

The Menger Family 1857 San Antonio, Texas



MENGER FAMILY BY ROLAND EMIL KLAR, JR.

#1 JULIUS OSCAR MENGER was born on 2 March 1842 in Schwarzburg, Stadtilm, Thuringen, Germany arriving in America, with his parents, at Galveston, Texas August 1846. On May 1861 Julius enlisted in the Alamo Rifles, Bexar county... TST (Texas State Trooper) as a Private for home or field service under the command of Capt. John A. Wilcox. On 5 April 1862 Julius enlisted in the Confederate Army, Infantry, Company "F", 4th Regiment, Texas Volunteers. Then on 27 June 1862 Julius was severely wounded on his arm and leg at the Battle of Coal Harbor and was placed in Chimborano Hospital No. 3, in Richmond, Virginia. He received a discharge from the service on 9 October 1863. On 11 August 1881, Julius applied for and received Confederate scrip No. 285, for 1280 acres of land from the General Land Office, State of Texas. This was a veteran benefit passed in 1881, providing confederate soldiers who were permanently disabled or to widows of confederate soldiers. It was repealed in 1883 with 2,068 certificates issued. No records have been found that Julius took advantage of his certificates. Sons of Confederate Veterans have honored his service in the Confederacy. Julius was unable to work, did not marry and died at the age of 45 on 12 October 1887. He is buried in the Alamo Masonic Cemetery, located in the Eastside Cemeteries, San Antonio, Texas.

#2 JOHANN NICOLAUS "SIMON" MENGER is 1st born and 1st son of Heinrick Jacob Menger and Elizabeth Barbours and was born 5 January 1907 in Schwarzburg, Stadthilm, Thuringen, Germany. His marriage document states, as a "bachelor he was a girl school teacher and Sacristan" (Johann was a gifted musician, playing the piano, teaching and writing music.) Leaving Bremen 4 August 1846 and arrived in America 31 October 1846 with his spouse and four children, at Galveston, Texas on ship Sophie under the command of Capt. Adicks. The Family departed Galveston by Oxen and cart and arrived in New Braunfels. In early 1847 Simon known for musical background he was encouraged to move to San Antonio to teach music and the family moved to San Antonio. Simon was most noted as being the proprietor of the San Antonio Soap Works, established in the early 1850's, (aka as Menger Soap Works) This business considered to be the first industrial enterprise in San Antonio. Early ads in

the city directory notes that as many as 14 different varieties of soap were produced. Other products included were candles and vinegar. In 1874 Simon purchased land in downtown Houston, Texas and soon established the Houston Soap Works. In 1882 the property and soap works were deeded to his son August in Houston and shortly afterwards, Simon deeded the San Antonio Soap Works to his son Erich (1). As a musician and singer he was very much involved in the San Antonio Deutscher Mannergesang Verein and served several positions in the Verein. He was a member of the Casino Club. He served on the School Committee as treasurer of the Schiller Foundation for the purpose of procuring a schoolhouse for a German-English school in San Antonio in 1859. Simon was a Mason. He was also active in real estate purchasing land and selling was another one of his activities. On 1 November 1862 Simon enlisted as a private in the Company of Minute Men, Home Guard, CSA (Confederate State Army) under the command Capt. Asa Mitchell in San

Antonio, Texas. No record had been found of his length of service or date of release. Sons of the Confederate Veterans have honored his service in the Confederacy. This thumbnail sketch of Simon only highlights a fraction of his endeavors during his 46 years as resident of San Antonio. (See attached listing of articles and publications related to Simon). Simon died 19 May 1892 just under 85 years of age and is buried in the Alamo Masonic Cemetery, located in the eastside cemeteries of San Antonio, Texas.

#3 ERICH MENGER (1) was born 20 October 1843 in Scharzburg, Stadtlim, Thuringen, Germany arriving in America with his parents in Galveston, Texas in August 1846. In September 1861, at nearly 18 years old enlisted in the company of Alamo Rifles, 20th Brigade, TST (Texas State Trooper) in San Antonio. No record has been found giving his time in service or release date. Sons of Confederate Veterans have honored his service in the Confederacy. Erich married Mary "Maria" Elizabeth "Emile" Phillippe in the St. John's Lutheran Church, San Antonio, Texas on the 24 December 1872. Mary was the daughter of Francis Eugene and Theresa (nee Wirth) Phillippe who arrived in Galveston, Texas the 28th December 1846 from France. Mary was born in San Antonio, Texas 8th of March 1882 Simon (Erich's father) retiring from the soap works deeded all the lots he had purchased in block 178 where the soap works was, being 410 North Laredo Street to Erich (1), he now became the proprietor of the San Antonio Soap Works. The soap works was closed circa 1904 and the property remained in the family until sold to City Of San Antonio Urban Renewal Program in 1969. A side note: The Callaway Corporation with plans to build an apartment complex then bought the property in March 1970. The San Antonio Conservation Society and the Bexar County Historical Society became involved to save the main soap works building. In September 1974 the court ordered that building be restored to "whatever adaptive use" he determines. The builder chose to restore the building to become the office and clubhouse of the apartment complex. February 1984, ceremony was held in the unveiling of Historical Landmark plaque. Mrs. Roland (Floy Elizabeth Menger) Klar grand daughter of Erich (1) was present with several others descendents. February 1893 - February 1897 Erich was City Alderman at large serving one term under Mayor George Paschal and then one term serving Ward 3 under Mayor Henry Elemendorf. Erich did serve three more terms as Alderman of Ward 3, 1905-07, 1909-11 and 1911-13 under Mayor Bryan Callaghan. Erich served his community well. Mary and Erich had five children, Emile, Rudolph August, Erich, Jr. (2), Alma and Emil Walter. Mary died 25 April 1901 and Erich (1) died on 12 November 1915, both in San Antonio and both are buried in Alamo Masonic Cemetery located in the eastside cemeteries in San Antonio, Texas.

