



**Your chance to grow a piece
of German - Texan History**

OXBLOOD LILY BULBS

**from the
German Free School
Gardens**

**For your donation of \$75 or
more, we will send you a pack-
age of Oxblood Lilly bulbs
(While Supplies Last)**

In the German Free School garden, September-October signals the arrival of Oxblood Lilies (*Rhadophiala bifida*), often said to signal the arrival of Fall, and also referred to as Schoolhouse or Hurricane Lilies. These striking, carmine red natives of Argentina typically bloom after torrential rains in August or September. In drier, hotter years oxblood lilies still bloom, but in lesser quantities. These tough, little plants will grow in clay-rich to sandy soils. They must be propagated by division, the bulbs are best divided after the leaves die. Although most commonly seen with red blooms, some oxblood lily bulbs produce pink flowers.

The Oxblood lily was introduced to North America by German-Texan Peter Henry Oberwetter (1830-1915) who came to the United States from Germany in 1849. While in Texas, Mr. Oberwetter lived in New Braunfels, Comfort, and Austin, spending much of his time collecting and growing native-Texan rain lilies (*Cooperia pedunculata*) and the giant prairie lily (*Zephyranthus drummondii*), and distributing them worldwide. During the Civil War years, Mr. Oberwetter was apparently in Mexico, where he continued to pursue his botanical interests. He brought the oxblood lily to Austin and elsewhere which is why you might see it in other German-Texan settlements throughout the state, often marking the location of old home sites.

Donate now before supplies disappear!