

Peter Carl von Rosenberg to his brother Otto, May 28, 1850, *Ancestral Voices*, 41.

27. Peter Carl von Rosenberg to his brother Otto, Rosenberg-Nassau, May 25, 1850, *Ancestral Voices*, 39

28. *Ancestral Voices*, 39.

29. Wilhelm von Rosenberg to friends in Germany, April 1850, *Ancestral Voices*, 20.

30. Ibid.

31. Peter Carl von Rosenberg to his brother Otto, Nassau-Rosenberg, May 28, 1850, *Ancestral Voices*, 39.

32. *Ancestral Voices*, 21.

33. Adolphine von Roeder is Libussa's best friend, *Ancestral Voices*, 47.

34. Carl Apollo Wilhelm Gross (1794–1882) moved to Texas as a widower with eight children in 1848. Otto von Roeder sold him a small farm in the Jack League, most likely on credit. Gross appears on the Fayette County tax rolls in 1850 with a 210-acre farm in the Jack League, but there is no recorded title, leading to the supposition that Otto von Roeder had sold him the land on credit and, according to standard practice, had not recorded a title until the final payment. Gross' farm was perhaps the first divestiture by Otto von Roeder of lands which had comprised Nassau Plantation.

35. Meerscheidt Briefe (Meerscheidt Letters), 119.

36. Amanda Fallier to August and Emma Fallier, Nassau-Rosenberg, May 25, 1850, *Ancestral Voices*, 27, 30; August 24, 1850, 48.

37. *Ancestral Voices*, 61

38. Meerscheidt Briefe (Meerscheidt Letters), November 15, 1850, 118.

39. Meerscheidt Briefe (Letters), Von Rosenberg Archives, Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin, 86.

40. Lina to August Schweinberger, Rosenberg-Nassau, April 2, 1850, *Ancestral Voices*, 8.

41. Amanda Fallier von Rosenberg to Charlotte Richter, Rosenberg-Nassau, January 21, 1851, *Ancestral Voices* 54.

42. See Arthur Meerscheidt to his mother, *Ancestral Voices*, 157; *Handbook of Texas*, "Considerant, Victor Prosper," vol. 2, 281.

43. The names of the men are not mentioned. See *Ancestral Voices*, 150.

44. *Ancestral Voices*, 156, 157.

45. *The von Rosenberg Family of Texas*, 54

## CHAPTER 13 NOTES

1. There is a reproduction in the SBAt LXIX, 66, 79, 87, 88, 92, of a discussion in *Der deutsche Auswanderer*, a leading German newspaper devoted solely to issues of emigration, of Friedrich Wilhelm Carove's book,

*Genen die Sklaverei in den Nordamerikanischen Freistaaten (In Opposition to Slavery in the North American Free States).*

2. "Bekanntmachung über Sklaverei," *Frankfurter Journal* no. 196, July 17, 1844 (Reproduced in SBA<sub>t</sub> V, 207, 208.)

3 The Grand Knights of the Golden Circle had military, financial, and political degrees. The organization pursued an aggressive pro-slavery and expansionist agenda, looking first toward northern Mexico as an area for future expansion and then toward the Southwestern United States. Once Texas seceded, the higher military positions in Texas were staffed initially almost exclusively by members of the military order of the society. The Order did not look kindly on those opposed to secession. For an important discussion of the Knights and their role in the secession see Linda S. Hudson, "The Knights of the Golden Circle in Texas, 1858–1861," in Howell, ed., *The Seventh Star of the Confederacy*, 52–67.

4. William Wilberforce (1759–1833): Prominent abolitionist, who eventually succeeded after many frustrations and setbacks in getting Parliament to abolish the slave trade.

