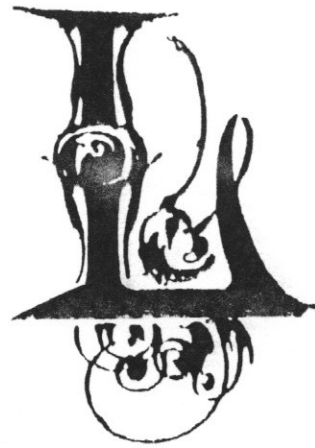


# Michael C. Levey



By  
Norman C. Krischke  
1990

## MICHAEL C. LEVEY

Michael C. Levey was born in France 15 January 1836, came to Texas as a small boy and became the third mayor of Schulenburg. The first mayor was Alfred Henderson, 1797-1893, elected in 1875 for a two year term upon incorporation of the town on 24 May 1875. He was elected again in 1877 serving a total of 4 years. Neill L. McKinnon, 1852-1914, became mayor in 1879 and served four years. M.C. Levey was elected in 1883 and became the third mayor. On arrival in Texas the Levey family settled in Lavaca County, where, in 1861, Michael was postmaster in Moulton. Early in 1862 he enlisted in the Confederate Army as a member of Dashiell's Battery of Light Artillery and served to the end of the war. His record for bravery and gallant conduct was conspicuous as is proven by the warm place he held in the hearts of his old comrades. He went into business in Hallettsville after the war and married Carolina Helena "Lena" Pepper 26 February 1871 in Lavaca County; Helena was born 14 August 1850. They first lived on a four-acre tract on Mustang Creek about seven miles north northeast of Sweet Home in the Alexander Porter League. They then moved to Schulenburg a few years after the town was founded on 30 October 1873. M.C. Levey served three successive terms as mayor for a total of six years. His tenure encompassed the years 1883 to 1889 during which time he saw many events in Schulenburg. The Baumgarten Cotton-Seed Oil Mill was constructed, the City Fire Station was erected, and the American Legion Hall (Turner Hall) and St. Rose Catholic Church were constructed by Henry Bohlmann. Windmills began to appear in Schulenburg and barbed wire was first used to contain cattle. Newspapers, "The Metropolitan", "The Commerical", "The Messenger", "The Schulenburg Enterprise" and "The Schulenburg Siftings", cranked up the presses for a year or so and then folded. "The Schulenburg Sticker"

was established five years after he vacated the mayor's office and is going strong today. The 1890 Schulenburg Public School, part of which is still standing on the school grounds as the old Future Homemakers Cottage, was constructed the year after he left office; he had been a trustee of the Schulenburg School and Lodge, the Schulenburg Academy, in Lyons Lodge No. 195, AF & AM and of the 1890 school a total of twelve years. Many of the stately mansions in Schulenburg were constructed during his three terms and are still standing today. The Great Fire of Schulenburg occurred just four years after he left office burning down the west half of the downtown block between Upton and Lyons Avenues. The Paul Breymann Drug Store Building prevented the fire from destroying his store and residence. M.C. Levey constructed the Levey Building in 1890 shortly after he left office. The building is one of the two remaining wooden buildings on Main Street between Wolters Avenue and Lyons Avenue. The lot, Lot 34 in Block 21, on which the building stands, was first sold by the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railroad to Alexander Arnim of High Hill on 15 January 1874. Arnim had his General Store on the site. On 6 January 1883, Arnim sold the store and lot to Paul Breymann for \$1400.00 and M.C. and Helena Levey bought the property from Breymann for \$2550.00 on 10 January 1888. The old Arnim Store was taken down or moved and the Levey Building was erected between 31 March 1890 and 19 June 1890. The new building served as Levey's General Store, mostly groceries, on the first floor and as his residence on the second floor. Michael and Helena had five children, Amalia, Leopold, Mamie, Hedwig and Selma. Selma, born in 1878 most likely in Schulenburg, married Ike Lippman. Ike was born in 1887. Selma and Ike had one son, Leslie, born 1 January 1915. Ike was in the dry-goods

