

# The von Rosenberg Family of Texas



## NEWSLETTER



AUTUMN/WINTER ISSUE      JANUARY 4, 2015

### DONATION OF VON ROSENBERG COLLECTION COMPLETE

The von Rosenberg Family of Texas's collection of family artifacts, letters, notebooks, photographs and other similar memorabilia is once again all together in one place and has found a permanent home at the Fayette Heritage Museum & Archives.

Through the years, the Family's collection has grown into a veritable treasury of original images of our ancestors, original correspondence between the original pioneers and their succeeding generations, as well as numerous physical objects imparting the memories of our forebears.

This collection had been gathered together by prior presidents, officers and historians, and over the decades, the ever-growing volume of data and ephemera which was amassed got split up, brought back together, transferred from president to president, historian to historian, such that it was never readily available to the family for viewing and study. Moreover, the risk of loss with having the collection in successive private hands became greater every year as it grew.

Thus, some years ago, a large part of the collection was donated to the Fayette Heritage Museum & Archives (FHMA) in La Grange, Texas for safekeeping by our past historian, Ann Barnes.

This past month the remainder of the Family's collection of artifacts and data was donated to the FHMA so that the whole of the collection would be preserved for future generations.

Included in the donation was an original von

Rosenberg Stammtafel (ancestral table) which has been highlighted in a prior newsletter, an original immigration map, the original "immigration letters", along with over a hundred original photographs, all of which had been part of the collection for some time.

Also donated were several recent additions to the Family's collection which were solicited by the current President, JT Koenig. Among them were Alma Tomlinson's "working copy" of book one (the "blue book") and an original bible of the Wilhelm Johann Umland Family (gifts of Richard Tomlinson of Branch III); an original large sepia-toned photograph of Alexander Eugen and Emma Weyand von Rosenberg (gift of Eric and Amanda von Rosenberg of Branches IV and VII, respectively); clothing, photos, and other personal artifacts of Beulah Meerscheidt and Robert Trenckmann (gifts of Joan Trenckmann Pike of Branch V); as well as an original match-safe from the von Rosenberg Store in La Grange operated by cousins Alexander Ernst von Rosenberg (of Branch VII) and C.J. von Rosenberg (of Branch III). This last object was a gift of JT Koenig of Branch IV.

Accompanying the donation were several electronic copies of the more fragile documents and objects with the stipulation that these electronic sources should be used for study before the originals to aid in their preservation.

### FAMILY OFFICERS 2014-2015:

#### President

Jon Todd "JT" Koenig  
(Branch IV - Carl Eugen)  
[jtkoenig@yahoo.com](mailto:jtkoenig@yahoo.com)

#### Vice-President

Gloria Miele  
(Branch VII- Carl Walter)  
[gymiele@gmail.com](mailto:gymiele@gmail.com)

#### Secretary

Pati Dukett  
(Branch V - Amanda Caroline)  
[patisue17@gmail.com](mailto:patisue17@gmail.com)

#### Treasurer

Darlyn Cartwright  
(Branch VII - Carl Walter)  
[darlyncartwright@gmail.com](mailto:darlyncartwright@gmail.com)

#### Family Historian Chairperson

Jon Todd "JT" Koenig  
(Branch IV - Carl Eugen)

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## DONATION OF VON ROSENBERG COLLECTION COMPLETE, CONT'D

Below are photographs of some of the items which were donated and which can now be viewed at your leisure during the opening hours of the Fayette Heritage Museum & Archives, which is located at 855 South Jefferson Street in La Grange, Texas. It can be reached by Phone at 979-968-3765 or 979-968-6418 and its Hours are Tuesday - Thursday 10-6, Friday 10-5, Saturday 10-1, and Sunday 1-5. It is closed Mondays.

If you have additional family artifacts such as old photographs, letters, journals, etcetera, please feel free to contact the FHMA directly or you may contact any one of the officers of the Association.

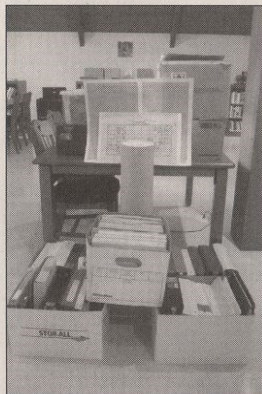


### Fayette Heritage Museum & Archives Gets Large Donation from von Rosenberg Family

JT Koenig, current President of The von Rosenberg Family of Texas, has donated a large cache of historical documents, artifacts and photographs to the Fayette Heritage Museum & Archives.

