



The Texas German Dialect Project

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The University of Texas at Austin

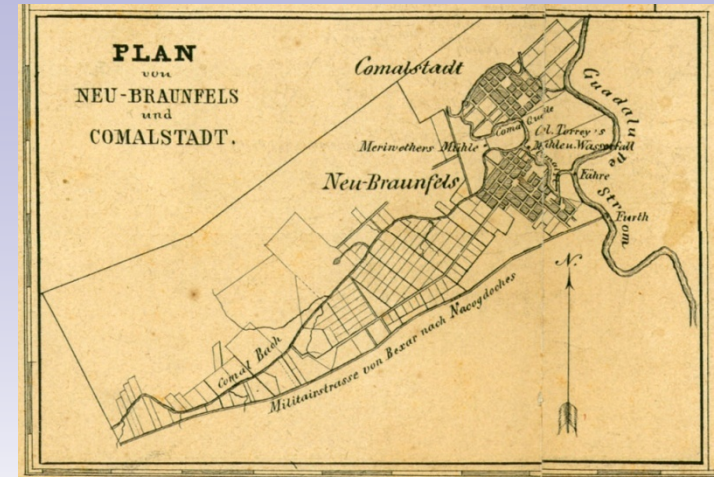
<http://www.tgdp.org>





1. Brief History of Texas German

- 1844: Large scale immigration
- Since 1850: German as the dominant language: Schools, newspapers, churches, businesses, etc.
- 1907: German-speaking population in Texas: 75,000 - 100,000 (Gilbert 1972)



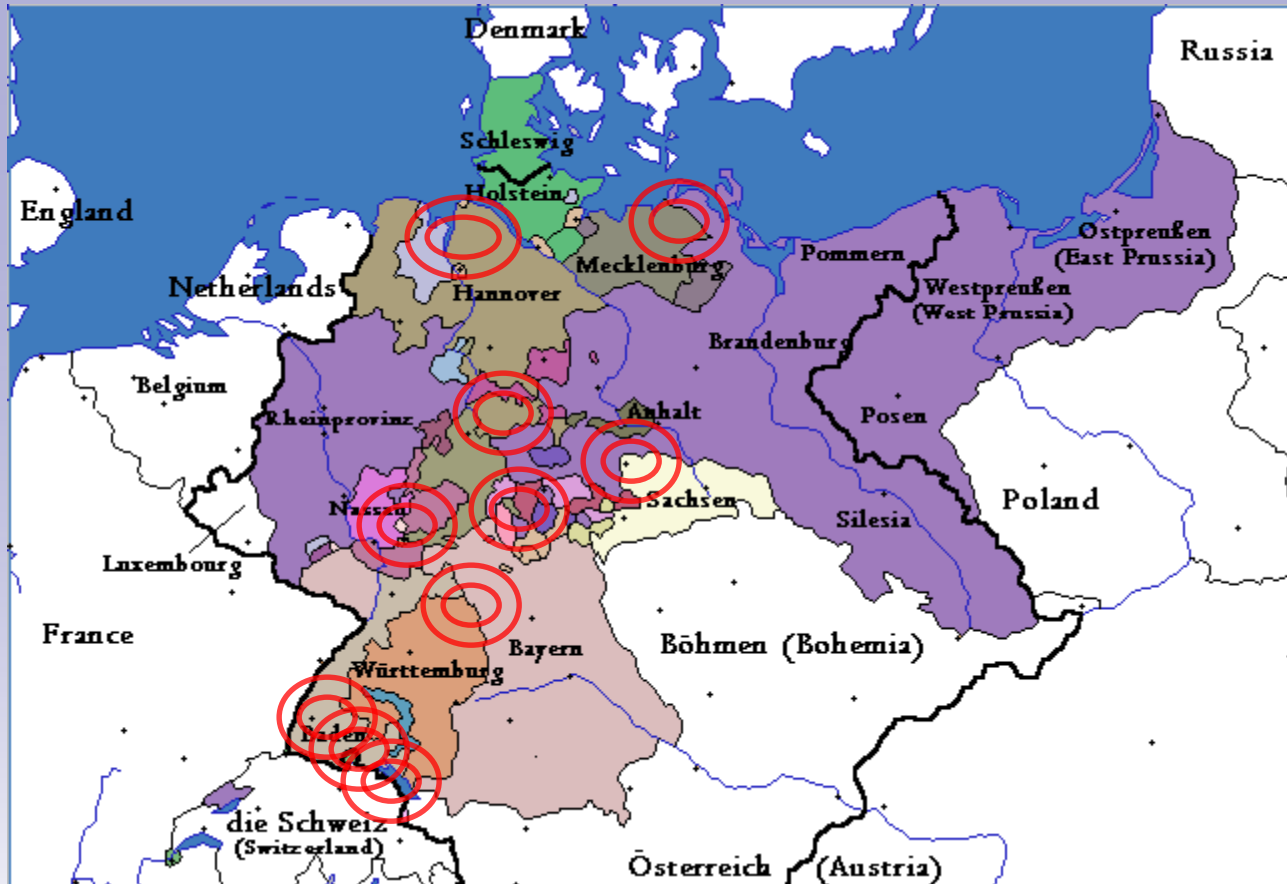


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Origin of German-speaking immigrants to Texas



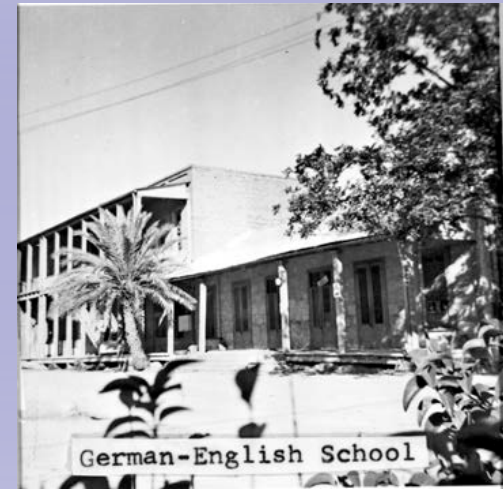


1918: World War I, English-only laws, anti-German-sentiments
→ Diglossia English-Texas German.