business at the time under the firm name of Shapiro and Lippman. When Shapiro sold out, Ike continued the business as Ike Lippman and Son. Leslie married Sarah Lewis and they have four children, Irvin, Sheldon, Marilyn and Phil. Selma died in 1936 and Ike died in 1951; both are buried in the Jewish Cemetery in Hallettsville. M.C. Levey sold his building to H.P. Schaefer about 1920 and moved to Hallettsville taking up his retirement residence on Main Street in the town. He died 25 February 1923 and is buried in the Jewish Cemetery, Hallettsville; his epitaph reads: "A faithful worshipper of God, who loved his fellow men and was, in turn, loved by them". Helena sold the Levey residence to J. Roger Brown for \$2750.00 on 14 March 1923 and went to live with one of the children. Her will showed she was worth \$6000.00 at the time of her death and she bequeathed \$20.00 to the Jewish Cemetery and the rest to her children to be divided equally. She died 14 August 1930 and is buried beside her husband. Her epitaph reads: "Beloved mother and respected neighbor. The ways of Judaism were the paths of her life." This is what was said of Michael C. Levey in a 1913 edition of The Schulenburg Sticker: "His business is prosperous, and has ever been so, but he has not accumulated great wealth - he is too conscientious for that - as he has always been more solicitous for the welfare of his fellow-man than for that of himself. But our M.C. possesses that which is dearer to him than great wealth: An unsullied reputation, and the consciousness that he will leave to his worthy descendants the proud heritage of an honored name."



The State of Texas  
County of Garaca  
Judge of the Dist Court for Justice of the Peace  
in and for said County.

You are hereby authorized to  
publish in the Rites of Matrimony between M. C. Lavery and Caroline Pepper  
join them together in the Holy Bonds of Wedlock and for so doing this shall be  
your warrant, and due return of these Licence made to this office as the  
Law directs

In testimony of which Sheriffs set my hand  
and official seal this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February 1871

Jesse Green Clerk.

D. C. S. C.  
By L. T. Layton Deputy Clerk.

Came to hand the same day and signed February 26<sup>th</sup> 1871  
by joining the within named parties M. C. Lavery & Caroline  
Pepper in the Holy Bonds of Matrimony in the presence of  
W. H. Goldman M. B. Bennett Charles F. Hoffman & Mary Jane  
Ballard. Winthies Ellis was not there

W. H. Lewis Pres J. L. C.  
Clerk



MICHAEL C. AND CAROLINA HELENA (PEPPER) LEVEY

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF LAVACA



To any regularly ordained Minister of the Gospel,  
Judge of the Dist Court, or Justice of the Peace  
in and for said County:

You are hereby authorized to  
solemnize the Rites of Matrimony between M.C. Levey and Carolina Pepper  
Join them together in the Holy bonds of Wedlock and for so doing this  
shall be your warrant and due return of These License make to this office,  
as the Law directs.

In testimony of which I hereunto set my hand  
and official seal this 25th day of February 1871.

Jesse Green, Clk  
D.C.L.C.

By. L.T. Layton, Depty Clk.

Came to hand the same day and executed February 26th, 1871  
by joining the within named parties, M.B. Levy & Carolina  
Pepper in the Holy bond of Matrimony in the presence of  
W.H. Coldman, M.B. Bennett, Charles Hoffman & Mary Jane  
Ballard. Obinthies Ellis was not there.

Wm. H. Tevis, Pres. J.L.C.  
Rabbi

TO THIS MARRIAGE:

1. Amalia "Emma", born 26 December 1871, died 18 February 1894 and is buried  
in the Jewish Cemetery, Hallettsville.
2. Leopold, born in 1874, married Pauline Silver, died 1944. Pauline, born  
in 1878, died in 1944; both are buried in the Jewish Cem-  
etery, Hallettsville.
3. Mamie, married a Mr. Margolius and lived in Houston.
4. Hedwig "Haysie" married Julius Frosch.
5. Selma, born in 1878, married Ike Lippman, born in 1887. Selma died in  
1936 and Ike died in 1951. Both are buried in the Jewish  
Cemetery, Hallettsville.
51. Leslie Lippman, born 1 January 1915, married Sarah Lewis 10 November  
1946. Sarah was born 20 June 1920 to Joe Harry and Lena  
Lewis. Four children:
  511. Irvin, born 2 July 1948.
  512. Sheldon, born 7 October 1951.
  513. Marilyn, born 13 May 1956.
  514. Phil, born 11 February 1959, married Jennifer Maughan 14 January 1984.  
Two children:
    5141. Allison, born 12 June 1986.
    5142. Andrew, born 8 April 1988.





