

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

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

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Interviewer: Jane Goodsill

Transcriber: Bob Gaffney

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17 Pages



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Transcript

GOODSILL: Today is December 7, 2015. I'm taking an oral history of Mr. Von-Maszewski. Let's start with how you got to Fort Bend County.

VON-MASZEWSKI: We lived in Pasadena where we became acquainted with Roman Bohachevsky and his family through our daughters. They were classmates and friends. Prior to coming to Richmond, Roman was library director in Pasadena. I worked in the oil field-related industry at the time but my avocation is in history. I majored in anthropology and linguistics. Roman knew of my historical research and writing and said, "If I have a job opening, I want you." I laughed at him because I loved my job in industry. Roman took his position as library director in Fort Bend County and I visited him there. In early January 1989 he called me, saying that he had an opening that I should consider. The timing could not have been more perfect. This was the time when the oil bust was having its effects on the Houston economy. I had been laid off the previous month. It was the third time in as many years. Roman and his assistant director interviewed me. Eventually I was hired as manager of the Genealogy and Local History Department at George Memorial Library. That was in February 1989.

GOODSILL: Will you describe that job for us?

VON-MASZEWSKI: At that time, family research was "the thing." It brought many patrons to our department in the library. In the course, it developed the department and we built a relationship with the community that helped us financially. It provided a means to purchase materials that were beyond our budget.

GOODSILL: Like what?

VON-MASZEWSKI: Microfilms, in particular U. S. Census films. These films are the basic building blocks of a family tree. Today this information is accessible on the computer.

GOODSILL: You had to buy the films that had the data on it?

VON-MASZEWSKI: Yes, ma'am. We concentrated on the census data from the southeastern U. S. because most of the ancestors of the current residents in this county came from there.

GOODSILL: When people come to the library do you help them research their family history?

VON-MASZEWSKI: We help them, we guide them to microfilms as well as printed material like books, magazines, and documents.

GOODSILL: Tell us about the resources in the Fort Bend County Library to do genealogical and local history research?

VON-MASZEWSKI: We have all the censuses for the states in the southeastern U. S. from the date of their creation to 1930; then there are the American Revolutionary War records, the Records of the Civil War, and civil records from Fort Bend County and adjacent counties. There are other repositories in the immediate area that we encourage patrons to visit: Clayton Library in Houston, a major library devoted to family research. Then there is a branch of the Family History Center. It works under the auspices of the Mormon Church. It makes available genealogical data, for example from Europe that is difficult to obtain otherwise. Anyone is welcome to use the facility.

GOODSILL: Where's that located?

VON-MASZEWSKI: On Eldridge Boulevard in Sugar Land.

GOODSILL: Have you been out to Salt Lake City, Utah, to their headquarters?

VON-MASZEWSKI: Yes, ma'am.

GOODSILL: Where you there for personal reasons or for the library?

VON-MASZEWSKI: I was President of the Rosenberg Rotary Club and went there to a National Conference. Taking advantage of the situation, I visited the library and archives. The Rotary Convention was invited to the Tabernacle and listen to the choir. One of their numbers was the "Battle Hymn of the Republic." Thinking of that moment, it still sends chills down my spine.

I also attended seminars at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D. C. My personal research is more devoted to history but the areas of genealogy and history do overlap. My familiarity is with the collections at the Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas (UT-Austin), Texas A&M, Texas Tech University and other special collections in libraries in Texas. Roman encouraged me to keep my ties to these institutions because I could guide patrons to these resources,

GOODSILL: What was your job in the oil field industry?

VON-MASZEWSKI: I worked in production and inventory control.

GOODSILL: From where did your interest in history come?

VON-MASZEWSKI: Back in fifth grade, my better grades were in geography and history.

GOODSILL: Have you researched your own family history?

VON-MASZEWSKI: To some extent. I was born in Eastern Europe. Records there are not as readily accessible as they are here.

GOODSILL: Because so many of them were destroyed?

