

## ALSATIAN EMIGRATION TO THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

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Over one thousand Alsatians emigrated to the Republic of Texas from 1843 to 1846, and 1,800 to the State of Texas by 1869, representing 4% of Alsatian emigration to the United States.

The Republic of Texas was a sovereign state in North America from March 2, 1836 to February 19, 1846. Before 1836, Texas was part of Mexico. When Mexico gained its independence from Spain in 1821, it allowed colonists into Texas as a way to protect its northern frontier. Large numbers of migrants were attracted by colonies and land grants.

When Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna was elected in 1833, he abolished the constitution, prompting a Mexican civil war and the Texas independence movement. Texas declared its independence from Mexico on March 2, 1836 and was annexed by the United States on December 29, 1845. Texas was then admitted to the Union as the 28th state on that day, with the transfer of power from the Republic to the new state of Texas formally taking place on February 19, 1846.



*The Republic of Texas and the United States in 1837*, McConnell's historical maps of the United States, Library of Congress.

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## EMIGRATION

Emigration from Alsace to Texas began when the Republic of Texas was a sovereign state. From 1843-1846, an estimated 1,034 Alsatians left for Texas.<sup>1</sup> Most were brought by Frenchman Henri Castro, a wealthy Bonapartist and former army officer, who emigrated to the United States after the fall of the Emperor, becoming an American citizen in 1827.

The nucleus was the town of Castroville, 25 miles west of San Antonio, founded by Castro in 1844. It was the largest Alsatian settlement in Texas and is known today as “the little Alsace of Texas”. The colonists in Castroville endured raids by Comanches and Mexicans, droughts in 1848 and 1849, an invasion of locusts, and a cholera epidemic in 1849.<sup>2</sup>

Many of Castro’s immigrants also settled in San Antonio,<sup>3</sup> site of one of the most famous battles in American history, fought in 1836 during the Texas war for independence. The Battle of the Alamo, a Spanish mission converted into a fort, pitted 189 Texans, including legendary frontiersman Davey Crockett, against a large Mexican army of over 3,100 soldiers led by Santa Anna. Refusing to surrender following a 13 day siege, all were killed.

The determined resistance, from February 23rd to March 6th, inflicted heavy casualties and slowed the Mexican advance, allowing the newly created Republic of Texas time to organize an army, which routed Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836.





*The Fall of the Alamo*, by Robert Jenkins Onderdonk, 1903. Davy Crockett wielding his rifle as a club against Mexican troops.

In 1836, the population of Texas was about 50,000. To increase the number of people, individuals known as empresarios were granted the right to settle on Texas land in exchange for recruiting and assuming responsibility for new settlers. In February 1842, empresario Henri Castro received a land grant contract from the Republic of Texas. The grant promised him 1.25 million acres of land in south Texas if he brought at least 600 families or single men within three years, 200 within the first year. Castro began recruiting settlers in France, and was particularly successful in Alsace.

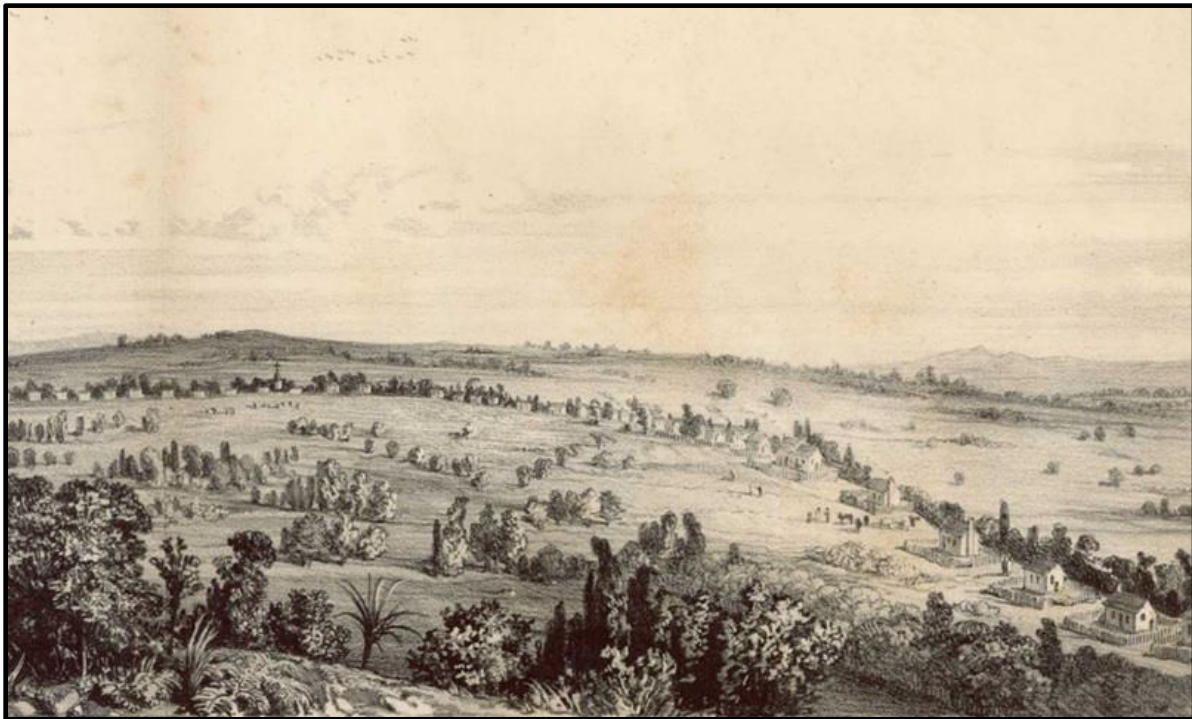
The Alsatians Castro brought to Texas were attracted by the promise of free land. Castro gave each married settler, free of charge, 640 acres, provided they built a home, cultivated at least fifteen acres of land, and lived there for three years. Half of the land would be returned to Castro at the end of the contract, leaving the settler with 320 acres. Each married settler deposited 100 francs as security, which was returned when he fulfilled the conditions of the agreement. Single men received 320 acres, 160 acres after returning half, and deposited 50 francs.<sup>4</sup>

A leaflet in 1845 recommended colonists bring the following items:

- kitchen equipment;
- garden equipment;
- tools: axe, saw, hammer, wood chisel (only the metal part, because wood is free in Texas);
- seeds;
- bedding for the boat;
- rifles (to buy in Antwerp, where they are cheaper than in France);

- sufficient clothing;
- money to buy livestock and equipment to cultivate the land;
- reserves to survive until the first harvest.<sup>5</sup>

Most emigrants departed from August to December as this was the best time to arrive in Texas. Epidemics of yellow fever and cholera were less severe and the heat was more bearable.



Castroville, by Theodore Gentilz, 1844

By 1846, Castro had brought 1,034 Alsatians to Texas. His advertisements were widely read and some chose to go on their own. Others were friends and relatives of those who had gone earlier. He did not recruit after 1846 as his contract with Texas expired on February 15, 1847. This, and the Mexican American War from 1846 to 1848, led to a sharp decline in Alsatian emigration to Texas.

#### Alsatian Emigration to the Republic of Texas<sup>6</sup>

Year	Settlers	Haut Rhin %	Bas Rhin %
1843	244	84.8	15.2
1844	493	85.6	14.4
1845	38	87.8	18.2 [sic]
1846	259	94.4	3.6
	1,034		

In the 1850 census, of the 1,120 people who left Alsace between 1843 and 1849 to follow or join Henri Castro, only 285 settled on his lands. Many settled in other towns in the region - Hondo, San Antonio, Victoria, in the port of Galveston and in Austin. Others left Texas for Louisiana. By 1869, approximately 1,800 Alsatians had emigrated to Texas, representing 4% of emigration to the United States.<sup>7</sup>

### Total Departures 1843-1849

To understand the full extent of Castro's efforts in Alsace, in addition to the 257 Alsatian families and single people who left in convoys from 1843-1849, 79 families and single individuals went to Texas by their own means, only a few of whom joined Castro's concession. In total, 336 families and single people left Alsace for Texas during this period.

