and cotton planters.

After a report dealing with the wine culture and the making of wine in Missouri, several members related their experiences in making wine. From these discussions and expressions of opinions we could draw safe conclusion that our wild grapes and fruits were well suited for making wine. (Reports not available).

TWENTY-NINTH MEETING

October 17th, 1858

Mr. Himly presided at the meeting.

The minutes of the two last meetings were read and approved.

Mr. Max Meissner and Adolph Schulze were elected members of the Society. Messrs. Robert Wagner of New Ulm and Robert Dehnish of Bernardo made applications for membership in the Society and, since no objections were raised, their

applications were accepted for future approval.

Rev. Bergmann gave a discourse on the following articles appearing in the "Southern Cultivator:"

1. "The Method of Irrigating and Fertilizing the Fields."
2. "Love, Patience, and Persistence, the Secret in the Breaking of Horses."
3. "Applying Salt on the Fields as a Method of Destroying Harmful Insects and Increasing its Productions."
4. "Spirit of Hartshorn, Necessary Medicine for Travelers as a Remedy Against Bites of Poisonous Insects."
5. "The Building of Reservoirs for Storing Water for Cattle and for Hatching Fish."
6. "October, a good Month for Planting Hedges."

Mr. Himly recommended as a remedy against rust or blight in the wheat, the following:

First, plant an early variety of wheat; second, wash the seed; and third, spray the seed with sulphate of copper.

A question, how to prevent weevils from destroying beans in storage, was asked; however, it remained unanswered.

It was decided that according to experience and as generally conceded, a great number of bulls with a herd will produce a greater number of calves than a few bulls.

THIRTIETH MEETING

November, 1858

Mr. E. Kloss presided.

After reading and accepting the minutes of the last meeting, it was decided to allow two dollars for carrying drinking water for the past meetings. It was also decided that, until further decision by the meeting, no more drinking water should be brought to the meetings.

In case that during a meeting in the winter, a strong norther should come up, the meetings of the Agricultural Society should be held at Rev. Bergmann's home.

It was pointed out that, because Mr. Reimershoffer was moving away, a new treasurer had to be elected at the next meeting.

Rev. Bergmann explained the following topics that appeared in the "Southern Cultivator":

1. "Experiments Performed with a Steamplow."
2. "The Farm, the Natural Habitation of the Human Race."

3. "The Experiments and Experiences with Clover and Alfalfa showed that Clover is the Least Desirable Because it Gives Unsatisfactory Results."

After a debate concerning the various kinds of grasses, especially mesquite grass and its culture, the meeting adjourned.

THIRTY-FIRST MEETING

December, 1858

Mr. Kloss presided at the meeting.

The various seeds: Polish wheat, Rabray beans, Washington peas and ice cream melons, received from the Patent Office were distributed.

In place of the former treasurer, Mr. Dross was elected by acclamation. Mr. Anthor was appointed to examine the former treasurer's books and found them correct. The cash balance of thirty dollars and ninety cents was turned over to the new treasurer. Because of his service to the Society Mr. Reimershoffer, the former treasurer, was made honorary member of the Society.

It was decided to subscribe to eight German copies and one English copy of the "American Agriculture." The

"Southern Cultivator" should be continued for another year.

Rev. Bergmann gave a discourse on "Sheepraizing," "The Crossing of Various Breeds of Cattle," and "Fertilizing with Bran."

THIRTY-SECOND MEETING

January 16th, 1859

Mr. Welhausen presided at the meeting.

John Kohlhoff was admitted as a member.

The secretary reported that he had received notice that the Patent Office had sent the seed, but that it had not arrived. Mr. Himly suggested that a complaint be entered with the Postmaster General, if the seeds would not arrive within the next eight days.

Mr. Schluens reported that of the several varieties of wheat planted last year, the California variety alone remained free from rust. Mr. Trenchmann recommended that the cultivation of oats for green or dry feed for horses should be practiced by every farmer. Carrots when planted in early fall would produce a surer crop.

The Society was informed that the present chairman, Mr. Kloss, was moving away. A general regret for his departure

was expressed, and, as an expression of gratitude for his service to the Society, he was made honorary corresponding secretary.

Mr. Glaum agreed to build a table four feet long and three feet wide, and a chair.

THIRTY-THIRD MEETING

February 13th, 1859

Mr. Welhausen presided at the meeting.

Mr. Dress reported that the "Colorado Citizens" was still coming and that they, the Society, had undoubtedly forgotten to notify the publisher to discontinue the paper. A notice should be sent immediately.

