

NEW BLOG FOR LATEINER RESEARCH

Scott Baird and Frank Faulkner, San Antonio

Over the past five years Scott Baird (Professor Emeritus, Trinity University) has searched for a gravemarker, any gravemarker, inscribed at least partially in Latin by families of the Texas German Lateiner. (Baird 2010). Now suspicious – but not convinced – that such gravemarkers do not exist, Baird has been working with Frank Faulkner (Director of the Texana/Genealogy Department at the San Antonio Public Library.) Faulkner has now initiated a blog, <http://texaslateiner.blogspot.com>, where both Baird and Faulkner invite anyone with knowledge of the Lateiner to exchange information.

Baird recently presented a paper at the annual meeting of the American Culture Association (ACA), where he argues that two parallel histories of the Lateiner exist. The early histories basically report of failures on the part of some German intellectuals to succeed at farming – and the subsequent derogatory label of “Lateiner.” These intellectuals eventually provided a deep and enriching cultural impact on the development of Central Texas culture. But they had little success as farmers. The second history reflects a late twentieth and early twenty-first century that reflect this positive contribution. “Lateiner” has now become a complimentary label.

Baird’s unedited paper, *The Lateiner at Rest: Gravemarkers of the Lionized Texas German Intellectuals*, has been downloaded onto the blog (Baird). Discussion among participants at the ACA convention suggest that one of Baird’s “established” historians most likely represents the contemporary positive view, rather than the earlier negative view. That paper, “Freethinkers of the early Texas Hill Country,” has also been downloaded onto the blog. (Sharf)

Works Cited

Baird, Scott. *Texas German Gravemarkers: Lateiner, Freethinkers, and Other Intellectuals*. **The Journal of the German-Texan Heritage Society**, XXXII:1, Spring 2010, 8-16.

Sharf, Edwin E. "*Freethinkers*" of the Early Texas Hill Country. **Freethought Today**, April 1998.