After 1945: WW II and its consequences

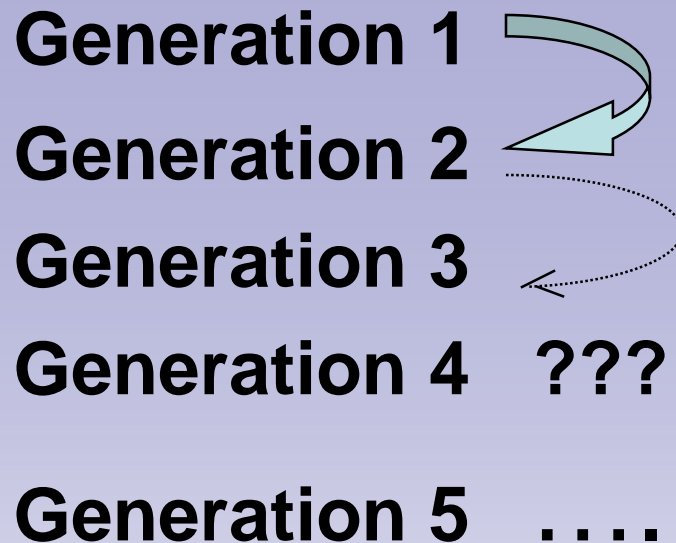
1960: Only 70,000 Speakers of TxG (Gilbert 1972)

2019: Only about 5,000 speakers of TxG (older than 70 years)





Survival of Languages and Cultures

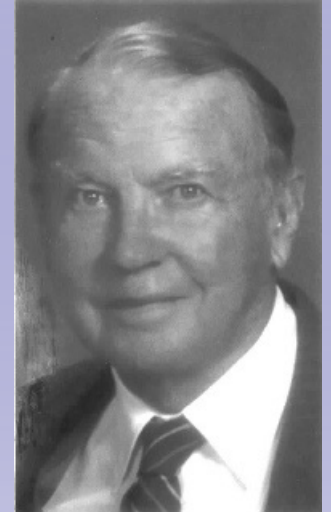


→ In 15-20 years TxG will be extinct.



Joseph Wilson (1986)

“Fifty years from now (in the year 2036) there will be no speakers of Texas German left, and monolingual Texans will find it hard to believe that German was a living language in Texas, spoken by hundreds of thousands for two hundred years. Every sample of Texas German that we can collect now, while Texas German is still alive, will be precious in the future.”



Joseph Wilson (1986): “Texas German and Other Immigrant Languages: Problems and Prospects.” In: *Eagle in the New World: German Immigration to Texas and America*, ed. by T. Gish & R. Spuler, 221-240. College Station: Texas A&M Press.

