

The Pagel Family Times

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PAGEL FAMILY NAMES

Early German-speaking Lutheran families in Texas, like the Pagels, favored attending church services that were conducted in their native tongue. Baptismal, confirmation, marriage, and burial records for those churches were recorded by the pastor in old German script. The Pagels in Fayette and Colorado Counties were primarily served by the Pastor J. C. Röhm of the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church at Frelsburg. The Pagels who lived at Pagel Settlement in Lavaca County were served by Rev. Christian Geiger of the Zion Lutheran Church of Sublime.

Early baptisms were not necessarily held in a church building. The pastor served several communities and it was common for several cousins or neighbors to be baptized at the same time. This might be in a school building or private home.

Often the child was named after his godparents. For instance, Wilhelmine Fischer and her husband asked his father, Franz Fischer, and a neighbor, Dietrich Vogelsang, to be godparents for their son, Franz Dietrich Fischer.

It was also common for the child to be known by his second name. Friedrich Wilhelm Pagel was more commonly known as Wilhelm or William and his brother, Herman Julius, was known as Julius. Carl Friedrich and Johanna Pagel carried this custom to an extreme when they gave all five of their sons the first name Carl and all nine of their daughters the first name Johanna. The children were called by their middle names. Later in life only one of the boys was known as Charles and only one of the girls was known as Johanna. Some had dropped their first name altogether and some had switched the order of their names.

Indeed our immigrant ancestors, Gottfried and Friedrike Pagel seem to have been stuck on the name, Friedrich. Their first son was Friedrich "Wilhelm", the second was Carl Friedrich, their fourth son was Friedrich Samuel, and even their

2012 PAGEL FAMILY REUNION

**Audrey & Marvin Peterson & Mary Ann Defibaugh
will host the 2012 Pagel Family Reunion
on Saturday, July 14th at 11 a.m.
at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall,
corner of East 4th (Hwy 90A) & S. Dowling Streets,
Hallettsville, Texas (See attached map.)**

Our catered lunch is \$12 per plate for adults, free for children under 12. Please r.s.v.p. to Bob Zumwalt by Tuesday, July 10th by returning the attached 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. Bring the children and teens! Besides our usual balloons, the church has a playground and we will set up a video game area.

Please consider bringing something interesting for our silent auction.

We look forward to seeing everyone!

second daughter had the feminine form, Fredericka.

As in families today, there were many nicknames: Charles Godfrey Pagel was known as Gus and Friedrich Samuel Pagel was known as Fritz, Antonia Appelt was known as Tony, and Nathalie Ladewig was known as Tallie.

A German name given at baptism was often Anglicized as the child grew older. Carl Wilhelm Pagel was later known as Charles or Charlie. Wilhelm would become William, Franz became Frank, Friedrich became Frederick, and so forth.

Feminine names that ended in "e" were pronounced as though they ended with an "a" the same as in Germany: Louise was pronounced as "Louisa", Wilhelmine was pronounced "Wilhelmina", Christine was pronounced "Christina", and there are many other names that followed this pattern.

And remember our family surname was originally pronounced "paw gull".

IN REMEMBRANCE

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

Alton Marion Pagel
Louis Howard Sommer
Mattie Belle Sauer Tinsley

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 E. State Highway 159, Fayetteville, TX 78940, (512) 925-4804, e-mail roxannjohnson@me.com. Please notify us of family births, deaths, and marriages. Visit our web site at www.PagelFamily.org.

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