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Brandes Grave

[2006, Revisited 2011]

Latitude 30° 05' 33" – Longitude 96° 34' 51"

Located on private property along Latium Cemetery Rd.

Carl Friedrich Ernst Brandes was born July 21, 1819, in Hanover. He probably married there by about 1840 and he and his wife had at least one child. On October 30, 1845, Carl signed an Immigration Contract with the Association for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas, commonly known as the Verein. On November 3, 1845, the bark, Apollo, sailed from Bremen and arrived in Galveston on January 20, 1846, with 94 immigrants. Among those was Carl Fried. Ernst Brandes from Celle and 3 other family members. Each married man was to receive 320 acres of land in the Fisher Miller Grant. However, the Verein soon realized that there were transportation problems because of the grant being so far from the coast and from settlements that were already in existence. Comanche Indians already inhabited the area and the soil was not fertile for farming. The immigrants would have to find another place to live. But finding transportation inland was difficult because most wagons and other forms of transportation were being used in the Mexican American War that had just begun. After not being able to make any transportation arrangements, many families traveled by foot to their destination.

By May 18, 1846, the Brandes family had apparently made their way from the coast to this area because, on that date, Carl Brandes was in Columbus and enlisted in the war for 6 months in the First Regiment, Texas Mounted Riflemen, serving under Captain Herbert. He was mustered out at Monterey, Mexico, on October 2, 1846, because of illness.

In 1850, Carl and his wife, Ernestine, were living in Austin County and had no children. It is possible that Ernestine is Carl's second wife as family lore indicates that Carl and Ernestine married in Texas in 1850, and that her maiden name was Mueller. However, an entry in a family prayer book shows her name as Wilhelmine Ernestine Boles.

Also in 1850, eight-year old Aurelia Knachfuss was living with the Brandes family. Carl Brandes signed a document in 1854 certifying that Carl Gustav Knachfuss, deceased, was entitled to 640 acres in the Fisher Miller Grant. It is believed that Carl Gustav Knachfuss was the father of Aurelia and that she may have been a niece of Carl and Ernestine Brandes. She married William Vogelpohl in 1860; he died in about 1869-1870. In 1871, Aurelia married E. T. Henrichsen.

In 1860, Carl and Ernestine were living in Washington County with three children. Also living with them were William & Aurelia Vogelpohl. In 1870, the Brandes Family continued to live in Washington County and there were now six children.

Carl died November 2, 1874, and, in 1888, Ernestine began receiving a pension for Carl's service in the war. Ernestine died December 15, 1897. They are both buried in Latium Cemetery.

Carl & Ernestine had the following children:

1. Sebastian Gustav was born September 19, 1851, and married Emma Siebel on December 14, 1875. Gustav died February 12, 1924, (stone says Feb 24) and Emma died June 4, 1933. They are buried in Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham

2. Heinrich Erich was born October 6, 1853, and married Pauline "Lina" Keng on December 23, 1878. Erich died on Jan 4, 1904, and Lina died April 27, 1928. They are buried in Garden of Memories in El Campo.

3. Theodore August was born February 25, 1856, in Mill Creek and married Hedwig Menn on January 10, 1885. August died February 18, 1918, in Temple. Hedwig died February 10, 1929. They are both buried in Hillcrest Cemetery in Temple.

4. Jefferson Davis, born May 29, 1861, married Emilie Hachemeister on December 20, 1883. J. D. died in Washington County on August 7, 1909. Emilie died on June 8, 1899, and is buried in Taylor City Cemetery.

5. Wilhelm Max was born July 27, 1863, and married Augusta Keng on August 23, 1886. Max died July 13, 1925, in Plainview and Augusta died August 22, 1932, also in Plainview. They are buried in Plainview Cemetery.

6. Eduard Louis was born March 7, 1868, and died October 12, 1881. He may have died due to a farm-related accident; he's buried in Latium Cemetery, just a couple of graves down from his parents.

No documentation has been found to determine the name of the child buried here, although it supposedly was a Brandes child. Stories handed down throughout the years mention that children were playing on a wagon and one fell off the wagon and died. There is also the mention that the child buried here was a visitor, not the child of the landowner. Carl Friederich Brandes and his wife Ernestine lived in the Kenney area of Austin County in October 1850. They had no children. It is presumed that the child buried here was the child of Carl and his first wife and that the child died prior to October 1850. Carl did buy property in the area in 1851 and in 1853; however, it has not been determined if it was this property.

There are indications that there were other graves here which may indicate that this was at one time a community cemetery. There is also a mass grave which could have been due to a yellow fever epidemic in 1867.

Sources: A New Land Beckoned, German Immigration to Texas, 1844-1847, by Chester W. & Ethel H. Geue, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, 1982; The Fort Worth Daily Gazette, 16 June 1888; U. S. Federal Census Records; Various email communications with Brenda Reynolds; Washington County Texas Deed Records.