

# The Heinsohn Family

June 2020

## NO FAMILY REUNION THIS SUMMER

Regretfully, the 2020 Heinsohn Family Reunion has been cancelled to protect our Heinsohn cousins during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The parish hall at Hostyn has already been reserved for next summer's reunion to be held on Sunday, July 18, 2021 and we hope to see you then.

Meanwhile, the photographs in this newsletter are a tiny preview of the Heinsohn Family history that Rox Ann is planning to publish within the next year or two. The paperback book will feature the story of our Heinsohn ancestors in Germany and the first three generations of Heinsohns in Texas. The plan is for it to contain as many photographs of those generations as possible. So, if you have a photograph that you would like to see included, please contact Rox Ann at 6907 E. State Highway 159, Fayetteville, TX 78940, (512) 925-4804, or email roxannjohnson@me.com. As always for our records, please notify us of family births, deaths, and marriages.

Meanwhile, we hope you enjoy this newsletter.

Holly, Cathy, Richard, Dawn, Braden and Rox Ann



*This oval portrait of Gerhard Heinsohn, 1822-1902, and his wife, Sophie Fehrenkamp, is framed under convex glass.*

## HEINSOHN FAMILY CRAYON PORTRAITS

Several members of the Heinsohn family have large old pictures of our ancestors that appear to have been drawn with charcoal. These are known as crayon portraits and were quite popular in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Crayon portraits were usually enlargements of 4.25 X 6.5 inch cabinet card photographs or even earlier, smaller photos called carte de visites, both of which were mounted on cardboard and contained an advertisement for the photographer in most cases. Usually they are found under glass in wide elaborate wooden frames. Some of the later ones have oval frames and convex glass.

There were several methods for making these enlargements, but one way was for the photographer to make a negative and then project that image onto light-sensitive paper. 16 X 20 inches was a common size. The weak photographic solution

used to sensitize the paper produced only the basic shapes and outlines of the subject, which were then enhanced by an artist. If the artist wasn't particularly skilled, the portraits bore very little resemblance to the original photograph.

The term "crayon" does not come from the "Crayolas" children use, but rather from Conté crayons which are used by artists. They are more like sticks of charcoal or a dense pastel, both of which were also used to create these portraits. If you own a crayon photo, be sure to not touch its surface, because part of the image may come off on your finger tips.

It is likely that nearby small town photographers mailed off the original photographs and the crayon portraits were actually produced elsewhere. Perhaps they are abundant because of offers like the one La Grange photographer Louis Rice made in an advertisement on November 2, 1899: "A fine Crayon picture 16X20 given with each dozen cabinet pictures."

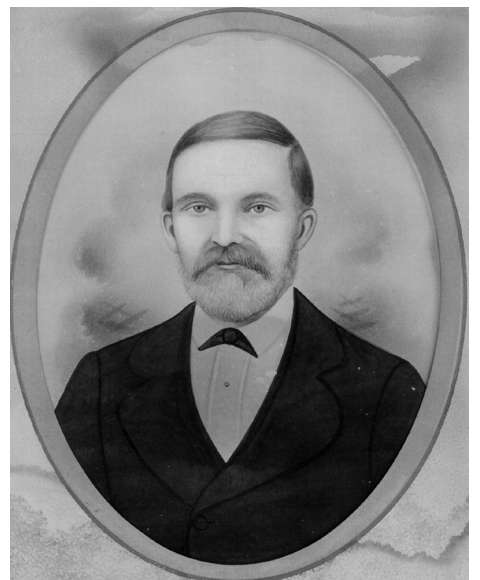
When the original photos can be located, it is interesting to see the kinds of manipulations made in the enlargements. A full-length subject may have been changed to a bust portrait. Frequently, two individual portraits were combined into one enlargement of a married couple. One person might be extracted from a family portrait to make a larger individual portrait, especially after that person's demise. Because crayon portraits might be made many years later than the original photograph, they can be extremely difficult to date.