VON-MASZEWSKI: Yes, destroyed during WWII; also, archives are less customer-friendly. A person has to seek an appointment; and then there is the language. Although born in Poland, I left at a young age and was educated in Germany. People are not as keen in family research in Germany. They were sedentary and, consequently, know their family and their local history.

GOODSILL: As you said, it doesn't seem a priority in Europe.

VON-MASZEWSKI: This has changed in recent years. Displaced persons of WWII, from the east German areas and from Bohemia and Moravia in the Czech Republic have begun to research their heritage.

GOODSILL: People became really enamored with knowing their roots?

VON-MASZEWSKI: Yes, but the interest in family research has tapered off.

GOODSILL: Why do you think that is?

VON-MASZEWSKI: After a while people lose interest. One has to be persistent in doing this. People become discouraged when they run into obstacles. Rather than giving up, a person needs to regroup and attack the problem from a different point.

GOODSILL: So you were giving guidance, general how-to's, about how to start researching your family?

VON-MASZEWSKI: You work from the present to the past. Don't jump into the middle because your names are similar. In the end, when you combine your line and the other line you find that the information does not fit.

GOODSILL: When you did your own line, were you stymied by the displacements that happened in Poland over the years?

VON-MASZEWSKI: Very much so.

GOODSILL: So you haven't really been able to go as far back as you'd like?

VON-MASZEWSKI: Not really. But, then, I am deeply involved in historical research.

GOODSILL: For example?

VON-MASZEWSKI: Presently, I am editing a manuscript. Its author has passed away. The subject is the very early time of Houston, 1837-38, a span of roughly 500 days. The author did a fantastic job. It is an 850-page manuscript. That is just the manuscript. It does not include the footnotes, bibliography, and illustrations. Texas A&M Press advised us to cut it down to 350 pages to make it cost effective to print.

GOODSILL: So how did they find you?

VON-MASZEWSKI: I was acquainted with the author. After he passed away, I asked his widow what happened to the manuscript. She said nothing. So I volunteered to help her.

GOODSILL: What's it like working with that project?

VON-MASZEWSKI: It's very interesting. I was able to cut about 400 pages of text, material that is not germane to the early history of Houston. It is a matter of cutting it drastically and have it published or the material will sit on the shelf and collect dust.

GOODSILL: So it's going to be published?

VON-MASZEWSKI: A&M Press is still interested. We plan a trip to the press in April to get their input.

GOODSILL: Was the author's writing interesting, easy to read?

VON-MASZEWSKI: It is a typed manuscript, meticulously researched, and has some great information. It is a shame that it has to be cut.

GOODSILL: What an honor to work on a manuscript that is beautifully researched and written. If he were alive what would happen?

VON-MASZEWSKI: I think that he would argue to retain the cut material.

GOODSILL: Maybe in a different book if it is important.

VON-MASZEWSKI: There is some thought of publishing the first two or three chapters separately. They cover pre-history and the years prior to the 1830s.

GOODSILL: That sounds like an interesting project. How long have you been on that?

VON-MASZEWSKI: About a year. We hope that we can get the manuscript to the press by next summer.

GOODSILL: Most of the editing, the heavy lifting, has been done already? Are you in front of your computer most of the time?

VON-MASZEWSKI: The author's widow gave me the manuscript on a thumb drive.

GOODSILL: It is appropriate to give the author's name or is it too early?

VON-MASZEWSKI: I guess we can. The author is James Glass. Professionally he was an architect. He became interested in the topic when he did some work for Texas Commerce Bank. In the process they found an early ledger. It contained a listing of Houston town lots sold in 1836/37. It got his interest and he did further historical research. Based on his findings he drew some wonderful maps.

GOODSILL: He drew, he is an architect?

VON-MASZEWSKI: Sure. He showed me some of his maps while he worked on the manuscript.

GOODSILL: We'll be lucky to have some of that in the book, maybe? Some of the drawings?

