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Texas Historical Staff (MHM), 5/31/83, 6/24/83

18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker without post for attachment to limestone
Kerr County (Order #7145)

Location: North Creek Road, 17 mi. E of Kerrville

ROGGENBUCKE HOMESTEAD*

PRUSSIAN IMMIGRANTS OSCAR AND
LOUISE(WEISS)VON ROGGENBUCKE
WERE AMONG THE FIRST SETTLERS
IN THE COMFORT AREA,ARRIVING
IN 1855.THEY BOUGHT THIS FARM
LAND AND BUILT A HOME HERE FOR
THEIR LARGE FAMILY.DURING THE
CIVIL WAR,MORITZ AND FRANZ
WEISS,ROGGENBUCKE'S STEPSONS,
WERE KILLED IN THE NUECES RIVER
MASSACRE.THEY WERE AMONG 36
AREA GERMAN SETTLERS WHO WERE
ATTEMPTING TO JOIN UNION TROOPS
WHEN THEY WERE ATTACKED BY
CONFEDERATE FORCES.ROGGENBUCKE'S
GRANDSON EDGAR,A COMFORT AREA
SCULPTOR,CREATED A SCROLL THAT
HANGS OVER THE DOOR OF THE HOME.**

(1983)***

APPROVED 7-18-83

*3/4 inch lettering
**1/2 inch lettering
***1/4 inch lettering

7145

The Oscar Roggenbucke Farmhouse

Kerr County, Texas

by

Dale and Jean Ogden

Mr. & Mrs. Dale T. Ogden
107 Cotillion Drive
San Antonio, TX 78213

Dale T. Ogden

Jean Ogden

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Oscar Von Roggenbucke was born September 4, 1811 in Sohl, Prussia. He married Louise Weiss, a widow with four children, three of whom accompanied them to Texas. The Weiss children were: Moritz, born 1836; Franz, born 1843; and Bertha. Bertha was married to a Mr Oelker of Sisterdale, Texas, sometime prior to 1860. Oscar and Louise had three children together, all born in Prussia - Carl (1848), Anna (1850) and Fannie (1852). Bruno was born in Comfort, Texas in 1859.[1]

The Roggenbuckes and the Weiss children of Sohl, Prussia left Bremen, Germany on the sailing ship Gessner, and landed in Galveston, Texas on September 30, 1854. The journey took approximately 52 days.[2]

The 1860 Federal Census of Kerr County, Texas lists the following:

Roggenbucke	Oscar	- 48	- Farmer
	Louise	- 46	- Wife
	Weiss, Moritz	- 24	
	Weiss, Franz	- 17	
	Charles	- 12	
	Annie	- 10	
	Fannie	- 8	
	Bruno	- ½[3]	

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[1]Dolores Holekamp, papers of. Ms Holekamp is a great granddaughter of Oscar Roggenbucke. Her current address is: 1110 Sherwood Lane # 205, Oklahoma, City, Oklahama 73116

[2]Ethel H. Geue, New Homes in a New Land; German Immigration to Texas 1847-1861, (Texian Press, 1970). pp. 39, 142, 145.

[3]Kerr County, Texas Federal Census Records of 1860.

*Note: In the 1860 Census the Von has been dropped from Von Roggenbucke and Carl now goes by Charles. Anna is now called Annie. Also, only two Weiss children were listed. This tends to confirm that the Weiss daughter was married prior to 1860.

The Roggenbuckes were among the first settlers of Comfort, Texas arriving in 1855.[4] The land settled by the Roggenbuckes was deeded by J. F. C. Vles (attorney of Ernest Altgelt) to Oscar Von Roggenbucke on October 6, 1855.[5] A log cabin was constructed to provide shelter for the family as indicated by a caption under a picture of the cabin in the book, A Hundred Years of Comfort in Texas. This picture also shows a stone addition next to the cabin wall.[6]

A native limestone structure was added next to the log cabin after 1855. The ready availability of the limestone and the size of the family necessitated building larger quarters. The existing four room rectangular limestone structure has an 18 inch thick interior wall, suggesting that the structure was enlarged at a later date. A current floor plan is enclosed. (Exhibit A.) An early photograph (date unknown) furnished by Dolores Holekamp is enclosed as Exhibit B. In 1883 the house was specifically mentioned in the deed records of Kerr County, Texas at the transfer of the property from Oscar's widow Louise to their son, Charles.

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[4]Clara Watkins, Kerr County, Texas 1856-1976, (Hill Country Preservation Society Inc., 1976) p. 112.

[5]Kerr County, Texas Deed Records. V. A, pp. 195-97.

[6]Guido E. Ransleben, A Hundred Years of Comfort in Texas; A Centennial History. (The Naylor Co., 1954) pp. Between 208 and 209, Picture Nr. 13.