Many thanks to the cousins who allowed me to copy their crayon portraits of our Heinsohn ancestors. We hope you enjoy them.

If you have the original photo from which any of the portraits shown here might have been made, please contact Rox Ann.



*This crayon portrait of Anton Heinsohn, 1830-1901, and his wife, Nancy Stoeltje, is a great example of how two images could be manipulated and combined to create a crayon portrait. See the originals below.*



*This is a second crayon portrait identified as Anton Heinsohn. Oddly, you will notice it looks nothing like the first. We would love to find the photograph from which this was made.*



*This photograph of Wilhelm Heinsohn, 1814-1885, one of the six Heinsohn brothers who immigrated to Texas, is an earlier variation on crayon portraits. This particular portrait was made on tin, but it is obvious that the original sepia-toned photograph has been modified.*



The Heinsohn Family Reunion  
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## IN REMEMBRANCE

This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of our Heinsohn cousins who have passed away since last summer's family reunion:

Esther Machinsky Heinsohn  
Reuben Jessie Lindemann

Please let us know if there have been other deaths.

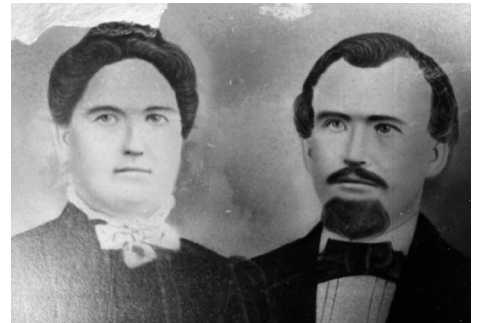
## Follow Us on Facebook

See our Facebook page, The Heinsohn Family in Texas, for the latest family news, plus photos—both old and new.

**[www.Heinsohnfamily.org](http://www.Heinsohnfamily.org)**

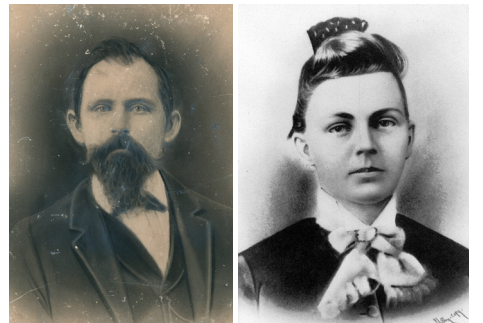
Check out our family reunion website—photos, reunions, family history and more!

## John Heinsohn Family



*This crayon portrait of Louisa (Brune) and John Heinsohn, Jr., 1854-1894, is the only known image of John. This photo was probably made from two individual portraits after his untimely death.*

## Anton Heinsohn Family



*The crayon portrait of Anton's son, William Heinsohn, was made from the family portrait below. The portrait of Marie (Heinsohn) Pflughaupt is similar to crayon portraits, but made much later.*



## Wilhelm Heinsohn Family Crayon Portraits



*The left crayon portrait of Wilhelm's wife, Meta Harfst Heinsohn, 1821-1901, was derived from the original portrait on the right. Notice how the artist changed her features.*



*The portrait on the left is Wilhelm's son, Willie Heinsohn. The portrait on the right is believed to be his first wife, Emma (Frerichs) Heinsohn.*



*The crayon portrait of Josephine Heinsohn on the left was derived from the original full-length portrait on the right. Again, her features were changed by the artist.*



*This portrait of Olga Heinsohn and Herbert Schultz from 1919 does not have the charcoal finish of the earlier crayon portraits.*

## Gerhard Heinsohn Family



*The artist who made this crayon portrait of Alvin Heinsohn lacked skill. Alvin's photo on the right is a retouched cabinet card.*



*This oval photo of Gerhard W. and August Heinsohn under convex glass.*



*These color portraits are believed to be Reinhard and Emilie (Gummelt) Heinsohn.*