From 1847-1849, when Castro was no longer recruiting, 36 Alsatian families and single people went to Texas, bringing to 372 the number of Alsatian families and single individuals who left for Texas from 1843 to 1849.<sup>8</sup>

### Emigration to Texas: Total Families and Independents

Year	Settlers of Castro	Independents	Total
1843	77	14	91
1844	127	24	151
1845-1846	53	41	94
<b>1843-1846</b>	257	79	336
1847		12	12
1848		19	19
1849		5	5
<b>1847-1849</b>		36	36
<b>Total 1843-1849</b>	257	115	372

### Number of Alsatian Emigrants to Texas: 1843-1849

Years	Single	Head of Household	Women and Children	Total Number of Settlers
1843	46	45	153	244
1844	72	79	342	493
1845	3	9	26	38
1846	37	45	177	259
1847	4	8	28	40
1848	16	3	10	29
1849	3	2	12	17
Total	181	191	748	1,120



## THE FOUNDING OF CASTROVILLE



It was a long and difficult journey from Alsace to Castro's land grants. Ships typically sailed from Antwerp to Galveston, a voyage of two months. From there they loaded their possessions onto oxcarts and began the 270 mile trek to their new land. Many became sick from disease such as yellow fever, and some didn't survive.

Castro's earliest colonists arrived when Texas and Mexico had been fighting again, including in San Antonio and Hondo, near Castro's grant, and were not able to get to their land.

In January 1842, word came that Mexico was planning to invade and retake Texas. In March, a Mexican expedition briefly occupied Goliad, Refugio, Victoria, and San Antonio. Another group raided southern Texas in June. In August 1842, a Mexican force of 1,600 soldiers and Cherokee Indians commanded by a French mercenary, General Adrián Woll, entered Texas and captured San Antonio. They were defeated in September by two hundred volunteers and 14 Texas Rangers at the Battle of Salado Creek near San Antonio, and retreated to Mexico.

Six months later the first Alsatians arrived, two priests, Louis Schneider from Altorf and Jean-Pierre Ogé from Strasbourg. They arrived in Galveston on the *Louis Philippe*, the third ship Castro chartered for Texas, which departed from Dunkirk on February 23, 1843.<sup>9</sup>

After sending enough people to Texas to satisfy the first phase of his contract, Castro returned to Texas in July 1844 to lead his colonists to their land. The recent fighting between Mexicans and Texans was over, but enormous difficulties had been encountered by his settlers. The first arrivals, non-Alsatians, had been waiting eighteen months to get to their land. The Alsatians, most of whom arrived at the end of 1843, had also been waiting. They needed to find accommodation and work to survive, which caused serious problems as they were not prepared to organize and support themselves.

Most of the colonists remained in San Antonio, hesitant to go to the new site because they feared Indian attacks. To ease their anxiety, Castro added an inducement of a free town lot and forty acres of land. Accompanied by Texas Ranger Jack Hays and five of his rangers, Castro set out from San Antonio with twenty-two carts and twenty-seven colonists, crossing the Medina River on September 1, 1844. Castroville, the westernmost settlement in Texas, was founded shortly thereafter by a small group that included twenty-two Alsatians, seventeen from Haut-Rhin and four from Bas-Rhin.<sup>10</sup>

Castro's colonization efforts succeeded in bringing 2,134 German-speaking colonists from 1843-1847 to his land grants in Texas, which resulted in the establishment of four colonies: Castroville (1844); Quihi (1845); Vandenburg (1846); D'Hanis (1847).<sup>11</sup>

In the 1850 census, the inhabitants of the various colonies are listed under the name of the head of the family, making it possible to determine how many Alsatians had finally joined Castro.<sup>12</sup>

### Distribution of Alsatians on Castro lands in 1850

Sites	Families	Inhabitants
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	Total	Alsace	% of Total	Total	Alsace	% of Total
Castroville	76	38	50.0	335	162	48.4
Quihi	16	2	12.5	67	7	10.4
Vandenburgh	17	2	11.8	62	8	12.9
D'Hanis	22	15	69.2	84	42	50.0
Riviere Medina	28	14	50.0	205	66	32.2
Total	159	71	44.6	753	285	37.8

Castroville was the first and most successful settlement and had the largest concentration of Alsatians. Forty-eight people signed the founding document on September 12, 1844. Among this group were thirty-three "French", twenty-two of which were Alsatian, and ten Germans.<sup>13</sup>

The Alsatian founders of Castroville were: Joseph Bader, Berthold [or Jean Michel] Barth, Auguste [or Adam] Bartz, Joseph Burrell, Joseph Discher, Antoine [or Michel] Gsell, Antoine Gully, Jacques Haby, Joseph Haby, Nicolas Haby, Joseph Haeguelin, Jean Haller, Léonard Hans, Zacharie [or Joseph] Ludwig, Laurent Rhin, Philippe Schneider, George Simon, Zacharie Stephan, August[in] Weber, Joseph Weber, Jacob Zinsmeyer, and Jean Zurcher.<sup>14</sup>

In this group of twenty-two Alsatians, eight were single, an average age of thirty-two. The others were married men, some with children, their families waiting in San Antonio. The average age of the married men was thirty-nine. The oldest was fifty-two, the youngest fifteen. Four were from the district of Strasbourg in Bas-Rhin, seventeen were from Haut-Rhin, one unknown.

The ship passenger lists describe most as farmers, also a shoemaker, a servant, a baker, a fisherman, a butcher and a tailor. Two departed on the *Jean-Key* October 25, 1843; eleven on the *Heinrich* July 12, 1843; four on the *Ocean* September 4, 1844; and four on the *Jeannette-Marie* December 5, 1844, one unknown.

The Alsatian founders were from the following communes. A. Weber's village is not known:

#### Origin of the founders of Castroville

Department	District	Canton	Commune	Number of Founders
Haut-Rhin	Belfort	St. Amarin	Fellingring	3
			Oderen	2
			Husseren	2
		Cernay	Wittelsheim	2
		Thann	Mitzach	1
	Colmar	Rouffach	Oberentzen	4
	Altkirch-Mulhouse	Mulhouse	Mulhouse	2
		Habsheim	Rixheim	1
				<b>17</b>
Bas-Rhin	Strasbourg	Molsheim	Altorf	2
			Strasbourg	1
		Rosheim	Bischoffsheim	1

A census was taken in 1854 of the Catholic population of Castroville and its surroundings. Of the 75 Catholic families listed, 87% were of Alsatian origin. These Alsatian families represent 332 individuals.<sup>15</sup>



Image of early Castroville, by Theodore Gentilz

In 1871, Henri Castro's son Lorenzo wrote *Immigration from Alsace and Lorraine, A Brief Sketch of the History of Castro's Colony in Western Texas*, to support bringing people from Alsace to Texas following the displacement of many Alsatians after the Franco-Prussian War in 1870. In it, he states that Castro's colony was the only one composed of immigrants from Alsace and Lorraine.