VON-MASZEWSKI: Yes. I hope that we don't have to edit out any of the maps, it is original information. Portraits in the manuscript a reader can do without because they can be found in other locations. His maps and drawings include names of establishments and give his perception, based on his research, how they looked like.

GOODSILL: Tell me some of the things you've researched, some of the historical interests?

VON-MASZEWSKI: We can jump around a bit on that subject. I was given a letter to translate from German to English. A German-Texan in the Confederate Army wrote it. He was a company commander in Waul's Texas Legion. The penmanship was beautiful and the grammar proper. The writer was educated. I was intrigued and researched him.

His letters and diaries spanning his time in the Confederate Army are deposited in the Briscoe Library, UT-Austin. I transcribed and translated them all. The handwriting is in the old German script. In the process, other letters and diaries from soldiers in the same company were brought to my attention. All of the men were German-Texans and came from Washington, Austin, Colorado, and Fayette Counties. My intention is to write a company history based on the writings of these soldiers.

Then the Genealogy Department at George Memorial Library was given a set of church records from New Wehdem Church, Austin County. Basically, they were useless to the general public; they were written in the Old German script. I translated them and with the help of a typist turned them into a useful three-volume reference work.

GOODSILL: How come nobody else could read the records?

VON-MASZEWSKI: The writing was in the Old German script.

GOODSILL: Explain this to me.

VON-MASZEWSKI: The Old German script was in vogue until the mid-1930s. As a 15-year old I taught myself in the early 1950s to read the script, never suspecting that down the road it would come to good use to me. In the 1980s I was researching the history of the Brenham Maifest, an annual festival still observed in Brenham, Texas. I located an early document of the sponsoring organization at Blinn College, Brenham, Texas.



Brenham Maifest, Texas, a community-wide celebration of local German heritage.

– courtesy festivalnet.com

The original sponsors were local Germans and the document, a minute book, was written in the Old German script. As I perused the book my skill of reading the script returned.

GOODSILL: Did it all just come right back?

VON-MASZEWSKI: Gradually. It helped that the writer's penmanship was legible.

GOODSILL: Is that one of the reason that you learned it when you were 15 because you were enthralled by the penmanship and the challenge?

VON-MASZEWSKI: I don't recall what motivated me.

GOODSILL: I'm sure other 15-year-olds weren't doing that! You've always liked linguistics?

VON-MASZEWSKI: Yes, I liked it.

GOODSILL: So now you've got two diaries from people who were in the same company in 1862.

VON-MASZEWSKI: There are more than that.

GOODSILL: More showed up?

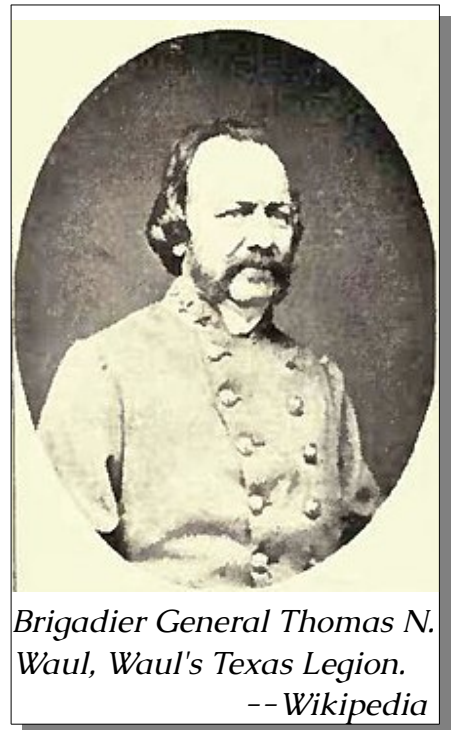
VON-MASZEWSKI: There are several individuals who have letters or diaries of Confederate soldiers serving in this company. Joyce Kennerly (Vice-president, Fort Bend Museum) encourages me to publish the material. It's a major project. I start on it and then get involved in something else but it will be done because I spent much time on it. Besides, the reader learns a segment of the war from the common soldiers' perspective.

