

The Pagel Family Times

Volume 2

1997

Q. Which families make up the Pagel Family Reunion?

A. The descendants of Gottfried and Friedrike Pagel who immigrated to Texas in 1850. Their nine children were Friedrich Wilhelm Pagel, Carl Friedrich (Charles) Pagel, August Pagel, Minna Fischer, Fredericka Ladewig, Friedrich Samuel (Fritz) Pagel, Emilie Appelt Schott, Ernest Pagel, and Julius Pagel.

(During the past year we have located ninety-one more descendants of August Pagel thanks to the efforts of Pagel Family friend, Joyce Speakerman Holcomb.)

The Pagels in Texas: Friedrich Wilhelm & Magdalena Fritsche Pagel

A biography of our immigrant patriarch, Gottfried Pagel, was offered in last year's Pagel Family Times. This year the story of his oldest son, Friedrich Wilhelm Pagel, is told,

Friedrich "Wilhelm" Pagel was born in Kortenhausen in Pomerania in June of 1834. He was the oldest known child of Gottfried and Friedrike (Dikow) Pagel. The Pagels brought their family of eight children to Texas aboard the "Brasilian" in 1850. The family settled in Fayette County near what is now Willow Springs, but Friedrike died soon after a ninth child was born in 1853.

Magdalena (or Lana) Fritsche was born in Friedersdorf in Saxony on August 11, 1839. She was the only child of Johann and Johanna (Born) Fritsche. In 1854 the Fritsches set sail for Texas aboard the "Ben Nevis" with the group of Lusatian Wends who founded Serbin. Unfortunately, Johann Fritsche died during the voyage.

Magdalena and her mother made their way to the German-Wendish settlement in Industry where only a few months later Johanna (or Anna) married Gottfried Pagel on April 15, 1855. On January 31,

**The 1997 Pagel Family Reunion
will be held Sunday, July 13 at 11 a.m.
at the Hallettsville Garden and Cultural Center**

To get to the Garden Center (or Fink House), turn on Fink Drive off Hwy 77 on the north side of town at the city park.

There will be a noon covered dish luncheon. Please bring an entree, vegetable, bread, and / or dessert and the appropriate serving utensils.

If you would like to bring a white elephant gift, we will use it as a door prize.

An area will be set aside for learning about your family's history and we encourage you to bring photographs and keepsakes to display. This is always a good opportunity to get those old photographs identified.

1858 his son, Wilhelm, and her daughter, Magdalena, also married. About that time Gottfried and Anna moved to Lavaca County near Hallettsville with most of his children. Wilhelm and Magdalena stayed behind in Fayette County, living on his father's 192 acres near Cummins Creek. In 1867 he bought this tract from his father for nineteen hundred dollars.

The Wilhelm Pagels had six children whose baptisms were all recorded at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church at Frelsburg in Colorado County:

1. Franz Edmund (Frank) (5 October 1858 - 15 January 1949) who married Wilhelmina Schiller, farmed at Willow Springs and retired to Fayetteville.

2. Emma Emily (11 December 1859 - 13 November 1951) who married Ernst Carl Albrecht who farmed at Willow Springs and retired to Fayetteville.

3. William Albert (23 April 1862 - 12 July 1916) who married Helene Jashek and farmed at Willow Springs and (shortly before he died) near Taylor.

4. Ernst Theodore (17 April 1865 - 17 September 1938) who married Mathilda Alvina Zapp and was prominent in Fayetteville.

5. Ida (11 January 1868 - 15 December 1951) who married Ferdinand Schultz and lived in Oklahoma.

6. Helen (16 May 1871 - 17 June 1957) who married Hugo Emil Zapp and lived in Houston.

In 1866 Friedrich Wilhelm Pagel bought additional land from M. S. McGinnis at Willow Springs. There he built a rock house over a cellar and covered it with plaster. He farmed and operated a general merchandise store. The community became known as Rockhouse after his home when he became its first postmaster on October 12, 1871.

