

KLEBERG, ROBERT JUSTUS - Born in Herstelle, Westphalia in the former Kingdom of Prussia, Germany, September 10, 1803. He attended the University of Goetting, from which he received the degree of Doctor of Juris. He was married to Rosa von Roeder, daughter of Ludwig Sigmund Anton and Caroline Louise Sack von Roeder.

Through the persuasion of Frederick Ernst of Industry, Texas, Ludwig von Roeder, who had been an officer in the German army, decided to emigrate to Texas, with his family, kin and some of his friends. It was decided that some of the unmarried members of the group be sent ahead to select a place for all to later assemble. The advance party consisted of Albrecht, Joachin and Valesca von Roeder and a servant, and they left for Texas in 1832. On September 30, 1834 the main body set sail on the sloop Congress, commanded by Captain J. Adams. In the party were Ludwig S. von Roeder, Mrs. von Roeder and their children, Louis, Louise and Caroline von Roeder; Robert J. Kleberg and wife; Mr. and Mrs. Otto von Roeder; Antionette von Donop; John Reineman and family and William Frels. After a voyage of sixty days they reached New Orleans where they remained two weeks and then set sail on the schooner Sabine for Brazoria. On December 22nd the vessel was wrecked off Galveston Island. After a few days a boat passed headed for Brazoria and most of the party boarded it. The von Roeders had brought with them considerable baggage which they could not afford to leave and it was decided that they would remain on the Island to guard it. Two members of the family, however, Mr. Kleberg and Louis von Roeder, were selected to

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board the boat for Brazoria and from there go in search of Albrecht, Joachin and Valesca von Roeder. Arriving at Brazoria Mr. Kleberg and Mr. von Roeder set out on foot for San Felipe. They found Albrecht von Roeder and his servant at Cat Spring, in what is now Austin County, ill with fever and in wretched condition. Joachin and Valesco, they learned, had died. When Albrecht was able to travel the party set out for Galveston where they rejoined the other members of the family. On the day following his return Mr. Kleberg, his wife, his wife's parents, and Caroline von Roeder left by boat for Harrisburg, the other members of the family remaining on Galveston Island. They spent the first night at the home of Captain Scott who operated a boat and lived on the Buffalo Bayou. Three miles from them and on the opposite side of the bayou lived Mr. D. L. Kokernot. The next day they reached Harrisburg where Mr. Kleberg rented a house. In the fall of 1835 the Klebergs and von Roeders settled near Cat Spring.

Mr. Kleberg and Louis von Roeder as members of Captain Moseley Baker's San Felipe Company, participated in the battle of San Jacinto. On May 14, 1846 Mr. Kleberg was issued Donation Certificate No. 25 for 640 acres of land for having fought in the battle. On January 4, 1841 he had received Bounty Certificate No. 9700 for 320 acres of land for having served in the army from March 25 to July 23, 1836. He received a headright certificate for a league and labor of land from the Austin County Board of Land Commissioners, March 2, 1838.

For a time after the battle of San Jacinto the Klebergs and relatives lived on Galveston Island and intended to make it their perma-

ment home. Mr. Kleberg built the first residence on the Island. There Mrs. Orrilie von Roeder, nee von Donop, died and was buried beneath the three famous lone trees on the Island. After remaining for a short time at Galveston the Klebergs returned to Austin County. In 1846 Mr. Kleberg was elected chief justice of the county. In the fall of the year 1847 he moved to DeWitt County. In 1848 he was elected a member of Commissioner's Court of the county and in 1853 he was elected chief justice of the county and re-elected in 1855. He was a senator in the eighteenth and nineteenth legislatures, 1883 to 1887.

Mr. Kleberg located on a farm about seven miles from Clinton, the then county seat of De Witt County, and three miles from Meyersville, his post office. There he lived for thirty-six years. He was eighty years old when he had a paralytic stroke and he moved to a home built on the ranch of his son-in-law, Robert C. Eckhardt, near Yorktown, where he died October 23, 1888. He was a member of the Texas Veterans Association. Mrs. Kelbeegg was born July 20, 1813 and died July 3, 1907. The two are buried in the family cemetery on the Eckhardt ranch near Yorktown. At their graves stands a high granite tombstone in the shape of a soldier's tent, bearing the inscriptions: "Remember the Alamo!" "Remember Goliad!"

Children of Mr. and Mrs. Kleberg, all of whom are deceased except Miss Louise R. Kleberg of Yorktown, were Clara, who married Henry Hillebrand; Caroline, who married Robert C. Eckhardt; Robert Justus, Jr., who married Alice Gertrudis King; Otto Joseph, who married Mary Plogger; Rudolph, who married Matilde E. Eckhardt; Marcellus, who

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married Emily Miller and Louise R. Kleberg.

Some of the surviving grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Justus Kleberg, Sr. are M. G. Eckhardt, Yorktown; Oscar Eckhardt, _____ Street, Austin; Dr. Joe Eckhardt, _____ Street, Austin; Victor Eckhardt, Three Rivers; Caesar Kleberg, Kingsville; Alfred Kleberg, Kingsville; Edward R. Kleberg, Corpus Christi; Richard Kleberg, Corpus Christi; Robert J. Kleberg, Kingsville; Dr. Walter Kleberg, _____ Street, Galveston; _____