"Using the house occupied by myself and my deceased husband as dwelling for the remainder of my lifetime free of any charge for rent, have granted, bargained, sold and release unto the said Charles Roggenbucke his heirs and assigns, my right, title and interest to which I am duly entitled as heir at law of my deceased husband Oscar Roggenbucke, late of the County of Kerr - State of Texas . . ."[7]

The house has been continuously occupied since it was built.

Names and ownership dates are as follows:

Roggenbucke, Oscar - Original owner.
Roggenbucke, Louise - 4 April 1883 - 27 Aug 1883. (V. H,p. 134)
Roggenbucke, Charles - 27 Aug 1883 - 29 Aug 1918. (V. H, p. 135)
Holekamp, Otto and Edgar - 29 Aug 1918 - 17 Nov 1919. (V. 36, p. 285)
Flach, Felix and Martha - 17 Nov 1919 - 2 Jun 1959. (V. 37, p. 597)
Rust, Milton - 2 Jun 1959 - 21 Oct 1971. (V. 105, p. 146)
Cheves, Gordon B. - 21 Oct 1971 - 22 Dec 1981. (V. 152, p. 238)
Ogden, Jean W. - 22 Dec 1981 - present. (V. 255, p. 749)[8]

According to Mr. F. M. (Pat) Faust, (87 year old, former Postmaster of Comfort, Texas), Felix Flach, who was a carpenter by trade, enclosed the porch of the Roggenbucke house and also modified the roof line. This was done between 1919 and 1923. Mr. Faust took the 1920 Federal Census of Comfort and also picked cotton on the Roggenbucke farm. Mr. Faust is now retired and living in the Comfort area.

Roggenbucke family members were involved in an important early Comfort historical event. Moritz and Franz Weiss, stepsons of Oscar Roggenbucke, were among the 36 Comfort area pioneers who died in the Nueces River Massacre in 1862 while fleeing toward Mexico in an attempt to join the Union Forces.[9] The Treue Der Union (True to the Union) Monument still stands on

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[7]Kerr County, Texas Deed Records. V. H,p. 134

[8]IBID Volumes and page numbers as indicated in text.

[9]Guido E. Ransleben, A Hundred Years of Comfort in Texas; A Centennial History. (The Naylor Co., 1954) pp. 94-95

High Street in Comfort, Texas. An in depth account of the Battle of the Nueces appears in the 20 January issue of Harpers Weekly (1866).[10]

Charles, son of Oscar Roggenbucke, became a successful truck farmer in Comfort, Texas. His horse and wagon were a familiar sight on the street of Comfort in the early 1900's.[11]

Another item of significance concerns Comfort's only known sculptor. Edgar Roggenbucke, only son of Charles, was born in 1885 on the Roggenbucke farm. He showed an early interest in sculpting and did his work at home. Mr. F. M. (Pat) Faust remembers the small quarry on the Roggenbucke farm where Edgar used to work. The quarry is still there. A bas relief bust of Abraham Lincoln, signed by Edgar, is owned by Dolores Holekamp, niece of Edgar. A picture (Exhibit C) is enclosed. Edgar also sculpted a bas relief scroll with flower and date inscription (1903) over the present front door of the house. A picture (Exhibit D) is enclosed. Dolores Holekamp advised that Edgar left Comfort to go to Burnet, Texas in the early 1900's. It is believed that the scroll over the door was done in 1903 when Edgar left home. The bust of Lincoln and the scroll over the door are the only known remaining examples of his work. Edgar died in 1943 and is buried in the Comfort Cemetery.

Although simple in its architectural design and style, the Roggenbucke farmhouse is a fine example of how the hardy German settler, using the natural resources available, built a functional small dwelling that grew as his needs and skills grew. With additions and refinements over the years,

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[10]Phillip Rutherford "German Immigrants Died at the Battle of the Nueces, Defying the State of Texas," Harpers Weekly (20 Jan 1866) pp. 16-21

[11]Guido E. Ransleben, A Hundred Years of Comfort in Texas; A Centennial History. (The Naylor Co., 1954) pp. Between 208 and 209, Picture Nr. 27.

this farmhouse has proved to be timeless in its ability to ably house each successive contemporary family, and will probably be standing long after both writer and reader are gone.

The Roggenbucke farmhouse is presently undergoing restoration in accordance with guidelines established by the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects, Washington, D. C., 1979. The structure is sound and in excellent condition. Stately large oaks still encircle the house, and portions of stone boundary walls surrounding the house are still in evidence. Current owners, Jean and Dale Ogden anticipate using the house as a retirement home. The location of the Roggenbucke farmhouse is shown on the enclosed map (Exhibit E).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Holekamp, Dolores, Papers of. Ms Holekamp is a great granddaughter of Oscar Roggenbucke. Her current address is: 1110 Sherwood Lane, Nr. 205, Oklahoma City, Okla., 73116.

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