



"Da waren Deutsche auch dabei!"

A Cowboy in Lederhosen

Images: The Sesquicentennial commemorative logo of the Texas-Germany Committee, above, and, below, a Republic of Texas \$2.00 change note (1839-1841). Endicott and Clark, England. From the collection of John Martin Davis Jr.

Dr. Meredith McClain, of Texas Tech University, chaired the Texas-Germany Committee during the Texas Sesquicentennial in 1986.

"When I was in San Antonio in the 1980s, I visited a rare currency shop near the Alamo, next door to the Menger Hotel. In looking at 'red backs' of the Republic of Texas, I noticed that one had the image of a cowboy roping a steer. Upon closer inspection, it appeared that the man had on lederhosen, buckled at the knee and was sporting a Tyrolean hat. The horse didn't look exactly like a quarter horse, and the steer looked a bit strange too, but I was quite sure that the cowboy was either a German immigrant or was born to a German immigrant family.

In 1984 when committees were forming all over the state

in preparation for the 1986 Sesquicentennial, this image of the German Texan on a bill of the Republic seemed especially meaningful to represent the large and important German population of the state present right from the beginning. The list of soldiers who died at the Alamo reveals, for example, some who were born in Germany. "Da waren Deutsche auch dabei," which means "There were Germans there too" became the phrase to accompany a Texas-Germany Committee logo of the roping Bavarian riding over the state's official Sesquicentennial flag.

Just as swiftly as the logo came into being, so spread its popularity. The Texas-Germany Committee logo (ended up) on many items including stationery, business cards, and.....of course, commemorative biersteins."