#4 RUDOLPH W. MENGER was born 21 April 1851 in San Antonio, Texas. His primary education was obtained in San Antonio. At 18 began working, as Clerk in Kalteyer's drug store became interested in pharmacy. In 1869 he went to Germany and entered the University of Leipsic, in Saxony, where

he began the study of medicine. He graduated in 1874 he immediately returned to San Antonio and became assistant surgeon in the United States army till 1875, when was appointed City Physician and served till 1881. He resigned to enter private practice. Dr Menger was notified to appear to be one of several to witness the hanging of a convicted rapist that was held with in the walls of Bexar County Jail on 17th August 1882. He, again became City Physician in 1892. Dr. Menger also served as physician for several insurance companies for many years, he was active in and served his community well. He wrote "The Nature Observation and Reminiscences " a 323 page book and also photographed all the nature pictures in the book Additional details of Rudolph's life may be found in various publications where articles have been written or referred to him. (See attached listing) On the 16 September 1879 Rudolph married Catherine Barbara "Babette" Menger (no relation), daughter of William Achatius Menger and Mary Baumschieuter Guenther. (William erected the Menger hotel). Rudolph and Babette had eight children, Minnie, Edward, August, Louis B., Gustav, Rudolph, Jr., Theodore, and Margaret. Both died in San Antonio, Texas, Rudolph died 16 March 1921 and Babette died 20 February 1947 and both buried in San Antonio, Texas.

#5 AUGUSTA LOUISA SCHOENIGER MENGER was born 24 January 1819 in Stadtlim, Germany and was the 3rd child and 2nd daughter of Johann Nickolaus Schoeniger and Elizabeth Barrara. Augusta and Simon married 14 November 1839 in Stadtlim, Germany and had six children. Augusta died 19 November 1887 in San Antonio, Texas and is buried in the Alamo Masonic Cemetery located in the eastside cemeteries, San Antonio, Texas.

#6 ANNA "ANNIE" MENGER was born on 9 September 1840 in Stadtlim, Germany. Arriving America with her parents in Galveston, Texas in August 1846. Anna married Herman Haubold 13 June 1869 in San Antonio, Texas. Herman was the owner of H. Haubold, 'Tanner, Fur Dresser and Dealer in Dressed Texas furs of All Descriptions.' They had three children, Anna "Annie", Clara and Alfred. On 22 May 1915 Herman drowned while on a camping trip. Anna died on 21 July 1929 in San Antonio, Texas. Both are buried in Mission Burial Park South, San Antonio, Texas.

#7 AUGUST FRIEDRICH ANTON MENGER was born in Schwarzburg, Stadtlim, Thuringen, Germany 21 September 1845. Arriving America with his parents in Galveston, Texas in August 1846. On 1 June 1862 August enlisted in Company "A", 36th Texas Calvary, Wood's Regiment, 32nd Texas Calvary. A record of 13 August 1865 states that August was "permitted to return to his home, not to be disturbed by the United States Authorities, so long as his people and the laws in force where he may reside." Sons of Confederate Veterans have honored his service in the Confederacy. August married Clara (Baumann?) circa 1876 and eight children followed: Clara B, Ida B, Simon J., Antonio A., Max K., Fred A., Willie, and Robert C. January 1874, August's father Simon purchased 1.04 acre lot on South Street (known today as Artesian Street) near Cushman & Preston Road in downtown Houston, Texas and the Houston Soap Works was established with Simon, Erich and August as sole owners. On 8 March 1882 Simon deeded all the land to August and he became the sole proprietor. Upon August's death, May 1893, the Houston Soap Company was run by a brother Rudolph Menger and a Henry Kriechamer and eventually Henry Kriechamer became the proprietor. .

August died on 6 May 1893 in Houston, Texas and is buried in the Washington Cemetery. Of interest, this cemetery was established in 1887 by the Deutsche Gesleschaft (German Society) for the purpose of establishing cemetery for German citizens of the Houston area. No record of Clara's death or where she is buried. However several of the children are buried in the Washington Cemetery.