The donation represents the remainder of the collection which had been in the Family's possession after a larger similar donation was made to the FHMA in 2010 by then Family Historian, Ann Barnes.

The von Rosenberg Family was an important family in the early history of Fayette County during the years of German immigration to Texas. Peter Carl von Rosenberg (1794-1866), along with his wife and nine children, came to Texas in 1849 from near Memel, East Prussia. He purchased the Adels-



This is just a small portion of the documents that were donated to the museum by the von Rosenberg family.

verein's former Nassau Plantation before ultimately resid-

ing in Round Top, and then La Grange, where he died.

Among the documents and artifacts donated are an original 1849 Stammtafel, or lineage chart; an original map showing the route of their ocean voyage presented to the Family upon their arrival in Galveston on December 6th, 1849; bound letters from the Family back to relations in Prussia which were later given back to the Family here in Texas; published works on the von Rosenberg Family's history along with allied families' history; original painted wappen, or coats of arms; numerous original photographs, as well as memorabilia from local von Rosenberg businesses.

The collection is available to be seen and studied by the general public upon request.



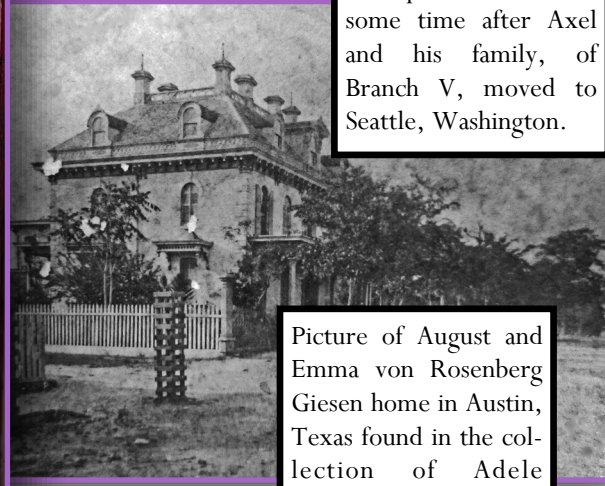


## FAMILY HISTORY SURPRISES AROUND EVERY CORNER

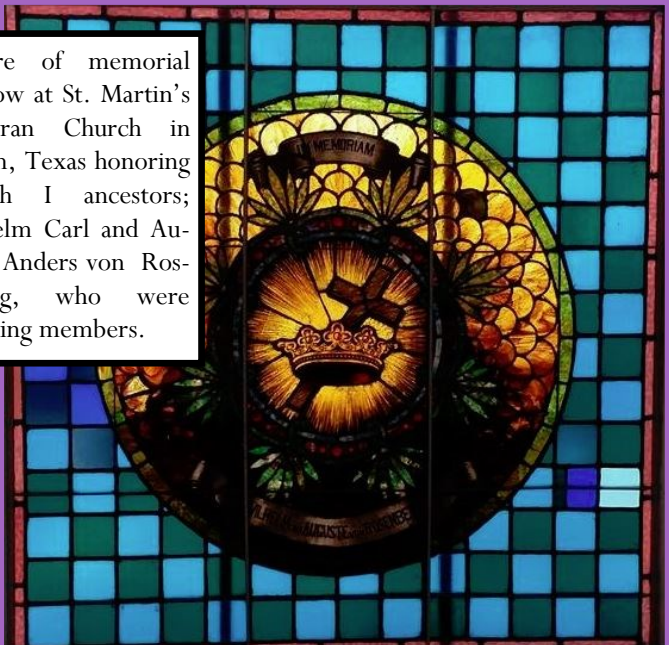
It never ceases to amaze me how one can just by happenstance stumble upon the interesting and far-reaching history of our family. These three pictures represent that fact. The first is a picture of the Meerscheidt Mansion in San Antonio that I came across during an online search for things to do in San Antonio. The home was torn down sometime after this photo was taken, which is a shame since it was such a beautiful structure. The second photo is of another demolished home, this one in Austin which was built and occupied by the Giesen Family of Branch I. I came across this photograph while researching a completely different family (that of my great-great-grandmother, Clementine Christine von Lassaulx von Struve). The last photo is of a beautiful stained glass window which I literally ran across while turning the corner at my new house of worship, St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Austin.



Picture of the Axel Meerscheidt home in the King William section of San Antonio. The picture dates to some time after Axel and his family, of Branch V, moved to Seattle, Washington.

