



J. G. ROUNTREE. P.E. 4905 Westfield Drive Austin, TX 78731-5544 Tel. (512) 452-3073

December 8, 1990

Mr. Gary Mauro, Commissioner General Land Office 1700 North Congress Avenue Austin, TX 78701-1495

Dear Sir:

This is a letter to commend a staff member who was very helpful to me, and to send material which might someday be useful to the GLO.

On December 5, I inquired at your Survey Department for information on early surveys in Bee County. Mr. William O'Hara was exceedingly courteous and helpful in finding the information and in discussing it with me, for which I am truly grateful.

In examining the field notes from a survey made in December, 1879, by Mr. J. F. Fenner, then Bee County Surveyor, I noted that some of his script approximated German script. Mr. Fenner was of German descent, so this is understandable. His notes were unambiguous, but it occurs to me that some of the survey notes in GLO files may have material with a more pronounced German characteristic. Two factors make this a possibility.

First, some of the early German settlers were engineers and surveyors in Germany who contracted to survey lands granted to impresarios, taking their pay in land. Second, according to the Texas Almanac, there was a time when the German language was used by Texans more than all other languages combined.

Attached are copies of two pages from German text books, showing German script and the English equivalents. I hope that they will be helpful if needed. Should a document ever turn up which is distinctly German, I shall be glad to do all I can to get it translated.

Yours truly, G. Rountree, P.E.

Att. Copy w/ att.: William O'Hara

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¹ For the Pronunciation, see § 2, Preliminary Note.

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THE GERMAN ALPHABET

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Pronunciation

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