Regarding the early Alsatians he writes:

"The Colony of Henri Castro ... is composed of people mostly from Alsace. It may be said that nearly all the population of Castroville and D'Hanis are from the Departments of High and Low Rhin. Many had been employed, before coming to this country, in the textile manufactories of Mulhausen and other places, but have made good farmers in this country. In regard to their character, a reference to statistics of the State will show that not one of Castro's Colonists has ever been sentenced to the Penitentiary. When the war of the Rebellion broke out, they remained Union Men. The principal cities where Castro's Colonists emigrated from were Strasbourg, Mulhouse, Colmar, Soppelebas, Cernai, Wittesheim, Bretten, Oberenzen, Rouffach, and many others. In twenty-seven ships Henry Castro imported into this country 5,200 people."<sup>16</sup>

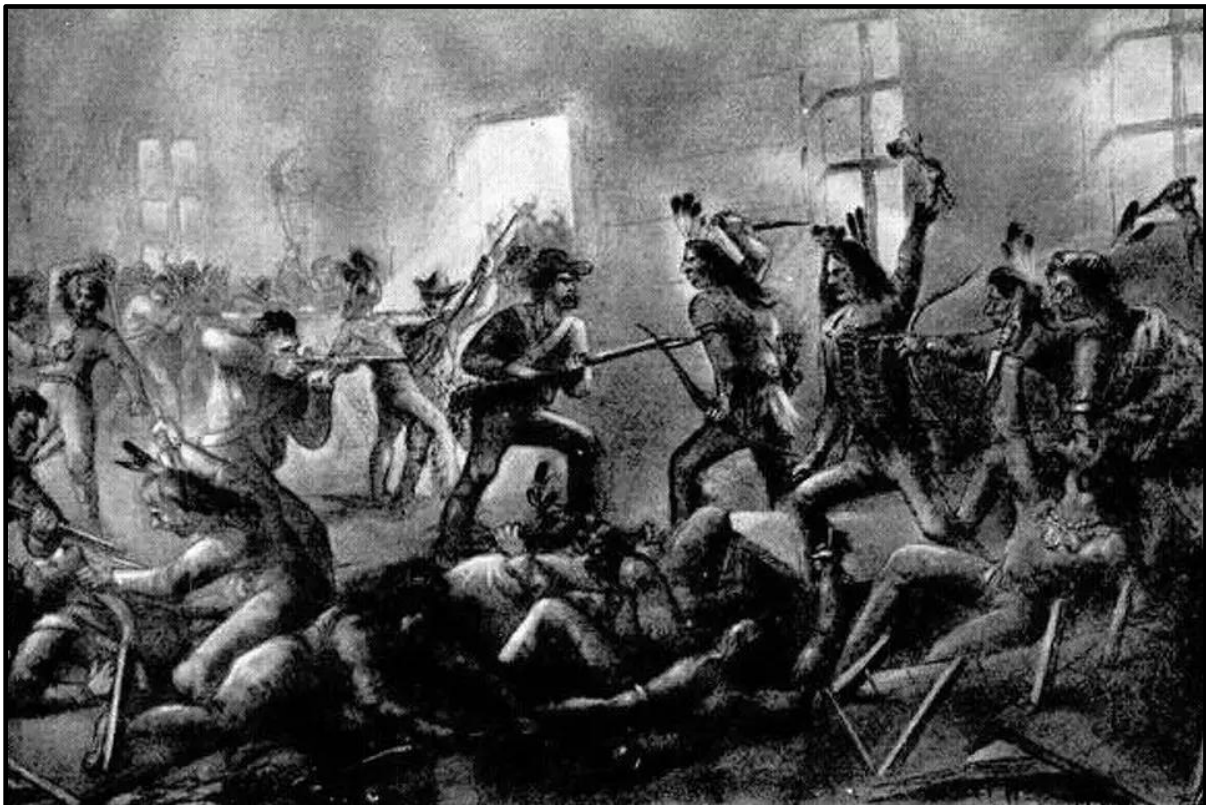


## Trouble with the Indians

In March 1840, two years before the arrival of Castro's first colonists, Comanche Indians tortured to death 13 captives following the Council House Fight in San Antonio. In August, hundreds of warriors launched the Great Raid of 1840, sacking towns on the east coast and killing 23. To provide a protective buffer for San Antonio, Texas negotiated a contract with Castro in 1842 to settle the area west of the city.

Nothing traumatized the settlers more than their problems with the Indians. In 1844, the Lipan Apache and Delaware Indians were living along the Medina River. The Comanches, regarded as perhaps the most dangerous Indians on the frontier, lived to the West. The Indians were hardened warriors who did not hesitate to kill to obtain horses and guns. Henry Castro had barely prepared to leave San Antonio with his first convoy of pioneers when the news came of the death of a young Alsatian, killed by the Indians.<sup>17</sup>

There were numerous clashes and raids between the pioneers and Indians. The area around Castroville was the most affected. The people in Quihi, Vandenburg and D'Hanis were repeated victims of Indian raids. Men killed or wounded, women and children kidnapped, houses emptied, burned, horses stolen. Castroville was relatively spared, however, in 1849 four Alsatians, Xavier Galat, Benoît Weber, and the Tschaenn brothers, Vincent and Joseph, were murdered. To protect the settlers the federal government built Fort Lincoln near D'Hanis in 1849, which they abandoned in 1852, leaving the colony to protect itself.



The Council House Fight, between soldiers and officials of the Republic of Texas and a delegation of Comanche chiefs during a peace conference in San Antonio on March 19, 1840.

Not all contact ended badly. Alsatian Peter Bluntzer of Oderen in Saint-Amarin, Belfort, had allowed Indians to stock up on corn in his barn. Sometime later, his four year old daughter disappeared. Everyone thought she was dead. She reappeared a long time later dressed as an Indian princess. She had stayed with the Indians long enough to learn their language.

Eighteen miles south of Castroville, in the town of Devine, the Medina County Historical Commission placed a marker inscribed: "Last Person Killed by Indians in Medina County. From 1844 until 1877, warfare raged between settler and Indian in what we now know as Medina County. In that 33 year span, many settlers and Indians lost their lives. At the foot of this marker is the original headstone of the last settler killed by Indians in Medina County. On April 22, 1877, 19 year old Joe Wilton was ambushed and killed by Indians some four miles west of here. He was the last settler killed by Indians in Medina County."

### **The Growth of Castroville**

A traveler on his journey to Castroville in 1857 noted, "Castroville is a village containing a colony of Alsations, who are proud here to call themselves Germans, but who speak French or a mixture of French and German. The cottages are scattered prettily, and there are two churches, the whole aspect being as far from Texas as possible." The first settlers, upon arrival, "built themselves huts of boughs and leaves, then set to work to make adobes for the construction of more permanent dwellings. Besides bacon and meal, paid hunters supplied abundant supplies of game, and within a fortnight a common garden, a church, and civil officers, chosen by ballot, were in being, and the colony was fully inaugurated. After struggling with some difficulty, it is now a decided success. The village itself contains about six hundred inhabitants and the farms in the neighborhood several hundred more."<sup>18</sup> Castroville was the original county seat in 1848, but it was moved to Hondo in 1892.

Most of the original settlers of Castroville were Catholic, and about one-fifth of them were German Lutherans. By 1870, the town of Castroville had a Catholic, German Lutheran, and Methodist church. The first Catholic church was built under the supervision of Father Claude Dubuis, who had arrived in Castroville in January 1847. A cemetery was established at the same time. The church was inaugurated on Easter Sunday, 1850. Father Dubuis also introduced the Feast of Saint Louis along with a religious procession, which represented one of the many cultural imports from Alsace.

Lorenzo Castro, wrote in 1871: "Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon the Catholic Church for the particular care they have taken in establishing schools for boys and girls, without any assistance from the State. I take the occasion to state that our population is much indebted to Bishops Odin and Dubuis, and now to Rev. Father Richard, for their energy in promoting morality, charity, and education."<sup>19</sup>

According to one account of Castroville, the Alsatian immigrants were "pragmatic people with a strong work ethic." They built farms and homes, tilled the land, and "created a town at times reminiscent of the villages they had left in Europe."<sup>20</sup>

Following the Civil War, westward expansion brought commerce and growth to Castroville. Wagon freighting and supporting businesses were established which supplied the settlers moving west. These enterprises prospered until the coming of the railroad in 1881. "Wagon freighting could not compete and disappeared altogether." This situation probably helped conserve the Alsatian heritage. Settlers' descendants "continued to farm as before, and the town remained a small, peaceful but stagnant venue" well into the 20th century.<sup>21</sup>

## The House from Alsace

The Steinbach Haus, a gift from the citizens of Alsace to Castroville, was built by the Steinbach family between 1618-1648 in the village of Wahlbach, in Sundgau, Alsace, France. It was sent in 1998 to "shelter the tourist's information center" and "perhaps a historical research center on the immigration and the tourist promotion of Alsace". Reassembled and restored, it sits at the gateway to the historic district.<sup>22</sup>



Steinbach Haus, Castroville

## EMIGRANT VILLAGES IN HAUT-RHIN

Most of the Alsatian emigrants to Texas from 1843-1869 were from Haut-Rhin (93.9%). The majority were from villages within a radius of twenty-five miles between the cities of Colmar and Mulhouse.