GOODSILL: The experiences that these men had are unique. They tell us something about history, about their personalities, about the war.

VON-MASZEWSKI: We are talking about Company "C" of Waul's Texas Legion. Colonel Thomas N. Waul was the commander of this unit.

GOODSILL: You need to explain to me how all these Germans got into the Confederate Army.

VON-MASZEWSKI: Individuals had the option, they could volunteer, generally they did this as a group, or they were drafted and placed in different companies among strangers. The group that I am researching were German-Texans primarily from Washington, Austin, Colorado, and Fayette Counties. They formed a company which allowed them to stay together. They were sworn in in Houston and sent to Washington County where they trained until they were ready to go to the front.



When the call came, they marched to Shreveport, Louisiana. Here the company commander, Captain Robert Voigt, had a picture taken of himself that he sent to his wife. I have one of these, an original, in my possession.

GOODSILL: You have a picture of him?

VON-MASZEWSKI: Yes, ma'am. As a matter of fact, there were two slightly different poses taken. He even speaks about this in the letter to his wife. One of the pictures is in the hands of his descendants and the other I have.

GOODSILL: That's great.

VON-MASZEWSKI: When I while translating the Voigt material, I mentioned to a distant relative of his that it be would nice to have a picture of the writer. She agreed. Shortly after our phone conversation she called back and put me in touch with a Voigt descendant. He mentioned that his father gave the war correspondence to the library at UT-Austin but that he himself kept his ancestor's picture, a tin-type. This statement had my attention. I asked if I could copy it. He declined. We stayed on the phone for about 45 minutes. Periodically he came back to his picture but every time he refused to have a copy made. Toward the end I realized what the problem was. I explained that we needed just one exposure to make a negative. With a negative multiple copies could be made, no longer requiring the original. The battle won!

Some time later, I helped bring back from California to Houston life-sized oil portraits of Houston's notables of the 1850s. The canvases were done by the British artist Thomas Flintoff. He practiced his profession in Texas around 1850-52. Among them are two portraits unknown to the art world, Francis Fisher and his wife Mary. He was prominent when the German settlers came to Texas in the 1840s. The Fisher family passed the portraits down from generation to generation, until the last Fisher died. Among the other items left, was the second Voigt tin-type. Voigt and Fisher were distantly related. An interesting fact to this story is the Fisher branch in California bought its residence in Los Angeles from the actress Fay Wray, who starred in the original 1933 King Kong movie.

GOODSILL: How long ago was this?

VON-MASZEWSKI: I guess five years, or more. When I got back to Houston, I asked my acquaintance what it would take to acquire the Voigt tin-type. She knew I was working on the Voigt material and promised to help me.

GOODSILL: What happened?

VON-MASZEWSKI: A couple of weeks later she called to say that it was mine, A “thank-you” for bringing the portraits back to Texas. She even provided the documentation showing that I legally obtained the tin-type. An acquaintance of mine in Germany researched Voigt’s background, his early years before he came to Texas, and his parents.

GOODSILL: In order to publish this material, it requires a lot of work. You’ve got to take this mass of material and make it into an interesting and cohesive flowing document or book or novel or history. What format will it take?

VON-MASZEWSKI: I don’t know at this time. I think the letters should tell the story.

GOODSILL: It’s very exciting.

VON-MASZEWSKI: What surprises me is how much material is still undiscovered in private hands. One individual told me that he had tried to catch me for months. He had a packet of letters written in 1854. He wrote them to his wife in Germany and encouraged her to come over and join him. He describes the conditions here in comparison to Germany; he asks her what tools to bring and which ones to ignore because they were not suitable in America, for example, German axes were not strong enough to cut down trees over here.

