Descendants of Michael and Maria (Zoch) Schoppa visit Spreewitz
(See story on Page 8)
L to R Front: Mary Guggisberg, Chris Champion, Margie Loomans, Evelyn Rummel, Candy Schoppa
L to R Back: Georgie Boyce, Ken Schoppa, Barbara Davis, Clayton Parks, Gene Rummel, Loretta Parks

Photo courtesy of Georgie Boyce
**Within the Fold...**

*In Memoriam*

**Esther Pampell** of Winchester, Texas, passed away December 11, 2003. Esther, a TWHS member since 1979 and lifelong resident of Winchester, was the mother of Barbara Hieslcher, our Executive Director. Esther was a wonderful baker and for many years made the coffee cakes for the tour groups that visited the museum. She is also survived by her husband, Milton Pampell, and daughter, Mary Watts.

**Esther Buscha** of Warda, Texas, passed away December 18, 2003. Esther was a TWHS member since at least 1977 and volunteered with tours and noodle-making for many years.

**Irene Spatz Teinert** of Austin, Texas passed away December 1, 2003. Irene was a TWHS member since 1978 and became a life member in 1999. Irene is survived by her husband, TWHS life member Reinhold Teinert, children Carl, Arlene, and Nelson, 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by . She and Reinhold were involved in many facets of the TWHS over the years, including maintaining an Austin Chapter for several years and representing the organization in many events in the Austin area while still actively participating in Serbin. Irene, along with her husband, enjoyed helping people with genealogy at the Wendish Fest and she was renowned for her delicious coffee cakes, which won her many trophies over the years. In 1999, when age began to reduce their ability to actively participate, Irene and Reinhold continued to be major supporters of the organization when they both became life members.

**Elbert Noack** of Clovis, New Mexico, passed away November 20, 2003. Elbert was a TWHS member since 1990. He was preceded in death by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Noack, who moved to West Texas in the early 1900's. Elbert's grandfather was Johann Noack, who arrived in Texas on the Ben Nevis in 1854. Elbert always said he was very proud to be a member of the TWHS and loved reading the newsletter.

**Frances Leake** of Winnebago, Illinois passed away June 24, 2003. She was a TWHS member from 1979 to 1998 and donated a Wendish bible to the museum several years ago. Her parents were August and Olga (Bloedau) Hamburg.

---

**Memorials**

From Mr. and Mrs. Weldon Markert in memory of Esther Pampell.

From Carolyn Bohot in memory of Esther Pampell.

From Mr. and Mrs. Milton Koenning in memory of Esther Pampell.

From Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Kasper in memory of Mr. and Mrs. John Green, for the library fund.

From Evelyn Buchhorn in memory of Esther Pampell.

From Scott and Cindy Hilescher in memory of Esther Pampell.

From Wanda Mitschke in memory of Esther Pampell.

From Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Weiser in memory of Esther Pampell.

From Mildred Kilian in memory of Esther Pampell.

From J.B. Gersch, Jr. in memory of Esther Pampell.

From Raymond and Sandra Matthes in memory of Esther Pampell and Beatrice Krause.

From Freddie E. Zoch in memory of Esther Buscha and Esther Pampell.

From Rev. and Mrs. Robert Boyce in memory of Esther Pampell and Esther Buscha.

From Vivian and Frank Taylor in memory of Esther Pampell.

From Walter and Laverne Gersch in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Betty and Barney Hutchinson, for the Landscape Fund

From the Gloria Mae Gersch family in memory of Esther Pampell.

**Announcements and Upcoming 150th Anniversary Events at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin**

The Confirmation Records Book is now available. The book is 207 pages and contains a list of all those confirmed from 1856-2003 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, an index of confirmands to aid in doing family research, and pictures of confirmation classes from the last 85 years. The book can be purchased through the church office or the museum.

May 30, 2004, main 150th Anniversary Celebration in conjunction with the Serbin Homecoming Picnic at St. Paul to commemorate the call extended to Pastor Johann Kilian (May 23, 1854). The guest speaker will be Synodical President Gerald Kieschnick. Special anniversary activities will be hosted with regular picnic festivities.

July 25, 2004, a service of music will be held to commemorate the dedication of the pipe organ (July 24, 1904), which still provides accompaniment today.

September 26, 2004, celebration in conjunction with Wendish Fest to commemorate the departure of the Wends' from their home to Hamburg and a new life in Texas (September 1854). Guest speakers are Rev. Ken Klaus, Lutheran Hour Speaker, and the Pastors of congregations at Klitten and Weigersdorf, Germany from which many of the immigrants departed.