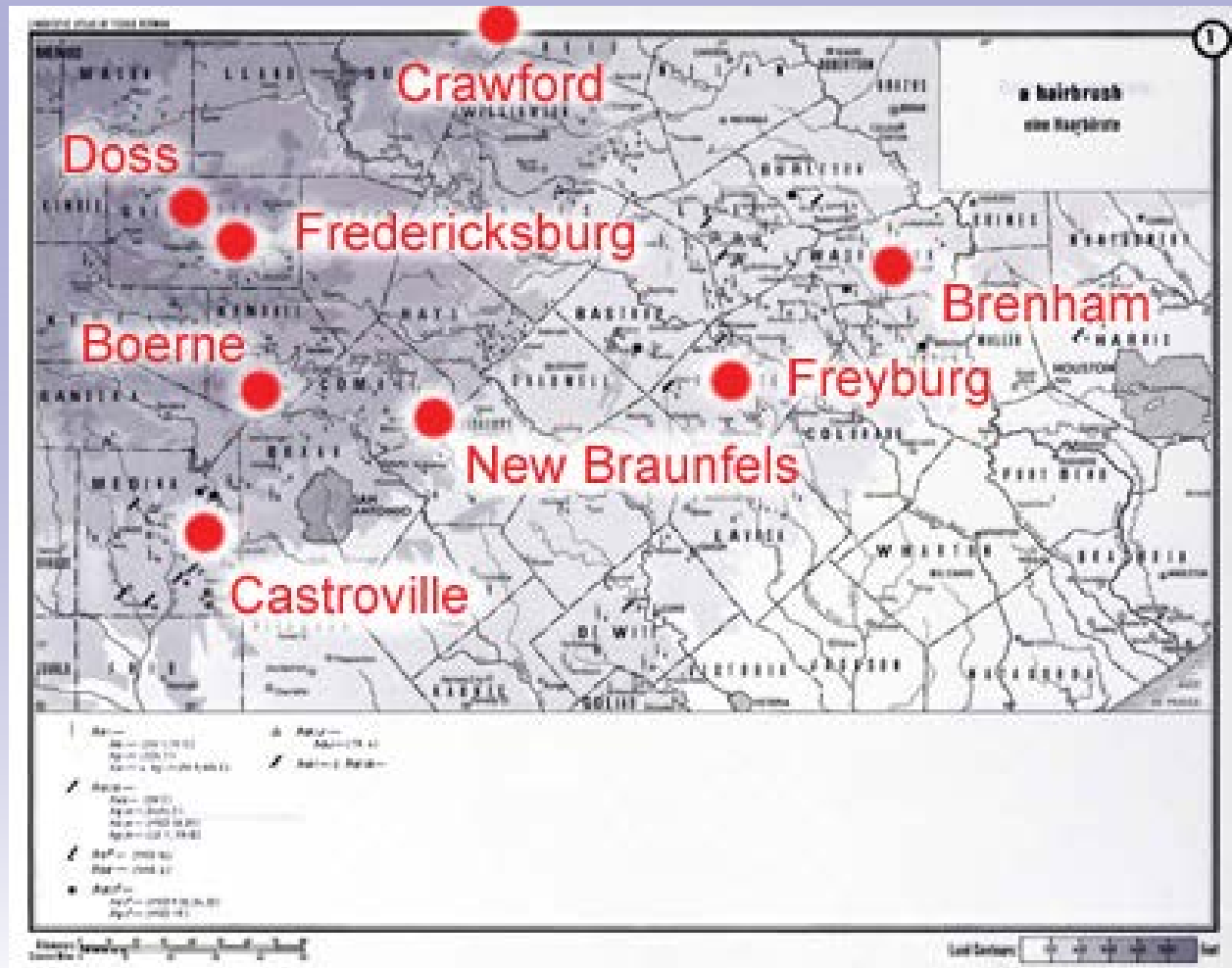


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2. The Texas German Dialect Project (TGDP)





Workflow of TGDP

DATA COLLECTION



EDITING OF DATA



TRANSCRIPTION & TRANSLATION



QUALITY CONTROL



PUBLICATION IN ARCHIVE



Types of data collected and archived by TGDP

- Oral history interviews with speakers of TxG (45 – 60 minutes in length)
- Translation tasks (about 45 minutes)
- Biographical questionnaires (written, 10 pages)





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Re-recording of Gilbert (1972)

- Gilbert's (1972) Linguistic Atlas of Texas German is based on data collected in the 1960s.
- Translation of words, phrases, and sentences from English into Texas German.
- Based on these interviews, Gilbert created maps showing variation in Texas German.
- We re-sample Gilbert's original data set in the same locations (sometimes with the same speakers!)

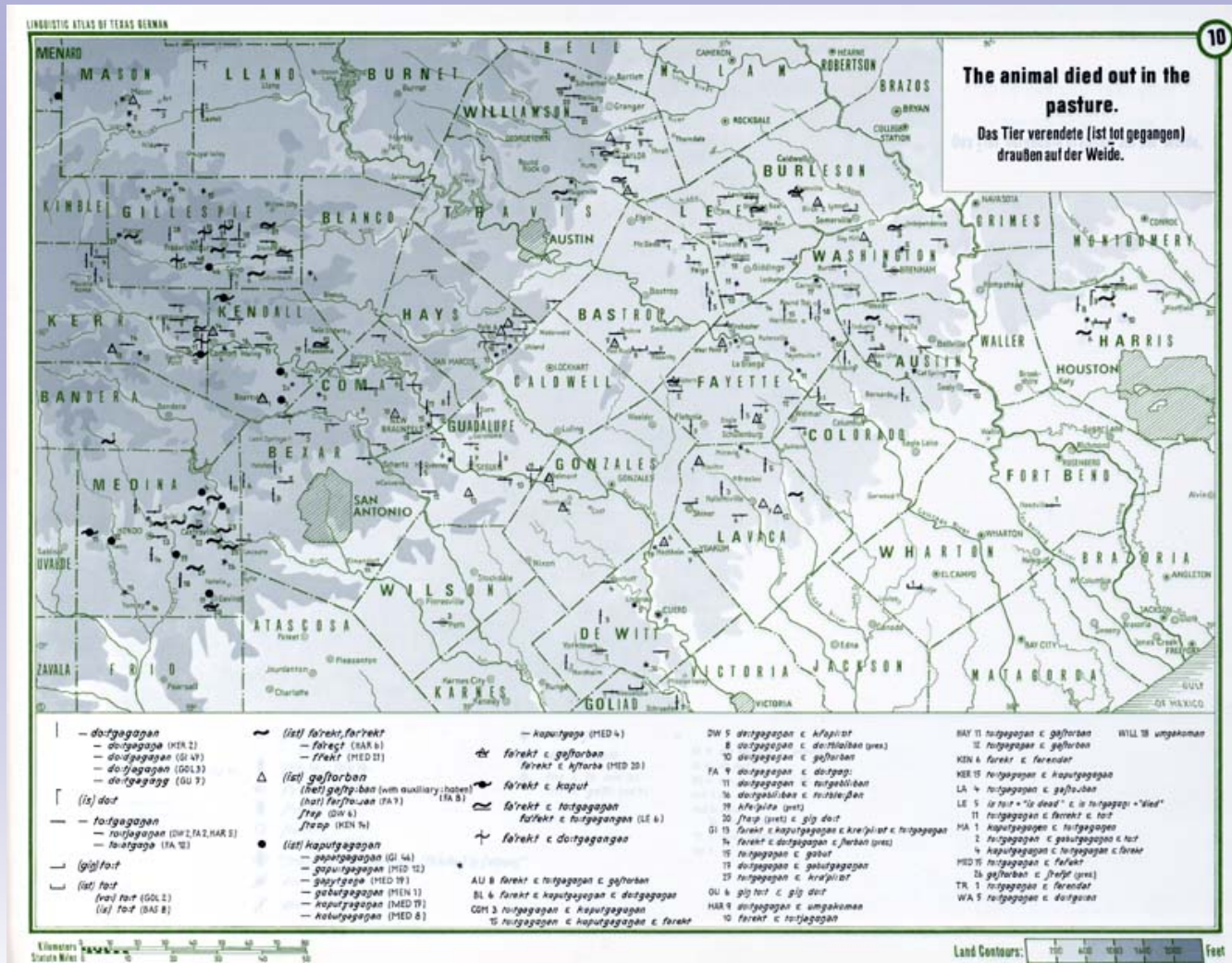


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Gilbert (1972): map No. 10





Fred Eikel's (1954) NBG data

- Eikel's 191 English sentences were translated into Texas German in the 1930s and 1940s
- Re-sampling of the same data since 2001 gives us an idea of what has changed in New Braunfels German over the past 60 years