GOODSILL: It’s very interesting to think about the different kind of tools from country to country. Refresh my memory, were there several waves of German immigrants? There must have been some that happened before the Civil War?

VON-MASZEWSKI: Texas offered *empresarios* (land agents) large tracts of land to attract people to settle the sparsely settled land. The agents looked for prospective settlers in the overpopulated countries of Western Europe. A group of noblemen in Germany showed an interest in this endeavor. Prince Solms, founder of New Braunfels, came to Texas in 1844 and prepared for the arrival of German settlers. The question is still debated were the settlers brought over here to offer them a better livelihood, or was it an attempt to establish a German colony, or was it a scheme to make money from the sale of land to the settlers.

GOODSILL: Is that one of the reasons there is a strong German population in Texas?

VON-MASZEWSKI: About six thousand Germans came to Texas by the late 1840s.

GOODSILL: Were they craftsmen or nobility?

VON-MASZEWSKI: They were primarily farmers and craftsmen, There were also idealists who wanted to create utopian communities. They failed because they preferred to have discussions and did not prepare for a livelihood.

GOODSILL: So now we get back to these Confederate soldiers. Do you know the fate of some of them or most of them? Did they fight any major battles?

VON-MASZEWSKI: I researched the lives of the major contributors, by that I mean the diarists. In regard to fighting major battles, Voigt's company was given a special assignment, the defense of Yazoo City and preventing the Federal forces from advancing down the Yazoo River and attacking the Confederate forces at Vicksburg from the rear.

Waul's Legion minus Voigt's company were at Vicksburg. Yazoo City is close enough to Vicksburg that Voigt's men did hear the bombardment. Vicksburg fell on July 4, 1863. Voigt and his men at Yazoo City were not captured until a week later. What is of interest to me is the way Confederate and Federal frontline soldiers respected each other. The Confederate officers, for example, by their word of honor were given the freedom of Yazoo City.

GOODSILL: Wow! They could go out as they wished because they were officers?

VON-MSAZEWSKI: Yes, they gave their word of honor and just had to report at curfew; however, as the Confederate prisoners were moved further to the rear, officers and enlisted men, were treated with open disdain. They were shipped to prisons. The officers went to Johnson Island, Ohio, while the enlisted men were shipped to Camp Morton, Indiana. While in prison the men were allowed to write home, occasionally. There was a system, a "flag of truce," whereby both sides exchanged sacks of mail with letters by their prisoners.

GOODSILL: You can imagine that when you write from a prisoner of war camp, you are not going to write all the things that are going on.

VON-MASZEWSKI: Certainly. Voigt sent a couple of letters to his wife while a prisoner. He also was visited by acquaintances. It was not a face-to-face visit but they saw each other across the fence.

GOODSILL: So he survived the war?

VON-MASZEWSKI: He survived the war, he and his family settled in Galveston where he became a general commission merchant. His freedom was short. He died in 1866 and his wife followed him the following year. Their children went to live with various relatives.

GOODSILL: You've told me about three major projects, editing the Glass manuscript, translating the Voigt diaries and letters, and Prince Solms' Texas diary. These have been done since you retired?

VON-MASZEWSKI: Only the Solms' diary was completed while I still worked at the library. Ted Gish, professor at the University of Houston, called me one day and asked if I would assist him in translating a diary. He had located it in Germany and it was pertinent to German-Texas history. He brought me a copy to see what it was all about.

Before he got back to me for an answer, I had made a rough translation of the 90-page manuscript. I suggested that the translation should be annotated because the people, places, and events mentioned therein could be identified. To make a long story, he turned the material over to me. He suggested that I take credit for it. The Solms' diary was published by the University of North Texas Press.

GOODSILL: What is the title of the book?

VON-MASZEWSKI: *Voyage to North America*.

GOODSILL: Is it available and are you the author?

VON-MASZEWSKI: It is available and I am the translator and the editor.

GOODSILL: Will you talk about your Mennonite research? Would you start by spelling Mennonites for me. It is a complicated word.

