



JEAN SCHNEIDER

A FISHER-MILLER COLONIST AND HIS
DESCENDENTS

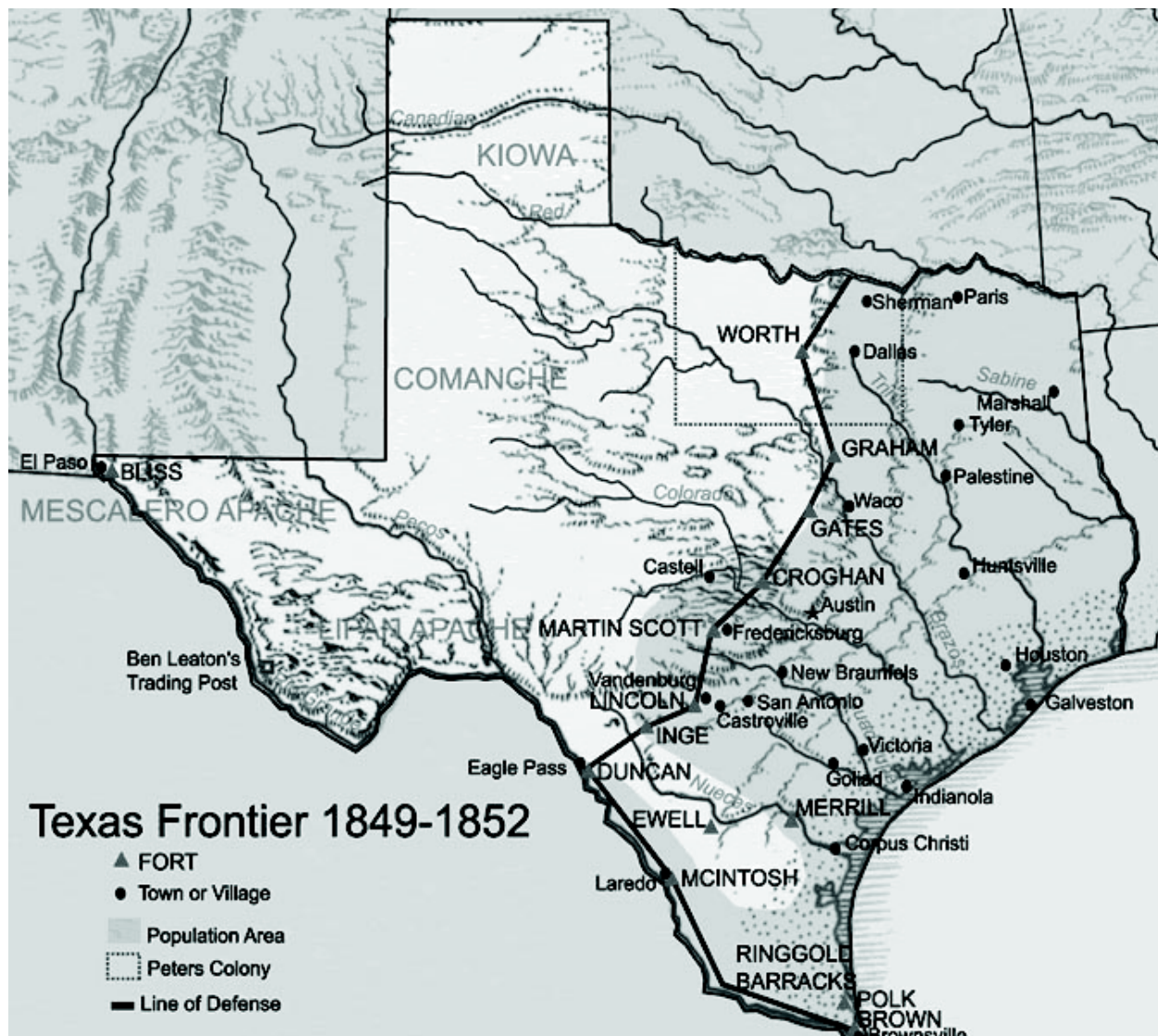
1846-2007

By

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2007



Jean Schneider

A Fisher-Miller Colonist and His Descendents 1846-2007

This document represents the concerted efforts of the descendents of Jean Schneider to gather and compile the history of this German immigrant family as it settled in Central Texas. The text undoubtedly contains errors and incorrect information as well as missing information. In some cases when contradictory information has been obtained both sources of information are noted. It is also noted that generations five and six contain only a brief outline of facts. These generations are still creating their histories and it is hoped that someday their grand accomplishments will be added to this record.

Thank you to all family members who helped to compile the data. Significant contributions in the way of research, document and photograph donation, storytelling, and professional expertise have been provided by: Ellie Luckett Schneider and Phocion Park, Jr., our first collectors of data; Virginia Schneider Johnston, our memory bank; Frances Schneider Bauman, Barbara Pecot Parham, Paula Peters, Jim and Glenda Rogers, Patricia Comer Schneider, Mike Maloney and Sally Park Peddy, who provided treasure

troves of photographs; Barbara Richter Hajek, the San Antonio connection; Cindy Schneider Walston, the photo identification expert, Liz Hicks, a professional genealogist specializing in Texans of German ancestry; the staff at the Austin History Center; and most of all, Mary Jo Butler Cooper who gave Austin and the family a culture of keeping family history alive.