MICHAEL C. AND HELEN LEVEY

HEDWIG  
"HAYSIE"  
FROSCH

JULIUS  
FROSCH

MAMIE  
MARGOLIUS

IKE  
LIPPMAN

SELMA  
LIPPMAN

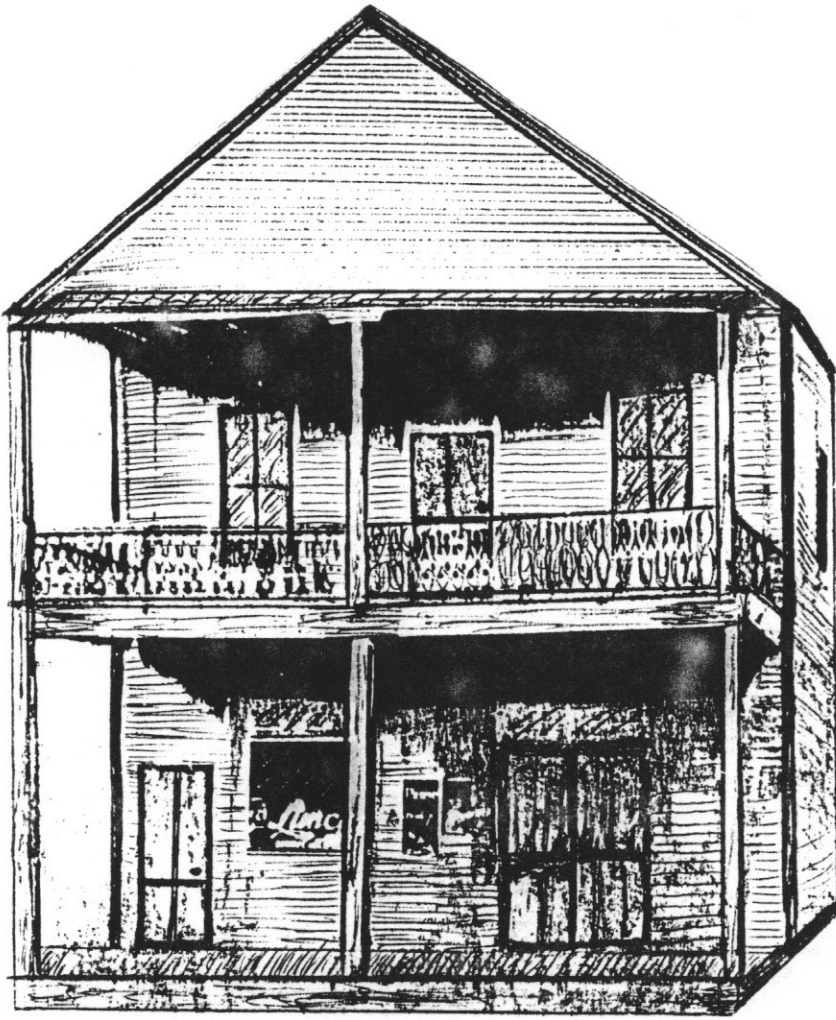
LEOPOLD  
LEVEY

PAULINE  
(SILVER)  
LEVEY

LESLIE LIPPMAN

Picture taken at Levey Home on Main Street,  
Hallettsville, Texas about 1921

## THE M.C. LEVEY BUILDING



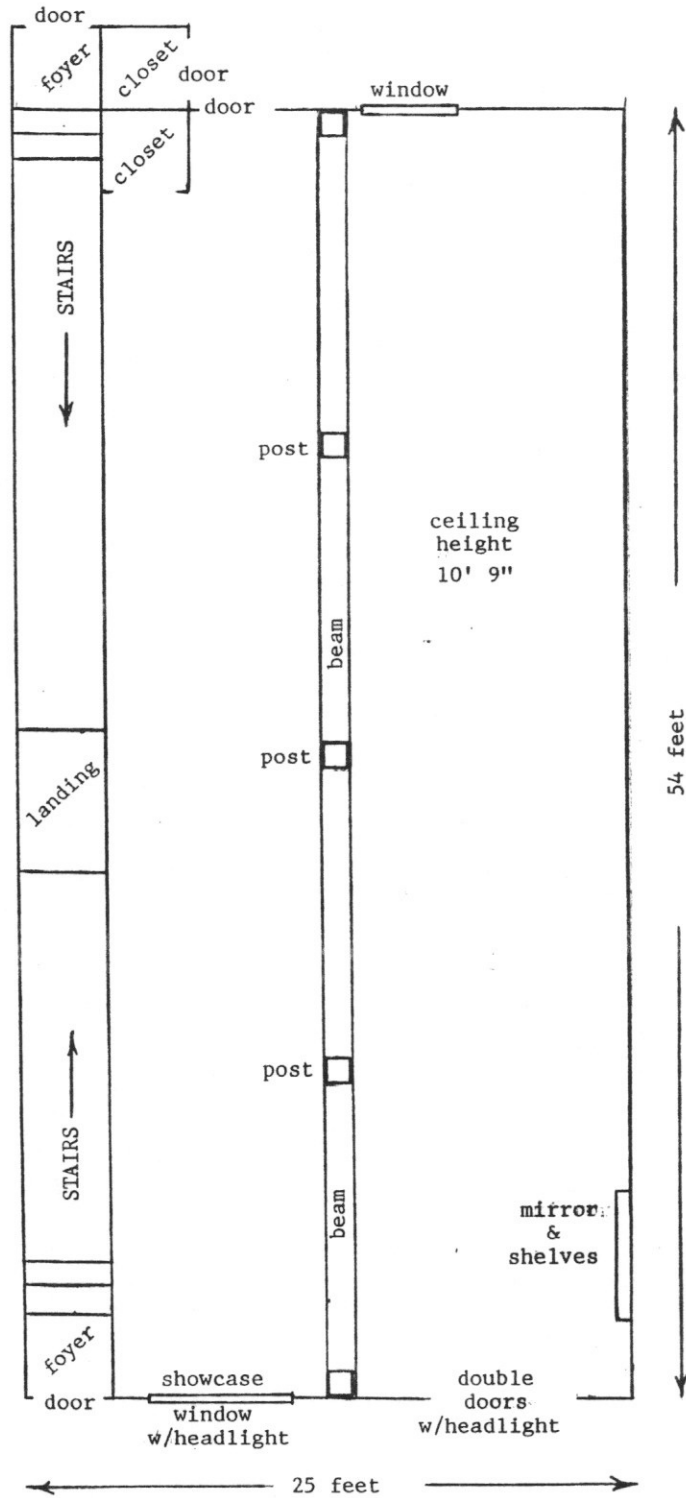
THE M.C. LEVEY BUILDING

Michael C. Levey opened an account with Ch. Baumgarten on 7 March 1890 as recorded on page 90 of the 1885-1890 Ch. Baumgarten Contract Book. The first purchases for the new building were made 7 March 1890 consisting of 8 windows, 1 glass door, 2 interior doors, 1 door for rear stairs, 1 door for front stairs and 1 window, large, with headlight (transom) for the front showcase, all held for future delivery. The first delivery of materials, hauled by wagon and team one and a half blocks from the Baumgarten Lumber Yard to the building site, at present 509 North Main, consisted of 24 foundation blocks, 24 caps for blocks, 12 foundation timbers 2"x10"x24ft and 4 posts 6"x 6"x26ft made on 31 March 1890. In addition, the following items went into the building:

1 in.	x	3 in.	x	10 ft.	-	800 feet
1	x	12	x	18	-	24 each
1½	x	4	x	10	-	8800 feet,
						Ceiling
1½	x	4	x	16	-	5650 feet,
						Weatherboards
1½	x	4	x	10	-	3150 feet,
						Flooring
1½	x	6	x	18	-	10 each
2	x	4	x	16	-	107 each
2	x	6	x	24	-	115 each
2	x	10	x	24	-	52 each,