Eikel's (1954) data set re-recorded since 2001

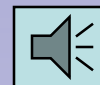
He always has trouble with his ear.



I am afraid that he will lose his money.



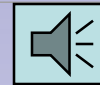
The wood is in the fire.



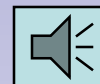
Turn off the faucet; the bucket is running over.



The groceries are in the pantry.



There are two quilts lying on the bed.



A blanket was lying on the floor.



The pillow slips were changed this morning.



He was at the doctor's house; now he is at his office.



He is cutting the lawn.





Written biographical questionnaire

- Elicits personal data on language use and language attitudes
- Data are used to determine a number of extra-linguistic variables that help us understand how Texas German has been used by individuals over the past 80 years





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QUALITY CONTROL



PUBLICATION IN ARCHIVE



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<http://www.tgdp.org>



Workflow of TGDP

Speech Islands

Users Interviews Interview Sections Templates Announcements Locations Archive Concordancer Informants Dashboard Logout

Texas German Dialect Project

Hans Boas's Dashboard

Interviews [+ Interview](#)

Actions	Interview	Interviewer	Informant	Session	Location	Type	Interview Date
🔍 📄 🔄 + ✖	1-51-1	1	51	1	Spring Branch	Open-ended	2003-11-10
🔍 📄 🔄 + ✖	1-51-2	1	51	2	Spring Branch	Open-ended	2003-11-10
🔍 📄 🔄 + ✖	1-1-1	1	1	1	New Braunfels	Open-ended	2002-01-28
🔍 📄 🔄 + ✖	1-2-1	1	2	1	New Braunfels	Open-ended	2002-01-28
🔍 📄 🔄 + ✖	1-21-1	1	21	1	Fredericksburg	Open-ended	2002-03-23
🔍 📄 🔄 + ✖	1-3-1	1	3	1	New Braunfels	Open-ended	2002-01-28
🔍 📄 🔄 + ✖	1-7-1	1	7	1	Fredericksburg	Open-ended	2002-02-24
🔍 📄 🔄 + ✖	1-24-1	1	24	1	New Braunfels	Open-ended	2002-03-24
🔍 📄 🔄 + ✖	1-25-1	1	25	1	New Braunfels	Open-ended	2002-10-08
🔍 📄 🔄 + ✖	1-8-1	1	8	1	Fredericksburg	Open-ended	2002-02-24

Manage Interview Sections

Actions	Interview Section	Title	Transcriber	Reviewer	Status	Notes
	Interview Section	Title	Transcriber	Reviewer	Status	



Workflow of TGDP

DATA COLLECTION



EDITING OF DATA



TRANSCRIPTION & TRANSLATION



QUALITY CONTROL



PUBLICATION IN ARCHIVE



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Transcription & Translation

1-3-1-4-a.eaf

File Edit Search View Player Selection Help

Speaker - active tier

Time	Speaker	Text
00:00:13	Speaker	NEIN.
00:00:19	Speaker	[WELL] mein Vater wo der arbeit hat, da musst es er Englisch sprechen. ER
00:00:13	Interviewer	re Eltern noch andere Sprachen gesprochen auß
00:00:19	Interviewer	NUR Deutsch. UH huh?
00:00:24	Interviewer	JA.
00:00:13	Translation Speaker	No.
00:00:19	Translation Speaker	Well my father where he work has, there must it he English speak. He has Er
00:00:13	Translation Interviewer	r parents also other languages spoke other than
00:00:19	Translation Interviewer	Only German. Uh huh?
00:00:24	Translation Interviewer	Yes.



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Workflow of TGDP

Speech Islands

Users Interviews **Interview Sections** Templates Announcements Locations Archive Concordancer Informants Dashboard Logout

Texas German Dialect Project

Show 25 entries Search interviews:

Showing 26 to 50 of 431 entries

Previous 1 2 3 4 5 ... 18 Next

Informants [+ Informant](#)

Expand	Id	Informant	Location	Gender	Date of Birth	Questionnaire	Is Locked?
	680		Fayetteville	M	1935-01-01		<input type="checkbox"/>
	679		Fayetteville	M	1924-01-01		<input type="checkbox"/>
	678		San Angelo	F	1926-01-01		<input type="checkbox"/>
	677		San Angelo	M	1927-01-01		<input type="checkbox"/>
	676		--	M	1936-01-01		<input type="checkbox"/>
	675		San Angelo	M	1932-01-01		<input type="checkbox"/>
	674		Seguin	F	1953-01-28		<input type="checkbox"/>
	673		Marion	F	1934-01-01		<input type="checkbox"/>
	672		Lexington	M	1936-01-01		<input type="checkbox"/>
	671		New Braunfels	M	1950-01-01		<input type="checkbox"/>
	670		Georgeborn	F	1948-01-01		<input type="checkbox"/>
	669		Nixon	F	1938-01-01		<input type="checkbox"/>
	668		Nixon	M	1932-01-01		<input type="checkbox"/>
	667		Stonewall	M	1952-01-01		<input type="checkbox"/>
	666		Fredericksburg	M	1941-01-01		<input type="checkbox"/>



Workflow of TGDP

DATA COLLECTION



EDITING OF DATA



TRANSCRIPTION & TRANSLATION



QUALITY CONTROL



PUBLICATION IN ARCHIVE



The Texas German Dialect Archive (TGDA)

- Digital language archive containing audio/video recordings including transcriptions and translations
- For teaching, research, outreach (German Texan Heritage Society, heritage preservation efforts etc.)