German Immigration in Texas

The immigration of Germans to Texas, for all practical purposes, began in 1831 when Friedrich Ernst, a native of Oldenburg, received a land grant from the Mexican Government. The land was in the Valley of Mill Creek in the present-day northwestern Austin County, west of Houston. Ernst established a farm and found the land so desirable that he wrote enthusiastic letters to friends in Germany.¹

Through these "America letters" that were published in newspapers and in book form, he reached and influenced other prospective migrants. He described a land with a winterless climate like that of Sicily. It had abundant game and fish, was fertile and rich, and only needed the hard work of Germans to make it produce abundantly. Taxes were virtually nil, and large tracts of land were available for only a surveyor's fee; hunting and fishing required no licenses. Texas was an earthly paradise.² In the years that followed, a small stream of German immigrants numbering in the hundreds settled near Ernst.³

The numbers probably would have remained small and rather insignificant if it had not been for the work of the **Vereinzum Schutz deutscher Einwanderer** in Texas, a society composed of wealthy Germans who were interested in overseas colonization for both economic and philanthropic reasons. These promoters hoped, by purchasing colonial lands and settling them with Germans, to realize a profit on their investment as land values increased with the development of the area, and at the same time to provide a safe and prosperous future for thousands of emigrants. After some consideration, Texas was chosen as the site for the colony. The Verein obtained the right to settle Germans on a vast tract of land in west-central Texas known as the Fisher-Miller Grant.⁴

The offer by the Verein to prospective emigrants was very attractive and recruits were easy to find. Each unmarried man was to pay the equivalent of \$120 and the head of a household \$240 and agreed to cultivate at least fifteen acres for three years and to occupy his house for the same period. In return for this, the Verein promised (1) free transportation to the colony, (2) free land in the colony - 160 acres for a single man and 320 acres for a family, (3) a free log house, (4) provisions and all goods necessary to begin farming, supplied on credit until the second successive crop had been harvested and (5) numerous public improvements, such as the construction of roads, mills, cotton gins, hospitals, schools, churches, orphan asylums and even the canalization of rivers. All this the Verein proposed to do with a total capital of only about \$80,000, apparently convinced that huge profits would be realized by keeping ownership of one-half of the land under the colony.

Under the supervision of Prince Carl von Solms Braunsfels, and later the Baron von Meusebach, the Verein went about the task of colonization. Beginning in 1844, German emigrants were sent by sailing ship to Galveston and then to Indianola, the Verein port on Matagorda Bay. It was soon realized that the land obtained for colonization was too far from the coast to be settled immediately and as a result, New Braunsfels (Comal County, 1845) and Fredericksburg (Gillespie County, 1846) were founded as way stations. The German immigrants brought by the Verein numbered 7,380 in the period from 1844 to 1846. The following year, 1847, the Verein went bankrupt, a victim of improper management and inadequate planning.⁵

The German immigrants that came to Texas arrived in clusters from confined districts in Germany to settle similarly confined colonial areas. People from small rural parishes in Germany settled a county or part of a county in Texas. Typically, their neighbors had been neighbors in the Fatherland. Most of the German immigrant clusters came from west central Germany, particularly Nassau, southern Hanover, Brunswick, Hesse and western Thuringia.⁶

The German settlers who came to Texas generally were solid middle-class peasants. They were land-owning families, artisans, and, in a few cases, university-educated professional people and intellectuals. The majority were farmers with a modest experience in trade. The Germans were ambitious people who believed their futures were cramped by the social and economic system at home. They were not poverty-stricken and oppressed. Indeed, they were able to afford the substantial cash investment required in overseas migration.⁷

As part of this wave of settlers in April of 1846, came thirty-three year old Jean Schneider from Welgesheim, Hessen Darmstadt. The Texas story begins.

References

¹ Jordan, Terry G.; "German Seed in Texas Soil: Immigrant Farmers in Nineteenth-Century Texas"; Austin; University of Texas Press; 1994; page 41

² Handbook of Texas Online

³ Handbook of Texas Online

⁴ Jordan, Terry G.; "German Seed in Texas Soil: Immigrant Farmers in Nineteenth-Century Texas"; Austin; University of Texas Press; 1994; page 41