The garden seeds that had been sent off by the Patent Office were received and distributed among the members in the various sections. If a number of members would not call for their allotted amount of seed, it should after four weeks be returned.

In order to have early tobacco plants, it was suggested to sow the seed under cotton stalks. This would give the plantlets shade. Old and freshly-sprouted plants would not yield as well as young plants.

Deep plowing was generally admitted to be the best method to give cotton a healthy growth. Many farmers gathered cornstalks and laid them in the furrow and covered them up with dirt, and then planted cotton on it. This method would produce loose soil. It was reported that early planted corn looked sickly, however, it could withstand drought much better and produced a good crop. The period from February fifteen to March fifteen was recommended as the best time for planting corn, and March fifteen to April fifteen was the best period for planting cotton.

Mr. Soder recommended the culture of Chili clover for green feed. In his opinion it was almost as good as the "German Sand Lugerne." It grew four years without reseeding and its roots would grow deep into the subsoil. Rye, when planted alone, would fall down before it could be cut for hay. To prevent this it would be advisable to plant it together with oats and English peas.

If solons from sweet potatoes were planted, they would produce a good crop. Tar, boards, thornes, and strychnine were recommended to keep destructive gophers away from potatoes.

From a general discussion it was learned that Duroc

corn would yield three crops in a year. It resembled swamp millet, and a delicious meal could be made from it.

Through personal experiences several members vouched for the fact that horses like to eat the dry stems of sugar millet. Various remarks and discussions concerning the culture of asparagus were made.

THIRTY-FOURTH MEETING

March 13th, 1859

Mr. W. Mersmann of Millheim was admitted as a member.

It was reported that twelve boxes of cork oak acorns had been received from the Patent Office, and were distributed among the members. (No records are available to show whether this experiment was a success).

Upon recommendation by Mr. Himly, it was ordered that at the next regular meeting a definite period for exterminating wolves through poison should be set. Blackbirds, because of their peculiar usefulness, or merits, should be protected.

It was suggested that hogs infested with quinsy be treated by burning a hole through the skin with a clean white iron.

Rev. Bergmann promised to give a lecture dealing with fruit culture at the next meeting.

THIRTY-FIFTH MEETING

April 17th, 1859

Additional twelve boxes of cork acorns were received and distributed.

Rev. Bergmann gave his lecture, as promised, dealing with fruit culture and improvement by grafting and transplanting.

Mr. Amthor informed the members that Mr. Constant had sent an essay to the Vossische Zeitung denouncing the article published by the Society. This article dealt with the controversial East Texas Immigration question. It was decided to appoint a committee to study Constant's article, and to write a refutation. Messrs. Nagel and Maetze were appointed to serve on this committee to study the article by Constant, and prepare a statement for approval at the next meeting. They were authorized to get other members to help them.

THIRTY-SIXTH MEETING

May 15th, 1859

The statement prepared by Nagel and Maetze was accepted and the committee was ordered to send it to the Vossische Zeitung for publication. (This paper is, or was, on file in the State Library in Berlin, Germany. This paper was suspended by Hitler because it was too democratic).

Several members reported that the cork acorns had sprouted well. The Hungarian grass did not sprout so well and does not produce much feed.

Mr. Himly reported that he had broadcasted his cotton and then plow them off. (This paragraph was not clear).

THIRTY-SEVENTH MEETING

June 19th, 1859

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

A general meeting was called to order and the members proceeded to elect the officers for the ensuing year as directed by the constitution. The following members were elected by ballot:

Mr. Trenchmann, president; Mr. Himly first vice-president; Mr. Welhausen, second vice-president. The following were elected by acclamation; Mr. Hartmann, secretary; Mr.

Kauffel, assistant secretary; and Mr. Dross, treasurer.

Mr. Kopisch made application for membership in the Society. Since he is eligible under the by-laws, he expected to be admitted at the next regular meeting.

Mr. Hinly suggested that paragraph ten to the constitution be amended to read as follows: "That in the future all members must pay, without exception, their annual dues of fifty cents by January first of the following year, or receive a notice from the treasurer."

Hartmann, John, and Soder audited the books of the treasurer and reported a cash balance of thirty-three dollars and fifteen cents.

THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING

July 10th, 1859

Mr. Trenckmann presided at the meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Rev. Bergmann brought several young peach trees along to the meeting for the purpose of demonstrating the various steps in budding.

The president raised the question what to do to save the corn from weevils. After some discussion and debate concerning this matter, it was brought out that experiments

made by some members revealed that strong salt water sprinkled over the corn was helpful. Some strong scented weeds proved effective in preventing weevils in the corn.