5 This suspicion rests on two facts: first, on the family connections mentioned in Chapter 1, note 19; second, on the common hope that Texas would remain a viable republic and eventually develop into a counterweight to the growing commercial influence of the United States in the New World, which both England and the various Continental Powers regarded as threatening. The introduction of large numbers of Central European settlers would, if successful, certainly promote the goal of keeping Texas independent. See Benjamin, *The German Texans*, for a discussion of these suspicions. William von Rosenberg, whose father purchased 800 acres of Nassau Plantation in 1850, wrote the first objective and research-based study of the Society in 1894 (*Kritik der Geschichte des Vereins zum Schutze der deutschen Auswanderer nach Texas*, [Austin, 1894]). His study was largely in reaction to an article, appearing in a Chicago periodical, *Der Auswanderer*. The author of this article made many unsubstantiated claims, one of which was that the British Foreign Office was a secret partner in the Society's colonization scheme. Louis Brister, who translated von Rosenberg's study, states the following in a footnote (page 410): "The author of the allegation that England had supported the Society financially seems without a doubt to have been August Siemering. According to Frederick Law Olmstead, Siemering had claimed as early as 1857 in a study on the Germans in Texas that there had been a contract between the Society and the British." See "William von Rosenberg's *Kritik*. A History of the Society for the Protection of German Emigrants in Texas," translated and edited by Louis E. Brister, SWHG 85, no. 2 (October 1981), no. 3 (January 1982), and no. 4 (April 1982). Mr. Brister offers a nice overview of the English controversy in his introduction.

6. See Chapter 1, note 20.

7. *Houston Morning Star*, July 9, 1844.
8. *Houston Telegraph and Texas Register*, July 24, 1844.
9. Narrett, "A Choice of Destiny," *SWHQ* no. 3 (January 1997): 299, 300.
10. By the 1850 tax rolls, Gillespie County (Fredericksburg) had no slaves, while the other counties of German presence in the Hill Country, i.e., Comal and Medina, had relatively very few.
11. According to Struve, *Die Republik Texas, Bremen, und das Hildenheimische*, 84, Frederick Law Olmstead's *A Journey through Texas* contributed greatly to the myth that all Germans in Texas opposed slavery.
12. Harking back to arguments of Walter Prescott Webb, who stressed the importance of physical geography (climate, latitude, etc.) on the spread of social institutions, some have argued that slavery never would have taken root in the Hill Country of Texas in any case. There is undoubtedly an element of truth in this argument. The way things turn out must necessarily be a response to all the variables at play. The difficult and elusive task of the historian is to assign weight to the various strains of influence. Certainly the fact that there was a conscious, deliberate policy of exclusion of slavery rather than a vague, generalized sense of opposition among the settlers (a point that many historians are unaware of) must be seen as a determinative factor.
13. Two great migrations of German intellectuals have enriched this country. The first was in the wake of the failed March Revolution in Germany in 1848; the second, and perhaps the greatest transfer of intellectual talent in the history of the world, occurred prior to World War II with the persecution by the Nazis of the (largely) Jewish intelligentsia. The 1848 wave of "*Lateiner*" organized themselves into the *Bund Freier Männer*. They promoted a quasi-socialistic, progressive, and populist program. On the question of slavery they were staunch abolitionists and free-soilers.
14. Sisterdale was established by Nicholas Zink in 1847. Zink had served as Prince Solms' engineer in 1844, but his stormy temperament created problems. The town was situated about twelve miles north of Boerne in a quintessential Texas Hill Country setting. Several educated refugees from the failed March Revolution of 1848 settled in the town, and it quickly gained a reputation as one of the *Lateiner* communities (see chapter 12, note 5). It attracted such men as Ernst Kapp, Ottmar Baron von Behr, Julius Fröbel, and Edgar Edler von Westphalen, all of whom were *Freidenker* (freethinkers or agnostics) in matters of religion and radical Republicans in matters of politics. Ernst Kapp was *ex-officio* leader, but other notables such as Adolph Douai and August Siemering found a home there. If there was an epicenter of abolitionist and pro-Union sentiment among Germans in Texas, it was Sisterdale.
15. Biesele, "The Texas State Convention of Germans in 1854," *SWHQ* 33, 217-266.