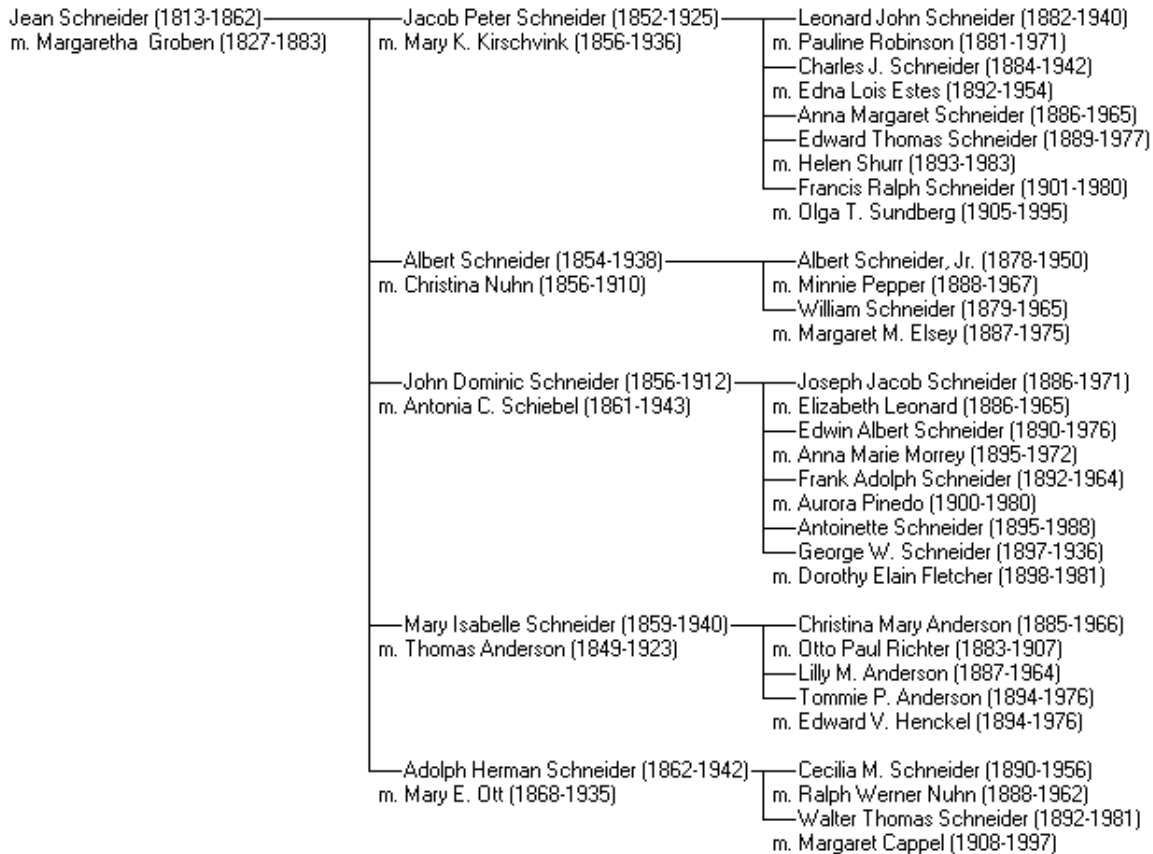
⁵ Jordan, Terry G.; "German Seed in Texas Soil: Immigrant Farmers in Nineteenth-Century Texas"; Austin; University of Texas Press; 1994; page 41, 43-44

⁶ Handbook of Texas Online

⁷ Handbook of Texas Online

First Generation

Jean Schneider 1813-1862



Johann “Jean” Schneider was born on 26 Nov 1813 in Welgesheim, Hessen Darmstadt, southwest of Mainz, Germany.¹ Baptismal documents from Hessen, Germany record that on 28 November Joannes (Johann), legitimate son of **Peter Schneider** and his wife **Catharina Margaretha Emmerich** was christened and the sponsor was Johannes Zimmer, a citizen of Ober-Hilbersheim. Jean had several siblings: John Peter born in 1804, Anna Elizabeth born in 1807, Joe Mathias born 1809, Catharina Margaretha baptized 29 Oct 1816, and Balthasar who was born in 1822.²

Peter Schneider Signature 1822

The Sophienburg Archives in New Braunfels, Texas has a genealogy of Balthasar Schneider (1822-1907) compiled by a descendent, Nelson Neal Schneider,³ that confirms that this was indeed Jean’s brother who also emigrated from Germany to Texas and is buried in New Braunfels City Cemetery. Jeanne Park and her sister, Mary Ann Schneider, heard family stories that Jean

Johann [Jean] Schneider’s Baptismal Record -1813

had a brother, "Baldis," who left Germany and moved to France because he got into some difficulty with a member of the Hohenzollern family. The story that was told was, "He was a Count in the Old Country, but he's no Count here."⁴

**Balthasar Schneider(brother of Jean) and Tombstone
New Braunfels City Cemetery**



Sophienburg Archives



Delece

On 22 Dec 1845 at the age of 33 Jean Schneider, a brewer by trade,⁵ emigrated from Germany to New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas through the port of Galveston, Texas.⁶ Documents from the Texas General Land Office show that Jean was a Fisher-Miller colonist and signed a contract or agreement with the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas on 22 Dec 1845 in Antwerp before boarding the "Hamilton," bound for Galveston. The agreement provided 160 acres of land in the county of San Antonio, Republic of Texas in an area that became known as the Fisher-Miller Colony provided the colonist lived on the land for three consecutive years, fenced and cultivated 15 acres of the land and built a dwelling. The provisional deed was to be exchanged in Texas with a final deed drafted by the government of Texas. The agreement was witnessed by the Consulate of the Republic of Texas for the port of Antwerp on 23 Dec 1845.⁷

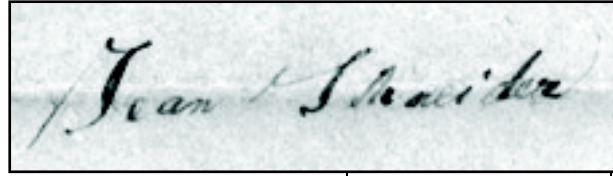
The date Jean arrived in Texas varies a bit depending on the source. The book "A New Land Beckoned" lists a total of 19 Schneider families from Germany immigrating to Texas from 1844-1847. Included is a Joh. Schneider, single, no age given, from Welgesheim, Germany, on the ship "Hamilton" which left Antwerp on 22-Dec-1845 and arrived in Galveston, Texas on 08 Apr 1846.⁸ His Declaration of Intent to become a naturalized American citizen states that he arrived in Galveston on 12 Apr 1846, a slight discrepancy of four days.⁹ A Jun 1847 document lists he arrived 15 Apr 1846 and his Fisher-Miller Land Grant Transfer records that he arrived aboard the Hamilton on 16 Apr 1846. All sources agree that Jean Schneider arrived in Texas in April of 1846.

