

**From Ghost Towns to San Antonio's Riverwalk:
The Texas Freethinkers' Linguistic Trail**
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Texas historians use the term Freidenker (Freethinkers) in reference to a group of intellectuals who immigrated to Texas in the 19th century. Most of the Freethinkers spoke German, a few spoke Czech, some had facility in the use of French and of Latin. These intellectuals referred to their non-educated neighbors as Speck Bauern (Bacon Farmers). In turn, the Bacon Farmers called the intellectuals Schwarten Bauern (Bacon Rind Farmers). Both groups, apparently, referred to a subgroup of these Freethinkers as Lateiner (Latin Ones). Descendents have memorialized ancestors mostly in English and German. The search for the inclusion of Czech, French, and Latin, however, has so far proven illusive.

References

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