A list of thirty-nine Haut-Rhin villages of Castroville immigrants was compiled by Norman Laybourn using passenger lists. He also identified three Castroville families from Altdorf in Bas-Rhin. In her study of Alsatian dialects in Castroville, Karen Roesch identified the villages within this area from which the immigrants originated. Those villages are indicated with stars on the following map.<sup>23</sup>

The ancestral villages in Haut-Rhin were: Berrwiller, Bettlach, Bischwihr, Blodelsheim, Bourbach-le-Bas, Bretten, Epfing, Eteimbes, Falkwiller, Franken, Friesen, Geisswasser, Gundelsheim, Grosne, Heiteren,







Rhin. A particularly large number came from Ensisheim, on the Colmar plain, and Saint-Amarin, Thann and Cernay in the Thur valley. In the canton of Saint-Amarin, the villages of Felling and Kruth provided the highest number. In Ensisheim, most came from the villages of Oberentzen and Niederentzen.

**Alsatian emigration to Texas, 1843-1869, by districts and cantons of origin.**

Department	District	Canton	Percent of Emigrants
<b>Haut-Rhin</b>			<b>93.9</b>
	Altkirch-Mulhouse		11.17
		Altkirch	0.77
		Ferrette	0.18
		Habsheim	5.21
		Hirsingue	0.96
		Huningue	0.97
		Landser	-
		Lutterbach	-
		Mulhouse	3.08
	Belfort		42.63
		Belfort	-
		Cernay	5.98
		Dannemarie	0.38
		Delle	0.39
		Fontaine	3.85
		Giromagny	0.97
		Masevaux	6.36
		Saint-Amarin	16.99
		Thann	7.71
	Colmar		40.10
		Andolsheim	0.19
		Colmar	0.57
		Ensisheim	28.76
		Guebwiller	1.15
		Kaysersberg	2.51
		Lapoutroie	-
		Munster	-
		Neuf-Brisach	1.15
		Ribeauville	0.58
		Rouffach	2.90
		Ste-Marie-aux-Mines	0.18
		Soultz	1.35
		Wintzenheim	0.76
<b>Bas-Rhin</b>			<b>6.10</b>

	Saverne		0.37%
		Bouxwiller	0.18
		Drulingen	0.19
		Hochfelden	-
		Marmoutier	-
		Petite-Pierre (La)	-
		Sarre-Union	-
		Saverne	-
	Selestat		0.76
		Barr	-
		Benfeld	-
		Erstein	-
		Marckolsheim	0.18
		Obernai	-
		Rosheim	0.58
		Selestat	-
		Ville	-
	Strasbourg		4.41
		Bischwiller	0.57
		Brumath	0.58
		Geispolsheim	-
		Haguenau	-
		Molsheim	2.31
		Schiltigheim	0.19
		Strasbourg	0.76
		Wasselonne	-
	Wissembourg		0.56
		Lauterbourg	0.19
		Niederbronn	-
		Seltz	0.18
		Soultz-sous-Forêts	-
		Wissembourg	-
		Woerth	0.19

## PASSPORT APPLICATIONS

There were 598 passport applications to Texas from Alsace from 1843 to 1869. Both the head of a family and a single person is an application. The departure year is missing for 31 heads of family (or single people). The remaining 567 applications are listed below. If all Alsatian emigrants to Texas were in good

standing with the passport administration and issued passports, there would have been approximately 1,800 emigrants. Note that not all emigrants paid for a passport, some left discreetly.<sup>26</sup>

Sixty percent of emigrants left between 1843 and 1846 (336 applications of 567), the latter years of the Republic of Texas, so under the leadership of Castro and his agents. In 1844 alone, there were more than a quarter of the emigrants for the entire period.

#### Passport Applications to Texas from Alsace

Year	Applications	Year	Applications	Year	Applications	Year	Applications
1843	91	1850	18	1857	14	1864	0
1844	151	1851	44	1858	–	1865	0
1845	12	1852	26	1859	4	1866	0
1846	82	1853	6	1860	30	1867	1
1847	12	1854	24	1861	3	1868	1
1848	19	1855	13	1862	0	1869	5
1849	5	1856	6	1863	0		

## SHIPS

The following ships brought Henri Castro's colonists to Texas from 1842-1846. Note that "total families" and "Alsatian families" are the total number of families and single people traveling alone, not the total number of settlers on the ship.<sup>27</sup>

#### Ships Bringing Castro's Settlers to Texas: 1842-1846

Ship	Captain	Depart	Date	Arrive	Settlers	Alsations
Ebro	E. Perry	Le Havre	02 Nov 1842	Galveston	144	0
Lyons	G. Parker	Le Havre	18 Jan 1843	New Orleans	9	0
Louis Philippe	The Borders	Dunkirk	23 Feb 1843	Galveston	49	2

Ship	Captain	Depart	Date	Arrive	Total Families*	Alsatian Families*
Jean-Key	E. de Paum	Antwerp	10 *** 1843	Galveston	52	34
Henrich	Audiens	Antwerp	07 Dec 1843	Galveston	55	41
Ocean	Sturge	Antwerp	09 Apr 1844	Galveston	39	12
Jeannette Marie	P. Gienschke	Antwerp	12 May 1844	Galveston	13	12
Maria Claves	-	Antwerp	25 Apr 1845	New Orleans	23	4
Albertina	Matling	Antwerp	17 Sep 1845	Galveston	29	4

Euphrasina	-	Ghent	- Jan 1846	-	-	-
Talisman	Loomes	Antwerp	02 Jan 1846	Galveston	4	0
Diamont	Balles	Antwerp	21 Jan 1846	Galveston	2	0
Cronstadt	-	Antwerp	25 Mar 1846	-	<b>102**</b>	<b>0**</b>
Leo	-	Bremen	15 April 1846	-	80	0
Louis Federick	-	Bremen	- May 1846	-	<b>103**</b>	<b>0**</b>
Bangor	-	Antwerp	14 May 1846	-	<b>202**</b>	<b>0**</b>
Flora	-	-	07 Jul 1846	-	-	-
Talisman	-	-	01 Aug 1846	-	1	0
Duc de-Brabant	-	Antwerp	- Oct 1846	-	<b>200**</b>	<b>3**</b>
Neptune	-	Bremen	18 Oct 1846	-	1	0
Schanunga	Patten	Antwerp	15 Nov 1846	Galveston	78	39
Carl Wilhelm	-	Bremen	- - 1846	-	-	-
Le Feyen	-	Bremen	- - 1846	-	-	-
Creole	-	-	- - 1846	-	-	-
Prince-Oscar	-	-	- - 1846	-	-	-
Robinson**	-	-	- - 1846	-	-	2
Queen Victoria	-	-	- - 1846	-	-	1

- Missing information

\* Each individual counts as a family (a head of family and a single person both count as a family).

\*\* Figures in bold are the number of passengers, not the number of families.

\*\*\* "The Jean-Key and the Henrich left at the end of 1843." (Nicole Fouche, 1987)

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22. Steinbach Haus Visitors Center, Castroville, Texas: <https://texastimetravel.com/directory/steinbach-haus-visitors-center/>
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26. Ibid. Chapter 10 Paragraphs 3-4
27. Ibid. Chapter 8 Paragraphs 14, 27, 39, Chapter 9 Paragraphs 5, 8

#### Notes:

*Alsatian Emigration to the United States 1815-1870*, Nicole Fouche, 1987, 288 pages. Chapters 8, 9, 10 discuss Alsatian emigration to Texas. OpenEdition books: <https://books.openedition.org/psorbonne/49333>

Castroville, Texas, Léon-Pierre Lutten, 1986, pp. 105-111. Names of 1,800 Alsatian emigrants to Texas from 1843-1867, names of his wife and children, his age, domicile, profession, date and place found.