4x4x12 Lumber, 5 each; 4x6x18 Lumber, 2 each; Nails - 204 pounds, 8 Window Sills and Casings, 80 feet of Balusters for two stairs, 80 feet of Hand and Foot Rails, 1400 square feet of Cedar Shingles, Hinges, Locks, Door Stops and Two Flues. Apparently the double entrance doors with headlight was not in stock at the start of construction inasmuch as these two doors were the last items to be delivered. They were installed on 19 June 1890 to complete the building. Cost of all items and lumber on the books was \$1200.00. The building is 25 feet wide and 54 feet deep plus 4 feet in back for an outdoor closet and rear entrance to the second floor at the northwest corner. Ceilings are 10 feet and 9 inches high. The upper rear windows had metal awnings over them, one of which is still in place. There is one internal closet and a mirror and set of shelves which are original construction. The first floor was used for Levey's business establishment and the second floor was the Levey residence. The building had a balcony with roof and railings, the Levey's front porch, from which they watched the trains arrive and depart at the train depot just across the street and the happenings on Main Street. The building was sold 26 December 1912 to Dr. I.E. Clark, to Louise David 31 January 1916, to Henry A. Sengelmann 16 December 1918, to C.&G. Sengelmann in 1926 and to Robert E. Schaefer in 1934. The store contained a variety of enterprises over the years: the Louise David Cafe, Uhry's Confectionary, the Adolph Vacek Grocery, Weather's Variety Store, Steinmann Cleaners, Dr. J.V. Money residence when he first came to Schulenburg and, at present, the Marcus City Cleaners. The building is one hundred years old.

LEVEY BUILDING - FIRST FLOOR



# M.C. LEVEY

## Notary Public & News Agent

General News, Subscription and purchasing agent. The writing of deeds, mortgages, contracts, wills and any legal documents will receive my prompt and very careful attention.

M.C. Levey, Schulenburg, Tex.

THE SCHULENBURG STICKER, 26 AUG 1897

## M. C. Levey's

### Notary Public Office

is on Main Street, just Opposite the Passenger Depot at Schulenburg.

He will promptly write out his Official Certificate and Seal every Legal Document you may present to him. He will also write for you Land Deeds, Releases, Bills of Sale, Powers of Attorney, Wills and anything else in that line, in English, German or French. If you have any land, houses or any property to sell, give a description of it—price, locality and so on—to M. C. Levey and he will look up a purchaser for you; or if you want renters, he will hunt them for you; if you want to buy land or other property, go right away and

## Tell Levey About It.

And that very same M. C. Levey also runs a store just across from the depot, where he offers for sale

## Staple and Fancy Groceries

The old fellow is not noisy; he will not pull you in by the coat collar, but if once you buy of him, you will always do so. He carries as a specialty the most popular brands of Chewing and Smoking Tobaccos, the Best of Coffees—green, roasted or ground, the Choicest Stock of Candies, Fruits, Nuts and Pastes. Also a complete assortment of Notions, Overalls, Jumpers, Socks, etc., Toys, Dolls and Christmas Goods, Fancy Vases, Fancy Cups and Saucers.

And then if you want anything from New York, Chicago or any other big city, simply leave your order with the man who will attend to it right; his name is

 **M. C. LEVEY.**

F. LOTTO, 1902, Fayette County, Her History and Her People

Robert Blum Lodge, 54.

A O U W

Meets regularly every 2d and 4th Wednesday. Transient brethren are cordially invited to meet with us. M. C. LEVEY, M. W. D. SCHLOTTMANN Rdr

SCHULENBURG STICKER, 26 AUG 1897

M.C. LEVEY

Notary Public

Legal documents neatly written up. Land transactions will have best attention.

English, German and French spoken.