The process of bringing emigrants from Germany to the Fisher-Miller Colony and the actual granting of land involved three steps developed by the German Emigration Company and the Republic of Texas. The first step was the signing of the

1845 Signature

contract which Jean did in Antwerp on 22 Dec 1845.

The second step was the signing of a transfer, or the right to claim one-half of the colonist's land, allowed by the Republic of Texas law.



This transfer was to be signed upon the colonist's arrival in Texas and transferred one-half of the land to the German Emigration and Railroad Company, another title for the German Emigration Company. Presumably the colonists were aware of the acres they were to receive and to transfer

1847 Signature

Jean signed a transfer document on 18 Jun 1847. The transfer was dated just over one year after Jean arrived in Texas. It is possible the transfer was signed at this time because the date coordinates with the beginning the land grant surveys, June 1847. Surveys of the Fisher-Miller land were completed prior to the establishment of any German settlers on colony land. Any attempt to settle prior to the completion of the surveys would have resulted in chaos. Once the surveys were completed, settlers were allowed to travel into the area and look, then return to Fredericksburg to plot their lands on a large map.¹⁰

The final step in the colonization process was the issuing of the certificate by which the colonist actually claimed land.¹¹ Certificates for land were issued usually in New Braunfels or Fredericksburg. The Society made two copies, one for the immigrant and one for the General Land Office.¹² Some settlers had difficulty obtaining land because the German Emigration Company was financially insolvent as early as the spring of 1846.¹³ To aid the colonists, the Texas Legislature passed a law on 20 Mar 1848 giving rights to 640 acres for married men and 320 acres for single men to the Fisher-Miller colonists. The act did not negate the possibility that ½ of the lands could be claimed by the German Emigration Company. It must be noted that on 8 Jun 1848 Jean Schneider received a land patent for 320 acres in what is now Llano County under the provisions of an Act of the Texas State Legislature entitled "An Act to secure to the Colonists of Fisher and Miller's Colony, the Lands to which they may be entitled."¹⁴ Jean's land was Section No. 57 in Bigham District No. 10 in Bexar County, later Llano County. It was typical Hill Country scrub land and was eventually sold by the family in 1942.¹⁵

Jean declared his intent to naturalize in Comal County in the fall of 1848 and became a naturalized American citizen in Comal County in 1851.¹⁶ The affidavit, signed by Joseph Ackermann and Anton Riedel, attested that "the said Jean Schneider was known to them for the last five years during two years of which period he has behaved as a man attached to the principles of the constitution of the United States and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same".¹⁷

71. 21B
S
Einwanderungs-Vertrag.

Zwischen dem Vereine zum Schutze deutscher Einwanderer in Texas, repräsentirt durch den zur Abschließung der Kontrakte bevollmächtigten Agenten, Herrn **Gustav Merz**, eines Theils und dem

Johann Schneider

und *Wilgesheim*

Andern Theils

ist nachfolgender Vertrag verabredet und abgeschlossen worden.

§. 1.

Es verleiht der Verein zum Schutze deutscher Einwanderer in Texas dem *Joseph*

Wuirtan

derzeit *Lehmann* Standes *160 Acres* *Land* welcher dies für sich, seine Familie, seine Erben und Rechtsinhaber in bester Form Rechtsens annimmt *ein hundert & sechs zig Acres* - zu entnehmen von seinen Ländereien, gelegen in der jetzigen county San Antonio, Republik Texas, so wie jener Landstrich gegenwärtig daliegt, in dem Zustande, in welchem er sich derzeit befindet, und wie solche dem Einwanderer durch einen Agenten des Vereins an Ort und Stelle werden bezeichnet werden.

§. 2.

Es benutzt der Einwanderer den ihm überwiesenen Landstrich als Eigentümer, ungefährdet in allen im Eigenthume liegenden Rechten, vom Tage der Besitzübergabe an gerechnet, ohne jedoch während einem Zeitraume von drei Jahren, von bezeichneter Epoche an gerechnet, diesen Landstrich ganz oder theilweise veräußern zu dürfen.

§. 3.

Es findet dieser Uebertrag des Landes unter folgenden weiteren Bedingungen Statt. Es hat der Einwanderer

- 1) drei nacheinanderfolgende Jahre, vom Tage der Besitzübergabe an gerechnet, auf den bewilligten Ländereien zu verweilen;
- 2) in demselben Zeitabschnitt fünfzehn acres Land zu umzäunen und in Kultur zu erhalten;
- 3) ein Wohnhaus auf seinem Grund und Boden zu errichten;
- 4) sich dem vom Vereine entworfenen Kolonisationsplane und den gesetzlichen Bestimmungen des Landes im Allgemeinen zu unterwerfen.

§. 4.

Die betreffenden Landes-Bermessungskosten fallen dem Einwanderer zur Last, der Verein aber legt dieselben vor; es haften für diesen Vorschuß sowohl, als alle andern, dem Einwanderer durch den Verein etwa gemachten Vorschüsse, die umsonst bewilligten Ländereien und die darauf aufgeführten Gebäude und Vorrichtungen als Pfand, bis zur gänzlichen Abtragung der Schuld.

§. 5.

