

The Pagel Family Times

Volume 18

May 2014

CHARLES PAGEL FAMILY CEMETERY

Gottfried Pagel's second son, Carl Friedrich Pagel (later known as Charles), was living at Pagel Settlement, six miles southeast of Hallettsville, when he met and married Johanna Furchtegott Kuehne.

Johanna, the daughter of Johann "Heinrich" and Johanna Elizabeth Krause Kuehne, was born October 31, 1843 in Calbe, Prussia. She had a brother, Ferdinand Friedrich Kuehne, who was four years older. Her obituary states that the family had immigrated when she was seven and lived in the La Grange area for the first seven years before moving to Lavaca County, where they "settled on the Sandies south of town". Charles and Johanna were married on August 8, 1861.

The Pagels lived at Pagel Settlement for about ten years before purchasing acreage three miles north of Hallettsville on the west bank of the Lavaca River in the Barnard Brown League around 1871. There they built a fine two-story home for their fourteen children and prospered. Johanna's widowed father lived with them and, according to Helen Pagel Zumwalt, taught school in one of the upstairs rooms.

On July 8, 1880 Rudolph Henkel was killed by a runaway wagon. Henkel was married to the Pagels' oldest daughter, Johanna "Friedericke", and their first child was only a few weeks old at the time. Henkel was buried on the Pagel's farm

and is the first known grave in the Charles Pagel Family Cemetery. Other burials followed within a few years.

Charles died in 1903 and Johanna and her unmarried children lived on the farm two more years, but then moved into Hallettsville. On August 15, 1908, Johanna signed a deed setting aside one-half acre for the Charles Pagel Family Cemetery to be used by their family for cemetery purposes only.

Johanna rejoined her husband there in 1925. Other family members interred in the cemetery are their daughters, Johanna Pagel, Jo-

2014 PAGEL FAMILY REUNION

**The Hallettsville cousins invite you to join them
on Saturday, July 12th
to tour the Charles Pagel Family Cemetery at 10 a.m.
followed at 11 a.m. by our traditional reunion at
the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall**

Please meet at the church on the corner of East 4th (Hwy 90A) & S. Dowling Streets in Hallettsville (See map on reverse side.) We will caravan to the cemetery. If you arrive after 10, the Fellowship Hall will be open.

Our catered lunch will include dessert and is \$12.50 per plate for adults, free for children under 12. Please r.s.v.p. to Bob Zumwalt by Tuesday, June 8th. Please return the enclosed form along with your check. If you get in a bind at the last moment, you may phone (361) 798-2786 or e-mail r_zumwalt@sbcglobal.net and pay at the reunion.

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

Please consider bringing something interesting for our silent auction.

Bring the children and teens! Besides our usual balloons, the church has a playground and we will set up a video game area.

We look forward to seeing everyone!

IN REMEMBRANCE

This issue of *The Pagel Family Times* is dedicated to the memory of those who passed away since the last newsletter in 2012:

Lillie Mae Fischer Berger
Zella Lois Darden
Henrietta Gisler Haynes
Edwin Boothe Haynes
Billie Mae Repschleger Johnston
Travis Doniphon Kubena
Paula Ehrig O'Neill
Allan Delmore Pagel
Eugene Kenneth Pagel
Mary Charlene Worthy Pagel
Norma Sue Pagel Rogers
William Herbert Wuebker
Jacklyn Anne Sauer Vangunten

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hanna Dorthea Pagel, Maria Kesler, Hilda Menking, Christine Roerber, Elizabeth Haeusler (Heisler) and their husbands, as well as the Pagels' sons Henry and Charles Godfrey Pagel and their wives. Johanna's father, Heinrich Kuehne, and several grandchildren were also laid to rest there.

The Pagel's 6-week-old infant daughter, Johanna Pagel, who died in 1874, is believed to be buried there in an unmarked grave. In her book, *Childhood Days, Wildwood Days (Growing Up in Lavaca County)*, Helen Zumwalt stated that her great-grandmother, Johanna Krause Kuehne, was also buried in this cemetery. However, Johanna Kuehne died September 8, 1870, while the family was still living south of Hallettsville and her burial place is unknown.

The second oldest marked grave in the cemetery belongs to Paul Ebel, 10 Mar 1849 - 10 May 1883, who died of tuberculosis. Ebel and his family had just immigrated from Germany in 1878. Ebel's great-granddaughter, Irene Ebel Ertell, was told by her uncle that a man named Pagel met the newly arrived Ebel family in Galveston, brought them to the Hallettsville area and helped them get settled. Apparently, the Ebels needed a lot of help be-



cause they had never lived outside a city while in Germany. His widow, Ubina, married Frank Sturm in 1884 and the family moved to Gonzales County.

Other unrelated graves belong to the August and Louise von Bieberstein Klaus family, who lived in the vicinity of the Pagels. Louise Klaus died in 1892 and their daughter, Auguste, was buried there four months later. Both died of typhoid fever. August was brought back to the area for burial in 1921. It's possible that another Klaus child, who died in 1893, is also buried here.

One more unrelated grave belongs to Heinrich Berkenhoff, 26 Oct 1890 - 11 Dec 1890, an infant of Friederich and Louisa Woltersdorf Berkenhoff.

Large live oaks once stood next to the cemetery and Mary Ann Defibaugh remembers a couple of family reunions at the Pagel Cemetery in the early 1940s. She also knows of at least one time when the river came up over the cemetery. At some point it was enclosed by its chain link fence, which protects the graves from both cattle and farm equipment.

The last burial there was in April 1989, when Lydia Haeusler was laid to rest. All of those interred

were of German ancestry and that is reflected in several of the stones which are inscribed in the German language. Note that some county maps incorrectly identify this as the Pagel Settlement Cemetery, but that cemetery is southeast of Hallettsville.

The land around the Charles Pagel Family Cemetery is still owned by Pagel descendants. For years a collection was taken up at the family reunions to clean the cemetery. In the 1990s reunion attendance dipped so low that it was hard to meet even the reunion expenses and a special fund was set up by Charles Pagel descendants, specifically for the cemetery's care.

Because of its location access to the cemetery is somewhat difficult, so we invite you to take the opportunity to visit during this summer's family reunion.

This issue of *The Pagel Family Times* was edited by Rox Ann Johnson, secretary/historian of the Pagel Family Reunion, who takes full responsibility for its content. Comments and questions may be directed to her at 6907 East State Hwy 159, Fayetteville, TX 78940, (979) 249-3236, e-mail roxannjohnson@me.com. Please notify us of family births, deaths, and marriages.

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Our cousin, Clay Maeckel, generously provides space on his server for our Pagel Family Reunion web site which includes many old photos, our family history and family tree, old Pagel homes, the three Pagel cemeteries, reunion information and photographs from recent reunions. Check it out to see what's new!

www.pagelfamily.org