16. After spending a year in prison because of his participation in the failed revolution of 1848, Carl Daniel Adolph Douai (1819–1888) emigrated to Texas with his family in 1852. He settled first in New Braunfels, where he founded a school. He moved the following year to San Antonio to serve as the editor of the newly founded San Antonio *Zeitung*. Douai used the paper as a forum for his outspoken abolitionist views, arousing thereby not only the enmity of many pro-slavery Anglos, but many Germans as well. See *Handbook of Texas*, s.v. “Douai, Carl Daniel Adolph,” vol. 2, 683.

17. August Siemering (1830–1883) arrived in Texas in 1852 as one of the “Forty-Eighters.” He spent his first ten years as the first teacher at the newly established school in Fredericksburg and subsequently as a teacher at a German school in Sisterdale in Kendall County. Siemering helped to organize the Texas branch of the *Bund freier Männer* (see note 14 above) and he also co-authored the anti-slavery resolution passed in San Antonio in May 1854. When the Civil War broke out, Siemering served the Confederacy as a lieutenant in Taylor’s Battalion of the First Texas Cavalry. After the war Siemering founded a newspaper, the *San Antonio Freie Presse für Texas*, a leading voice of Republican sentiment in Texas. He also founded the *San Antonio Express News*, which continues to this day.

18. “We the undersigned believe Wm W. Gamble to be a disaffected person opposed to the government of the Confederate States and should be confined as being dangerous to its welfare and credit. That we believe he is an agent of the Abolitionists of the North placed here for the purpose of distributing such books as are dangerous to the institutions of Southern people. Signed S. A. Maverick.” Reproduced in Barr, “Records of the Confederate Military Commission,” *SWHQ* 70, no. 2, 289.

19. *War of the Rebellion* (henceforth referred to as *O.R.*), vol. IV, series 2, 585.

20. H. E. McCulloch, commanding general of the sub-district of the Rio Grande wrote in the spring of 1862: Since I wrote you respecting the filling up of the mounted regiment I think I have discovered a pretty considerable under-current at work through this country against our cause...it may amount to something in the end which will require force to be used. Men have been heard to say when we (the Confederates) lost a battle that “We (the Union men) have won a battle...” General McCulloch to Major Davis, San Antonio, Texas, March 3, 1862, *O.R.*, vol. IX, series 1, 701, 702.

21. General Orders No. 3, Sub-Military District of the Rio Grande, April 24, 1862, *O.R.*, series 1, vol. 9, 708, 709.

22. Jacob Kuechler (1823–1893) came over under the auspices of the *Adelsverein* as one of the *Darmstädter* in 1847. He was an amateur scientist and is credited with being one of the founders of the science of dendrochronology, or the science of analyzing tree rings. Kuechler was ardently pro-Union. He joined German Unionists attempting to flee to Mexico and survived the Battle of the Nueces. He remained in exile in Mexico during

the rest of the war and worked as a surveyor in the northern Mexican states until the end of 1867. Upon his return to Texas he was appointed deputy collector of customs at San Antonio. He was elected a delegate to the state Constitutional Convention of 1868–69 and became a leading spokesman for Germans in the Republican Party during Reconstruction. He was appointed Commissioner of the General Land Office in 1870 and served for four years.

23. See Alwyn Barr, ed. "Records of the Confederate Military Commission," *SWHQ* 71, 262.

24. See Barr, "Records of the Military Commission," 262, 263. Charles Nimitz was the grandfather of Admiral Chester Nimitz of World War II fame.

25. *O.R.*, series 1, vol. IX, 735–736.

26. See Bill Stein, "Distress, Discontent, and Dissent: Colorado County, Texas, during the Civil War," in *The Seventh Star of the Confederacy*. Kenneth W. Howell, ed. Denton: University of North Texas Press, 2009. 301–316.

27. This and other fascinating tales from Lavaca County are related by Judge Paul Boethel in the (rare) *Sand in Your Craw*, 111–116. A signed and dedicated copy of the book from 1959 is a prized possession of the author.