Gegenwärtiger provisorischer Erwerbstitel wird in Texas selbst durch eine von der texanischen Regierung ausgestellte, auf den Namen des Einwanderers lautende, definitive Eigenthums-Urkunde, umgetauscht, und zwar drei Jahre nach der Besitzeinweisung, und wenn die oben festgesetzten Bedingungen von Seiten des Einwanderers erfüllt worden sind.

§. 6.

Bei nicht pünktlicher Erfüllung obiger Bedingungen durch den Einwanderer, verliert derselbe seine Rechte auf gegenwärtige Verleihung, und es fallen die auf den vom Vereine ihm verliehenen Ländereien aufgeführten Gebäulichkeiten, so wie die Ländereien selbst dem Verein als Entschädigung anheim.

Gegenwärtiger in duplo ausgefertigter Vertrag soll pflichtgemäß und treu von den Contrahenten in allen Punkten gehandhabt und beobachtet werden, was dieselben anmit durch eigenhändige Namensunterschrift geloben.

So geschehen **Antwerpen**, den *9. September* 1845



Der bevollmächtigte Agent.

Jean Schneider

Consulate of the Republic of Texas for the port of Antwerpen.

These are to certify, that appeared before me Mr. *Jean Schneider* and made oath, that the whole content of the foregoing agreement was well comprehended and consented by him, and both parties signed the same in my presence.

Done in **Antwerpen**, this *23* of *Decemb* 1845

Mary Vandenberg
Consul

U. STATES OF AMERICA. }
STATE OF TEXAS. } KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:--
COUNTY OF COMAL }

That I *Johann Schneider* one of
the emigrants introduced as a colonist under a certain contract of colonization entered upon
between the Government of the Republic of Texas and Henry F. Fisher and B. Abiler,
bearing date the 1st day of September, A. D. 1843, and by the latter assigned and
transferred to the German Emigration and Railroad Company, do by these presents ac-
knowledge and declare, that I arrived in Texas on board the *Hamilton*
from Mexico at the port of *Galveston* on the *fifteenth*
day of *April* A. D. 184*6* and that by virtue of said colonization
contract, I am *being a single man over the age of 21 years* entitled
to a conditional grant of *Three hundred and twenty* acres of land.
Now be it known, that I the said *Johann Schneider* do by
these presents accept the same upon the terms and conditions in the said colonization contract
set forth and contained, and I do for myself, my heirs and administrators, in consideration
of the trouble and expenses of the said Company, had for transportation and otherwise, also
in consideration of One Dollar to me in hand paid by the said Company, the receipt
whereof I do hereby acknowledge, and in pursuance of the permission granted to me in the
said colonization contract, by these presents release, assign and set over unto the said German
Emigration and Railroad Company, the one-half of the said *Three hundred*
and twenty acres being *One hundred and sixty* acres
of land, together with all my right, claim and interest, of, in and out of the same, in fee
simple. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal by way of seal, this
The eighteenth day of *June* A. D. 184*6*

Witnesses.

H. L. Lick

Jean Schneider



County,
 I, Jean Schneider and makes and subscribes
 the following declaration, to-wit: that the same may be
 entered on the record of this Court. It is ordered by
 the Court, that this be granted and this declaration be
 entered on the Minutes of this Court, to-wit:
 The State of Texas, District Court,
 County of Comal 3 Feb Term A.D. 1848
 Jean Schneider a native of the Grand Duchy of
 Hesse Darmstadt, Germany,

Declaration of Intent to Naturalize page 1 12 Apr 1846

Full Perm
 I, Jean Schneider, aged about thirty three years, bearing allegiance to the Grand Duke of
 Hesse Darmstadt, who emigrated from that
 country and arrived at Salveston on the 12th day of
 April A.D. 1846 and intends to reside within the
 Jurisdiction and under the Government of the United
 States to-wit: at the town of New Braunfels, County
 of Comal and State of Texas makes report of himself
 for Naturalization, and declares on oath in open Court,
 that it is bona fide his intention to become a citi-
 zen of the United States of America and to renounce
 and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign
 Prince, Potentate, State and Sovereignty whatsoever,
 and particularly to the Grand Duke of Hesse
 Darmstadt, according to the several acts of Congress
 in such case made and provided.
 Jean Schneider

Comal County Clerk

Declaration of Intent to Naturalize page 2

1848

THE STATE OF TEXAS, }
 County of *Comal* - }
 Do, all whom it may concern, Be it known, That on the *Eight* —
 day of *June* 1848 — at the *City of New Braunfels* — in the county aforesaid,
Johann Schneider —
 appeared before **WILLIAM F. EVANS**, Commissioner, duly appointed and qualified under the provisions of an Act of the Legislature, entitled "An Act to secure to the Colonists of Fisher and Miller's Colony, the Lands to which they may be entitled," passed March 20, A. D. 1848, and made oath "that, before the first day of September, 1847, he was introduced into Texas by the German Emigration Company, in virtue of the Colonization Contract of Fisher and Miller with the President of the late Republic of Texas, and that he was a single man and arrived in Texas April 1846" —
 when he was so introduced, and at the time and place aforesaid, he also proved the same facts by *Fred R. Brunker* and *Philip Englebach* —
 two disinterested witnesses.
 Be it therefore further known, That he the said *Johann Schneider* — is entitled to receive *Three Hundred and Twenty* — acres of Land **WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE COLONY** of the said Fisher and Miller: for which this **CERTIFICATE** is issued to him the said *Johann Schneider* : subject, however, to the following **CONDITION**, viz: that before a Patent can issue hereon, the said *Johann Schneider* — shall, within two years from the date hereof, settle within the limits of the Colony of the said Fisher and Miller.
 And the said *Johann Schneider* — has selected and designated the following described Tract of Land (within the Colony Grant as defined by the said Colonization Contract,) as the tract for which he wishes to obtain a Patent, to-wit: —
Section 8 & 57 in Big Horn District No 10 —
 Witness the hand of the said Commissioner hereto subscribed, this *8th* day of *June* — A. D. one thousand eight hundred and Forty *Eight* —
W. F. Evans Commissioner
 For issuing Certificates to the Colonists of Fisher and Miller's Colony.
 Land Patent: 8 Jun 1848