## APPENDIX

- Soufflenheim Emigrants to Texas
- Immigration from Alsace and Lorraine: Castro's Colony in Western Texas
- Castroville Historic Photographs
- Contract with the Societe de Colonisation au Texas

## SOUFFLENHEIM EMIGRANTS TO TEXAS

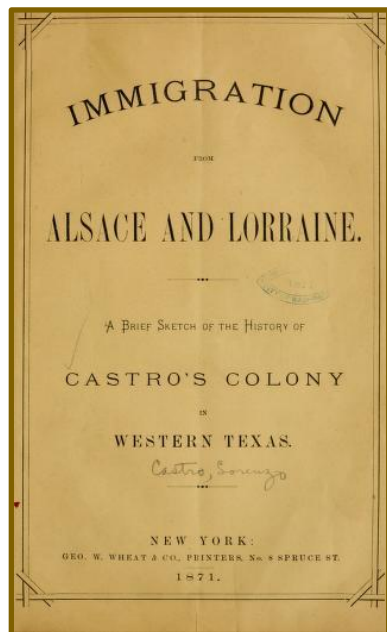
**Xavier Kraemer** : The Galveston Daily News Tuesday, June 16, 1907. A declaration of Intention to become a citizen of the United States was filed yesterday in District Clerk Gengler's office. Xavier Kraemer, aged 35 years, by occupation an engraver, and residing at 1723 Tremont Street, sets forth that

he was born in SOUFFLENHEIM [about 1872], Germany, and emigrated to the United States from Antwerp, Belgium, on the steamship Rhineland, arriving at the port of New York on March 5, 1891. Source: Texas Genealogy Trails, 2023. Naturalization Records, Galveston County, Texas.

**Simon Alfred Bitschy** : Born January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1875 in Guelph, Wellington, Ontario, Canada, son of Joseph Bitschy and Mary Frank of Soufflenheim, died Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, 1953 in San Marcos, Hays, Texas. Joseph Bitschy, born June 28, 1853 in Soufflenheim, France, died March 2, 1925 in Waterloo, Canada, and Mary Frank, born March 6, 1855 in Maryhill, Waterloo, died about 1945 in Toronto, Canada. Source: Rosa Raiman Family History.

## IMMIGRATION FROM ALSACE AND LORRAINE: CASTRO'S COLONY IN WESTERN TEXAS

By Lorenzo Castro, 1871, New York, George W. Wheat & Co., Printers



### Immigration from Alsace and Lorraine. A Brief Sketch of the History of Castro's Colony in Western Texas

At this time, when the subject of immigration is attracting so much attention, and so many able persons are expressing their views, more or less practicable, on the subject, it has occurred to the undersigned that these few lines would be read by the public with pleasure.

The conclusion of the late war in Europe will now give us a good field from which to procure a class of immigrants much needed in this country. By the late treaty between France and Prussia, parts of the Departments of Moselle, Meurthe, Voges, all Bas Rhin, and most of Haut Rhin are ceded to Prussia, containing, in all, fourteen hundred and twelve Municipalities, and one million six hundred thousand inhabitants, composing an industrious population, among whom are found some of the best Mechanics and Agriculturists of France. For reasons unnecessary to state here, most of them are ready to immigrate, and would, if the State took the proper steps to aid them, come to this country, where many of them have already relations established in the western portion of our State.

Before giving my plan for facilitating this immigration to our State, I will give a short sketch of the History of Castro's Colony, one of the Colonies that have succeeded in this State, and the only one composed of immigrants from Alsace and Lorraine. In this case, if the Empresario [agent promoting emigration], was not successful for himself, he was the means of securing competence and happiness to thousands, as the Hon. Sam. Houston, Thos J Rusk, David Kaufman and Daniel Webster testified in a letter to him dated January 17, 1851.

The late Henry Castro, having received for service rendered to the Republic of Texas, two grants of land to be colonized under certain conditions, one situated on the Rio Grande commencing at a point nearly opposite Camargo, and running to Bait Lake, (Sal del Rey), thence in a parallel line to a point opposite Dolores below Laredo. It was never settled, on account of the Mexican War. The other, west of San Antonio, including that portion of the country now composing part of Medina Uvalde, Frio, Atascoso, Bexar, McMullen, Lasalle and Zavala counties, was settled, and the contract with the Government fully complied with, although many difficulties had to be overcome by the Empresario.

When Henry Castro brought his first Colonists to the City of San Antonio, in February, 1843, no settlement existed west of the San Pedro Creek to the Rio Grande.

In order to make Texas known, he published, under the name of others and his own, various pamphlets, giving a sketch of the geography, history, population, and products of our State among the most interesting are the following:

- *Coup d' Oeil Sur le Texas*, with map published in Paris in 1841, signed by Henry Fournel;
- *Documents on Foreign Commerce*, published by the Minister of Commerce in France;
- *Texas in 1845*, by Henry Castro;
- *The State of Texas in 1846*, published at Antwerp, and many others, some being translated into German.

In twenty-seven ships Henry Castro imported into this country 5,200 people, a list of the names of the ships, with the name of each immigrant, his age, profession, fortune, place of former residence, was always sent to the Secretary of State's office, and will be found to this day. I saw many myself in LoOO.

Below, I give the names of the ships, taken from the Colony Register, now in my possession. Besides, many contracts were delivered to people who came to this State at their own expense, with Colony contracts and remained in other portions of the State:

Number	Names of Ships	Captains	Port Sailed From	To What Port	Year
1	Ebro	E. Perry	Havre	Galveston	1842

2	Lyons	G. Parker	Havre	New Orleans	1843
3	Louis Phillippe	Laborde	Dunkerque	Galveston	1843
4				Galveston	1843
5	John Key	De Paw	Antwerp	Galveston	1843
6	Heuricli	Andreis	Antwerp	Galveston	1844
7	Ocean	Rochjen	Antwerp	Galveston	1844
8	Jennette Marie	Perischke	Antwerp	Galveston	1844
9	Probus	Deonis	Antwerp	Galveston	1845
10	Prince Oscar	Azoerken	Antwerp	Galveston	1845
11	Marcia Claves	Caiborn	Antwerp	Galveston	1845
12	Alberdina	Matling	Antwerp	Galveston	1845
13	Euphrosina		Ghent	Galveston	1845
14	Talisman	Loomis		Galveston	1846
15	Diamant	Baller		Galveston	1846
16	Cronstadt	Hatch	Antwerp	Galveston	1846
17	Carl Wilhelm	De Schelling	Bremen	Galveston	1846
18	Louise Frederick	Knigge	Bremen	Galveston	1846
19	Neptune	Starsloppe	Bremen	Galveston	1846
20	Leo	Goerdes	Bremen	Galveston	1846
21	Bangor	Leighton	Antwerp	Galveston	1846
22	Feyen	Kruse	Bremen	Galveston	
23	Duc de Brabant		Antwerp	Galveston	
24	Schanunga	Patton	Antwerp	Galveston	1847
25			Bremen	Galveston	1847
26	Creole	Wessels	Bremen	Galveston	1847
27	Horatio	H. Hall	Antwerp	Galveston	1847

On the first of September, 1844, Henry Castro left San Antonio at the head of his Colonists, and established his first settlement on the Medina River, twenty-five miles west of San Antonio - the town being named "Castroville" after the founder, by a unanimous vote of the Colonists. It is the County seat of Medina County.

In 1845, his Agent, Mr. Louis Huth, founded the town of Quihi, distant ten miles from Castroville; and in 1846, Mr. Castro, at the head of his Colonists, founded the town of "Vandenberg," distant seven miles from Quihi.

In 1847, Mr. Theodore Geiitil, at the head of Mr. Castro's Colonists, founded the town of "Dhanis," twenty-five miles west from the latter.