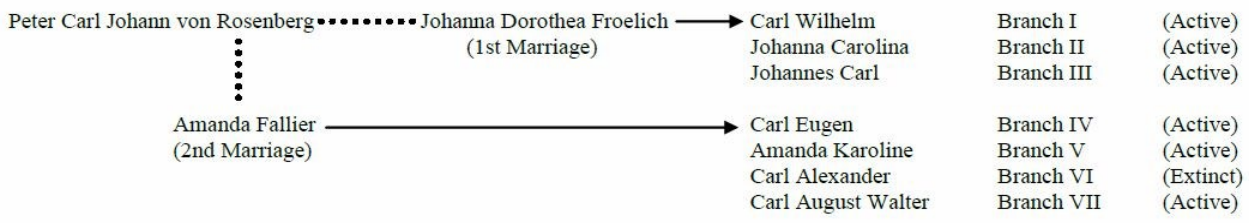


Picture of August and Emma von Rosenberg Giesen home in Austin, Texas found in the collection of Adele Looscan at the Briscoe Center for American History. They were of Branch I.



Picture of memorial window at St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas honoring Branch I ancestors; Wilhelm Carl and Auguste Anders von Rosenberg, who were founding members.

### Deep Roots and Strong Branches of The von Rosenberg Family of Texas



## DID YOU KNOW WE HAVE A PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL PLAYER IN THE FAMILY?

As many of you know, one of my hobbies is collecting postcards, which was the basis of my book on Fayette County back in 2011. Recently, I was on Ebay looking for postcards and I typed in von Rosenberg just to see what would come up and the search resulted in hundreds of hits; all for a baseball player named Zack von Rosenberg.

While I enjoy baseball as much as the next guy, I was not familiar with this player, but given that his last name was von Rosenberg I figured he had to be a relation since while there are other unrelated von Rosenberg families in Europe, anyone with that name here in the United States must be a relative since I only know of our family on this side of the Atlantic. However, when I went to book three (the "tan book") I could not find anyone named Zack.

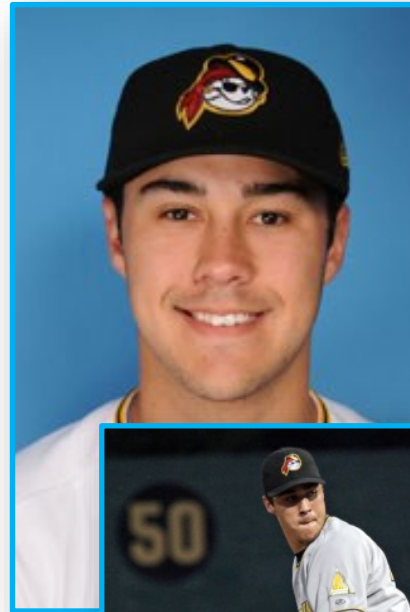
I then did some digging online and discovered that Zack was the eldest son of Randall von Rosenberg of Zachary, Louisiana. So, not only was Zack a relation but a fairly close one to me since he is also from branch IV (Carl Eugen). His exact relation to the family is as follows:

Zack von Rosenberg > Randall Arthur von Rosenberg > Gary Marcus von Rosenberg (1932-2013) > Marcus Hermann von Rosenberg (1905-1977) > Hermann Eugen von Rosenberg (1854-1906) > Carl Eugen von Rosenberg (1830-1913) > Peter Carl von Rosenberg (1794-1866)

Zack was born to Randall von Rosenberg and Crystal Anne Marcantel in 1990 and spent his childhood in Lake Charles and Zachary, Louisiana, where his half-brother, Josh Corman was assistant head-coach at Zachary High School. Zack took part in Travel Ball from an early age and then played for Zachary High School where he helped them win its third straight 4A State Championship.

In 2009, the year following his graduation from Zachary High School, Zack was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates and he signed a \$1.2MM minor league contract to play for their Gulf Coast League Pirates affiliate organization as a pitcher. Currently, Zack plays for the Pirates' South Atlantic League affiliate team, the West Virginia Power.

Zack's two younger brothers, Gabe and Grant von Rosenberg also play baseball at Zachary High School, so who knows, perhaps there will be more than one von Rosenberg in the rosters of the professional leagues!



## SEEKING INFORMATION ON ANTIQUE PAINTING & TABLE

Branch I (Carl Wilhelm) is connected to famous early German-Texan painters, Hermann Lungkwitz and Richard Petri, through Carl Wilhelm's son, Ernst Johann's marriage to Helene Clara Lungkwitz; Lungkwitz's daughter and Petri's niece.