As a remedy against "flaps" (a mouth disease affecting stock) Mr. Gens reported that he had used with success chimney soot, salt, and alum. He used the same amount of salt and soot, but a little less alum. He rubbed the tongue of the sick animal until it bled.

The president declared meeting adjourned.

M. Hartmann

THIRTY-NINTH MEETING

August 17th, 1858

Minutes of the past meeting were read and approved.

It was reported by some members that a cure for hypochondriasis (an infection of the tonsils of stock) was cured by the use of a small knife point full of tartar of emetic to be given every half hour until the animal belches, or throws up. It was a sure remedy.

The meeting adjourned.

Hartmann

FORTIETH MEETING

October 6th, 1959

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

For "quins" it was recommended to heat a nail until it was white hot and then drill a hole with it through the skin at the throat. It would help almost immediately. A bottle of whisky and a bottle of warm milk were recommended by some members for stock passing off blood in the urine. This medicine was to be given once, twice, or as often as necessary.

President Trenckmann brought Egyptian squash seed along to the meeting and distributed it among the members.

Mr. Himly amended his motion made in a previous meeting that paragraph ten would read, "That every member in the Society who is in arrear with his dues at the beginning of the new business year, shall cease to be a member of the Society even though the treasurer had not sent him a notice."

It was ordered that a date for General meeting be set at the next meeting.

Mr. Trenckmann made a report of an experiment that he had performed with cotton stalks. He stated that he had cut off the tops of the stalks and that they produced greater

return. This, however, must be done after the sap ceases to pass freely. He noticed also that cotton stalks not frozen would yield a greater crop, than the cotton planted that year. Mr. Hinly suggested that several members cut off the stalks before the winter comes, cover them up with dirt to prevent frost from injuring them, and to rake the dirt off when spring comes. Hinly, Amthor, Wotipka, Waack, Bergmann, Trenckmann, G. L. Aspler, Barten, and Litzmann agreed to perform this experiment.

The secretary was instructed to discontinue the "Agriculturist." Mr. Kopisch suggested to subscribe for the Hempstead paper.

The meeting adjourned.

Hartmann

FORTY-FIRST MEETING

November 6th, 1859

The minutes of the past meeting were read and approved.

Upon the recommendation of Mr. Hartmann, it was ordered to set aside a sum sufficient to buy some seeds to be distributed among the members. Trenckmann and Hagemann agreed to order the seed as suggested by Hartmann. It was decided

to leave the sum of money needed for the seed in the treasury until the seed had arrived.

Mr. Meissner promised to give a lecture dealing with the "Improved Agricultural Implements."

If the weather is agreeable during the winter months, the meetings should be held in the church, and, when it would be too cold, the meetings would be held at the home of Mr. Kopisch who was so courteous to offer his house for this purpose.

Paragraph was amended to read, "If in a General Meeting by written ballot a majority vote decides, any member ceases to be a member of the Society, who has given his verbal or written notice of withdrawal to the secretary; or, when, upon notice by the treasurer during November preceding, he fails to pay his annual dues for the current year beginning June 7th.

FORTY-SECOND MEETING

January 1st, 1860

Fred Eckelberg, Jr., filed application for membership.

One-half pound premium Flat Dutch cabbage; one pound long scarlet radish; one pound drumhead early cabbage; one-

half pound early blood turnip beets; two pounds large early york cabbage; one pound long orange carrots ordered by Mr. Trenckmann and Rev. Bergmann arrived.

M. Hartmann

FORTY-THIRD MEETING

February 5th, 1860

The meeting was held in Mr. Glaum's home.

Messrs. Heinike and Henry Welhausen were nominated for membership.

The productiveness of the seed ordered by the Society was discussed. It was noticed that the Early York cabbage was especially adapted for spring planting, and drumhead cabbage for fall planting. Mr. Maetze told the members about his method of sowing carrots. He recommended drilling the seed in rows three feet apart.

FORTY-FOURTH MEETING

March 4th, 1860

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Chairman Trenckmann suggested that several members should make a tour to Brenham and vicinity to inspect the agricultural implements, orchards, and other useful improve-

ments. At the next meeting a date for this tour should be set.

Mr. Himly recommended that sorghum should be cut as closely to the ground as possible, because the new sprouts would be stronger and healthier when they would sprout out of the roots instead of out of the stem. It was suggested to plant cropgrass to prevent feed-shortage.