These towns are in a prosperous condition, with the exception of Vandenberg. On account of the water having dried up in the Verde Creek, upon which the town was situated, the inhabitants moved two and a half miles below, to New Fountain.



Had Mr. Castro not been prevented by many obstacles, his plan was to surround his grant with villages; two more were to be located, one on the Seco, below Dhanis, to be called Osy, and one on the Laguna San Miguel, to be named St. Louis.

The greatest difficulty that he encountered was not so much in procuring immigrants (though the Government of Louis Phillippe was trying to turn the tide of immigration toward Algiers), as in providing for them, even when they paid their passage, which was not always the case. The cost of transporting the immigrants from the coast of Europe to that of the Gulf of Mexico then averaged thirty dollars for each person, exclusive of provisions, and that on sailing vessels.

But, it must be remembered, the coast of Texas was not known then; that Mr. Henry Castro had lithographed, at his expense, and circulated the same in various seaports of Europe, Maps of THE COAST OF TEXAS, made by one Capt. Simpson, then Pilot at Galveston; that after the immigrants arrived on the coast, they had to be provided for until transportation could be furnished them to go into the interior. Sheds were constructed for them, and rations furnished. When transportation was had after the year 1844, it was procured at the enormous rate of three dollars and fifty cents per hundred pounds. When the immigrant arrived at the Colony, he was generally destitute of means, so that at least meal, salt, bacon and coffee, had to be furnished to him and his family the first year, if the Empresario desired to retain him.

And he had to be aided in the way of agricultural implements; seed and animals to work his land, being furnished to him.

This, of course, involved the Empresario in great expenditures, which resulted in a loss to him, but was of great benefit to the country and the people introduced among us.

The contract of Henry Castro with the Republic of Texas, was complied with on his part, but not on the part of the Republic, as will appear by what I shall proceed to state below:

By virtue of the 8th Sec. of an Act passed the 14th of Jan., 1841, entitled "An Act granting Lands to Immigrants," and the contracts made by virtue thereof, which each immigrant signed before his embarkation to this country, in Europe, the Empresario was entitled to retain one-half of the land assigned to each member of the Colony by the Government of Texas. This was the only benefit, if any, that could be derived from the enterprise.

The Colonists' lands were surveyed as required by the contract, and drawings were made of the surveys by the Colonists publicly, this being the most equitable way of assigning the surveys then made to them.

But, by the Act of 1850, entitled "An Act to perfect Land Titles in Castro's Colony," approved January 22d, 1860, the certificates being issued directly to the Colonists, the Empresario was left in the cold, and Henry Castro, for his services to the Republic, and for colonizing the country west of San Antonio, received from the State of Texas, in all, 38,400 acres of land, and no other indemnity nor relief.

The State of Texas has gathered the fruits of Mr. Henry Castro's enterprise, by obtaining settlers and money at the time of need. Immigrants were introduced, according to incontestable proof, which proof consists in reports or returns of the number of immigrants imported in each ship, the value of its cargo in goods, etc., made by said Castro to the Secretary of State, as above stated. It is immaterial where the immigrants brought to Texas by said Castro fixed their residence (many did in the Colony), but they all settled in the State.

Most of the Colonists brought to Texas by Castro came from the French Departments of High and Low Rhin, Meurthe, Moselle, Doubs and Jura, or from Alsace, Lorraine and Franche Comte - where the name of Henry Castro, in connection with the Colony, is favorably known.

The land granted by the State to the Colonists was of no value to them, nineteen-twentieths having sold their rights to the same to speculators for a mere trifle; but what was of material use to them was the Town Lots given them by said Castro with a twenty or forty-acre Farm Lot, which arrangement enabled them to settle together in towns or villages and have enough land to cultivate adjoining their homes. This was also indispensable, in order that the immigrants, settled as they were on the extreme frontier, should be able to protect themselves from the wild Indians.

Out of about 550 certificates granted to Colonists, I am of opinion that not twenty are at this day owned by original grantees or their heirs. Castro's Colony must have a population of near six thousand souls at this time. I have come to the conclusion from the experience I had with the Colony of my father, that —

First: Unconditional grants of land by the State to Colonists are of no use to them; that the best way to give them land, if they want any, is to extend to them the pre-emption law; and

Second: That the class of immigration I propose to bring to this State, having lost their all by the late war between France and Prussia, needs material assistance from the State to immigrate, in the way of getting their passage paid from some European port to this country.

I know well that this system does not meet with the approbation of many of our citizens, because they object that it is not only the cost of bringing the immigrant to this country that our State will have to pay, but that it will have to support a host of employees who would absorb all the appropriation made for that purpose.

To this, I will answer that proper legislation can remedy that evil, and the State should make a trial of it — venturing at first a small appropriation. By thus assisting immigration from Alsace and Lorraine, the State of Texas would not only benefit itself, but be the means of relieving thousands of people who are now in the most destitute condition.

The Colony of Henry Castro, that I have spoken of, is composed of people mostly from Alsace. It may be said that nearly all the population of Castroville and Dhanis are from the Departments of High and Low Rhin. Many had been employed, before coming to this country, in the textile manufactories of Mulhausen and other places, but have made good farmers in this country. In regard to their character, a reference to statistics of the State will show that not one of Castro's Colonists has ever been sentenced to the Penitentiary. When the war of the Rebellion broke out, they remained Union Men; and the returns of the late election show plainly where they stood in politics. I make this statement here from fear that some persons may not be in favor of this class of immigration, on the ground that they are Frenchmen!

The principal cities where Castro's Colonists emigrated from were Strasbourg, Mulhouse, Colmar, Soppelebas, Cernai, Wittesheim, Bretten, Oberenzen, Rouffach, and many others, not necessary to mention here.

The town of Castroville, the principal settlement of Castro's Colony, has several schools, and a Catholic college is soon to be erected, while the Catholic, German Lutheran, and Methodists, have Churches in the Colony. Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon the Catholic Church for the particular care they have taken in establishing schools for boys and girls, without any assistance from the State. I take the occasion to state that our population is much indebted to Bishops Odin and Dubuis, and now to Rev. Father Richard, for their energy in promoting morality, charity, and education.

I regret that I cannot express myself more at length on the above subject without extending this paper to too great length.

I believe that it would be wise for the State to appoint one or two agents, with a moderate salary, to go to Alsace and Lorraine. The papers of the country would be glad to publish any information that might be given them in regard to our State, and the inducements made to immigrants, free of charge; but what strikes me as indispensable is, that the State pay the passage of the immigrant, at least from some port in Europe to the port of Galveston. Experience proved that the port of Antwerp had many advantages over others at the time our Colonists were brought here; but the best point for embarkation of emigrants from that portion of Europe at present, must be determined by the agents in that country.

I will conclude by saying that what little knowledge I have acquired in colonizing and bringing immigrants to this country, while acting as Secretary of my father, Henry Castro, I will be happy to place at the disposal of my State.

LORENZO CASTRO.

Castroville, 1871.

#### NOTE.

I recommend to all persons who take an interest in Texas, to read The Texas New Yorker, as that paper is devoted to making known the latent wealth of Texas. It is ably conducted by Col. Geo. H. Sweet, who has resided many years in Texas, and is well acquainted with all its advantages.

Good lands can be purchased in the Medina Valley from \$2.50 to \$7.00, with water, and timbered with pecan-trees. Lands on the Hondo, Quihi, and Verde Creek, are worth from \$1.50 to \$5.00 per acre. Lands on Parker's Creek and the Secco, about the town of Dhanis, from \$2.00 to \$4.00 per acre. Lands on the Atascoso, Chacon, Francisco, Perez Creek, and San Miguel, from \$1.25 to \$2.50 per acre.

The distance from Indianola to Castroville, by the road, is 163 miles, measured by the viameter. The following reliable persons will be glad to give information in regard to that portion of Texas:

Chas. de Montel, Surveyor of the County; Dr. John Hofiman, M. D.; James Paul, Attorney at Law; Wm. Stuckler, Clerk of the Dist. Court; A. Carle, Merchant, etc., all residing in the town of Castroville, Medina Co., Texas.