Recently the Association was contacted by Dr. Kenneth Hafertape, professor of Museum Studies at Baylor University, who is writing a book on German Texan culture in the mid to late 19th century, and he is seeking information about two objects which may have been owned by the above branch of the family. Specifically, Dr. Hafertape is looking for a Richard Petri water-color painting of Bertha Quessier's parlour in Dresden, Germany, and a walnut table made for the family by Fredericksburg, Texas cabinetmaker, Wilhelm Leilich. If anyone has information on these objects, please contact JT Koenig.

## BRANCH HISTORIANS

### CHILDREN OF PETER CARL JOHANN VON ROSENBERG & JOHANNA DOROTHEA

#### FROELICH

- Carl Hermann von Rosenberg (Line Extinct 1827)
- Branch I: Carl Wilhelm von Rosenberg & Auguste Franziska Anders  
Historian, [Arthur von Rosenberg](#)
- Branch II: Johanna Carolina von Rosenberg & Herman Gustav Hellmuth  
Historian, [need volunteer](#)
- Branch III: Johannes Carl (Charley) von Rosenberg & Julie Wilhelmine Groos  
Historian, [Dr. Derrick Pitard](#)

### Children of Peter Carl Johann von Rosenberg & Amanda Henriette Louise Fallier

- Branch IV: Carl Eugen von Rosenberg & Theodora Anna Henriette Sack  
Co-Historian, [Billye Beth Baker](#)  
Co-Historian, [JT Koenig](#)
- Branch V: Amanda Caroline von Rosenberg & Arthur Carl Meerscheidt  
Co-Historian, [Robert Barritt](#)  
Co-Historian, [Neale Rabensburg](#)
- Branch VI: Carl Alexander von Rosenberg (line extinct 1864)  
Historian, [Neale Rabensburg](#)
- Branch VII: Carl Walter von Rosenberg & Franziska Elisabeth Spengler (Sörgel)  
co-Historian, [Art Green](#)  
Co-Historian, [Gloria Miele](#)
- Branch VIII: Charlotte Wilhelmine Libussa Froelich & Herman Gustav Hellmuth  
Historian, [need volunteer](#)
- Carl Friederich Wilhelm von Rosenberg (Line Extinct 1844)

#### Historians Emeritus:

[Arthur von Rosenberg](#) (Branch I)  
[Ray von Rosenberg](#) (Branch VII)  
[Ann Barnes](#) (Branch I)

## OFFICER ELECTIONS

- President—is responsible for the biannual newsletter, and coordinating the annual reunion with the help of the other officers plus family members
- Vice President—is responsible for assisting the president with the above and stepping into that role in case the president must step-down
- Secretary—is primarily responsible for taking the minutes of the association's meetings
- Treasurer—is primarily responsible for handling the finances of the Association

The officers of the Association will be up for election at this next reunion in July, 2015 since each of the current officers was elected in 2013 and they each hold their office for two years. At this time, most if not all of the existing officers wish to refrain from being re-elected, so as to allow other family members the privilege of holding these offices. So, if you or any of your family are interested in standing for election in July, please start to think about it and let one of the current officers know so that a slate of candidates can be prepared in advance of the election.



WAPPEN OF THE VON ROSENBERG FAMILY COURTESY  
OF RICHARD TOMLINSON





# Family Notices



FAMILY FACEBOOK PAGE: <HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/VONROSENBERGFAMILYOFTEXAS>  
 FAMILY WEBSITE: <HTTP://WWW.VONROSENBERG-FAMILY.ORG>

## PASSINGS

- KATHERIN VON ROSENBERG PARKER, daughter of Edgar and Dora Deen von Rosenberg, born 3 Nov 1923 in Austin, Travis County, Texas, died 10 May 2014 — Branch I [Katherin von Rosenberg > Edgar von Rosenberg > Arthur William von Rosenberg > Carl Wilhelm von Rosenberg > Peter Carl]
- KAREN ELIZABETH WALKER, daughter of Wade Clifton Walker and Margaret Jane Miller, born 26 Jul 1964 in Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina, died 5 Jun 2014 — Branch III [Karen Walker > Margaret Jane Miller > Quincy Victor Miller, Jr. > Julia Lena von Rosenberg > Carl Johannes von Rosenberg, Jr. > Carl Johannes von Rosenberg > Peter Carl]