28. William A. Trenckmann (1859–1935) grew up in Millheim, a famous *Lateiner* community in Austin County. He was a noted educator and editor. He published *Das Wochenblatt*, a German-language weekly newspaper, for over forty-two years, until it was sold in 1933. He and Charles Nagel, who also grew up in the Millheim community, have left excellent accounts of the tensions of the Civil War period. Trenckmann addresses them in his autobiography, "Experiences and Observations," and also in a novel, *Die Lateiner am Possum Creek*. He serialized both of these works in his newspaper.

29. Opposed to both slavery and secession, Hermann Nagel, a medical doctor and early settler at the Millheim community in Austin County, fled with his son Charles to Mexico in 1863. They later traveled by ship to New York, thence to St. Louis in 1865 where his mother joined them. From humble beginnings in Texas, Nagel's son Charles (1849–1940) rose to become, by most accounts, the most prominent of the Texas-Germans from this period at the national level. Charles Nagel attended country schools in Texas, completed high school in St. Louis in 1868, and graduated from St. Louis Law School in 1872. He is credited as the founder of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and he served as Secretary of Commerce and Labor in the Taft Administration. In 1934, as an old man, he wrote *A Boy's Civil War Story*. See *Handbook of Texas*, s.v. "Nagel, Charles," vol. 4, 931.

30. The novel was serialized in Trenckmann's weekly, *Das Bellville*

*Wochenblatt*. It began in the December 25, 1907, issue and continued in forty-nine installments, concluding in the November 19, 1908, issue.

31. When the vote for secession came up, ninety-nine votes were cast against secession, eight for secession at the Millheim-Cat Spring box (Regenbrecht, 30).

32. In fact, several mass meetings were held, even after war was declared. Several hundred German-Texans met at Shelby near Nassau Plantation in 1862, and also another meeting was well attended at Biegel's settlement east of La Grange. See Stein, "Distress, Discontent, and Dissent: Colorado County, Texas, during the Civil War."

33. *Ibid.*

34. As an example, Robert Justus Kleberg, a veteran of the Battle of San Jacinto, had the words "Remember the Alamo" engraved upon his tombstone, which was shaped like a soldier's tent.

35. On the occasion of a visit to Millheim in 1850 with Otto von Roeder and family, Amanda Fallier von Rosenberg wrote, "...where in all of Texas is (Otto) von Roeder not known and loved?" (*Ancestral Voices*, 50.)

36. See Regenbrecht, "The German Settlers of Millheim before the Civil War," 28-34.

37. Ferdinand Friedrich Enkelking (1810-1885) studied law in Germany. He came to Texas as a young man and is credited with being one of the earliest settlers of Millheim. He married the youngest sister of Otto von Roeder, Carolina. He was instrumental in founding the first school in Millheim, conducted for many years by Gustav Maetze. His large home and store became centers of German culture in the area. He even set up gymnastic equipment in his store, reminiscent of the *Turnvereine* (gymnastic societies), which had played an important role in German student life and in which some of the first nationalistic stirrings had taken root. Amanda Fallier von Rosenberg described him as follows: "...highly cultured, intelligent man, who is indescribably simple in his needs and who is governed by the precept of living in the greatest possible simplicity in the most agreeable way; witty, cheerful, piquant, he is always the most charming host..." (Amanda Fallier von Rosenberg to her husband's sister, Charlotte Richter, Nassau Rosenberg, November 1850, *Ancestral Voices*, 52.)

38. Robert Justus Kleberg (1803-1888) came to Texas as part of the von Roeder clan. He was married to Rosalie von Roeder, eldest sister of Otto von Roeder and daughter of Lt. Ludwig Sigismund von Roeder. Kleberg was educated in law in Germany and continued in the profession in Texas as justice of the peace and chief justice of Austin County (1846). He was a man of strong will and character who, according to Charles Nagel (*A Boy's Story*, 197) stood out among men. Although short in stature, he projected force of will and manly strength combined with extraordinary good looks. He had fought in the battle of San Jacinto, a fact of which he was very



proud. He ardently supported the cause of the Confederacy, raising a company of militia to support the cause. His youngest son, also named Robert Justus Kleberg, married the daughter of Capt. Richard King, the founder of the legendary King Ranch.

