

Texas Freethinkers: How “Latin” were the Latin Colonies?

Between the years 1845 and 1860, about 250 German Freethinker families immigrated to the Texas Hill Country. In their six settlements (Bettina, Castell, Cypress Hill, Tusculum (later Boerne), Sisterdale, and Luckenbach) meetings were often conducted in Latin or Greek - causing their bemused German neighbors to label the Freethinker settlements “The Latin Colonies.” This paper will present evidence that on the gravemarkers, anyway, the Latin language had little influence.

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