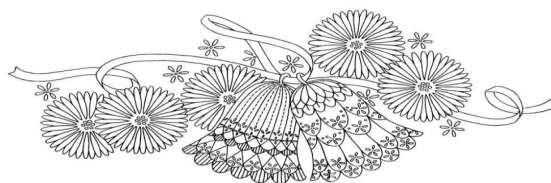
## BIRTHS

- ANNA KRISTINA YBARRA, daughter of Bruce and Tina Ybarra, born 21 Oct 2014 in Alexandria, Virginia — Branch IV [Anna Ybarra > Robert Bruce Ybarra > Judith Ann von Rosenberg > Sam Edward von Rosenberg > Albert Frederick von Rosenberg > Alexander Eugen von Rosenberg > Carl Eugen von Rosenberg > Peter Carl]



## WEDDINGS

- JARRETT EUGEN HUNTER, son of Robert Stephen Hunter and Nancy Anne von Rosenberg, married Crista Marie Hollenberg in Blue Diamond, Nevada on 31 May 2014—Branch IV [Jarrett Hunter > Nancy von Rosenberg > Lester Eugen von Rosenberg > Albert Frederick von Rosenberg > Alexander Eugen von Rosenberg > Carl Eugen von Rosenberg > Peter Carl]
- ROBERT BRENT HUNTER, son of Robert Stephen Hunter and Nancy Anne von Rosenberg, married Katherine Marie Parlette in Austin, Texas on 24 Aug 2014—Branch IV [Brent Hunter > Nancy von Rosenberg > Lester Eugen von Rosenberg > Albert Frederick von Rosenberg > Alexander Eugen von Rosenberg > Carl Eugen von Rosenberg > Peter Carl]



ANNUAL REUNION—SAVE THE DATE!

WHEN: July 17th-19th, 2015

Where: [Camp Lone Star, La Grange, Texas](#)

Come Have Fun with the Family!

## SEEKING OLD FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS!

For the upcoming reunion, we hope to offer a new consolidated collection of von Rosenberg family photographs for sale, which will include all of the photos which are now part of the von Rosenberg family collection organized by family branch. Some of the branches are well-represented, and some are not. If you have old albums with old photos, or even family paintings and portraits that you wish to be included please contact JT Koenig at [jtkoenig@yahoo.com](mailto:jtkoenig@yahoo.com) or via the above-noted family website or Facebook page



# The von Rosenberg Family of Texas



For updated pricelist—see the Family website

## Gifts that Keep on Giving!!!



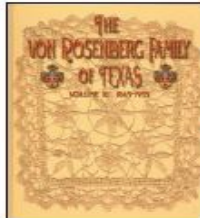
*"Books are eternal, but  
T-Shirts are nice too."*



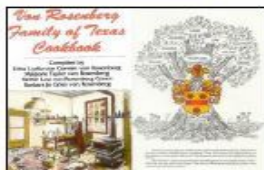
The von Rosenberg  
Family of Texas, 1949  
\$5.00 plus shipping



The von Rosenberg  
Family Record, 1974 Volume II  
\$13.50 plus shipping



The von Rosenberg Family  
Of Texas, 1999  
Volume III  
\$25.00 plus shipping



Von Rosenberg Family of  
Texas Cookbook, 1993  
\$14.95 plus shipping



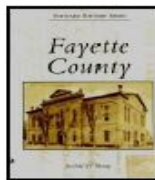
Ancestral Voices, The Letters  
of the von Rosenberg and  
Meerscheidt Families (1844-  
1897), 1978  
\$25.00 plus shipping



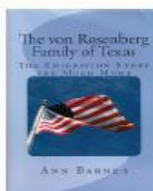
Emigration of the  
von Rosenbergs to Texas 1849,  
1976 Third Edition  
\$6.50 plus shipping



The Froelich Familie  
(East Prussia) 2005  
\$15.00 plus shipping



Fayette County, 2011  
By Jon Todd Koenig  
\$22.00 plus Tax  
(Contact Library, La Grange,  
Texas for Availability/Purchase  
(979) 968-3765)



The von Rosenberg Family of  
Texas, The Emigration Story and Much  
More, 2012  
By Ann Barnes  
\$15.99 plus Tax/Shipping  
(Availability/Purchase  
Online @ [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))



T-Shirts (Sizes & color vary)  
\$15.00 plus shipping



CD Photos von Rosenberg Family  
\$15.00 plus shipping

Please feel free to make purchases of the any of the above at the upcoming Family Reunion in July, where we will have a table set-up for the sole purpose of selling family reunion items. These sales help offset the costs of the Reunion and ensure that we can continue to have such events well into the future.