October 10, 2004, special Evening Mission Festival Service with emphasis on daughter churches that grew from St. Paul Lutheran, Serbin.

November 7, 2004, special All Saints Day Service with dedication of a monument in honor of the immigrants who died before reaching their destination.

December 26, 2004, special service to commemorate the Wends' arrival in Galveston, Texas (December, 1854) and dedication of the first frame church for St. Paul Lutheran (1859).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>UPCOMING EVENTS</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>February 5</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>February 10</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>February 15</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>April 4</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>April 11</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Quarterly Membership Meeting**

**Sunday, February 15, 2004, 2:00 PM**

Dr. Hans Boas of the Germanic Studies Department of the University of Texas at Austin will be the speaker for the upcoming membership meeting of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society on Sunday, February 15, 2004, 2:00 p.m., at the museum complex in Serbin. Dr. Boas' fascinating presentation will be about the Texas German Dialect Project (TGDP), which he is directing. He will share some of the unique peculiarities of the German language as it has developed in Texas and will provide samples of oral interviews he has conducted of people speaking Texas German.

Dr. Boas is seeking to involve German-speaking families in the project from Lee and surrounding counties as well as determine how Wendish phrases and customs may be remembered in families who had a Wendish heritage.

This is a rare opportunity to hear about how German was one of the major languages of
commerce in Texas when 100,000 people spoke it, and learn how your family may participate in this program. Dr. Boas' website is www.tgdp.org, where one can actually hear the interviews that have already been conducted for this project.

The Texas German Dialect Project is being funded by a grant from the University of Texas.

For further inquiries about this research project, one may call the Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum at 979-366-2441 or Dr. Boas at the University of Texas at 512-471-4123.

Walk-In Coffee, February 10, 2004

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society will sponsor a Walk-In Coffee on Tuesday, February 10, 2004, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the First Presbyterian Church located at 132 South Grimes, Giddings, across from the Schubert-Fletcher House in Giddings. We invite everyone to come out for a relaxing coffee break or lunch, or both, all for a free will donation.

If you have not enjoyed a walk-in coffee and are wondering what we are talking about, we'll try to give you an idea. Members and friends of our organization donate a variety of baked goods such as coffee cakes and cheese cakes (these are always the first to be eaten) and pies, cakes, and cookies. A group of ladies prepare various types of sandwich spreads (especially ham salad and chicken salad) and keep a fresh supply of sandwiches ready to serve. A variety of homemade desserts is spread on the serving bar along with the sandwiches, chips, pickles, coffee and tea, and the patrons can select from the goodies and leave their free will donation. Some of the people choose to “take-out” their meals but most enjoy sitting at the tables and visiting with friends and neighbors while eating.

This activity has proven to be a good way to raise funds for the upkeep of our organization and affords an opportunity to acquaint more people with the Texas Wendish Heritage Society. Please join us if you are in our area on February 10!

Report from the Tours Committee

Evelyn Kasper, Chairperson

The months of October and November 2003 were busy at the museum, with many visitors and 4 tours hosted. Of special note was a surprise visit by Vinzenz, Reinhard, Antje, and Kerstin Baberschke from Radibor, Germany. They dropped by during a tour and joined us for lunch. We thoroughly enjoyed visiting with them and the visit added a special touch for the tour group. Vinzenz is Herr Bürgermeister of Radibor.

Report from the Noodle Committee

Hattie Schautschick, Chairperson

A total of 4,667 pounds of noodles was made during 2003. The number of batches of noodles made in order to reach this milestone was 423. Many thanks to Laverne Gersch for providing eggs during the year and to both Laverne and Evelyn Kasper for continuing to work with me on this effort.

Visitors

During the months of October, November, and December 2003 the museum hosted 230 visitors from Missouri, Texas, Louisiana, Ohio, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Colorado, Vermont, Arkansas, Michigan, Indiana, Tennessee, Germany, South Australia, and Finland.

Thank you Museum Docents!

During the months of October, November, and December 2003, the following served and docents at the museum: Freddie Zoch, Mildred Kilian, Joyce Carlston, Ruby Koslan, Jan Slack, George Boerger, J.B. Gersch, Jr., Vivian Taylor, D.G. and Pearl Symmank, Henry and Emily Zoch, Hattie Schautschick, Linda Jolly, Eunice Dunk, Evelyn Kasper, Laverne Gersch, Walter Gersch, Rev. Michael Buchhorn, and Barbara Hielscher.
Lee County German Society News
Ruby Koslan

The Lee County Chapter of the Texas German Society met on Thursday, January 8, at the First National Bank Community Room with twenty-three members present. President Hughes opened the meeting by reading an article from Das Fenster, a German magazine.