VON-MASZEWSKI: The proper spelling is M-E-N-N-O-N-I-T-E-S. I became intrigued in the subject in the 1990s when I noticed on a Richmond-Rosenberg map the designation "Mennonite Road," located between FM 762 and Fairchilds. Its other designation is FM 2977. I started to ask around, I looked into county such as deed records, marriage records, naturalization records, and school records. Bit by bit an answer formed. In the late 1890s a Mennonite settlement existed near Fairchilds. While gathering my information, I contacted the Mennonite College in Kansas. The people there referred me to the college in Fresno, California.

This taught me that there were different branches with the Mennonite denomination. The Fresno group were very responsive and offered suggestions for my research because Fresno did not have the means to send someone here. I bought the German-language Mennonite newspaper of that period. It had a wide circulation and offered some excellent information. Readers used it as a bulletin board, posting open letters to each other.

I should give a short history of the Mennonite movement before we discuss the local settlement. The Mennonites had their beginning in Germany and Switzerland. They are a Protestant offshoot of the Reformation. At that time they were considered radical because they espoused going back to the basics. That the simple life was the way to the Bible. They did not believe in kings, that God was the ruler. These beliefs did not sit well with the local rulers.

GOODSILL: Or any monarchy in power.

VON-MASZEWSKI: Exactly. They did not believe in paying taxes or in military service. So, they were persecuted because they were a threat to authority. William Penn recruited Mennonites, Amish and other Protestant groups to settle in his colony in North America. Other persecuted Protestants from the Switzerland area and the upper Rhine River moved to the Netherlands where the government was more tolerant toward them. In the Netherlands, a man by the name of Menno Simons, gave more structure to the movement. Henceforth, his followers became known as Mennonites. Being farmers by occupation, with large families, the Mennonites were constantly in search of land.

When free land became available in Eastern Europe, after the expulsion of the Slavs, the Mennonites moved from the Netherlands to the East along the Baltic Sea coast. They settled around Danzig, today the Polish city of Gdansk. Here they were approached (1761) by representatives of the Russian Empress, formerly a Prussian princess. She offered them land along the Volga River, autonomy, and exemption from taxation and military service. They accepted, settled within Russia, and became successful farmers much to the annoyance of Russian landowners.

GOODSILL: Were there not enough Russians to do it?

VON-MASZEWSKI: No, the area offered them had just recently been incorporated into the Russian Empire. In the mid-1860s the landowners succeeded for the government to curtail the privileges that the Mennonites enjoyed.

Being world-wise, the Mennonites were aware of the Homestead Act in the U. S., offering government land in the American West at a cheap price. Some of the Russian Mennonites were attracted by this opportunity. Starting in the 1870s, they settled in in today's mid-west.

GOODSILL: The Homestead Act didn't say anything about what nationality you were?

VON-MASZEWSKI: No. As long as a person had the money he could buy land. The Mennonites prospered as farmers but having large families, there was always the quest for farm land for the next generation. In the 1890s they ventured into Texas where open land was available. One group came to Fort Bend County in 1897 and settled on the Barnabas Wickson League next to the community of Fairchilds.

GOODSILL: Did this group prosper? What happened to them?

VON-MASZEWSKI: They prospered but their crop was rained out in 1898, they were flood the following year, and the 1900 Storm devastated the settlement. Discouraged by these hardships, they began to leave this area and by 1908 they were all gone.

Ironically, they next group to settle on these lands was luckier. The area became the cotton growing center of the Gulf Coast. There is nothing left of the Mennonite community other than the cemetery.

GOODSILL: Where is the cemetery located?

VON-MASZEWSKI: Concord Cemetery is located outside the community of Fairchilds. Much of the information about this group came from their German-language newspaper that had a wide circulation, including in Russia. It served as a bulletin board. Individuals sent letters to the newspaper chatting about their lives here and inquiring about their former neighbors in Russia. Members from the settlement sent in letters and from them I gathered information about their lives in Fort Bend County. During my time at the library, we were visited by descendants of these Mennonites. The information that I had gathered was helpful in their search. Finally, I put my research to paper and it was published in the Mennonite Family History Magazine.

