

Mathilde Max Dangers

Sophie Louise Mathilde Max was born in Hannover (now part of Germany) on December 31, 1822, to an upper class family. She was also well educated, a lover of music, and a devout Christian.

In the summer of 1845, Mathilde married Gottlieb Burchard Dangers, a protestant minister, in Hannover. He accepted a contract with the Adelsverein to minister to Germans settling in the Republic of Texas, and in October 1845, the couple set sail to Galveston. By mid 1846 the couple had bought some land in Seguin, where in 1848 Mathilde gave birth to their first child.

In 1849, Burchard was asked to serve as minister in Fredericksburg. The family relocated, and there Mathilde gave birth to five more children. Four of their six children died in a terrible diphtheria epidemic in 1861.

Pastor Dangers died in November 1869. Mathilde lived with her daughters in Fredericksburg and San Antonio, then later moved with her youngest daughter and her husband to Galveston. On September 8, 1900, the Great Galveston Hurricane hit the island. The house where Mathilde, her daughter, her son in law, and her young grandson lived was in a zone of near total destruction, but miraculously, the home and family survived the storm.

On May 6, 1906, after an unbelievably eventful life, Sophie Louise Mathilde Max Dangers died at home in Galveston. She was 83 years old. She's buried in Lakeview Cemetery on the Island.