Don Schuhmann showed us a video of the tour he and Elmo Kieschnick took to China a few years ago, which was most interesting. We sang happy birthday to members having a birthday in January. Refreshments were served after the program.

Our next meeting will be on February 5th beginning at 7:00 PM. Membership dues are payable by March 1, 2004. The State Convention will be held on March 13th at the K.C. Hall in La Grange.

Guests and visitors are always welcome.

Thank you Walter Gersch!

Walter Gersch, one of our hard-working members who lives in the Serbin area (and husband of noodle-lady Laverne Gersch), spent a number of hours recently cutting down and hauling off the remains of the only tree we had left in the museum courtyard. It was a challenging job and we thank him for his willingness to help. The tree will be missed but plans are in the works for a replacement.

Wendish Immigration Monument

As part of the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Wendish immigration of 1854, St. Paul Lutheran Church of Serbin plans to dedicate a monument to those who died during the voyage to Texas. It is planned to dedicate the monument in November 2004, and donations are being received to help with the cost. If you would like to help preserve the memory of those who died en route to Texas, please send your contribution to St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1572 CR 211, Giddings, Texas 78942. Please mark your gift for the “Monument Fund.” Contributions given as memorials will be acknowledged in St. Paul’s weekly church bulletin.

Additional Sketches of the 1853 Immigrants

Dr. George Nielsen, Special Features Editor

Additions and corrections to “Additional Sketches of the 1853 Immigrants” October 2003 Newsletter, page 5:

Johann Schmidt died at New Ulm in 1862 and was the nephew of Matthes and Johann Matthiez. George Schmidt was also a nephew and not the uncle. George Schmidt was the father of the Rev. Hermann Schmidt, the third pastor at St. Paul’s, Serbin.

Report on Australia Trip

At the urging of my daughter, who was born in Australia thirty-four years ago, we traveled to that country in October, 2003 to show her where she spent her early months and to meet her baptismal sponsors. We began with the usual tourist sites in New Zealand and Australia and concluded by visiting friends in Adelaide and Melbourne. While the tourist sites were enjoyable, it was the congenial meetings with Australians that made the visit memorable.

Adelaide and Melbourne, tourist sites in their own right, are also the centers of the Wendish/German/Lutheran communities. North Adelaide is the home to Luther Seminary (now Australian Lutheran College) where all church workers are trained, the offices of the Lutheran Church of Australia, the South Australian District offices, the LLL offices, and the synodical archives. The archives serves not only as the church’s depository for documents, histories, and artifacts, but is also the focal point for Wendish studies. Lyall Kupke is both the archivist and the secretary of the Wend Sorb Society of South Australia. The society's most recent publication, under his direction, was the reissue of Rupert Burger's 1976 article The Coming of the Wends.
The society also publishes a newsletter that is issued twice a year.

The Melbourne group has two centers of interest. One is at Thomastown, initially a rural Wendish/German settlement and now a Melbourne suburb. Here, along with the cemetery, is a collection of stone buildings including the church and several homes and barns. These are being restored in a professional manner and the project promises to become a significant reminder of Australia's German/Wendish past. Robert Wuchatsch lives in the family's old home and is active in the preservation project. The other location is in the suburb of Heidelberg, home to the Wendish Heritage Society. The society leases space from one of the congregations and owns a library of books and documents for historical and genealogical research. John Noack volunteers his time at the center and edits the organization's newsletter, which appears twice a year.

The two societies, in Adelaide and Melbourne, as well as the Lutheran Archives, cooperate in some of their ventures as evidenced by the newly published Emigrants on the "Alfred," 1848. The ship brought both Germans and Wends to Australia, and the book examines their lives on the journey and in Australia. Thomas A. Darragh, of Melbourne, is the editor and translator while the Adelaide archives is the publisher and distributor. In the planning stage is a publication of letters from Australian Wends. Both societies graciously hosted us and provided opportunities to talk about our favorite topic— the Wends.

The following piece was initially written as a speech for the groups in Adelaide and Melbourne, but has been revised for American Wends.

When Is a Leader Not the Leader?