Texas General Land Office

Jean Schneider ex parte. And the said Jean Schneider having filed here in open Court his petition to become a citizen of the United States and the Court being satisfied by the Affidavit of Joseph Ackermann and Anton Riedel that the said Jean Schneider was known to them for the last five years term A.D. 1851.

years during two years of which period he has behaved as a man attached to the principles of the constitution of the United States and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same; and being also satisfied that the said Jean Schneider has made his declaration to become a citizen of the United States in accordance with the act of Congress in such case made and provided and the said Jean Schneider having taken in open Court the Oath prescribed by law to support the Constitution of the United States, and to absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every prince, potentate, state or sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly to the King of Prussia, Grand Duke of Baden, Dusseldorf. It is therefore ordered by the Court that the said Jean Schneider be, and he is hereby, admitted a citizen of the United States, and that the Clerk issue to him a Certificate accordingly. Jean Schneider ex parte. And the said Jean Schneider

Comal County Clerk

Naturalization Document: Fall 1851



Between June 1849 and June 1850,¹⁸ Jean married **Margaretha Groben** another German immigrant. Margaretha Groben (also Margretha, Margarete, Margaret, Martha in the records) was born 14 Apr 1827 in Gau-Bickelheim, Hessen Darmstadt, Germany.¹⁹

The date and location of the wedding ceremony has yet to be discovered. An interview with Edward T. Schneider (grandson) relates that Jean was engaged to a woman in Germany and that he sent for her after he was established. Edward further states that Margaretha came to New Orleans and that Jean met her and they were married in New Orleans.²⁰ What is known is that, according to the Fisher-Miller documents, Jean emigrated as a single man and arrived on 16 April 1846.²¹



Even though the marriage location and date are not clear, there are recorded facts that help illuminate the movements of the family and help pinpoint the wedding date to a timeframe. The 1850 census for New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas has a "Jno C. Snider," age 36, Brewer, native of Germany and "Margaret Snider," age 21, native of Germany, listed with no children.²² The age difference seems to match the tombstone information, allowing for when the census was taken. As part of the census, Jean and Margaretha indicate that they were married within the year indicating the June 1849 through June 1850 dates.

18	5	5	Jno C Snider	36 m	Brewer	no ch	1
19			Margaret	21 f	"	"	1
20							

Census 1850 New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas

Records are clear that Jean and Margaretha had five children: Jacob Peter (b. 1852), Albert (b. 1854), John Dominic (b. 1855), Mary Isabelle (b. 1859), and Adolph Herman (b. 1862). The four older children were born in New Braunfels, Texas and the youngest, Adolph, was born in Austin, Travis County, Texas.²³



Albert Jacob Peter John Dominic
Margaretha Mary Isabelle
Adolph Herman circa 1865

Austin History Center

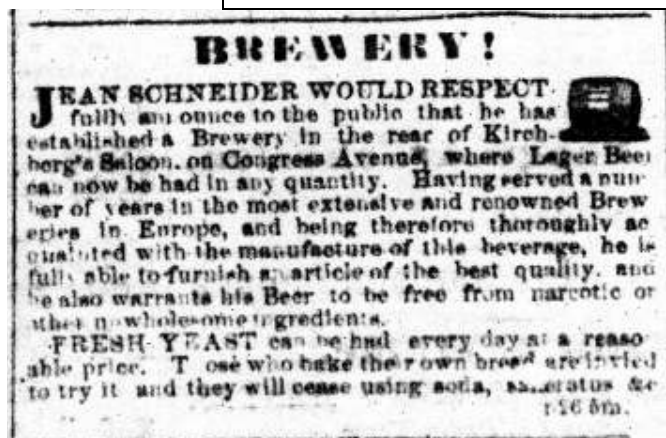
According to much of the evidence, the family moved to Austin, Texas in 1858 or 1859. The obituary of John Dominic Schneider, a son, stated that the family moved to Austin in 1859.²⁴ The 1860 census shows the family living in Austin under the misspelled name "Snider".²⁵

The 1858 date is supported by records of a school Jean helped to found, "The German Free School." The school opened in 1858, the first chartered school in Austin, incorporated by an act of the Texas Legislature. It was started in Austin because there was no system of public education in Texas at that time. Jean was a trustee of the school and was mentioned in a newspaper article as having been on a committee of three to choose the first teacher in 1858.²⁶ The school

building is still standing at 507 East 10th St, Austin, Texas.

