

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Wolfram M. Von-Maszewski**

After being laid off again from the oil industry, Mr. Von-Maszewski was offered the position of Manager of Genealogy and Local History at the Fort Bend County Library system in Richmond. In that position, he increased the inventory of microfilm and books on Texas and family history. Von, was known to love history and was fluent in speaking and reading German, especially the old-style script.

During his time at the library he was responsible for transcribing numerous diaries, family letters, military transcripts, historical accounts and church records written in the German language. He was even involved in writing for a German newspaper and was instrumental in the research and publication of the history of Mennonites in Fort Bend County.

Mr. Von-Maszewski also edited manuscripts including the history of the founding of Houston; letters written by a German company commander who served in the Confederate Army; translation of the diary of Prince Solms-Braunfels of Germany who founded New Braunfels; and indexed a 1923 book about the trail drivers of Texas. He continues his efforts even after retiring in 2007.

17 Pages

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Interview Summary

People (in order mentioned in interview)

Roman Bohachevsky – Director of Fort Bend
County Library System
James Glass, Architect, Researcher, author
Joyce Kennerly, Fort Bend Museum
Colonel Thomas N. Waul, Commander
Captain Robert Voigt – Confederate Army
Company Commander
Thomas Flinthoff – 19th century artist
Francis Fisher – worked with Prince Solms
Prince Solms-Braunfels – German Aristocrat &
founder of New Braunfels, TX
Theodore Gish – Professor at University of
Houston
William Penn – English Quaker leader who
founded the Province of Pennsylvania
James Frank Dobie – Texas Folklorist
Bert Bleil – friend, woodworker

Places / Businesses

Fort Bend County, Texas
Richmond, Texas
Pasadena, Texas
Houston, Texas
George Memorial Library, Richmond, Texas
American Revolutionary War
US Civil War
Clayton Library Center for Genealogical
Research, Houston, Texas

Family History Centers, Mormon Church
Europe
Sugar Land, Texas
Mormon Church, Salt Lake City, UT
Rosenberg Rotary Club
National Archives and Records
Administration, Washington, D. C.
Dolph Briscoe Center for American
History at the University of Texas (UT,
Austin)
Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas
World War II
Poland
Germany
Texas Commerce Bank, Houston
Confederate Army
Waul's Texas Legion
Blinn College, Brenham Texas
Washington County, Texas
Vicksburg, MS
Camp Morton, Indiana
Mennonite settlement, Fairchilds, Texas
Mennonite College, Kansas
Reformation
Russia
Homestead Act
German-Texas Heritage Society Journal
Fort Dix, NJ

Events

Laid off from the oil industry, Von received a phone call from his friend Roman Bohachevsky, Director, Fort Bend County Library to become the Manager of Genealogy and Local History in 1989.

Von's love of history permitted him to assist families in translating diaries and letters written in German, a language he learned although he was born in Poland.

Although he was not a US citizen, Von served in the US Army as a paratrooper. While in the military, he obtained, through the G. I. bill, bachelor and master degrees in Art and became a U. S. citizen.

Over the years, he translated and edited letters, diaries, books and church records. Some of his works were published, including his research of the Mennonites in Fort Bend County.

Upon his retirement in 2007, Von continues to research and translate documents.