An appropriate question to ask at the beginning of this 150th anniversary year of the 1854 migration is the issue of leadership. It is one thing to take your family and join a few other families, as the 1853 migrants did, and travel overseas to America. But to organize a group of more than five hundred people, including some who could not pay their way, was more complicated. Some other questions come to mind. Where did the idea to immigrate originate? Who organized the prospective emigrants and was there a formal structure? Once the group was underway, who made the day-by-day decisions? Undoubtedly the most prominent person in the group was Johann Kilian, but was he the leader, or was the leadership exercised by a committee of laymen? One method of appraising Kilian's role is to examine his contribution at each stage of the migration and to compare it with a similar person of another migration. One person who could serve in such a comparison was Pastor August Kavel who participated in the Australian migration.

Kavel was older than Kilian; he was born in 1789 while Kilian was born in 1811. Both studied theology, Kavel at the university in Berlin and Kilian at Leipzig. Both lived in Prussia. Kavel was originally from Silesia, a German province annexed by Prussia, while Kilian was born in Saxony, and later accepted a call from a Lutheran parish in Prussia. They both held a common religious view. They were both traditional Lutherans who found the union church of the Prussian king unacceptable. Both solved their disagreement the same way, they migrated to foreign lands, Kavel to South Australia and Kilian to Texas.

The first step in the migration was the emergence of a desire to emigrate, and then when the number was large enough, a decision needed to be made on the destination. In Kavel's case, the congregation asked Kavel to examine the possibilities. He first traveled for three months around Russian lands north of the Black Sea. Although other Germans had settled there, no further action was taken. Then the congregation asked Kavel to go to Hamburg and investigate the possibilities of going to America and to search for financial assistance. In Hamburg he heard about a philanthropist in England, and the congregation asked him and a layman to go to London. So in 1836 he went to England and stayed for three years looking for sponsors to help finance the journey. The patron Kavel found was George Fife Angas, who pointed the discontented Germans toward Australia.
By the time the Wends began to contemplate migration, approximately in 1848, some ten years after the Germans in Silesia were packing their belongings, Russian lands were not a consideration, but the choice was between Australia and Texas. Even though a few Wends, such as the Seydler and He las families went to Texas, most Wends accompanied the Germans to Australia. Then in 1853, a group from Kilian's congregation went to Texas. Did Kilian play a role in selecting the destination as did Kavel? Kilian had showed an interest in migration, but his interest centered on going to Australia and he had even corresponded with Kavel. And there were overtures from the Wends who migrated to Australia to lure Kilian to that land. But that changed with the letters from the 1853 migrants and the popular sentiment selected Texas. In comparison to Kavel's important involvement in selecting a destination, Kilian's contribution was minimal and the decision was largely based on letters from Texas.

The second step was organizing the people and arranging transportation for journey. Kavel played no role in this stage; he remained in England. The Lutheran laymen in Silesia sold their properties, organized the group, obtained exit permits from the government, and hired boats to take the emigrants down the Oder River. Angas then sent his subordinate to lead the group on the voyage. The ship stopped to pick up Kavel as it traveled through the English Channel.

Even though Kilian was physically present in Prussia, his role in the second stage was no greater than Kavel's. The laymen established a corporation, funded the journey, arranged for rail transportation, contracted for a ship, and organized the migrants. Just as Kavel joined the migrants in England, Kilian joined the group in the same country, in his case, at Liverpool. Kilian was prevented from traveling with the group to Hamburg because he had an appointment with a Prussian court to answer to a charge of inciting someone to emigrate. That delay prevented him from boarding the train in Bautzen and then caused him to miss the boat at Hamburg.

On the voyage to Australia, Kavel, the captain, and Angas' agent maintained strict order. There was no incident to test the arrangement, but Angas identified Kavel as one of the leaders. And during the voyage, Kavel taught English, a language he had learned while seeking a patron, to the children.

No one identified Kilian as a leader on the voyage to Texas. On one occasion he did assume leadership. A storm rocked the boat to such an extent that many passengers became sea sick. The captain ordered the passengers out on the deck for some fresh air. There was considerable noncompliance, so the captain threatened to order the sailors to physically force the passengers on deck. Kilian intervened and persuaded the people to follow the captain's orders. But Kilian also noticed that there was some resentment. Possibly it was an objection to leaving the hold, or possibly because he was assuming leadership.

When the ship for Australia reached Adelaide, Kavel, Angas' agent, the captain, and another person went ashore to arrange for landing. But from then on it was the agent and some laymen, armed with guns, who searched for and purchased some land. Kavel evidently did not play a role in selecting land for settlement.

When the ship for Texas reached Galveston, Kilian took his pregnant wife and young son to a hotel for rest and left the worldly matters of paying tariffs and transfer of goods to the laymen. Kilian did not know English and probably could not have been of much help. The laymen had planned ahead and had taken a young man along who could speak Wendish, German, and English. The laymen also took responsibility for moving the immigrants to the interior and in purchasing a league of land on which the colony was established.