39. Gustav Maetze, who taught school at Millheim for more than twenty-five years, illustrates this sentiment nicely. He joined the Democratic Party, but was opposed to secession and so abstained from voting. When secession passed, he submitted to the will of the people and became a loyal Confederate. He entertained no bitterness against the South or Southerners, but he was glad the Union was preserved. (Regenbrecht, 34)

40. See note 422 above. Maetze's qualified support for the South chilled relations between the two families. (Nagel, *A Boy's Civil War Story*, 209).

41. Trenckmann, *Experiences and Observations*, 41.

42. See Kamphoefner, *Germans in the Civil War*.

43. *Ibid.*, 395, "Hermann Nagel to his brother," Millheim, April 28, 1861.

44. The party included Meissner, Langhammer, Soder, and Kluever. (Nagel, *A Boy's Civil War Story*, 239.)

45. The whole state was thrown into an uproar if not panic by the appearance of large number of Union forces off the Texas coast between Matagorda Bay and Brownsville in the latter part of November 1863. General Magruder, commander of Southern forces in Texas, was not sure of the enemy's intentions, fearing an invasion of western Texas, with the eventual goal of capturing San Antonio. In November 1863, 7,000 Union soldiers commanded by General Banks landed at the mouth of the Rio Grande and captured Brownsville, cutting the important trade between Texas and Mexico. Banks then sent one wing of his army upriver to capture Rio Grande City and another column along the coast to capture Corpus Christi, Aransas Pass, and the Matagorda peninsula. General Magruder called upon state and Confederate authorities for additional forces to halt the advance. (See Allen Ashcroft, "Union Occupation," in *Texas Military History*.) The activity occasioned by the Federal advance meant that a traveler between Columbus and San Antonio was much more likely to encounter units of Confederate soldiers on the move. Because of the Union advance, Hermann Nagel and his son had to travel from San Antonio to Eagle Pass, across from Piedras Negras, instead of to Brownsville to seek asylum in Mexico. This, in turn, occasioned a much more difficult and lengthy trip to Matamoros, from where they hoped to get passage to New York.

46. The Austrian archduke, Ferdinand Maximilian, denied a share in the imperial government of the Austrian Empire, negotiated with Napoleon III of France to become Emperor of Mexico. Maximilian was persuaded to accept the crown. In 1864 he sailed to Mexico. The empire was a failure from the start. Maximilian, who had no real understanding of Mexico,

found most of the country hostile to him and loyal to Benito Juárez. Eventually he was captured and shot.

47. During the Civil War, the so-called Home Guard in Texas spent a good deal of time and energy hunting able-bodied men to conscript. They exercised their “authority” in a way that made them odious to the populace, whether of Anglo or German ancestry. John Warren Hunter wrote “Such was the high-handed, outrageous conduct of the Home Guards, not only in a few sections, but throughout the state generally, that they obtained the sobriquet of “Heel-Flies” on account of the similarity of their course to the tortuous proclivities of a pestiferous insect so well known to cattlemen all over Texas. No class of men, or rather striplings, in our great state has ever been the recipient of more righteous contempt heaped upon them by patriotic men and women of Texas—than these Home Guards” (*Frontier Times*, vol. 1, no. 8, May 1924). One of the most colorful and instructive accounts of the role of the “Heel Flies” is given by Judge Boethel, *Sand in Your Crow*, 120ff. Official correspondence of the period reveals what serious problems desertion and the avoidance of conscription were. See, for instance William G. Webb, Brigadier-General of the Texas State Troops to Col. H. L. Webb, La Grange, Texas, November 26, 1863, *O.R.*, vol. XXVI, series I, part II, 455, 456.