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The Texas German Dialect Archive (TGDA)

 **TEXAS GERMAN DIALECT PROJECT**
Dedicated to the Preservation of Texas German

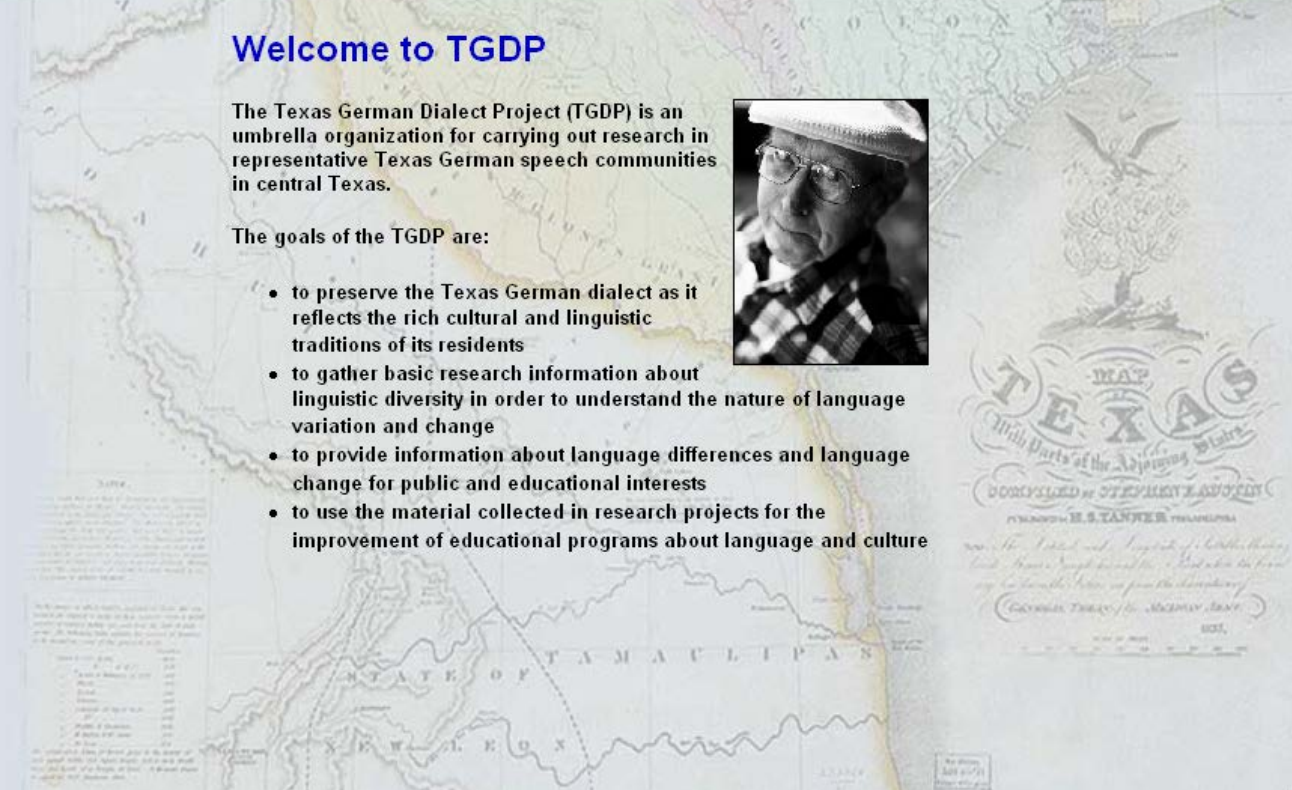

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Welcome to TGDP

The Texas German Dialect Project (TGDP) is an umbrella organization for carrying out research in representative Texas German speech communities in central Texas.

The goals of the TGDP are:

- to preserve the Texas German dialect as it reflects the rich cultural and linguistic traditions of its residents
- to gather basic research information about linguistic diversity in order to understand the nature of language variation and change
- to provide information about language differences and language change for public and educational interests
- to use the material collected in research projects for the improvement of educational programs about language and culture





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The Texas German Dialect Archive (TGDA)



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TGDP Login

In order to efficiently manage our research and to protect the privacy of the Texas German speakers on our site, you must login to enjoy full site access.

User Name

Password

Login

*If you don't have an account, [click here to register](#) quickly and easily.



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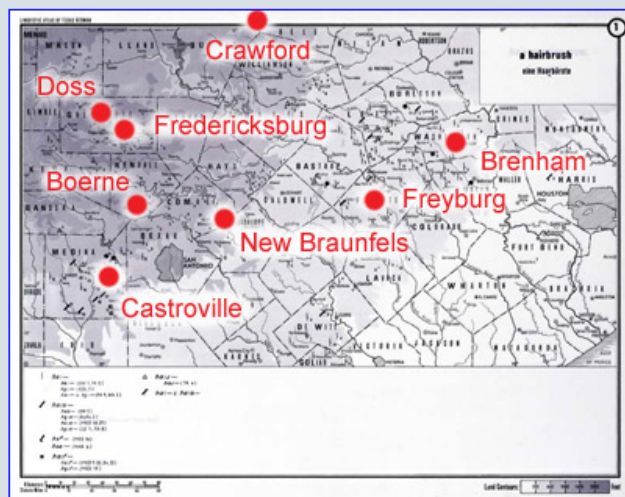
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Texas German Dialect Archive

Click on a red city, then select a sound or video file.