Once the Australian settlement was founded, it was necessary to establish a religious body. Kavel took the leadership and wrote the constitution but in it he gave the elders the right to superintend the doctrine of the pastors and teachers. The Voters' Assembly elected the elders and so the leadership resided in the laity. Kavel, who had exerted
leadership in the previous stages, took the leadership in making himself a subordinate, at least on paper. But the question of leadership, by Kavel or the laymen, is not that clear-cut. On one later occasion some members at Klemzig and Hahndorf refused to move to the Barossa Valley, as they had agreed. Kavel, after his exhortations were ineffective, excluded those members, who did not wish to tear up roots again, from the Sacrament. That is serious business, something a subordinate would not do.

Kilian viewed the Voters' Assembly's authority the same as Kavel did, except for him the question had been decided in Europe and not in the new homeland. Without question, the Voters' Assembly took responsibility for the physical and spiritual aspects of the parish. The voters had extended to Kilian a call and then limited it to one year. And the Voters' Assembly, not Kilian, wrote the church constitution. It was during this process that the first division of the congregation began. In the spiritual matters, however, Kilian held an upper hand by virtue of his training, and his religious views carried the day. But he never on his own decided to withhold the Sacrament. On one occasion he complained about the democratic system practiced in the Voters' Assembly where it seemed as if every layman felt obligated to pontificate on every topic.

Two memorial markers, one in Texas and one in South Australia, commemorate the migration from Europe. There are similarities. Both were erected in 1936 — a Depression year — when money was scarce. Both talked about religious freedom and both credited a clergyman with leadership.

In Serbin, the memorial reads, [italics added]:


At Klemzig the inscription reads, [italics added]:

*This memorial was erected to perpetuate the memory of the Lutheran Pilgrim Fathers who, seeking religious freedom,*

...came to South Australia under the leadership of Pastor August Kavel in November 20, 1838. They settled here, giving the village the name of Klemzig after their old home in Germany. This ground was their God's acre, where many were laid to their last rest.

There is no doubt of Kilian's prominence. His name was first on the Ben Nevis passenger list and he arranged for a cabin on the Ben Nevis for his family instead of staying in the hold with the other Wends, but was he the leader? Was he the Moses, as some journalists claim? Were not the real leaders those laymen whose names we know, but whose contributions have been neglected? During the 2004 issues, I would like to enlist your help in sketching the lives of the persons who signed Kilian's call — Carl Lehman, Carl Teinert, Ernst Adolph Moerbe, Johann Hohle, Christopher Kokel, and Johann Urban. Let me know of your interest in one of these leaders by writing to GNie857317@aol.com, or 1132 Enchantment Rd., Rapid City, SD 57701.

---

**Lutherlands, Christmas Markets and Tour of the Wendish Homelands**

Candy Schoppa, Lubbock, TX

What happens when you mix a dozen or so Schoppa's, about half a dozen Hobratschki's and another dozen and a half assorted Wends and spouses of Wends and set them in Southeastern Germany? You have a truly great adventure and a wonderful time!!

The planning started in 2002 at the Wendish Fest in Serbin (maybe even before that!). That's the first we heard of the trip of a lifetime. It was to be a tour of Lutherlands (that got us hooked), and the Wendish homelands (that really did it), and Christmas markets in Germany. What more could you ask for?

After a little over a year of planning and dreaming, the adventure actually started. There were 34 tour members from all over the state of Texas, everywhere from Littlefield to Eden! Ten
of us met up at DFW for the long flight, twenty-two met in Houston, and one couple went over early and met the group in Berlin. The first day was a lot of waiting and sitting, but it only helped build the anticipation. We left the airport about 3:30 p.m. Texas time and arrived in Frankfurt at 10:05 a.m., having lost 8 hours. Wow! What a long day! At the Frankfurt airport, we switched planes and flew to Berlin. At the airport, we were met by our tour guide, Petra (she would be our mother for the next 10 days). We boarded a very nice bus and were taken to our hotel (Artotel). Petra was very adamant that we not take naps right away. We should take in a few of the sights and try to get adjusted to Germany time before we crashed; so several of us took a walking tour of Berlin. Of course, we were too tired to appreciate the beauty and we crashed as soon as we got back to the hotel!

We saw many sights and were fed so much information it was hard to assimilate everything. It was difficult to pick out a favorite place.

Wittenberg was very peaceful and beautiful. All the churches were magnificent and the people welcomed us with open arms. We saw so much talent, both musical and dancing, it was truly amazing.