48. See Boethel, *Big Guns of Fayette County*, 15, 16.

49. On January 14, 1854, the German community in Houston organized a *Turnverein* (gymnastic society), which became the focal point of social life in the city. Robert Voigt (see note 25 below) was a charter member of the Society. A contemporary observer wrote, “When war was talked of, the famous military company was organized composed entirely of members of the *Verein*. . . . The people of Houston really do not realize what the *Turners* have done for Houston and the state” (Young, *Houston and Houstonians*, 214).

50. Boethel, *Big Guns of Fayette County*, 15, 16.

51. Waul’s Texas Legion was raised in and around Brenham in the spring of 1862 by Thomas Neville Waul. A legion was somewhat akin to a present-day division in that it was a combined command composed of infantry, cavalry and artillery units. Three companies out of the eighteen companies in the legion were composed almost exclusively of Germans from nine different counties. Captain Robert Voigt, who had emigrated from Germany in 1850 and who had become a prosperous store-owner in San Felipe and Industry, was elected to command Company C infantry. He has left us with many letters describing his experiences. (Kamphoefner, *Germans in the Civil War*, 403–426) The legion was assigned originally to Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi (Vicksburg). Many Texas-Germans from South Central Texas, including the Round Top area, served in Waul’s Texas Legion in all-German companies. Georg Weyand, who bought Peter Carl von Rosenberg’s remaining interest in the Jack League, also served



with Waul. For a sense of the importance of the all-German companies, see Boethel, *Big Guns of Fayette County*.

52. Statistics do not corroborate this assertion, but it is interesting that he should have felt this to be a fact.

53. To cite an example of this tendency, the son of Gustav Maetze, the Millheim school teacher opposed to secession, volunteered for Sibley's Brigade (Regenbrecht, 34); see also Charles Nagel, *A Boy's Civil War Story*, 207.

54 Hermann Nagel to "My dear Brother," Millheim, April 28, 1861. Reproduced in Kamphoefner, *Germans in the Civil War*, 395.

55. The first proclamation of martial law dates to May 30, 1862, and covered the whole state (*O.R.*, series 1, vol. IX, 716). The law imposed an oath of allegiance and made it easier for the authorities to enforce the conscription laws. President Jefferson Davis, however, in an unusual rebuff of General Hébert, rescinded martial law in Texas in September 1862. General Hébert's declaration and conduct, he stated, were an "Unwarrantable assumption of authority and as containing abuses against even a proper administration of martial law" (*O.R.*, series 1, vol. IX, 735-736). In January 1863 German resistance to conscription led to a renewed imposition of martial law in Fayette, Austin, and Colorado Counties. See Kerby, *Kirby-Smith's Confederacy*, 96; also, "German Attitudes Toward the Civil War," *Handbook of Texas*, vol. 3, 138, 139.

56. Nagel, *A Boy's Civil War Story*, 30.

57. In Texas the German settlers were uniformly called "Dutchmen" by the Anglos. The confusion comes from the German word for German, "Deutsch," which sounds like "Dutch" to the Anglo ear.

58. Nicaragua attracted the attention of some German colonists in the 1850s, especially in the highlands around Matagalpa where coffee was grown. Emigration on a large scale never took place.

59. Wilhelm von Rosenberg, "To Friends in Germany," April 21, 1850, *Ancestral Voices*, 18.

60. "Die Sklaverei ist im ganzen das nicht, was man in Europa denkt [Slavery is totally not what Europeans think...]" (Frau von Rosenberg an ihrer Schwägerin Fallier [Mrs. von Rosenberg to her sister-in-law Fallier], Nassau Farm, March 26, 1850, Von Rosenberg Family Papers, Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin, 76.) Citing attitudes such as these, one scholar has argued that far from uniformly opposing slavery, Biedermeyer sensibilities actually inclined many German emigrants to accept slavery. (Cornelia Küffner, "Texas-Germans Attitudes Toward Slavery: Biedermeyer Sentiments and Class-Consciousness in Austin, Colorado and Fayette Counties," Master's Thesis, University of Houston, 1994.) The term Biedermeyer refers to many things, but in this context it is understood to be a frame of mind that arose in the German lands during the nineteenth century. Deprived of political expression and religious freedom and stul-