From LINGUISTIC ATLAS OF TEXAS GERMAN by Glenn G. Gilbert, Copyright (c) 1972.
Courtesy of the University of Texas Press.



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<http://www.tgdp.org>

The Texas German Dialect Archive (TGDA)

http://www.tgdp.org - TGDP - Mozilla Firefox

Fredericksburg

Title	Length	ID	Files
Wife's Employment as a Young Woman	00:00:59	1-21-1-1	eaf wav
Introduction and Origins	00:02:03	1-21-1-2	eaf wav
Initiation into English Language Elementary School	00:02:27	1-21-1-4	eaf wav
Language Among Elementary School Pupils	00:02:02	1-21-1-5	eaf wav
Childhood Games	00:02:19	1-21-1-6	eaf wav
Working as a Plumber	00:03:31	1-21-1-7	eaf wav
German Discrimination During World Wars	00:01:08	1-21-1-8	eaf wav
Bad Weather	00:01:57	1-21-1-9	eaf wav
A Life of Travels	00:01:54	1-21-1-11	eaf wav
Matrimony and Military Service	00:02:02	1-21-1-12	eaf wav
Life After the Military	00:02:53	1-21-1-13	eaf wav
My Wife the Seamstress	00:03:17	1-21-1-14	eaf wav
The founding of Fredericksburg; passing the land down through the generations	00:01:52	1-38-1-2	eaf wav
Growing up on a farm	00:01:52	1-38-1-3	eaf wav
Playing at home after school	00:01:52	1-38-1-4	eaf wav
Going to school as a child	00:01:39	1-38-1-5	eaf wav
Learning English at school and German at church	00:01:34	1-38-1-6	eaf wav
Lunch and recess; homework	00:03:12	1-38-1-7	eaf wav
Going to dances on the weekend; an uncle who lived with them	00:04:03	1-38-1-9	eaf wav



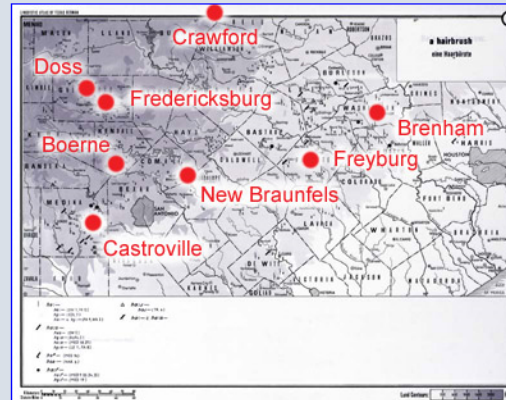
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TGDP - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks

1-38-1-9-a

Customize Links Free Hotmail

Publications (The University of...)

http://www.tgdp.org - 1-38-1-9-a - Mozilla Firefox

Going to dances on the weekend; an uncle who lived with them

1-38-1-9-a

No audio plug-in? [Download](#) the sound file.

1 **Interviewer 1** UND was haben Sie uh als Sie in der Schule waren, was haben Sie am Wochenende
And what did you uh as you in the school were, what did you on-the weekend

2 alles gemacht?
all do?

3 **Speaker 38** OH mir hatten [dances]. MIR ham getanzt. DA ieberall waren Tanzhalle. NICH
Oh we had dances. We have danced There everywhere were dancehalls. Not

4 bloß in die Stadt bei Petershale war. DA iss jetzt die - ma sehen was
just in the city by Peter's-Hall was. There is now the - let's see what

5 is'n das jetzt? [G- the Guarantee]. DA war 'ne Halle, 'ne Petershale. UN
is-then that now? G- the Guarantee. There was a hall, a Peter's-Hall. And

6 da hammer getanzt. UN denn die Turnehalle das war das Turnverein UN
there have-we danced. And then the gymnasium that was the gymnastic-club. And

7 da hammer gedant un bei [Stonewall] un oh ma sehen wo noch BEROHNSKRI,
there have-we danced and by Stonewall and oh let's see where else. Beroinskri,

8 Comfort, Ratskeller, ieberall. DER Ratskeller war aber keine Tanzhalle. DAS
Comfort, Ratskeller, everywhere. The Ratskeller was however no dance-hall. It

9 war bloß n [drinking place]. DA hammer Bier getrunken
was just a drinking place. There have-we beer drinken.

10 **Interviewer 1** JA.
Yes.

11 **Speaker 38** [YEAH].
Yeah.

12 **Interviewer 1** UND Sie sind mit den Eltern zum Tanzen gegangen oder mit andern Freunden oder
And you did with the parents to-the dancing go or with other friends or

13 Freundinnen?
girlfriends?

14 **Speaker 38** UH mein Onkel hat uns immer dahin genom.
Uh my uncle had us always there taken.

15 **Interviewer 1** ACH so.
Ah yes.