GOODSILL: I don't know quite how to categorize your interests.

VON-MASZEWSKI: I cannot help you there. My research comes from curiosity and the challenge. J. Frank Dobie, a Texas folklorist, lamented that a collection of published autobiographies by Texas trail drivers lacked an index. It has about 600 pages.

GOODSILL: Oh, no. Did you index it?

VON-MASZEWSKI: At that time the computers used eight-inch floppies. I filled two of them with data. The next problem was to find a computer in Houston that would allow me to merge the data from the two floppies. Today we laugh about this when we look at a thumb drive with its capacity for data.

GOODSILL: So it just takes a data-set for you to begin a project?

VON-MASZEWSKI: More or less. I worked on the revised edition of Stephen F. Austin's Old 300. When I was the editor for the German-Texan Heritage Society Journal, we published a series of letters of early German emigration to Texas. A comment in one of the letters aroused some interest. I looked around in libraries here and in Germany. These letters written for a German newspapers had been compiled and published as a pamphlet of about 80 pages. I translated the material and it was published as Alwin Soergel's Sojourn in Texas, 1846-47.

GOODSILL: Do you anticipate that you have a couple more projects in you?



W. M. Von-Maszewski, center, retired Fort Bend County Library department head, received the Bert E. Bleil Heritage Award for 2015. At left is Joyce Kennerly, who gave the presentation speech and at right is Fort Bend County Historical Commission chairman Chuck Kelly. Von-Maszewski is from Richmond, Kennerly from Rosenberg and Kelly from Sugar Land.

--courtesy of the FBC Oral History Commission

VON-MASZEWSKI: One project is almost ready to go to press. It's the history of a company of German-Texans in the Confederate army. The history is based on letters and diaries that have survived to the present.

Goodsill: So I guess we don't have to ask you what you do with retirement?

VON-MASZEWSKI: I will continue with research and writing. I enjoy that aspect.

GOODSILL: So, was it last year, 2015, that you received the Bert Bleil Texas Heritage Award? It was given to you based upon which project?

VON-MASZEWSKI: I don't believe that it was based on any particular project.

GOODSILL: Anything else that we should talk about? Will you tell me about your early life? You were born in Poland?

VON-MASZEWSKI: Yes, I was born in Poland. At the end of WWII we ended up in Germany. In 1953 I applied to the United States Armed Forces and was accepted. I took my basic training in Fort Dix, New Jersey. Next I volunteered for airborne school to become a paratrooper.

GOODSILL: Where were you stationed?

VON-MASZEWSKI: I was stationed with the 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, next with the 508th Airborne Regimental Combat Team in Japan, and finally with the 101st Airborne Division in Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

GOODSILL: Why did they need jumpers in America in the 1950s?

VON-MASZEWSKI: At that time it was part of the military strategy to put troops behind enemy lines. Today the same can be done by helicopters. I am proud of my time in service. My intention was to remain in service but to advance one needed college hours. So, I left service to get the equivalent of two years of college work. College came easy to me. I finished my BA and MA in three years, taking courses around the clock. The GI Bill was a God-send. I never went back into service. I began working in the private sector.

Interview ends

EDITOR'S NOTE: See the post-interview photo of Mr. Von Maszewski receiving a national award from the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution below.



POST INTERVIEW: In January 2016 Wolfram Von-Maszewski was presented the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) Americanism Medal by Mary Ann Jeneck, Regent of the Fort Bend County chapter of the NSDAR. The chapter was honored to present the award to Von-Maszewski who became a citizen of the United States in 1959. The award is based on his qualifications in the fields of leadership, trustworthiness, patriotism, and service.

--courtesy of the NSDAR