Friedrich Wilhelm Pagel died when he was only thirty-nine years old on October 21, 1873. His is the oldest known grave in the Pagel Cemetery near Willow Springs. An inventory taken at the time of his death showed 405 acres of land in the Willow Springs area. He also (Continued on back page)

In Remembrance

The Pagel Family Times is dedicated to the memory of those family members who have passed away in the last year:

Ruth Seale Albrecht
Anita Pagel Gould
Marie Pagel Harbus
Jesse Frank Heinsohn
Wilbur Willie Heinsohn
Martha Schulte Pagel

We also need to remember the following people whose deaths we learned of at the 1996 Reunion:

Mildred Wright Schultz
Joe Pagel Zumwalt
Helen Pagel Zumwalt

(Friedrich Wilhelm Pagel continued)

had merchandise in his store valued at two thousand dollars, nine head of horses and mules, twenty head of cattle, twelve hogs, and a road wagon, farming utensils, and household furnishings. In addition he had \$2,898.10 in notes and \$5,043.84 in accounts that were due to him, making his estate valued at \$14,501.94.

Gottfried Pagel had died only two months earlier, so Anna Pagel moved back to Fayette County to live with Magdalena and her young family. Mrs. Pagel relinquished the post office and it was moved three miles east to the present community of Rockhouse by A.C. Surman. (In about 1881 C.T. Zapp became a postmaster at Willow Springs and the community also became known as Zapp.)

Magdalena Pagel died on July 13, 1886 at the age of forty-six and was also buried in the Pagel Cemetery. The inventory taken at the time of her death showed 476 acres in Fayette County and 123 acres in Lavaca County, nine horses and mules, thirty-one head of cattle, thirteen hogs, one wagon and one buggy, household and kitchen furniture, farming

This issue of *The Pagel Family Times* was edited by Rox Ann Albrecht Johnson, secretary/historian of the Pagel Family Reunion, who takes full responsibility for its content. Comments and questions may be directed to her at 11105 Scotland Well Drive, Austin, TX 78750-3607, (512) 250-8424. Notices of family births, deaths, and marriages are appreciated, as are address changes.

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The Pagel Family Reunion
11105 Scotland Well Drive
Austin, TX 78750-3607

*Please share this notice
with cousins we may have missed.*

† Pagel Family Cemetery Update †

Carl Friedrich (or Charles) Pagel was the second oldest child of Gottfried and Friedrike Dikow Pagel, and his descendants make up the largest of the nine branches represented at the Pagel Family Reunion.

He and his wife Johanna are buried in the Charles Pagel Family Cemetery on what was his estate in Lavaca County. Also buried at this cemetery are his daughters Johanna Dorthea Pagel, Maria Kessler, and Hilda Menking, Christine Roeber, Elizabeth Haeusler (Heisler) and their husbands, as well as his sons Henry and Charles Godfrey Pagel and their wives. Johanna's father Heinrich Kuehne, their son-in-law Rudolph Hen-

utensils, twenty-eight bales of cotton, and \$1,258.54 in cash on hand. In addition she had gin house machinery and fixtures worth \$1,000 and notes totaling \$370.45 due to her. This brought the estate total to \$8,882.49. Her son-in-law, Ernst Albrecht, was appointed estate administrator.

Evidently there was a disagreement among Magdalena's children as to how the estate should be divided and the case was brought to court. It was finally settled by private sale of the Fayette County property in partitions to Frank Pagel, William Albert Pagel, and Henry Garlin who was Ernst Albrecht's half-brother. Wilhelm's brother, Charles Pagel, bought the Lavaca County land. Garlin almost immediately sold Ernst and Emma Albrecht his partition which included the

kel, and several grandchildren were also laid to rest there.

Traditionally, contributions for maintenance of this cemetery were collected at the Pagel Reunion, but low attendance cut donations drastically.

At our 1996 reunion, Mary Menking announced that a special fund was being set up to provide for the mowing and cleaning of the cemetery. There have been a number of generous contributions, but we hope to hear from more members of this large family.

Please contact Virginia Greer at Rt. 2, Box 372, Hallettsville, TX 77964. Checks should be made payable to the "Charles Pagel Family Cemetery Fund."

rock house.

Today only the house's cellar remains. Now known as Wayside Manor, Wm. Pagel's farm is still owned by the Albrecht family. It was registered under the Texas Agriculture Department's Family Land Heritage Program in 1985.

#1 Bad Reason to Skip the Reunion

My favorite cousins may not be there.



Pick up the phone, remind your cousins about the reunion, and arrange to meet in Hallettsville on the 13th.