16 **Speaker 38** JA, der hat mit uns gelebt. DAS war Miller [Brothers]. UN mir waren glücklich
Yes he had with us lived. That was Miller Brothers. And we were happy

17 dass der mit uns gelebt hat, weil was der net vor uns gedan hat. WAS de mein
that he with us lived had, because what he not for us done had. What the my

18 Vater nich vor uns gedan hat der gedan. UN der hat uns [dance] ieberall wo hin

Done

Transferring data from www.tgdp.org

Contribute

Search: yaron matras

Free AOL & Unlimited I... LatestHeadlines





Texas German Dialect Project 2001-2019

- Interviewed more than 750 speakers of Texas German
- Recorded, digitized, and archived more than 1,300 hours of interviews
- Community outreach: presentations at heritage societies, GTHS, TGS, German-American clubs, local historical societies, etc.





TEXAS GERMAN DIALECT PROJECT

<http://www.tgdp.org>



Press Highlights

UT linguist strikes gold with Texas German Dialect Project

Languages, imm
German

UT Researchers Record Dialect From Central Tex

By DAVID UHLER
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

Texas German dialect disappearing

"The language is dying out. It will be gone in 25 or 30 years."

HANS BOAS, LANGUAGE PROFESSOR

duced them — and they coined a whole new vocabulary largely unknown to the isolated German settlers in Texas.

"So while Germany built up its new vocabulary in Europe, the German Texans borrowed the needed terms from English and hundreds of English words slipped in easily by default."

Usually, the Texas German speakers pronounced their adopted English words with a German accent when they said *das Besupper der Cowboy, der Helicopter, die Napkin, der Six-shooter and der Taxicollector.*

German culture thrived in the hard-scrabble Texas Hill Country. Almost the entire population of towns such as New Braunfels and Fredericksburg spoke *auf Deutsch*. Everyone studied in German, read German newspapers, listened to German music, attended German-language church services and sang in German-language choirs.

In San Antonio, so many prominent Germans lived along the San Antonio River near C.H. Guenther's flour mill in the 1800s that pundits dubbed the area "Sauerkraut Bend." The city passed an English-only law to prevent the German-speaking members of local government from holding meetings that many constituents couldn't translate.

Experts such as Boas talk about "domains" when they explain why some languages thrive while others die. As long as Central Texas remained relatively isolated — and Texas German remained the primary language used in the private and public domains of home, school, work and church — the language survived.

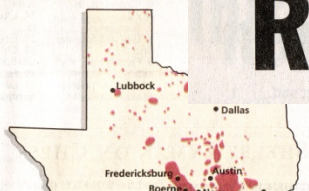


University of Texas linguistics researcher Hans Boas (left) interviews Diane Moltz at her home in New Braunfels.

"I thought, 'If I teach (my kids) German, who are they going to speak to?'"

DIANE MOLTZ

German-settled areas of T



www.VictoriaAdvocate.com

Project aims to study German dialect

VICTORIA ADVOCATE

One thing that I remember about my first visit to Fredericksburg some 50 years ago was that German was still being spoken in the stores and on the street.



HENRY WOLFF JR.
Henry's Journal

I would imagine it was the same in New Braunfels and to some extent in other towns of considerable German influence. German is now a dying lan-

being regional in nature with variances even from village to village, and once here additional changes were made in words and dialect. There was the use of the language from the original to Texas German among the immigrant families and their descendants, with the usage discontinuing with each new generation.

The language was used in Texas homes and communities during the first and perhaps second generations, only at home by the third, and by the fourth there was generally no conscious effort to continue the language within indi-

viduals. I understand why they did not. For one thing, they were of an age to have experienced the anti-German sentiment in this country during World War I.

As Boas pointed out, with English only laws being enacted during World War I, that was a turning point in the use of other than German.

Undoubtedly my parents had also experienced some handicaps at school because of their language, and they had those concerns for me as well. There was also World War II, another period when anything German was sus-

spectious. Those of us who could not speak German still spoke with a distinct sound and speech pattern that set us apart from the other students.

With the German language rapidly disappearing, even in the old predominately German communities, through the Texas German Dialect Project an attempt is being made to record Texas German before it is completely lost.

In addition to presenting a program for local German society on the dialect project, Boas did some preliminary interviews with some of those present who still speak German.

community in the way German is spoken in Texas.

So far, 160 hours of interviews — about 100 interviews — have been conducted, requiring so many hours of work to do each view, including travel, transcription and other tasks, not to mention the information users project is being funded in grants at about \$50,000 with funding now being continued the study.

Recording, transcribing and studying the language will add to understanding the German culture in Texas.

PRESERVING THE PAST



J. MICHAEL SHORT/SPECIAL TO THE EXPRESS-NEWS

A German songbook sits on Diane and Bill Moltz's piano. Both sing in a German-language choir.

singing "Ach du lieber Augustin."

"I don't know that," he says matter-of-factly, in a tone that suggests he's not ready to learn it, either.

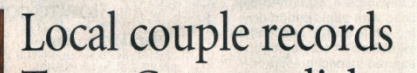
Hosok sometimes worries that her own Texas German skills might fade over time. She regularly spoke the language with her mother, but then her mother died.

"That's why I learned it and remembered it," Hosok says. "Now, I find a lot of people who tell me, 'That's all I spoke before, but now I can't remember it.'"



Racing Against Time

Local couple records





TEXAS GERMAN DIALECT PROJECT

<http://www.tgdp.org>



Texas Historical Commission's Time Travel Website and App for smartphones

[https://texastimetravel.oncell.com/en/
german-texans-land-freedom-
community-152215.html](https://texastimetravel.oncell.com/en/german-texans-land-freedom-community-152215.html)

Visit the Texas Heritage Trail Regions and see where it all happened

Texas TIME TRAVEL Tours

Tour Texas history and heritage by topic.