The couple was definitely in business in Austin by 1860. Travis County records show that Jean took out a lease from Gustavus Kirchberg and on 14 Apr 1860, he opened a brewery in Austin in the rear of Kirchberg's Saloon on Congress Avenue.²⁷ On 01 Mar 1860 Jean and Margaretha purchased Lots No. (3 & 4) in Block No 22 in the City of Austin on 21 Apr 1860 from Lydia and Augustus Schwartz.²⁸ This downtown piece of property became the family homestead. A reference to Jean and his wife is found in the New Braunfels, Comal County, deeds. Jean and Margaretha are listed 1 Jan 1861, owning Lot #120.²⁹ The couple was definitely transacting land

State Gazette 14 Apr 1860



purchases, leases and sales in New Braunfels and Austin during these years as well as opening a brewery in Austin.



As part of his brewery, Jean constructed a limestone basement on Block 22, Lot 4. In 2001 archeologists researched the two-room beer vault during the development of Austin's new city hall.³⁰ Built about 1860, the beer vault was the first of its kind in the city.³¹ Jean had intentions of building a brewery at this site but he never finished the above ground portion.³² Margaretha and her son Jacob Peter built a grocery store and wagon yard above the vaults but not until the 1870s.

The Civil War intervened and events drastically changed the fortunes of the young Schneider family. On February 1, 1861 the state convention passed the secession ordinance.³³ According to

recollections from his children and grandchildren, Jean was a member of the Confederate army but not much is known about his service. The State Gazette, Austin 22 Jun 1861 listed a J. Schneider among the privates in the muster roll of the Austin City Light Artillery Company under Captain H. Wilke.³⁴



Schneider descendants visit beer vaults in 2007: archway detail on right

The Austin City Light Artillery was also known as the 6th Texas Field Artillery Battery and was organized June 1861 and mustered in on 14 Oct 1861.³⁵ It has not been confirmed that this was Jean Schneider, but there were many German surnames among the soldiers as well as several names associated with the German Free School in Austin including J. L. Buaas, Carl Weise, C. W. Pressler and Joseph Martin.³⁶ What is known is that Jean was killed in a wagon accident on 18 Jan 1862. He was either thrown from a wagon and hit his head against a tree and broke his neck, or was dragged or trampled to death while getting sand from the river.³⁷ The Sexton's Report for the City Cemetery (later named Oakwood Cemetery) in Austin, Travis County, Texas lists that on 17 Jan 1862 a "Mr. Snider," native of Germany, died from "falling out of a wagon".³⁸ A German language newspaper article from New Braunfels on 31 Jan 1862 mentions Jean's death: "From Austin, we received the reliable information that Mr. Jean Schneider (who formerly lived in New Braunfels) as he traveled to the

*Killed Jan 11
by falling out of Wagon
Mr Snider aged 48 years
Native of Germany*

river, to fetch sand, fell backwards from his wagon. The jerk [a type of harness] instantly broke and shortly thereupon, he died a painless death.³⁹ No death certificate exists for him since Texas did not mandate death certificates until 1903 and no record of death exists for him in the Catholic Archives of Texas since St. Mary's Church death records date back only to 1865. Jean was originally buried in Oakwood Cemetery,⁴⁰ but now rests with many extended family members at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Austin.⁴¹ Unfortunately, no photograph of Jean Schneider has been found.

MUSTER ROLL OF THE Austin City Light Artillery Company.		
Battery No. — Organized June 14, 1861.		
Captain—H. Wilke.		
First Lieutenant—	H. R. Von Bieborstein,	
2d do.	H. Green.	
Orderly Sergeant—	H. L. Vogt.	
1st do.	F. Schmitz.	
2d do.	C. Ohndorf.	
3d do.	A. Luck.	
4th do.	E. Bastian.	
First Corporal—	C. Schluter.	
2d do.	Scholtz.	
3d do.	F. Blum.	
4th do.	Hertel.	
Bugler—Pressler.		
Privates:		
1. C. Benike,	23. C. Brinkmann,	
2. L. Feilman,	24. J. Ne. Thibteich,	
3. Suasmann,	25. P. Meier,	
4. Schaefer,	26. C. Weise,	
5. J. Leser,	27. J. Martin,	
6. Hofheintz,	28. J. Luchsinger,	
7. J. Hornberger,	29. B. Tappe,	
8. F. Dohme,	30. A. Bonnet,	
9. A. Sommer,	31. J. Schütze,	
10. H. Bengner,	32. Hubzonreiter,	
11. B. Herzog,	33. J. L. Buaas,	
12. H. Sinnigsohn,	34. Killing,	
13. C. Hornberger,	35. J. Eichel,	
14. Jurgensen,	36. W. Ohndorf,	
15. C. Pressler,	37. J. Henniger,	
16. P. Pressler,	38. F. Zimmermann,	
17. F. Pressler,	39. J. Matter,	
18. E. Pressler,	40. J. Schneider,	
19. J. Schubart,	41. A. B. Neuman,	
20. A. Heusinger,	42. Jean White,	
21. E. Tillmann,	43. W. Kelse,	
22. F. Sterzing,	44. G. Boehme.	

ardiren, atterien traf das ark und man ge- pen, um ten. rste von schreibt Compag- Tage.	weder getödtet oder hinweggetrieben worden sein. * Von Austin erhielten wir die sichere Nachricht, daß Hr. Jean Schneider, (welcher früher in Neu-Braunfels wohnte) als er nach dem Flusse fuhr, um Sand zu holen, rücklings von seinem Wagen fiel, das Rück- grat brach und bald darauf, aber schmerzlos, starb. Fabriken in Texas. Ueber diesen Wegen	bekannt ist kaum halt nement di den? In es die t nde Pulse ein seine Med ment in ten, Gun
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New Braunfels Zeitung 31 Jan 1862

