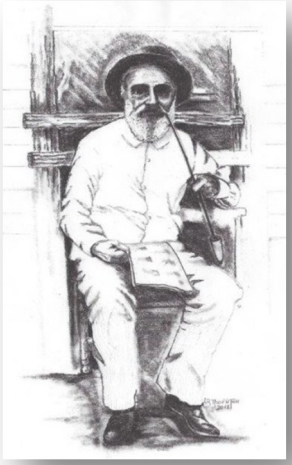
# EDWARD HENKEL OF ROUND TOP

By Cynthia A. Thornton
Author of *The Times Of Round Top*

Edward Henkel was born George August Edward Henkel on May 24, 1818 in Hesse-Kassel, Germany. On June 6, 1846 Edward Henkel and his wife, Louise Leopoldine Schoenwerk, sailed from Germany and landed in Galveston. Five days after arriving in Galveston their first child, Carl, was born on June 11, 1846.



The Henkel's came to Texas as part of the H. F. Fisher-B. Miller Land Grant Colony, which was created by the Republic of Texas in 1842. This original land grant allowed 600 families to acquire land.

October 3, 1846 Franklin Lewis sold 187 acres of land to Edward Henkel for $450.00 on the north side of Cummins Creek. On February 1, 1847 the Henkel's purchased 60 acres of land from Milton A. and Mary T. Hardin of Liberty County for $75.00. This acreage was located on the south side of Cummins Creek and on the east banks of Shaw Creek. Edward Henkel built a log cabin for his family on this property. This log cabin is located on the L. C. Meyer homestead.

Edward Henkel's granddaughter, Mrs. L. C. Meyer lived on the family farm until she died. Mrs. Meyer was one of the daughters of Edward Henkel and his second wife, Mathilde. The original log house built by Henkel in 1847 was still on the property. An outer layer of tin protected the cabin from the elements and it was used as a corn crib. Mrs. Meyer had a family Bible containing vital statistics of the family since they came to Texas. Included among other family treasures, Mrs. Meyer had an oil portrait of Louise (Henkel's first wife), several photographs of Mathilde in her late years, and furniture brought from Galveston by the Henkel's. Mrs. Hoskinson, Mrs. Meyer's cousin, had several old family photographs and some of Edward Henkel's ledger books and documents. Other Henkel family items such as a coverlet brought from Germany and a platter from Henkel's old store on Live Oak Street in Round Top are on deposit at the Daughters of the Republic Museum in Austin, Texas. A ledger book from Henke's store, bearing the date 1877 on one page, is on file at the archives at The University of Texas at Austin.

The Henkel's had two children born on the 60 acre farm on the south side of Cummins Creek near the village of Round Top. The children were Franz George Theodore Henkel born in 1849 and Mathilda Henkel born in 1851.

On November 2, 1852 Edward Henkel purchased 25 acres of land along with buildings from John and Sarah Shults for $700.00. This property was part of the early Mexican land grant in 1831 to James Winn. One half of the Winn land grant was sold to John York in 1835 including the 25 acres. In 1841 John Shults purchased the 25 acres and operated a store and lived on the property in the village of Round Top. This land that Edward Henkel purchased for $700.00 had to have contained several buildings. This land was part of the land that was later called Henkel Square and today is called Henkel Square Market.

On October 13, 1855 William Hodges sold to Edward Henkel Lot No.4, Block 9 for $200.00 in the village of Round Top. There must have been buildings on this lot because other lots were selling for $50.00 and $60.00. This is the lot where the Henkel house is today and where the family lived. Therefore part or the entire house might have been built by Mr. Hodges. The original builder of the house cannot be proven.

The Henkel House was built of cedar and pine material. When the Henkel family live in the house there were three bedrooms and a main room used as a dining room. The exterior stairs on the side of the house lead to the upstairs two bedrooms. There was a separate building behind the main house that served as the kitchen. The other building behind and to the side of the kitchen served as a building where meat was cured. It is believed that Rudolph Melchior painted the stenciling on the walls on the first floor back room.

In 1855 a daughter, Louise, was born to Edward Henkel and his wife. Ten days later Mrs. Louise Henkel died and their new born daughter, Louise, died in 1856. After Edward Henkel's wife died and in accordance with his wife's wishes, Mr. Henkel returned to Germany and married his wife's sister, Mathilde Wilhelmine Schoenwerk. They were married in Frankfort at the office at the American Consul. The couple returned to Round Top to live on the family farm on the 25 acres. The Henkel's had a son, George, born in 1858 and a son, Albert, *born* in 1862. Edward Henkel was a farmer and operated a general store on Live Oak Street in Round Top. The store was closed during the Civil War due to lack of supplies.

Between the years 1855 to 1871 Edward Henkel sold some of his property in Round Top. October 17, 1855 Edward Henkel sold to Joseph Wagner Lot No. 2 & 3, Block 3 for $60.00. March 4, 1856 Edward Henkel sold to Eli W. Tharp and Peter Snook 1/8 of an acre on Lot No. 3, Block 9 for $18.00. Tharp and Snook built a two story building called The Store House on the corner of Live Oak Street and Mill Street with living quarters upstairs and a store down stairs. May 16, 1856 Edward Henkel sold to Carl Ehrgott Bauer Lot No. 4, Block 7 for $35.00.

January 28 1859 Edward Henkel sold to Charles Vogelsang 1/2 of an acre for $23.00. Vogelsang's land was located to the north of the village survey in an area called Henkel's Edition.

March 4, 1859 Edward Henkel sold to Peter Carl von Rosenberg one acre for $100.00. This land was located on the north east banks of Cummins Creek on Lot No. 2, Block 5 on a hill. December 1, 1865 Henkel sold to Christian Huth Lots 1,2 and 3/4 of 3, Block 8 for $235.00. February 28, 1885 Henkel sold to the town of Round Top 50 ft. x 100 ft. in Lot No.3, Block 9 for $35.00. This land was to be used for a town courthouse for the Mayor's Court, the Justice Court for Beat No. 3 and a large room for the Round Top Lodge of the Knights of Labor.

April 2, 1888 Edward Henkel sold to Edward Recknagel 14,625 square feet along Live Oak Street for $290.00. The Recknagel's built a building called The Apothecary and their house side by side facing Live Oak Street. Edward Recknagel operated a drug store and his wife, Fredericka Michaelis Recknagel operated a photograph shop in the back of the drug store. March 30, 1871 Henkel sold to William Johann Heinrich Umland Lots No. 1 & 4, Block 3 for $100.00.

Edward Henkel served his village and town as Justice of the Peace in 1860 and as mayor of Round Top from 1872 to 1875. He lived in his home until his death on July 22, 1895. His wife, Mathilde, lived until 1898 when she died in Round Top at the age of 70. They are buried together in the Florida Chapel Cemetery (use to be called Townsend Cemetery).

left to right: Mrs. Natalie Poppe, Louise Recknagel, Mr. Edward Henkel, Mrs. Levien, Mrs. Mathilde Henkel.

SOURCES:

Mrs. Jossie V. Henkel Hoskinson Papers, RTAHS, Round Top, Texas, 1956, p.16
FCDR, Vol. L, p. 86
FCDR, Vol. K, pp. 459-460
FCDR, Vol. L, p.18
FCDR, Vol. N, p.63
FCDR, Vol. O, p. 285
FCDR, Vol. R, pp. 298-199
FCDR, Vol. 24, pp. 311-312
FCDR, Vol. 32, p. 506
FCDR, Vol. W, pp. 533-534
1870 United States Census, Edward Henkel