tified by oppressive police states watching their every move, many Germans, especially those of the middle classes, retreated into the comfort and security of home, family, and the ubiquitous apolitical social clubs, for which Germans have become famous. This resulted in a sort of collective passivity with respect to the *status quo*, which, according to this scholar, translated into acquiescence, or even acceptance, of slavery on the part of many new immigrants. This scholar specifically pointed out Carl Wilhelm (William) von Rosenberg's letter as an example of such an attitude. This analysis suffers from several shortcomings, especially when applied to the von Rosenbergs. They came from a part of Germany (East Prussia) and were of a class (landed nobility) least affected by Biedermeyer sensibilities. Her analysis also ignores the determinative influence of Otto von Roeder, whose pro-slavery sentiments most certainly did not derive from Biedermeyer attitudes.

61. See "A Narrative of the Life of William von Rosenberg," included in "Six Documents of Interest of the von Rosenberg Family," compiled by Dale von Rosenberg.

62. See note 24 above.

63. The artillery battery was split off and sent first to Brownsville then to Galveston. Later it distinguished itself in the battle of Calcasieu Pass in Louisiana in which two Union gun boats were compelled to surrender after a ferocious artillery duel. See Boethel, *Big Guns of Fayette county*; Has-skarl, *Waul's Texas Legion, 1862-1865*; "Handwritten Report of Walther von Rosenberg" included in "Six Documents of Interest of the von Rosenberg Family," compiled by Dale von Rosenberg.

64. Battle of Calcasieu Pass: a largely forgotten battle, which took place May 5, 1864, involving Creuzbauer's light battery. The battery was rushed from Sabine Pass to intercept two Union gunboats, the *Wave* and the *Granite City*, making their way up the Louisiana inlet in support of Union raiding parties. Both sides received about an equal number of casualties. On the Texas side, W. Kneip, F. Fahrenhold, and Private Foersterman were killed. Several other soldiers received serious wounds. The Union boats were so severely damaged by the accurate fire from Creuzbauer's battery that they were compelled to surrender or face total destruction. Prior to the engagement, Captain Creuzbauer had been summoned to appear before a military commission to answer charges of incompetency. The outstanding performance and courage of his men in this engagement put all such suspicions to rest. For the best account of the battle, see Boethel, *Big Guns of Fayette County*.

65. "Alexander was his [Peter Carl von Rosenberg's] favorite and the pride of the family..." (Lina Meerscheidt to her mother-in-law, January 30, 1854, *Ancestral Voices*, 168). Amanda Fallier von Rosenberg passed away April 22, 1864, in Round Top.

66. Three thousand Union soldiers landed on the island and over-

whelmed the garrison of 100 men and three guns. For an official report of the battle, see *O.R.*, vol. XXVI, series I, part II, 454, 455. One of Otto von Roeder's sons also served in the Confederate Army. Ludwig von Roeder served as a Lieutenant in Company C, Fourth Texas Cavalry. He saw action with Sibley's Regiment in the New Mexico campaign, participating in the Battle of Glorieta Pass, and also in the battle to recapture Galveston. (Flora von Roeder, *These are the Generations*, 121, 122)

67. "Arthur wants to go to Nicaragua; I, too, our entire family, even the parents, like many Germans, partly because of the poverty, Arthur principally because of *political conditions*." (Lina von Meerscheidt to her mother-in-law, Round Top, 1861, *Ancestral Voices*, 162.)