Mr. Himly gave his promised lecture on the culture of Bois d'Arc for hedges. A debate followed. Young Bois d'Arc plants could be obtained from Schluens on the Old Crump's place in Ruterville and from Walker's place at Frelsburg. Mr. Himly distributed some head lettuce seed among the members.

Mr. Heinike was admitted as a member, while Mr. Welhausen, Jr., was rejected, because his nomination was not in accordance with the constitution. Chas. Amsler, Jr., made application for membership.

FORTY-FIFTH MEETING

April 1st, 1860

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

C. Welhausen, Jr., and C. L. Amsler, Jr. became members.

Mr. Sturm made application for membership.

The projected tour to Brenham and vicinity was postponed, upon request of several members.

Mr. Welhausen, Sr., through Mr. Hartmann, sent his sincere regret that he could not be present in person at the meeting to bid farewell to the members. He extended his heartiest greetings and promised to continue encouraging the future growth of the Society. Upon recommendation of chairman Trenckmann, Mr. Welhausen, Sr., was unanimously declared an honorary member.

Chairman Trenckmann recommended the culture of tomatoes as a substitute for peaches. As an experiment the chairman also suggested planting Rescue grass seed together with corn and peas in accordance with the plan recommended in the "Southern Cultivator" as a method of raising more feed.

FORTY-SIXTH MEETING

General Meeting

June 4th, 1860

It was ordered that the following amendment should be added to the constitution: "That the acceptance of honorary members be left entirely to the discretion of the Society."

Hereafter the meetings of the Society should be held quarterly, instead of monthly, every Sunday after each new moon, during the months of April, July, October, and January. A notice of each meeting must be posted at every store two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

The directors were instructed to order the necessary seeds for the coming year, and that twenty-five dollars annually should be taken out of the treasury for that purpose.

An audit of the treasurer's books was ordered to be made at the next meeting, because the auditors were not ready at this time.

John Hartmann was elected fourth vice-president in place of Carl Welhausen, Sr.

Rev. Bergmann suggested that the Society should have a festival similar to the celebration held three years ago. After some discussion it was decided to take this matter up at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned.

M. Hartmann

FORTY-SEVENTH MEETING

July 1st, 1860

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Kopisch and Rev. Bergmann were appointed to audit the treasurer's books. The committee found the books correct. The books showed a cash balance of forty-eight dollars and thirty cents, and two dollars outstanding.

Mr. Himly suggested that the proposed festival should be left to a committee of three. This committee should make all arrangements, suggestions, and recommendations at the next meeting in October. This committee should also set the date of the festival. All recommendations by this committee should be final.

Rev. Bergmann advocated a closer relation with the Patent Office through correspondence and requested that reports should be sent regularly to the office. He also suggested that the secretary would be instructed to draw up such report and present it to the members at the next meeting for approval.

Mr. C. H. Stuessel made application for membership.

Chairman Himly pointed out to the members the importance of damming off branches or creeks storing water for the use of the stock and provide places for raising fish. He reported that he had formed a lake in his pasture by damming off creeks.

FORTY-EIGHTH MEETING

October 4th, 1860

The proposed festival was discussed. It was finally decided to have the frolic on Saturday, October 20th, at Marc Ansler's Hall. Every member had to bring their lunch. Coffee and other drinks were to be furnished by the Society. Any guest brought along by a member had to be introduced to the president, and every male of age had to pay his prorated share of the expenses.

The committee appointed to distribute the seeds in his section, reported that they had completed their job.

Cotton stalks when left standing were not as good as freshly planted cotton, because they would die sooner and easier. Sweet potatoes planted from small plants could stand more drought than slips.

Messrs. Stuessel and Storm, who had made application for membership at a previous meeting, were accepted without objections.

FORTY-NINTH MEETING

December, 1860

Messrs. Hintze of Millheim, and Luedke made application for membership. Mr. Kloss, whose application was

overlooked at the last meeting, was unanimously declared a member.

It was decided that hereafter the Society should again hold its meetings monthly instead of quarterly.

The meeting adjourned.

M. Hartmann

FIFTIETH MEETING

February 17th, 1861

Rev. Bergmann gave a lecture dealing with the advantages of planting and treating pear trees. He especially recommended that the pear tree should be planted shallow.

Mr. Trenckmann recommended the painting of the stems of young pear trees with a mixture of clay and cow manure as a protection against rabbits. He also gave a talk on the culture of silk cotton. However, the majority of the members present were of the opinion that we should continue to plant the variety now in general use. Mr. Trenckmann also recommended that rhubarb should be planted, and Hungarian grass be sowed, because it was especially adapted for feeding and grazing.