Pulsnitz was another very interesting town; very small, but full of things to see and learn. Our first stop was the “Pulsnitzer Blaudruck” factory where the blue fabric that has been shown at some of the Wendish Fests is made in the same manner as it has been since 1633. The “master” showed us proudly through his shop. It was fascinating! We also saw a “Lausitzer Pottery Factory” where the potter uses a 150-year-old spinning wheel. He said it was his favorite. Our last stop in Pulsnitz was a gingerbread bakery, where we were served coffee and samples of the various kinds of gingerbread, and were provided with a presentation of how gingerbread is made.

Dresden was also a very beautiful town. It was interesting to go to all the different Christmas markets and try to communicate with people who knew no English (or very little!). It made me feel guilty for not learning some German. What an experience.

The day that Gertrude Mahling met us in Bautzen and toured with us through many of the Wendish churches was very special. All the churches we visited were awesome and the people greeted us with open arms. Pastor Voigt welcomed us to our visit to the church in Weigersdorf, where we saw the parsonage in which Pastor Kilian lived. Pastor Matzke and some of his members greeted us exuberantly when we arrived in Klitten and he treated us to a very special service and presentation, followed by a homemade lunch. We saw some genealogical displays and got a traditional Wendish greeting in Schleife at the Sorbische Cultural Center. There was singing and dancing with gorgeous costumes. That same evening we were treated to a mock Wendish wedding at Broten, near Hoyerswerda. We’re still trying to figure out how they are able to use costumes that are 150 years old. They must have a secret to taking care of things. We don’t have anything that old that’s still usable.

Spreewitz was an experience in and of itself. It was really awesome to be in the church where so many Schoppa ancestors attended. The church steeple has the year on top: 1688. Pastor Hornich conducted a special Advent service and a photo of some of our group was actually in the local paper! Even with our small group and an unfamiliar language, the singing was beautiful. It is so quiet and peaceful in Spreewitz that it is hard to take in all the history that has happened in that little village.

Salzburg was outstanding also. We traveled past some of the foothills of the Alps on the way. They looked like real mountains to us West Texans!! We ate at St. Peter’s restaurant, which has been in business since 803, saw a life size chess game being played, and shopped at the Christmas market. That evening, we visited the small chapel that was built as a memorial on the site where the hymn Silent Night, Holy Night was first sung. Following that, we were treated to a mini-concert at one of the historic local churches by a group of musicians from the Salzburg Music Academy. The highlight was when the vocalist sang Silent Night, Holy Night in German. Everyone was incredibly moved by the beautiful
music. It's really hard to decide which was best. We'll have to go back someday and try again!

December 12 came too soon (in more ways than one). We had to get up at 2:30 a.m. to get our suitcases out and meet in the lobby by 4:00 a.m. to go to the Munich airport for another long plane ride. It was worth every minute on the plane! We'd like to especially thank our excellent tour directors Pastor Bob and Georgie Boyce for all the work they put into planning the trip. It was wonderful.

Membership Report

George Boerger, Membership Chairperson

For the third quarter in a row, we have a new life member, except this time we have two! Ruth Wuesche Wright of Corpus Christi and B. J. Scharath of Indian Springs, Alabama both became life members during the last three months of 2003. Thank you ladies for your generous support! In the last year we added four life members including Marvin Schulze and Herb Schulz. Who will be next?

On a sadder note, we remember Irene Teinert, wife of Reinhold Teinert, both life members. Irene passed away in December. Irene and Reinhold were very active members in the TWHS for many years, contributing in many areas. It is a wonderful tribute to Irene and Reinhold that we have newer members who are filling in behind them so the work of our cherished organization will continue.

During 2003, our membership increased to 657 members. The goal for 2004 is 750 members. As of January 9, we have 536 members with 67% of last year's members renewing thus far. We also have 76 first-time members toward the goal of 150. At this time last year we had 73 first-time members and we ended the year with 110. The 150 first-time members will be most difficult part of the goal to reach, but thanks to the help of many of you and the help that I am continuing to receive, we are making a valiant push toward the goal.