At the time of her husband's death, Margaretha was pregnant and had four young children, the oldest age 9. "She refused aid, save in the way of employment for her older boy, who was J.P. Schneider."⁴² Although widowed, Margaretha

continued to transact business and raise her family. She sold property to Franz Gross on 12 Dec 1865, recorded on the same date, part of lot 91 in New Braunfels, Comal County.⁴³ This sale occurred after Jean's death in 1862 and the proceeds were probably used to help support the family. In the 1870s she and her son Jacob Peter opened a mercantile store and wagon yard on the north-west corner of Live Oak and Guadalupe streets. The store later moved to the south-west corner and today is listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the Department of the Interior.⁴⁴

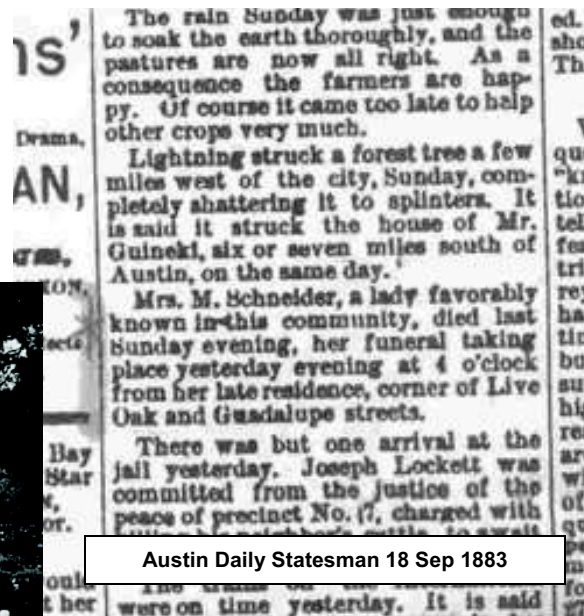
Margaretha's grandson, Ralph Schneider, recalled a story his grandmother reportedly told of a Yankee prisoner who escaped and found his way to Margaretha's house. Because she felt sorry for him, she hid the escapee in the loft and that night gave him a sunbonnet and women's wear to dress in for his attempt to get away. The next morning as she went to early Mass, she saw the prisoner's body hanging at Congress and Pecan.⁴⁵

After her husband's death, Margaretha married Franz (Frank) Froelich (or Frohlich) on 22 Feb 1868.⁴⁶ Franz, ten years younger than Margaretha, was a brick mason⁴⁷ and died shortly after they were married, most likely between 1872 and 1873. Franz was a member of the Austin Hook and Ladder Volunteer Fire Company in 1870-71⁴⁸ and his name appears on the 1870-1872 Travis Co. tax rolls, but not on the 1873 or 1874 tax rolls for the family lots 3 & 4, Block 22, City of Austin. He is the head of household in the 1870 census but his name is not in the 1880 census. Only Margaretha Schneider, not Froelich, appears and she is listed as a widow living



John and Margretta Schneider
Mt. Calvary Cemetery

L Hicks

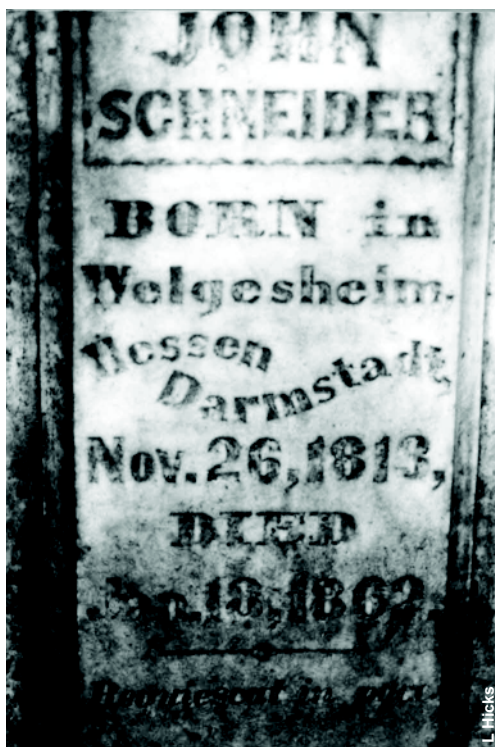


Austin Daily Statesman 18 Sep 1883

on Live Oak Street.⁴⁹ There were no children born of Margaretha's second marriage.

Margaretha died 16-Sep-1883.⁵⁰ Her obituary states: "Mrs. M. Schneider, a lady favorably known in this community, died last Sunday evening, her funeral taking place yesterday evening at 4 o'clock from her late residence, corner of Live Oak and Guadalupe streets."

From the Catholic Archives of Texas death records: she "died Sept 16 buried Sept 17. She was a very good woman, raised all her children in the faith."⁵¹ Margaretha is buried next to her first husband, Jean Schneider, in Mt. Calvary Cemetery, in Austin, Texas.



Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Austin, Texas

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- ²⁵ US Census 1860; Comal County, Texas
- ²⁶ German-Texan Heritage Society; German Free School Book; page 12; Austin History Center Collection
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- ²⁸ Index to Deeds; Travis Co., Texas; Deed Book "O" page 232 and 233.
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