- African Americans in Texas >
- German Texans: Land, Freedom, Community >
- Hispanic Texans: Journey from Empire to Democracy >
- Historic Bankhead Highway >
- La Salle Odyssey >
- Red River War of 1874-1875 >
- Texas: Forged of Revolution >
- The Chisholm Trail: Exploring the Folklore and Legacy >
- Town Square Walk Around >
- World War I: Texas and the Great War >
- World War II on the Texas Home Front >

Explore stories at the THC's state historic sites.

- Fulton Mansion State Historic Site >



Users of the Texas German Dialect Archive (TGDA)

- More than 5,000 registered users from 27 countries around the world
- Materials used for classroom teaching, research, publications, genealogy, composing music, documenting other German-American dialects





TGDA materials for teaching

- University of Texas at Austin's Department of Germanic Studies: Hans Boas, James Kearney, Marc Pierce (formerly Karen Roesch and Karen Ewing)
- GTHS: David Huenlich's "Unbroken Treaty" role-playing course
- Colleagues at 28 universities in the U.S.
- Colleagues at 16 universities in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland





TGDA materials for research

- Linguistics
- Literature
- Culture & Heritage
- History
- Music
- Architecture
- Political science
- Genealogy
- Etc.

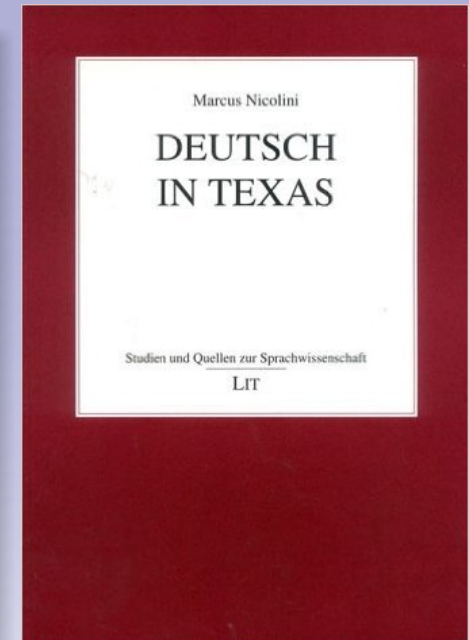
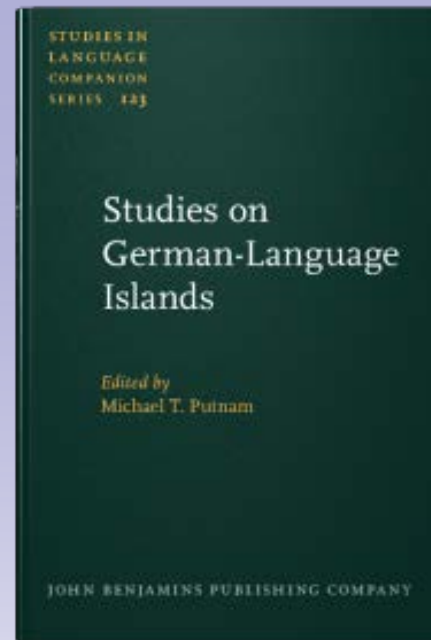
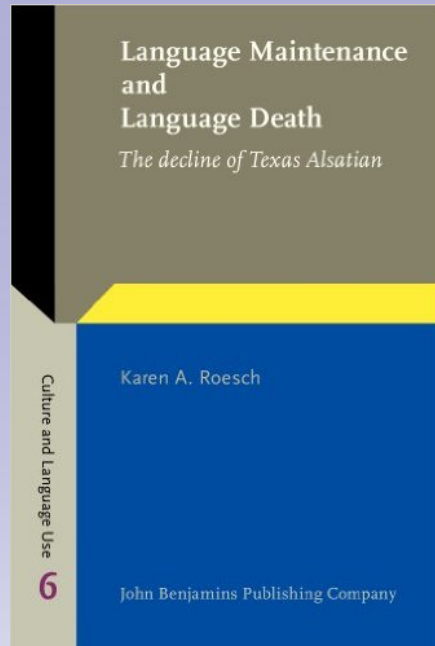




TEXAS GERMAN DIALECT PROJECT

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TGDA materials for publications





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Texanische Liebeslieder

- World premiere of
“Texanische Liebeslieder”
on the U.T. Austin campus,
August 28, 2015.

SARAH and ERNEST BUTLER SCHOOL of MUSIC

Sarah and Ernest Butler School of Music
The University of Texas at Austin
Sarah and Ernest Butler Opera Center
Robert DeSimone, Director
Present

TEXAS LIEBESLIEDER PROJECT

CHAN-YANG LIM, soprano
ELLIE JARRETT SHATTLES, mezzo soprano
SOONCHAN KWON, tenor
TIM O'BRIEN, baritone
KATHLEEN KELLY AND KELLY KUO, piano

AUGUST 28, 2015 | 7:30PM
JESSEN AUDITORIUM



Texanische Liebeslieder

- Music about the life of German immigrants and their descendants in Texas
- Based on the concept of the “Brahms Liebeslieder”
- Composed by David Hanlon, lyrics by Kathleen Kelly, based on transcripts of interviews with Texas German speakers stored in the TGDA.





Goals for the next 20 years

- Find and record as many TX German speakers as possible
- Transcribe all recordings (currently only about 350 hours are transcribed)
- Continue research on language contact, language change, and language death
- Develop outreach and teaching materials on TX German language, culture, and history for K-16
- Create comparative speech islands database (so far: recordings from Texas, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Australia)



TEXAS GERMAN DIALECT PROJECT

<http://www.tgdp.org>



Dankeschön !!!



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