Patron Members

Annette Scharath Albrandt
Duannah Ashmore
Linda Jean-Lewis Barnett
Bill Biar
Dan Beto
Anne Christiansen
Neal Christiansen
Allen Cluck
Kirsten Wukasch Egedi
Rev. Clarence Ehler
Caren Couch Ertel
Mark Ertel
Carol Grote Flores
Leona Meissner Foster
Shantelle Grace
Charles Greschel
Larry Grimm
Donald Hilsberg
James Hingst
Lori Kay Schoppa Hoffman
Amanda Schoppa Hunsaker
Ardis Johnson
Melonie Johnson
Emma Michalk Kroeker
Elizabeth Kunze
Dr. George Kunze
Margo Latimer
Alleen Kuretsch Lyons
Sandra Magers
Arnold Mathias
Marge Mathias
Ken Mersiowsky
Gene Miertschin
Kathy Lee Miller
Angeline Mitschke
Calvin Mitschke
Ina Mitschke
Dr. George Nielsen
Kimberly Jurk Odem
Kay Dube Overton
Vicky Pollock
Monroe Prellop
Katherine Ruse Richards
Dr. Gunter Schaarschmidt
Wilfred Schrader
Alvina Schroeder
Ruby Lorenz Sisco
Thomas Sisco
Dennis Storch
Christian Symmank

Arvada, CO
Austin
Pontiac, MI
Carrollton
Bryan
Chapin, SC
Chapin, SC
Winchester
Fillmore, CA
Muldoon
Grapevine
Grapevine
Edinburg
Midland
Dublin, GA
Roseville, CA
Houston
Elizabeth, CO
San Antonio
Lubbock
Lubbock
Dixon, MO
Collinsville
Turlock, CA
Warda
Warda
Lexington
Copperas Cove
Dallas
Waco
Austin
Houston
Boerne
Ellinger
Humble
Giddings
Giddings
Rapid City, SD
Lampasas
Hamilton
Laramie, WY
Houston
Austin
Sidney, BC, Canada
Pensacola, FL
Navasota
Harker Heights
Harker Heights
Lubbock
Dusseldorf, Germany
John Teinert  
Joy Teinert  
Hilda Wünsche Theis  
Elo Toll  
Martha Toll  
Walter Toll  
Ruth Krakosky Tschaschula  
Marvin Wappler  
Ted Wukasch  
Doris Malke Zabel

Sponsor Members
Carroll Dorsett  
William Dube III  
Sandy Ericksen  
Ben Herbrich  
Glen Hobratschk  
Rev. Elmer Hohle  
Norma Jean Hohle  
Steve Hooper  
Teri Kramer  
Weldon Mersiovsky  
Mike Hopkins Budweiser Dist.  
Dana Zoch Mortimer  
Geri Paul  
Ken Paul  
Rev. Alfred Preclop  
Barbara Schneider  
Candy Schoppa  
Kenneth Schoppa  
Bernice Foerster Schulz  
Edgar Schulz  
Charlie Slack  
Jan Knippa Slack  
Rev. Wilbert Sohns  
Herman Teinert  
Betty Teston  
Harold Theiss  
Natalie Waggoner  
Paul Weise  
Hilton Wieder  
Melvin Winkler  
Nelda Winkler

Century Members
Linda Boerger  
Weldon Boerger  
Herbert Fritsche  
J.B. Gersch  
Dr. Gerald Kieschnick  
Janet Richter Schorlemmer  
Clifford Teinert  
Austin  
Lubbock  
Bishop  
Cedar Park  
Cedar Park  
Austin  
Brenham  
Groves  
Groves  
St. Louis, MO

Michael Vukobratovich  
Criad Zoch  
Sierra Vista, AZ  
League City

Silver Members
R. J. Nitsche  
Ruth Nitsche  
Giddings  
Giddings

Life Members
George Boerger  
Jerry Caldwell  
Elizabeth Hutchinson  
Martin Meissner  
Carol Teinert Moravec  
B. J. Scharrath *  
Hrb Schulz  
Marvin Schulze  
Reinhold Teinert  
Frieda Wendle  
Ruth Wünsche Wright *

* Became life member during last 3 months of 2003

Student Members
McKay Bloxham  
Greg Bothe  
Sara Buchhorn  
Ashley Hilscher  
Charles Hilscher  
Jerry Hilscher II  
Aaron Hohle  
Ketrin Jones  
Allison Hart Karisch  
Kayla Newman  
Shelley Spacek  
Anna Marie Symm  
Jordan Watts  
Kaitlin West  
 Jennifer Zoch  
Katy  
La Grange  
Austin  
Tallahassee, FL  
Tallahassee, FL  
La Grange  
St. Louis, MO  
Abilene  
Austin  
Austin  
College Station  
Farwell  
Katy  
Abilene  
Fort Worth

First Time Members
Joyee Bamsch  
Robert Berry  
Mark Bernstein  
Raymond Bernstein  
Shelley Beto  
Chuck Blesener  
Jeanete Blesener  
Susan Blesener  
Nathan Emmrich  
Yvette Emmrich  
Sandy Erickson  
Lillie Hobratschk  
V. J. Hobratschk  
Plano  
Lubbock  
Albany  
Las Cruces, NM  
Austin  
Houston  
Houston  
Washington, DC  
Buda  
Elgin  
Carrollton  
Littlefield  
Littlefield
Financial Report

George Boerger

As many of you know, the Texas Wendish Heritage Society established an endowment a number of years ago. The principal is maintained and the interest pays approximately 12% of the $40,000 in operating expenses we incur each year.