Hintze and Luedke were accepted as members, and Bubaek, Howe, Severin, Brune, Chester Eckelberg, and Olam

Swearingen, Jr., made application.

FIFTY-FIRST MEETING

March 24th, 1861

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Buback, Severin, Howe, Brune, Chester Eckelberg, and Clam Swearingen were accepted as members.

It was ordered to give the flag of the Society to Mr. Dross for safe-keeping, and that no one had the right to say how the flag should be taken care of, except by order of the Society.

Upon request the various sections of the Estray Law were explained by Hartmann. Mr. Hagemann offered to prepare a list of "mark and brand" for the members. This list should be supplemented by members and be posted in the Society's hall. If a member should find some stock roaming around, it would be his duty to notify the Society, or post it in the hall.

Opinions and discussions concerning the various types of threshing machines were heard, however, no definite choice of type was made.

It was found that seeds stored away with sulphur were

not eaten by weevils but it germinated, however, the seeds stored away with camphor were found to have lost their vitality, because the embryo was destroyed. The seed was not destroyed by weevils.

M. Hartmann

FIFTY-SECOND MEETING

April 20th, 1861

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Himly questioned the legality of the minutes of the two previous meetings, because at the General Annual Meeting, June 4, 1860, it was decided that the members could meet only every three months, and that such decision could only be set aside at the General Meeting. It was then decided that a General Meeting should be called to decide whether the members should hereafter meet monthly.

Mr. Soechting was declared a member.

FIFTY-THIRD MEETING

General Meeting

June 6th, 1861

The constitution was read by Mr. Keuffel, acting

secretary, and chairman Trenckmann appointed Himly and Welhausen to audit the treasurer's books. They reported that they were correct and showed a receipt of

\$84.85

37.77 Expenses

\$47.08 Cash on hand

The following officers were elected by acclamation:

G. Maetze, president,

W. Keuffel, first vice-president,

A. Hagemann, second vice-president,

M. Hartmann, secretary,

Krancher, assistant secretary, and

Dross, treasurer.

It was decided that, until further actions, the Society should meet every two months, and that the secretary must post a notice at the store at least eight days before such meeting.

The annual dues of fifty cents remains the same for the ensuing year.

The meeting adjourned.

M. Hartmann

FIFTY-FOURTH MEETING

August 18th, 1861.

Mr. Sam Meyer was accepted as a member.

Soil erosion can be lessened by planting sorghum, provided the washing is not too severe.

It was decided that the surplus money of the Society should not lay idle. It should be loaned to members at ten per cent. In accordance with this resolution, the sum of forty dollars was loaned to Franz Dross, with the proviso that it could be recalled upon a three months notice. Hagemann and Carl Palm signed the note as sureties.

M. Hartmann

FIFTY-FIFTH MEETING

October 13th, 1861

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

It was ordered that, hereafter, new members admitted must pay in addition to the annual dues an admission fee of fifty cents.

Rev. Bergmann declared that lockjaw among horses could be cured with chloroform. The chloroform should be poured on a rag which should be held against the nose of the

afflicted animal until it breaks down. If a pistol was fired near the afflicted animal's head this would produce the desired result.

Chairman Maetze gave a lecture on a late report by the Patent Office Commissioner. This report dealt with an improved method by a German veterinarian surgeon, of giving medicine to horses. The report stated that the old method of pulling the tongue out was a dangerous practice, because in doing so, the animal would be prevented from swallowing the medicine. The medicine might run down into the windpipe and into the lungs and cause pneumonia. The new method was by far the most successful and effective, because the medicine would be smeared upon the tongue of the sick animal in the prescribed amount.

Mr. Himly agreed to continue at the next meeting the discussion on a subject of his own choice.

The meeting adjourned.

M. Hartmann

FIFTY-SIXTH MEETING

April 13th, 1862

The minutes of the meeting of October 13, 1861, were

read and approved.

The question what caused blight or rust, how it attacked plants, and how it could be prevented, caused a spirited debate. However, the question remained unanswered at this time.

It was agreed that the next meeting in June should be a General Annual Meeting. The treasurer was instructed to take no further action against those members who, so far, had failed to pay their annual dues.

The matter of building permanent reservoirs at a low cost was considered.

Rev. Bergmann recommended the cultivation of rye, wheat, and barley for feed purpose.

M. Hartmann

FIFTY-SEVENTH MEETING

General Annual Meeting

July, 1862

The minutes of this meeting were incomplete. The greater part of the minutes could not be translated, because the writing had faded so much that it could not be read.

