Rudolph Leopold Bieselee, Professor Emeritus of History, died in Austin on January 4, 1960. He was born in York’s Creek in Guadalupe County, Texas, on January 29, 1886. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Anna E. Bieselee; three sons, Ferdinand Charles, Rudolph L., Jr., John J., and one daughter, Mrs. Grace Annette Gregory; sixteen grandchildren; and two brothers, Carl H. Bieselee of San Antonio, and Hugo F. Bieselee of New Braunfels.

Professor Bieselee retired from active teaching in The University in 1957. He remained active in research work, however, dealing with the life and career of Barnard E. Bee, the history of Comal County, Texas, music on the York’s Creek in Guadalupe County, and the Bieselee and Bading families of Guadalupe County.

Professor Bieselee held BA, 1909, MA, 1910, and PhD, 1928, degrees from The University of Texas.

During his active career Dr. Bieselee held the following editorships: Member of the Board of Editors of the Journal of Southern History, 1945-1648; member of the Board of Editors of the Southwestern Social Science Quarterly, 1948-1957; Book Review Editor of the Southwestern Historical Quarterly, 1939-1957; Associate Editor, the Southwestern Historical Quarterly, 1939-1957.

Born in Texas and having grown to manhood among the descendants of the early German pioneers, Dr. Bieselee used his own heritage and that of his German forebears as his major research interest.
His strong attachment to the Texas scene found expression in his manifold services to the Texas State Historical Association where he was for many years a member of the executive council and an associate editor of the *Southwestern Quarterly*, with the assignment of handling the book review section.

The articles written by dr. Biese are as follows:


Several articles were contributed to the *Handbook of Texas*.

His book publications were as follows:


Dr. Biesele was also widely and favorably known for his devoted church activities. When he and Mrs. Biesele returned to Austin from Alabama, they transferred their membership to the University Presbyterian Church in Austin. Both of them sang in the choir and became active in many phases of the church’s work. Dr. Biesele was elected an elder and served faithfully and efficiently in that office for several years. When a new Presbyterian church, Westminster, was organized nearer their home, both joined that church and became charter members. Dr. Biesele was at once elected an elder in the new organization, and his pastor states that he rendered distinguished service to the young church in that capacity. He remained an elder till his death. The Westminster and the University Presbyterian churches paid a special tribute to Dr. Biesele’s work and character shortly after his death. Westminster Church has erected a stained glass window in his memory.

Although Dr. Biesele’s undergraduate and master’s specialty was German, he turned toward history while teaching at Corsicana High School prior to the First World War. While he was teaching at Waco High School during World War I, public opinion became so anti-German that he dropped his teaching of German completely and focused full attention on the teaching of history. In 1924, he decided to obtain the PhD degree in history and moved to Austin to become a graduate student in the University. With the exception of two years, he was to remain at the University as a student or teacher until his death. He received his PhD degree in 1928.

In 1925, while he was working on his degree, Dr. Biesele became an instructor, assisting Dr. Eugene C. Barker, as a quizmaster for old History 15. When he obtained his degree, he spent one year at the University of Alabama instructing Latin American history. When Professor
Charles W. Hackett went on leave in 1929-1930, Dr. Biesele substituted for him in Latin American history here. The following year found him as chairman of the department at Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, the last time he was to teach away from the University. In 1931, he joined the permanent staff of the Department of History of the University as an assistant professor. He was placed in charge of History 15 and was given an advanced course in American Colonial history. By 1941 he had obtained the rank of professor.

Dr. Biesele was known as possibly the most meticulous professor the department has had within the memory of any student living. Orderly in his own habits, he insisted on his students’ observing the same sense of order and painstaking care that he practiced. This held true even on hurried hour examinations. An examination taken under Dr. Biesele was not read hurriedly and graded. Even in his large classes he did not return the papers until he had edited them carefully. When an examination paper was returned, Dr. Biesele had written in better ways of phrasing thoughts, had substituted more nearly precise words for the ones the author had submitted, and in the words of successive hundreds of his students, had crossed all the t’s and dotted all the i’s.

To his students Dr. Biesele was an exceptionally warmhearted and outgoing person. His own personal research was never as important to him as assisting his students. The result was that he was a workhorse for the department, especially in handling graduate students. Students who wanted a supervisor but who did not know any professor particularly well, would usually go to Dr. Biesele first, because of his innate kindness and gentleness. The result was that he did far more than his share of thesis supervising. In one summer, for instance, he supervised the completion of sixteen master’s theses, and served as second reader on about twenty-five more. This almost incredible total, when coupled with the fact that he never slighted or hurried his supervisory chores, gives an idea of how fully his life belonged to his students.
These resolutions were prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors H. Bailey Carroll, Joe B. Frantz, and Robert A. Law.