## CASTROVILLE HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs of Castroville, Texas circa 1900. Found at the library of the University of Texas San Antonio: <https://utsalibriariestopshelf.wordpress.com/2014/09/15/historical-images-of-castroville-texas/>



Tondre Saloon, Castroville, early 1900s. (MS 362: 077-0046) UTSA Library



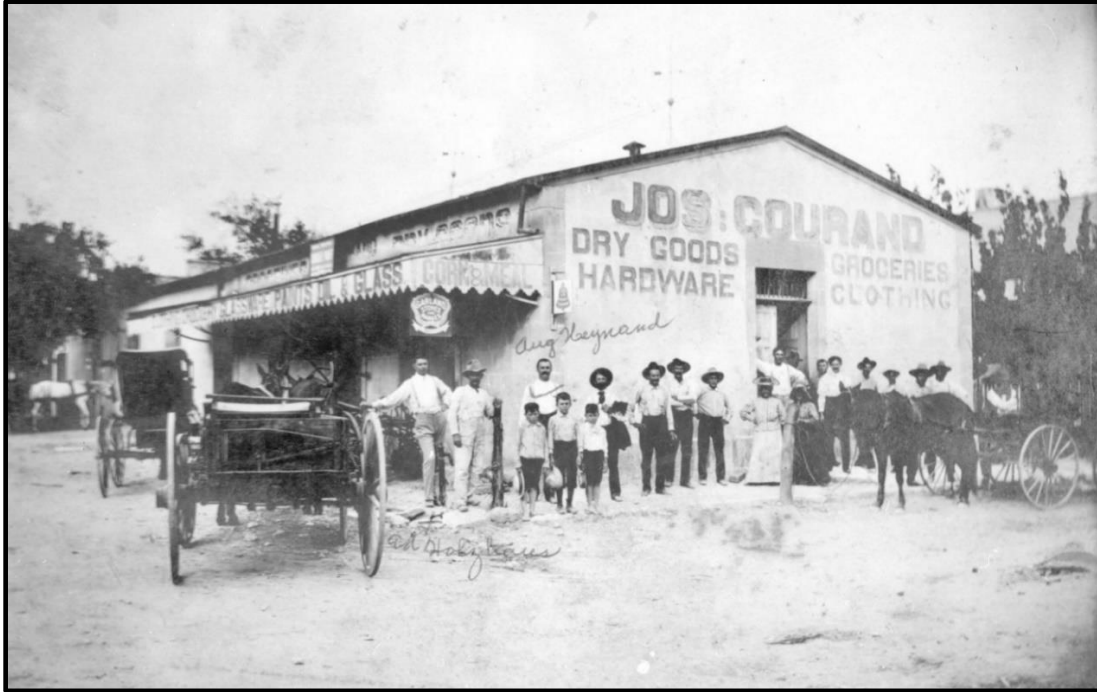
Wagon Train, Castroville, Houston Square, circa 1900. (MS 362: 096-0537) UTSA Library



Philip Wernette Saloon, Castroville, Fiorella and London Streets, 1909. (MS 362: 109-0750) UTSA Library



Castroville, Zuercher Millinery in Klappenbach Building, Madrid Street (Houston Square), circa 1900. (MS 362: 072-0877) UTSA Library



Castroville, Joseph Courand General Store, Paris and Lorenzo Streets, early 1900s. (MS 362: 072-0875) UTSA Library

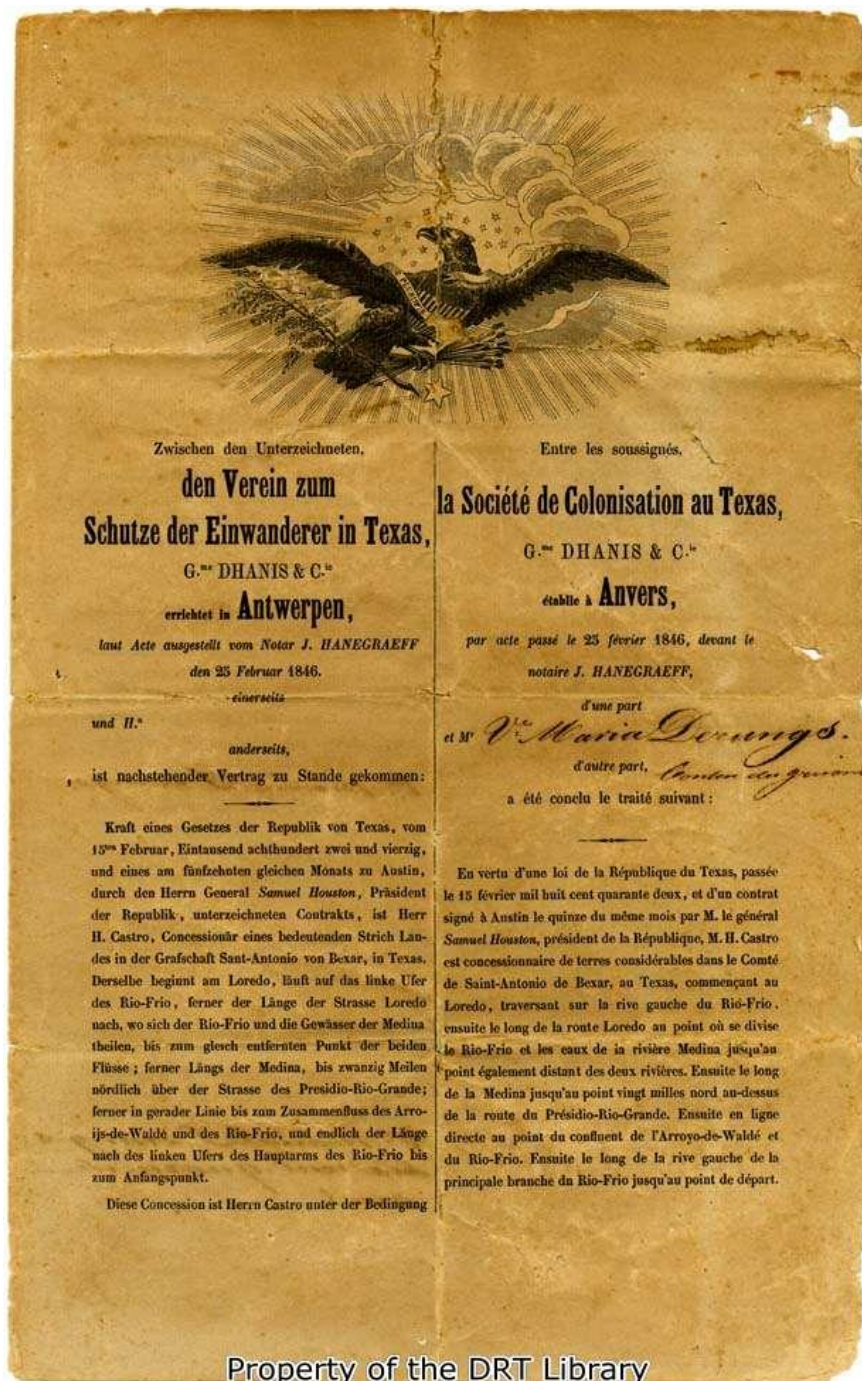


Castroville, Roberta and Lucy Hopp outside the Kieser-Pingenot House, Madrid Street, 1897. (MS 362: 109-0762) UTSA Library



## CONTRACT WITH SOCIETE DE COLONISATION AU TEXAS

Emigrant Maria Derungs's contract with the Societe de Colonisation au Texas dated June 27, 1847.  
Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library.





ertheilt worden, einen Theil dieses Strich Landes, in der in dem Concessions-Vertrag bestimmten Frist, zu colonisiren, welcher Vertrag auf 2 Jahre verlängert würde und mithin erst am 15<sup>ten</sup> Februar 1847 sein Ende erreicht.

