



MORITZ TILING

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A

HISTORY
OF
THE GERMAN ELEMENT IN TEXAS
FROM 1820-1850.

Goldberg

AND
HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF THE GERMAN
TEXAS SINGERS' LEAGUE AND
HOUSTON TURNVEREIN

FROM 1853-1913

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PREFACE.

This plain, unpretending monograph has been written for the purpose of preserving to posterity the records of German achievements in the colonization and upbuilding of the great state of Texas. The pioneer's humble life and courageous struggles are very often left unnoticed by the historian, yet, without his brave and patient labors none of the great commonwealths of the United States would exist. The early pioneer, whose brawny arm wielded the axe, who cleared the forest and broke the virgin soil, is as much a maker of a country, as the statesman, the diplomatist and the soldier of today. His faithful work and often hazardous task are well worth remembering.

The different Texas histories used in the public schools unfortunately are lamentably deficient with respect to the important part the Germans have taken in the colonization and shaping of Texas. Some of them, which are used extensively in the schools of the State, do not make any mention at all of the German immigration and its bearing on the rapid development of Texas, while others at least state briefly that—"Texas is indebted to her German tillers of the soil for developments of great value, and which to Americans had been considered of impossible production in this climate." (Brown's School History of Texas, p. 218.) Prof. A. B. Faust of Cornell University devotes but ten pages to Texas in his History of the German Element in the United States.

Thus the present generation is even now almost ignorant of the men, who went intrepidly into an unknown country, who fearlessly braved the many dangers and hardships incident to pioneer-life and who helped to lay the foundation of the great State of Texas.

The publication of this unassuming book shall remedy this deficiency with proper accounts of the colonization of Texas and will give credit to whom credit is due.

To Prof. C. W. Welch I am indebted for proof-reading and other valuable suggestions.

Houston, Texas.

A. M. T.

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