The year 2003 saw the endowment grow from $117,480 to $128,680, with $8,225 coming from members who paid more than the minimum annual dues, including 4 life memberships. In addition, $2,975 came from contributions and memorials to the endowment. During 2003, the endowment earned an estimated $5,300, or almost 4.5%.

I will provide the 2003 status of our finances in the April newsletter after the financial reports are finalized.

Minutes of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society General Membership Meeting November 16, 2003

The quarterly membership meeting of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society was called to order at 2:00 p.m. in the St. Paul Building on Sunday, November 16, 2003, by Eunice Dunk, President.

Reverend Michael Buchhorn provided the opening devotion, focusing on history. Our Wendish forefathers were not unlike the people in the Bible who forsake so much in order to seek a better future, one that God promised them.

There were 35 members and 5 visitors present.

The minutes of the August 17, 2003 meeting were approved as presented in the October 2003 newsletter.

George Boerger reported that the membership goal for 2004 is 750 with 150 first-time members. Currently we have about 40 first-time members. All are encouraged to give gift memberships or suggest people to whom we can send an invitation to join.

Hattie Schautschick reported that 4,300 pounds of noodles have been made thus far for 2003. The Noodle Committee plans to make noodles two more times this year, which would bring the total for the year close to 6,000 pounds. More noodles were sold during 2003 than the previous year.

Eunice Dunk reported that the Walk-In Coffee is scheduled for February 10, 2004 in the fellowship hall of the First Presbyterian Church in Giddings.

Evelyn Kasper and Raymond Arldt reported that approximately 1,700 lunch plates were sold at Wendish Fest and approximately 3,000 attended the event. Evelyn announced that she is retiring as Wendish Fest Committee co-chair but would continue to serve on the committee. Raymond
Arldt made a motion that Eunice Dunk be appointed to replace Evelyn Kasper as co-chair of the Wendish Fest Committee. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Evelyn Kasper reported that five tours with meals were hosted by the museum during the past three months.

Election of Executive Officers was held to fill the following expiring terms: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The slate of nominees presented to the members included:

- Sandra Matthijetz - President
- Doris Reagan - Vice President
- J.B. Gersch, Jr. - Secretary
- Raymond Arldt - Treasurer

Nominations from the floor were requested and Steve Hooper was nominated for the position of President. Those elected to serve as Executive Committee members for 2004-2005 were:

- Sandra Matthijetz - President
- Doris Reagan - Vice President
- J.B. Gersch, Jr. - Secretary
- Raymond Arldt - Treasurer

A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to destroy the ballots.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The gathering continued with the annual Christmas party.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Slack, Secretary

---


One of the largest folk dance festivals in Germany, this one is organized by the folk dance circle Rheinickendorf and is attended by German and other European dancers.

From The German Folk Dancer, November/December 2003. For more information, contact Karin Gottier, Editor, 48 Hilltop Road, Tolland, CT 06084.

---

Lusatia 2005

6th International Folklore Festival LUSATIA

July 7-10, 2005

Crostwitz, Saxony, Germany

When you are on your trip through Saxony in Germany, you should visit Crostwitz. This village in Upper Lusatia, lying between the Lessing town of Kamenz and the 1000-year-old city of Bautzen, is one of the few places where the language and rich culture of the Sorbs is preserved to the present day. Every two years in Crostwitz the International Folklore Festival Lusatia is held. Domestic and foreign folklore groups present their rich music and dances. The participants of this festival are mainly from national minorities. For the 2003 festival, more than 100 international groups expressed their interest in participating in the festival; however, due to limited resources only 10 groups were selected to perform together with the Sorbian ensembles.

For more information, check out the website at http://www.folklorefestival-lusatia.de or by email at Domowina@a.t-online.de.

---

On Line! Interesting Websites to Check Out

- www.stpaulserbin.org
- If you want to find a phone book from a foreign country online: www.maxpages.com
- Ellis Island website: www.ellisisland.org
- Genealogy resources: www.iareltive.com