These, too, were the last minutes of the Society on

record until July 23, 1865. This period of inactivity on the part of the members of the Agricultural Society was due to the Civil War, which was raging at this time. However as soon as the war clouds had cleared away, the old members, true to form and established principles, immediately set to work to revive the organization so dear to them. A meeting was called for reorganization purpose on July 23, 1865. Some very interesting activities were recorded.

CONSTITUTION

The following constitution of the Agricultural Society of Cat Spring and Surrounding Territory was adopted.

Article I

The officials of the Agricultural Society of Cat Spring and surrounding territory are to be president and two vice-presidents, a secretary and assistant secretary, and a cashier.

Article II

The election of the officials is to be by secret ballot and a majority of the members present determines the results. In exceptional cases, when a member demands it, such an election may be by acclamation.

Article III

Any male person of at least sixteen years of age and of good moral character may become a member of the society.

Article IV

The purpose of this Society is solely to develop an interest in agriculture, and to solve related problems.

Article V

The Society shall hold regular meetings in an appointed place, the time of meeting is to be decided at some later date, temporarily in the church building at Cat Spring, where resolutions are to be formed, and educational and entertaining lectures, and discussions of agricultural matters are to be held.

Article VI

Resolutions can be drawn up and passed only when one-half of the members of the Society are present. In case a tie, the president will cast the deciding vote.

Article VII

In urgent cases the president is authorized to call a special meeting. A notice of such special meetings must be posted by the president eight days prior to the date of the meeting.

Article VIII

Every year in the month of June the General Annual Meeting must be held to hear the various reports. In this meeting the annual dues for the coming year are to be determined;

officials' reports dealing with the activities and achievements of the Society are to be given; the statement dealing with the financial conditions is to be made; and new officials for the coming year are to be chosen.

Article IX

The administration is to contact the Patent Office in Washington. It is also authorized to contact similar Societies in order to obtain information concerning agriculture.

Article X

A person ceases to be a member of the Society when he makes an oral or written statement of withdrawal to the secretary, or when he at the end of the year ignores the invitation from the treasurer to pay his dues, or when in the General Meeting the majority request his withdrawal.

Article XI

Any amendments to the constitution, which must be reported in a previous meeting, can be authorized only when two-thirds of the members approve.

The following is a list of those accepted as members

at the first meeting of the Agricultural Society in the church at Cat Spring, June 7th, 1856:

Signed

E. Kloss	L. Constant	Wm. Schneider
Vornkahl	Louis Brune	Johann Glaum
E. Bergmann ⁴	Fr. Sens	Charles Necker

⁴His real name seems to have been Joseph A. Bergmann.

E. G. Maetze	Jacob Kinkler	W. Scheller
H. Nagel	B. Siegert	F. Dross
E. Kleberg	R. Goebel	F. Fanentzky
A. Kopisch	A. Goebel	A. C. Schulze
F. Meisterlin	F. Soder	Johann Laas
C. Reibenstein	H. Auensel	Wilhelm Keuffel
C. Welhausen	A. Regembrecht	Ludwig Litzmann
John Schluens	Charles Schneider	G. Hirsch
C. Palm	The following names were signed after 1856:	
J. Reimershoffer	W. Kretzschmar	E. N. Clarke
John Krancher	Robert Berner	Franz Langhammer
Karl Meissner	Kluver	Christ Meyer

Signatures of members continued:⁵

⁵The names appear in the same order as they were signed to the original document. A few corrections in the spelling of the names were made to agree with the spelling at other places in the minutes. In some cases the descendants do not write their names today as their ancestors did.

These names signed after 1856:

H. Umland	Johann Vorbeck	Johann Salomon
John Siegfried	C. Niemann	I. Prahm
Chas. Amsler	F. Eckelberg	G. Waack
John Hollien	Henry Anthor, Sr.	F. Meyer
H. Amsler	F. Engelking	F. R. Becker, M. D.
Schneider Reinicke	Johann Liermann	H. Welhausen
M. Hartmann	Wilhelm Gaetke	W. Brune
A. Hagemann	O. Reichardt	A. H. Stuessel
F. Ramm	F. F. Mueller	Karl Howe
H. Sievert	I. Mueller	F. Luedecke
H. Bolton	Salomon	Christian Eckelberg
A. F. Trenckmann	Hingst	C. Severin
	H. John	August Soechting
	Fritz Amsler	Samuel Meyer
	E. L. Theumann, and 278 others that	
	signed in later years.	

