



Christian and Magdalena Zoch. (Photo circa 1891)

Christian Zoch & Magdalena Jacob (Grosa)

On June 6, 1869 Christian Zoch married Magdalena Grosa in Spreewitz, Prussia (Germany). Approximately three months later, on September 15, 1869, they boarded the S S Frankfurt at Bremen, Germany and sailed to Texas to start a new life in a new country. After being on the ocean three weeks they landed at New Orleans, Louisiana.

According to immigration records at New Orleans, they went through Customs on October 9, 1869. This was a very simple procedure in those days. All that it consisted of was for the Captain of the ship to submit the ship's passenger list to the immigration officials and they were ready to proceed to the next port. There were 352 passengers on this list, among them were the following: Hans Zoch, 55 & his wife Anna, 54; Christian Zoch, 23 & his wife Magdalena, 22;

Johanna Zoch, 19; George Zoch, 16; Gottlieb Zoch, 9-1/2. Also listed are Magdalena's sister Marie Domann, 28; Marie's husband Matthes Domann, 29; and their two children Christian, 4 and Hanna, 11 months. Two of Christian Zoch's brothers, Mathes and John, had immigrated to Texas in 1867. Also one sister, Maria, and her husband, Michael Schoppa, and their five children had immigrated to Texas in 1868. They also brought with them Maria's thirteen year old brother, Michael Zoch.

After clearing customs at New Orleans, the Zoch's, along with many other German immigrants, continued their voyage to Galveston, Texas. According to an article in a Galveston German newspaper written in October, 1869, the name of the ship was the S S Josephine. From Galveston the Zochs and Domanns traveled to Houston, Texas on a much smaller ship and from there they traveled by ox-wagon to Lee County, Texas.

Christian's and Magdalena's first home was a one-room log cabin with a dirt floor. In 1875 Christian bought 193-3/4 acres of unimproved land from John Wuensche for \$1200 out of the Calvin Chaney Survey, Lee County, Texas approximately four miles south-southwest of Giddings, Texas. Twelve year later, in 1887, he sold this land to August Kasper for \$1325. That same year he bought 146 acres of land in Fayette County near Winchester, Texas from George Waitman in the John F Berry league for \$2500. (His youngest son, Emil, was nine months old at that time.) Later he bought several additional tracts of land in Fayette County near Winchester. Christian and his wife lived on this farm the remainder of their lives. The Zoch's had seven children; Anna, Maria, Magdalena, August, John, Emma, and Emil. Maria and August died as infants. John died when he was nearly 21 years old. The other five lived to be over 80.



Emil and Lydia Zoch, wedding picture, Oct. 30, 1910

In 1910 Emil married Lydia Kasper at Serbin, Texas. They too lived on this farm and eventually took over the operation of Christian's farm. Emil bought several additional tracts of land and on April 8, 1918 he bought 106 acres from his father. On September 2, 1919 he bought 41-4/5 acres from Sam Drake and J G Trausdale. Emil and Lydia had eight children: Eldor, Edna, Helmuth, Fred, Herbert, Erwin, Mildred, and Lillian. They all grew up on this farm and attended school at Winchester; first at the St. Michael Lutheran School and then at the Winchester public school.

In 1925 Emil became commissioner of precinct 2 in Fayette County. He served as county commissioner from 1925 to 1925. During his administration the Texas Highway Department built the highway 77 bridge across the Colorado River at La Grange. This bridge remained in continuous service until it was replaced with a new bridge in 1993.

In 1963 Emil's youngest son, Erwin bought the farm from his father and is the present (1994) owner and operator of it. In 1987 the Texas Department of Agriculture, under the Farm Heritage Program, awarded Erwin with a certificate for the farm belonging to the Zoch family at least 100 continuous years. Many changes have taken place during these 100 years; from ox-drawn plows, to four-row air conditioned tractors, from kerosene lamps and wood burning stoves to electric lights and gas-burning stoves, etc.

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written by Herbert P Zoch