#8 IDA MENGER was born on 20 July 1850 in San Antonio, Texas. Ida married Edmond P. Hender-

son on 11 March 1882 in San Antonio, Texas. Ida and Edward had seven children: Oscar, Edmond P., Jr., Robert, Annie, Herman, August, and Ida. Edmond was a native of England and arrived America in 1880. He was a master mechanic for the Southern Pacific Railroad for many years. He was the engineer who piloted the first passenger train of the I&GN Railroad when it entered San Antonio. He then took charge of large farm in San Geronimo, Texas. Edmond died 4 January 1915 and Ida died 11 July 1930, both in San Antonio, Texas. Both are buried in the Mission Burial Park South, San Antonio, Texas.

ARTICLES ABOUT SIMON MENGER

In my search over the years, this is a listing of articles found whereby Johann Nicolaus Simon Menger is specifically written about or referred to in the article.

1894- "Record of Southwest Texas Memorial and Genealogical", Chicago, Goodspeed Brothers, 1894, p.663 - under paragraph headed, Dr. Rudolph Menger, Simon's son

1895 - San Antonio Express News -15 May 1895, p. 5 - "He Writes from Germany" Wm. C.A. Thielepape

1895 - San Antonio Express News - 19 May 1895, p.6 - "Early Music in San Antonio" by a relative.

1907 -"A 20th Century History of Southwest Texas", Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago, N.Y., Los Angeles, Volume II, p. 54, "San Antonio and its Citizens", Chapter XXVI

1913 - "Texas Nature Observations and Reminiscences" by R. Menger, M.D., under the page, "Biographical Sketch of the Author". San Antonio, Texas Guessaz & Ferlet Company- 1913

1923 - "New Encyclopedia of Texas", 1923 - p. 1555, under paragraph headed Dr. Rudolph Menger, Simon's son

1937 - 'With the Makers of San Antonio ', 1937, p.410 - Frederick C. Chabot

1950 - San Antonio Express Magazine - 26 Mar 1950, p. 14 -"San Antonio's First Music Teacher" Louis B. Englelke

1971 - "North San Antonio Time" Vol. 1, No.31, p. 4 - Oct. 7, 1971 - Article, "Menger Tell of Soap Factory Industry" by Lewis Fisher.

1972 - October 1972 - "Southwestern Historical Quarterly-Texas State Historical Association", Vol. LXXVI, No.2, p. 183-186, "Notes and Documents Sankt Antonius: Germans in the Alamo City 1850's" by Kent Keith

1974 - "Monger Soap Works" - May 1, 1974, by Bernadette McGinty, third year architecture student, University of Texas Austin. Ms. McGinty chose to theoretically restore the Menger Soap Works, 40 page document including history and architictive drawings, etc. The developers who restored the Soap Works structure used her paper as a reference,

1974-Paper- 18 Oct 1974 -"Simon Monger (1807-1892): The Activities of a Composer, Conductor, and teacher in San Antonio before the Civil War." By Theodore Albrecht, Doctoral Student of Music

History Dissertation work on German Singing Societies of Texas

1975 - Notes "The Quarterly Journal of the Music Library Association" - Mar 1975 Volume 31, No.3, p.517-529, "The Music Libraries of the German Singing Societies in Texas, 1850-1855" by Theodore Albrecht, PhD, North Texas State University

1978 - "San Antonio Was: Seen Through A Magic Lantern" by Cecilia Steinfeld, Published by the San Antonio Museum Association 1978 - page 183 & 184.

1983 - "Traces of Texas History - Archeological evidence of the Past 450 Years", 1983, p. 321-324.

1984 - Treatise - 24 April 1984 - "Solo Piano Music by San Antonio Composer", Chapter III, entitled "Composers who arrived in San Antonio before 1940" by April Abraham, B.M.- Peabody Conservatory, 1973, M.M.-The University of Texas 1977

1986 - "Our Heritage, San Antonio Genealogical & Historical Society", Apr 1986, Volume 27, Number 3, p. 11, "Alamo Masonic Cemetery"

1993 - "Our Heritage, San Antonio Genealogical & Historical Society", Winter 1993-94 Volume 35, Number 2, p. 3 8 "San Antonio's First Soap Maker" by Fount Rambie.

1993 - "Dallas Morning News" Dec 5 1993 - Article "San Antonio's Menger had Soap, Music Interests" by A.C. Greene

2000 - "The Handbook of Texas Online" - Menger, Johann Nicholas 1807-1892 <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/view/MM/fme37.html>

2000 - "The Handbook of Texas Online" - German Music. <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/view/GG/xbgl.html>

2001 - "Always on Tuesday - One Hundred Years of Music", By Marion N. Braubach. "A History of Tuesday Musical Club, Inc., 1901-2001, p. 5

2002 - "San Antonio Express News" - Jan 13 2002, p. 5g - Article "Hotelier Menger was known of his music and Soap" by Paula Alien. Referring to Simon Menger the word "Hotelier" was in correct. Jan 20, 2002 correction was noted that William Menger was the "Hotelier" not Simon

2003 - "Menger Soap Works " <http://germansa.home.texas.net/buildings/mengersoapfactory.html>