68. The first documented German in Nicaragua was a man known simply as "Don Alemán (the German)." He established an export business in 1810. In order to develop coffee production, the government of Nicaragua made various attempts to encourage emigration from European countries in the nineteenth century, including Germany, but the volatile political situation was always an impediment. In 1852 two Germans, Janssen and Reichardt, established a plantation in the state of Chontales, an upland plateau area noted for its salubrious climate. Here they planned a German colony of farmers with the aid of a colonization company in Hamburg. Reichardt eventually returned to Germany declaring colonization in Nicaragua a foregone failure, while Janssen apparently remained. It is not known if this is the endeavor to which Meerscheidt refers, but this is the only organized colonization attempt by Germans in Nicaragua uncovered by the author. See Gütetz Von Houwald, "Los Alemanes in Nicaragua," s.v. "Deutsche in Nicaragua," <http://www.inwent.org/v-ez/lis/nic/seite5.htm>, accessed March 3, 2008.

69. Arthur von Meerscheidt to his mother, August 12, 1856, *Ancestral Voices*, 157.

70. The story of the cotton trade in Texas during the war is fascinating, and it has a German component. Because of the Union blockade, cotton from all over the South had to be transported to northern Mexico by way of Texas. Some of the many Texas-Germans who fled to Mexico to avoid conscription became involved in the trade. (Tyler, *Santiago Vitaurri*, 64.) Cotton became the *de facto* currency of the South during the war, and there was much abuse. Clever speculators and cotton traders developed many schemes for defrauding the government and the planters. The most common scheme was to sell cotton for gold and reinvest in devalued Confederate currency, which planters were legally compelled to accept as payment for more cotton. The authorities were aware of the problem and considered it serious, but their efforts to curtail it were ineffectual. (W. A. Broadwell, Lt. Col., to Hon C. G. Memminger, Shreveport, La., December 26, 1863, *O.R.*, series 1, vol. XXVI, part II, 535-541.) Many fortunes were made during this period, including that of Captain Richard King of the King Ranch. It is probable that Arthur Meerscheidt had been engaged by the German cotton

brokers in Monterrey to buy cotton from the German farmers in the New Braunfels area.

71. Arthur von Meerscheidt to his mother, July 16, 1865, *Ancestral Voices*, 168.

72. Lina von Meerscheidt to her mother-in-law, Round Top, July 18, 1865, *Ancestral Voices*, 170.

73. Arthur von Meerscheidt to his mother, *Ancestral Voices*, 165.

74. Lina von Meerscheidt to her mother-in-law, Round Top, January 30, 1865, *Ancestral Voices*, 167.

#### CHAPTER 14 NOTES

1. Fischer an die Aktionäre (Fischer to the stockholders), SBA<sup>t</sup> LIII, 159.

2. Hamilton Ledbetter, as earlier noted, helped post the bond for sequestration after the 1847 shootout. This suggests strongly that he had a direct interest in Otto von Roeder's ability to gain control of the plantation.

3. On April 20, 1853, Otto von Roeder sold 1,400 acres to John R. Robson for \$3,600. Otto von Roeder supplied Robson with a penal bond for double the purchase price in the event he could not supply a good title. (*Texas Reports* 20, 755)

4. On May 18, 1854, Otto von Roeder entered into contract with J. A. and W. F. Wade for the purchase of a tract of land containing 1,600 acres and embracing his homestead for \$15,000. Upon signing the Wade brothers signed over five Negroes valued at \$5,100; a promissory note for \$4,900 was due December 25, 1854; the final payment for \$4,000 was due December 25, 1855.

5. Victoria County Deed Book 7, 266.

6. With the formation of the abovementioned association of creditors, we encounter after 1850 three organizations in Texas with somewhat similar names connected to the situation: the German Emigration Co. (the old *Verein*), the German and Texas Emigration Co. (association of creditors in Texas), and the German Colonization Society of Texas (the company set up by Ludwig Martin and later taken over by, Ubagh, Settegast, and Rohrbach).

7. SBA<sup>t</sup> LIII, 161.

8. Fischer an das Comite (Fischer to the Committee), September 19, 1855, SBA<sup>t</sup> LIII, 64.

9. Fayette Deed Book I, 426, 427.

10. Affidavit, December 3, 1857, in *Otto von Roeder v. John Robson*, Fall Term 1857, Case 1049, Texas State Archives, M-2938.