THE SCHULENBURG SUN, 11 APR 1903



## MRS. HELEN LEVEY

Mrs. Helen Levey, of whose death this paper in its last issue stated details would follow, was born in Kempen, Germany. She came to this country with her parents when quite young. Before her marriage she was Miss Helen Pepper. She was married to M.C. Levey in Hallettsville. To this union five children were born, her husband and one daughter preceded her in death, Mr. Levey passing away seven years ago. The family lived here in Schulenburg for many years. While living here Mr. Levey was one of our leading merchants and for a long time was Mayor of our city, which office he held until he resigned. Our present City Hall was built when he was Mayor. After his death in Hallettsville, Mrs. Levey made her home here with her daughter, Mrs. Ike Lippman, where she resided until her death last Wednesday afternoon April 17th, at 6pm. She had been in ill health for a year. Deceased was an excellent mother, a kind, friendly neighbor. She was a member of the old school, who considered it a pleasure to labor and make the pathway of life easier for mankind. Her kind of folks are rapidly thinning out and with each passing, the world is truly a poorer place. The body was conveyed to Hallettsville Thursday where it was laid to rest in the Jewish Cemetery. Rabbi Colish of Houston officiated. The funeral was a very large one and the floral offerings were very numerous. She is survived by three daughters, Mrs. Margolius of Houston, Mrs. Julius Frosch of Wesleco and Mrs. Ike Lippman of this city; one brother, Leo Levey of Houston, and six grandchildren and three great grandchildren. To them the Sticker in common with their many other friends, extends its most sincere sympathy.

THE SCHULENBURG STICKER, 25 APR 30

## Hot and Cold Lunches

At All Hours

Regular Meals Served  
Board by Day, Week or Month  
Will try to please

Mrs. Louise David  
In the Levey Building



THE SCHULENBURG STICKER, 29 APRIL 1917

## NEW STORE TO OPEN

A new store will be opened up either the end of this week or the first of next week in the Sengelmann Building formerly occupied by Mrs. David's Cafe. This store will be a variety or what is known as a 5¢ and 10¢ store. It will be owned and operated by W.E. Weathers of Yoakum. He had this building leased for several months but has been unable to get his business straightened out in Yoakum sooner than November 1st. The building is being repainted and repapered and put in first class shape for Mr. Weathers. He will reside upstairs. Mr. Sengelmann informs us that he is putting in 400 feet of shelving for this store. A nice show or display window will also be built. The Sticker, on behalf of the citizens of Schulenburg, welcome Mr. Weathers and his family here, and wishes him success in his new venture here.

THE SCHULENBURG STICKER, 13 NOV 1922

## FOR THE LADIES

Silver and Tableware Cleaners. No rubbing, no scratching, no scouring, something new, come in and see them.

## TOY - TOWN

Toy-town is open at our store, bring the children to see toy-town.

Where you are always welcome.

## WEATHERS VARIETY STORE

The New Red Front Store on Main Street



## The Only Bargain Store!

Now is the time to save the money. We undersell any store in this section on gingham, dress goods, shoes, men's work clothes, and hats, and ladies' skirts and dresses. Get our prices.

A dollar saved is a dollar earned. We bought a big stock early and can save you money on every sale.

**Shapiro & Lippman**

Lyon's Avenue.

THE SCHULENBURG STICKER, 27 APR 1917

## Special Bargain

A big line of men's and boys' Suits must be sold before Christmas. Prices at \$2.50 up. Our stock is too large and must be reduced. No better present.

Largest stock of Shoes in Schulenburg. Several hundred dollars worth to go at less than wholesale price today.

Staple gingham now 14c. Better get yours now, for the price must go up with cotton at present prices.

Other items at bargain prices.

**Shapiro & Lippman**

**The Bargain Store**

THE SCHULENBURG STICKER, 30 NOV 1917



NORTH MAIN STREET, SCHULENBURG, - 1950

#### M.C. LEVEY EXPIRES

M.C. Levey died Sunday, February 25, 1923. he was 87 years old. Born in Strassbourg, Alsace-Lorraine (which is on the France-Germany border line) on January 15, 1836. He received his education, including college, in France and sailed for America to New York in 1857. A year later he went to Galveston and, in time, to Hallettsville where he started a grocery in the settlement known as Sweet Home. This was in 1860 and on February 26, 1871, he married Miss Lena Pepper of Hallettsville. After a few months at Sweet Home, they moved to Hallettsville, where Mr. Levey entered the employ of the firm of Pepper and August. Then the Civil War was started and Mr. Levey enrolled for the Confederate Cause and served during the entire period of the war. In 1879 the family moved to Flatonia where he again entered the grocery business. In 1880 they took up residence in Schulenburg where they stayed until 1913, returning to Hallettsville for the remainder of his life. He served as mayor of Schulenburg for several terms.

SCHULENBURG STICKER, 30 FEB 1923