APPENDIX "A"

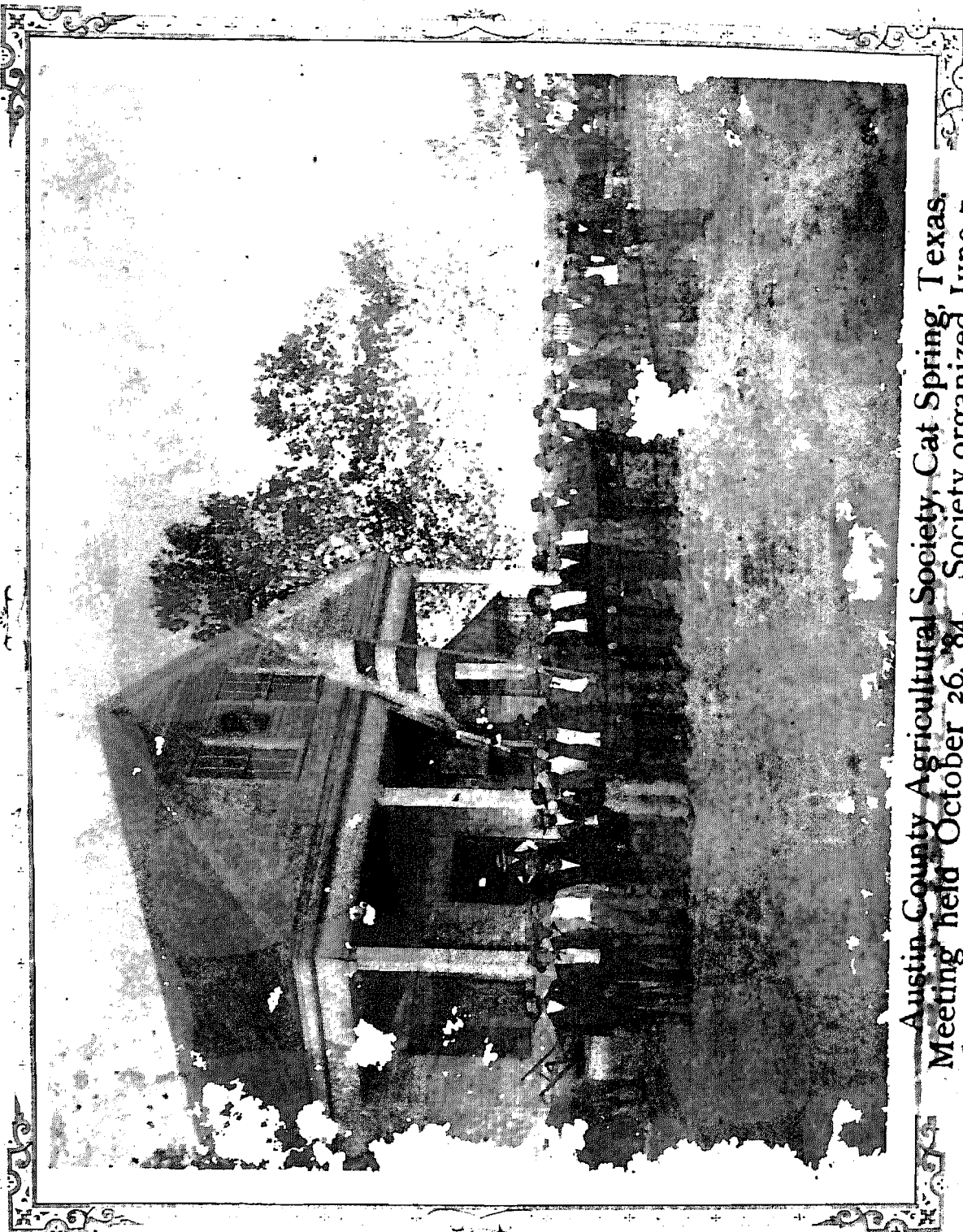
Cat Spring, Austin County, Texas, December 1, 1875.

