throughout Texas, many of which still survive in 2005. The artists Hermann Lunge
weitz, Richard Petrri, and Carl Iwonski were among the earliest painters to capture the
Texas landscape on canvas.

In the area of industry and technology

Germans, through the likes of Adolphus

Buch, brought the growing industry to

Texas and the greater Southwest. New

Braunfels became an important industrial
center as Germans harnessed the flowing

See also Adelbrecht Ernst, Friedrich,
Fredericksburg, Texas; Meech, John O.;
New Braunfels, Texas; Nuens, Band of
the, Sorbs (Wende), Texas German Dialect;
World War I and German Americans.

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Dialect.
different German dialects such as Hessian, Palatinate, Saxon, Thuringian, and Low German, among others, eventually led to the formation of various New World dia-

...
further into the private domain. This declining use of German led most Texas Ger-
man newspapers and church services to switch to English at the end of the 1940s. At the same time, young Texas Germans left the traditional German-speaking areas for employment in larger cities such as Austin, San Antonio, and Houston, or to enroll in college or the military. For this group, speaking primarily English had a number of practical and economical advantages, eventually leading to a linguistic decline in their command of Texas Ger-

eration, it is considered a critically endan-
gered dialect. This sharp decrease in speak-
ers puts Texas German on the list of about 3,000 languages and dialects worldwide that are expected to become extinct by the end of the twenty-first century.

Some Linguistic Properties of Texas German

Texas German differs from Standard Ger-
man and other German dialects in a num-
ber of significant ways. These differences have led many speakers of Texas German
significant number of English nouns for which there existed perfect German counterparts at the time of German immigration. They may sometimes lead to ambiguities and misunderstandings. For example, a sentence like \textit{Morgen habe ich abgenommen}
contact with English has led to substantial sound substitutions in Texas German.

One of the most important characteristics in Texas German morphosyntax is its reduced case system. As the beginning of the twenty-first century, linguists are in the unique position of being able to observe the evolution of the Texas German case system because of prior research conducted in \textit{Texas German} on the different uses of cases by

sions such as \textit{über} (over) and \textit{unter} (under) that typically mark the following noun with dative case when indicating a location instead of motion or a change of state. To illustrate, sentences such as \textit{The picture hung over the bed} would be translated into Standard German as \textit{Das Bild hängt \textit{über} dem Bett} where \textit{dem Bett} is marked with dative case following the preposition \textit{über}. Instead, most Texas Ger-
the German enclaves throughout the German Belt. Depending on factors such as geographic isolation, variety of different donor dialects, availability of school instruction in Standard German, and contact with non-German speakers, distinct subvarieties of Texas German evolved over the past 150 years. Thus, based on the regional flavoring of Texas German one can often identify even into the twenty-first century the particular region of Germany from which the original settlers came to Texas.

For example, linguists agree that there are a number of differences between the Texas German varieties spoken in the Hill Country to the west of Austin (Fredericksburg, New Braunfels, and Mason), as opposed to those spoken to the east of Austin (Goddins, Le Grange, Schleienburg). The western area was predominantly settled through the efforts of the Adelverin. The majority of immigrants came from the west and undertook the gradual assimilation from speaking Texas German to English. As little research has so far been conducted on the influence of Wendish, the full scope of its influence on the Texas German spoken in Lee County is rather unclear. The most obvious influence is the borrowing of the words der Bratjk (the man in charge of the food at a wedding) and der Bobbik (boogie man). The other large Texas German-speaking group different from the two general east- and west-Texas German groups are the descendants of settlers who immigrated to Medina County, to the west of San Antonio. These settlers came from Alsace, on the western bank of the Rhine River in present-day France. As such, their Alsatian dialect differed from most of the other German dialects brought to central Texas in that it exhibited features characteristic of south German dialect varieties. The influence of Alsatian on present-day Texas German in Medina County is next
German with strong regional colorations depending on the location. As Texas Ger-
man is spoken only by a few thousand elderly speakers at the beginning of the
twenty-first century, there is little time left to research the exact linguistic makeup of
this unique dialect. To tackle this problem, the Texas German Dialect Project at the
University of Texas at Austin (http://www.

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Germany and the Americans

Thomas Ad