

SOUTHWEST & MEXICO
Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Mexico
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The Evers Family Cemetery and Texas Germans

When we moved to San Antonio in 1974, my wife and I bought a house just off Evers Road, barely outside the 50-mile-long Loop 410 that circled the city. We were out in the country. A half mile further out--on Huebner Creek, which several times a year flooded Evers Road--was the charmingly small Evers Family Cemetery.

The only building between the cemetery and Evers road was an old milk house—converted into living quarters.

Our quasi-rural, quasi-suburb, ambience has by now been replaced by a quasi-inner-city ambience. Loop 410 has now been encircled by Loop 1604, ten miles away and twice as long. The cemetery has long been surrounded by houses; the milk house replaced by a combination Leon Valley Community Center and twice-expanded Library.

During those thirty years the Evers family has been able to procure “Texas Historical Marker” status for their cemetery.

HISTORICAL MARKER

CLAUS (1817 – 1900) AND JOHANNA (1818-1905) EVERS
AND THEIR CHILDREN CHRISTIAN (1847 – 1915) AND
CHRISTINA (1850 – 1914) CAME TO TEXAS FROM

SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN, GERMAN IN 1855. THEY MOVED
HERE IN 1874. THIS CEMETERY BEGAN ON THEIR FARM
IN 1877, WHEN A WOMAN TRAVELING THROUGH THE
AREA BECAME ILL AND DIED AT THE EVERS HOME. THE
FIRST FAMILY MEMBER BURIED HERE WAS ANNA
WEHMEYER, INFANT CHILD OF THE EVERS' DAUGHTER
CHRISTINA WEHMEYER BRAENDLE. SEVERAL
GENERATIONS OF EVERS AND BRAENDLE DESCENDANTS
ARE BURIED HERE. THE CEMETERY STANDS AS A
REMINDER OF THE AREA'S PIONEER HERITAGE. (1991)

Most of the fifty-some markers are in English, a few--such as
that of Christina and Christian (the two children of the original
settlers)--are in a mixture of English and German. (The German
epitaph is a stylized Christian message of hope in Christ and Heaven.)

CHRISTINA	CHRISTIAN
EVERS	EVERS
AUG. 19, 1859	JULY 12, 1847
JUNE 30, 1915	OCT. 19, 1915

Nach Todes Schwerz und Grabestruh

Führt Christus uns dem Himmel zu

Such mixtures of German and English languages on single gravemarkers are quite common in Texas German cemeteries (see Baird; Baird and Duncan).

Another fifty-some graves have type-written information (all in English) on funeral markers. Family members tell me that the traveling woman is buried in the back right-hand side; no definite spot though has been determined. The first family member buried in the cemetery, the infant Anna Wehmeyer, has a funeral marker in the very center of the cemetery. Even now, fourteen years after the marker was typed-written and covered heavily in transparent tape, the amusing (revealing?) message is mostly legible.

Anna Wehmeyer

Born & Died

Late 1878 or Early 1879

This is the first family member to be buried in the cemetery [sic]. Anna was the first child of Frank W. & Christina Evers Wehmeyer Braendle. Frank Wehmeyer's amputated leg was buried at the foot of Baby Anna's grave in late 1881.

The most recent interment in the Evers Cemetery was in August of last year. Today the grave still has no gravemarker--only a funeral marker.

RUTH

REININGER

COLEMAN

1/9/19 – 8/13/04

A decade or so ago, I thought I was knowledgeable about Texas Germans, next to Spanish-speakers the second largest ethnic group in Texas. I assumed that the Evers were part of the large number of Germans who immigrated here when Texas was an independent nation (1836-1845). When I dutifully checked with the Texas State Historical Society's website, however, I realized that the Evers arrival date (1855) would put them in the third (chronologically) of about a dozen different immigration movements that started in 1831 and lasted until the 1890s.

I know from talking to family members that the Evers family farmed. But farming was not the only occupation for Texas German immigrants. To paraphrase Terry Jordan in his introduction to the Texas Germans portion of Texas History: The Germans included peasant farmers and intellectuals; Protestants, Catholics, Jews, and Atheists; Prussians, Saxons, Hessians, and Alsatians; abolitionists and slave-owners; Unionists and Confederates; farmers and townsfolk, "frugal honest folks and ax murderers"; teetotalers who abhorred

dancing and beer guzzling party-lovers. “They differed in dialect, customs, and physical features.”

Gravemarkers in hundreds of similar family cemeteries across the state silently proclaim the century-plus German cultural and historical influence upon Texas’s present.

Baird, Scott . *Language Codes in Texas German Graveyards*. **Markers IX**. 1991, 216-55.

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<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/view/GG/png2.html>

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