Durch diesen Vertrag ist Herr Castro ermächtigt, jeder Familie, welche auszuwandern und sich daselbst niederlassen wünscht, sechs hundert vierzig Acker Landes oder eine Quadrat-Meile, und jedem ledigen Maass, im Alter von siebenzehn Jahren und darüber, halb so viel, oder drei hundert zwanzig Acker zu bew.

Die Auswanderer sind dagegen verpflichtet, auf dem bewilligten Theil eine Wohnung zu bauen, und während drei Jahren wenigstens fünfzehn Acker Boden eingeschlossen und in Anbau zu erhalten. So wie weder den Indianern geistliche Getränke, Waffen und Kriegsvorrath zu verkaufen noch zu geben, bei Strafe des Verlustes ihrer Concessions-Rechte.

Endlich, gemäss eines Gesetzes der nämlichen Republik, vom 4<sup>ten</sup> Februar 1841, hat der Concessionär oder der Inhaber einer Concessions-Urkunde das Recht, die Hälfte des bewilligten Grundes und Bodens als Entschädigung für die Organisation und die Kosten der Colonisation für sich eigenthümlich zu behalten.

Herr Castro hat laut eine vom Notar J. Hanegraeff, am 25<sup>ten</sup> Februar 1846 ausgestellte Urkunde, an dem Verein zum Schutze der Einwanderer in Texas, errichtet in Antwerpen, lange Neustrasse N<sup>o</sup> 1468, und worin er selbst der Haupt-Betheiligte bleibt, seine obenerwähnte Concession überwiesen. Dieser Verein genehmigt nun unter solchen Sachverhältnissen unter die Zahl der auf dem concessionirten Strich Landes auszuwandern berechtigten Colonisten den

aufzunehmen, welcher alle Bedingungen dieser Concession genau zu kennen erklärt, und sich derselben getreulich zu unterziehen verspricht.

Dem zufolge haben die Unterzeichneten nachstehendes beschlossen:

Art. 1. Gemäss der, Herrn Castro von der Texanischen Regierung durch die obenerwähnte Acte bewilligten Rechte, überlasst der in Antwerpen errichtete Verein zum Schutze der Einwanderer in Texas durch Gegenwärtiges dem

Morgen Ländereien Texanisches Maass, welche in den vorbezeichneten Gränzen und auf den Abtheilungen anzutreten sind, die von dem durch Herrn Castro

Cette concession a été faite à la charge par M. Castro de coloniser une partie des terres qui en dépendent dans les délais et les termes prescrits par le contrat de concession, lequel contrat a reçu une prolongation de deux années, ce qui en porte la durée jusqu'au 15 février 1847.

Et par ce contrat, M. Castro est autorisé à concéder à toute famille qui voudra émigrer et s'établir sur la concession six cent quarante acres de terre ou un mille carré, et à tout homme célibataire de l'âge de dix sept ans au moins, moitié de cette quantité, ou trois cent vingt acres à la condition par les émigrants de bâtir une cabane sur la concession, de tenir entourés et en culture quinze acres au moins de terre pendant trois années, ainsi que de s'abstenir, de vendre ou donner aux Indiens, des liqueurs fortes, des armes, des munitions; sous peine de perdre leur droit de concession.

Enfin suivant une loi de la même République passée le 4 février 1841, le concessionnaire ou porteur d'un titre de concession a le droit de retenir à son profit moitié des terres concédées à titre d'indemnité pour l'organisation et les dépenses de la colonisation.

Monsieur Castro par acte passé devant le Notaire J. Hanegraeff, le 25 février 1846, ayant cédé la concession précitée à la Société de Colonisation au Texas établie à Anvers, Longue rue Neuve N<sup>o</sup> 1468, dans laquelle il reste le principal intéressé; dans cet état de choses, la Société de Colonisation au Texas établie à Anvers, consent à admettre au nombre des colons, qui auront droit d'émigrer sur les terres de la concession, M.

*V. Maria Deruings*  
qui déclare parfaitement connaître toutes les conditions de cette concession et promet de s'y soumettre fidèlement.

En conséquence les soussignés arrêtent ce qui suit :

#### Traité.

Art. 1. La Société de colonisation au Texas établie à Anvers, en vertu des droits, que le gouvernement du Texas a accordés à Monsieur Castro par les actes précédemment énoncés, concède par ces présentes à M.

*V. Maria Deruings*  
*Six cent quarante*  
*acres* mesure du Texas, à prendre dans les



in Castrovilla, 25 Meilen westlich von Saint-Antonio de Bexar, angestellten Director angewiesen werde.

Art. 2. Der Herr

nimmt diese Concession an, und verbindet sich, vor dem 15<sup>ten</sup> Februar 1847 an, von diesem Grund und Boden Besitz zu nehmen, darauf eine Wohnung zu errichten und wenigstens fünfzehn Acker davon für sich anzubauen und einzuschliessen, nach den Vorschriften des Original-Concessions-Vertrags, und solche, während drei Jahren, von der Uebergabe an, im Anbau zu erhalten, so wie auch die Ausmessungs-Kosten der ihm bewilligt werden den Landereien zu bestreiten.

Art. 3. Gegenwärtiger Vertrag kann durch ein einfaches Indossement übertragen werden, und der europäische Inhaber, wer er sein mag, wird in alle Rechte, Vortheile und Verbindlichkeiten, welche daraus erfolgen, eingesetzt.

Art. 4. Sollten über die Erfüllung des Gegenwärtigen Zwistigkeiten entstehen, so sind die Unterzeichneten einverstanden, sich nach dem Ausspruch der Lokal-Behörde zu benehmen.

Doppelt ausgefertigt in Antwerpen, den

limites sus-indiquées la concession et sur les sections qui seront déterminées par le directeur que M. Castro a établi à Castro-Ville, 25 milles Ouest de Saint-Antonio de Bexar.

Art. 2. M. *Maria Derung*

accepte cette concession et s'oblige, avant le 15 février 1847, à aller prendre possession de ces terres, à y bâtir une habitation, à enclore et à mettre en culture 15 acres au moins de terre, conformément aux prescriptions du contrat originaire de concession, et de plus à maintenir ces terres en culture pendant trois années à partir de son installation, comme aussi à payer le pentage de la partie qui lui est acquise.

Art. 3. Le présent traité pourra être transféré par simple endossement et le porteur Européen, quelqu'il soit, sera subrogé activement et passivement dans tous les droits, avantages et obligations qui en résultent.

Art. 4. S'il survient des difficultés sur l'exécution des présentes, les soussignés conviennent de s'en rapporter pour leur solution à l'autorité locale.

Fait double à Anvers, le *27 Juin 1847*



La Société de Colonisation au Texas,

*Geo. Pharis Al*

*Marguerite Marguerite Derung*

In Folge eines Gesetzes der Texanischen Regierung vom 4<sup>ten</sup> Februar 1844, ist der mehrerwähnte Verein in Berücksichtigung seiner Mühe und grossen Kosten-Aufwandes ermächtigt die Hälfte des concessionirten Grundes und Bodens für sich anzusprechen, und retrocedire ich ihm dem gemäss die Hälfte des concessionirten Grundes und Bodens mit

um solche als sein Eigenthum zu betrachten und zu geniessen, indem ich mich gleichwohl den Bedingungen dieses Vertrags gänzlich unterziehe.

Zengen:

En vertu de la loi du Texas du 4 février 1844, qui m'autorise à disposer de la moitié de la concession mentionnée ci-dessus, je déclare, en considération de la préférence qui m'a été accordée de posséder cette concession, des dépenses faites et à faire par la société, des facilités qu'elle m'a données pour mon passage, retrocéder à la dite société par ces présentes, la moitié des terres que ce contrat mentionne, soit

*soixant*  
*cent vingt acres.*  
pour en jouir en toute propriété, me chargeant de remplir les obligations du contrat en entier.

Témoins: *M. Marguerite Derung*

*Geo. Pharis*

*Geo. Pharis*