Wir die folgenden Buerger von Cat Spring, vereinigen uns heute den Ersten December, 1875, um eine Gesellschaft zu bilden, welche den Namen Cat Spring Schulverein fuehren soll:

Charter members

A. Hirsch	Dr. F. A. Schmidt	W. Kveton
Franz Peter	H. Langhammer	H. Hassler
C. L. Dittert	A. Kinkler	S. Gloor
I. Keding, Sr.	A. Ewald	Herm. Gens
I. Huber	A. Luedecke	A. Malecek
Theodore Meyer	John Mau	Franz Glueck, Sr.
W. Koepfen	J. Schwanbeck	Chr. Schwanbeck
Sam Meyer	John Hartmann	John Suhr
J. Glaum	C. Howe	F. Kinkler
Albert Kveton	A. Soechting	Fred. Schwanbeck
A. Dittert	Rudolph Braesicke	A. Braesicke
Casper Stuessel	G. Sell, Sr.	J. Doligal
W. Wotipka	John Mirzwick	F. Koy, Sr.
Franz Glueck, Jr.	Carl Brast	Fr. Eckelberg
H. Schuette	H. Hess	E. Buchtien
W. Hartmann	H. Sievert	J. Schlapota
J. Hranitzky	J. Baade	Theo. Glueck

APPENDIX "B"



Austin County Agricultural Society, Cat Spring, Texas,
Meeting held October 26, '84. Society organized June 7,
1856.

APPENDIX "C"

LIST OF LETTERS FROM TEXAS IN THE "LETTERS,
REPORTS, ESSAYS, ETC." OF THE PATENT
OFFICE, 1849-1860

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- A. Letter in response to a circular of the Patent Office, dated July 28, 1849, inviting "the friends of agriculture to communicate the result of their observation and experience," stating that "whatever may have been tested and found new and useful practice, together with important agricultural statistics, will be acceptable."

From I. Beaumont, Lavaca, Texas, Nov. 25, 1849.

- B. Letters in response to the Patent Office circular of July 9, 1853, to postmasters throughout the country, requesting the names and postoffice addresses "of the more enterprising and practical" farmers in the counties, and suggesting that officers of agricultural societies furnish the names of members to whom the Agricultural Reports and seeds of the Patent Office might be distributed. As a result of this circularization, many agricultural societies were formed, to become distributing centers for reports and seeds. The following letters were received:

From Neil McGaffey, Georgetown, Texas, October 29, 1853, Vol. IV, P. 725.

Mr. McGaffey stated the circular was handed to him by the postmaster, since he was the only citizen in the county who had joined the State Agricultural Society, and added that interested citizens "shall soon be able to organize a very respectable county association, embracing both the agricultural and mechanical, and to avail ourselves of your proffered kindness."

C. Letters from Agricultural Societies, as follows:

Fayette County Agricultural Society

Albert Giesecke, West Millcreek, Texas, Dec. 18, 1854, Vol. VI, p. 237, announcing the formation of the society and requesting seeds for distribution among its members and agreeing to report upon them.

Albert Giesecke, West Millcreek, Texas, Oct. 17, 1855, Vol. VII, p. 875, complaining about the pilfering of the seeds intended for the society by the postmaster.

Albert Giesecke, West Millcreek, Texas, Nov. 15, 1855, Vol. VII, p. 1085, acknowledging receipt of ten copies of the 1854 Report, and complaining that the sea kale seed, the silver buckwheat, the turnip seeds, the Carob tree seed, the Spanish onions, and the hemp seed have not yet arrived; also offering to try arrow root, rhubarb, gallerdone, large light colored lentils, earth-almonds, prunes, raisin grape vines, and Paraguay tea.

Albert Giesecke, Millcreek, Texas, Nov. 15, 1855, Vol. VII, p. 1105, submitting agricultural report.

Albert Giesecke, Millcreek, Texas, Aug. 2, 1857, Vol. XVI, p. 452, acknowledging receipt of white soft wheat seed.

Gonzales County Agricultural Society

Edmund Bellinger, Gonzales, Texas, Oct. 27, 1855, Vol. VII, p. 921, reporting upon the formation of the Gonzales County Agricultural Society.

Edmund Bellinger, Gonzales, Texas, Jan. 25, 1856, Vol. X, p. 281, requesting books and seeds for the society.

George W. T. Fly, Aug. 6, 1856, Vol. XII, p. 43, reporting on agricultural conditions.

H. B. Nichols, Oct. 17, 1856, Vol. XII, p. 515, reporting on Turkish bent wheat yielding 101-2/3 bushels per acre.

Fayette County Agricultural Society

G. Marckmann, LaGrange, Texas, Feb. 5, 1857,
Vol. XV, p. 667, announcing the organiza-
tion of the society and requesting seeds
for distribution among its members.

Jackson County Agricultural Club

D. Dennett, Texana, Texas, Nov. 12, 1857, Vol.
XVII, p. 239, soliciting donations of seeds
and reports.

Bell County Agricultural Society

A. Marschalk, Belton, Texas, (also editor of the
Belton Independent), Nov. 24, 1857, Vol.
XVIII, p. 7, requesting seeds.

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