



Texas Wendish Heritage Society

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VI, No. 1-Dime Box, Texas-Oct-Dec. 1984



1854 - 1984

130th ANNIVERSARY

WENDISH IMMIGRATION



1884 - 1984

100th ANNIVERSARY

JAN KILIAN DEATH

MOVIE ON LUSATIAN IN THE MAKING

INTERPRELUS-FILM in Warsaw, Poland, informs us that they, in cooperation with "Serbska Filmowa Skupina" at Bautzen, are making a 30-minute documentary entitled "DIRECTION - BAUTZEN" - that tells about the 2nd Polish Army fighting for liberation of Lusatia in April 1945. BOZYDAR RASSALSKI, writing to your editor, says, "The film will also present old habits /"Keklerio" for instance? and contemporary pictures of Lusatia." He continues, "In the future we are going to make a film about Lusatian habits and folk presented in songs, dances, and art." He concludes, "We shall appreciate any information if your Society is interested in buying such kind of films on 16 mm or video U-matic PAL-6257"

WUENSCHKE RESEARCHING "BEN NEVIS"

FRED WUENSCHKE of Houston, son of Past-President, Rev. R. H. Wuenschke, writes, "As a member of the TWHS, I'm researching the "Ben Nevis", hoping to eventually build an accurate scale model of the ship for presentation to the Society's museum."

There is just a limited amount of information that has been available about the great sailing ship so Wuenschke is anxious to hear from any of our readers who may have some information about the "Ben Nevis." Send information to: Fred R. Wuenschke, 13002 Apple Glen, Houston, Texas 77072.

(Ed. Note: We were proud to see the "Ben Nevis" float in the Giddings Geburtstag 113 Parade Saturday, October 13. Our thanks to Mr. Herbert Falke and all who rode aboard the "Ben Nevis."

EDITOR SPEAKS TO LEE COUNTY HERITAGE SOCIETY. Your NEWSLETTER Editor spoke to the Lee County Heritage Society Thursday, October 18 about the fabulous story of the Wends of Texas and their Anniversary Immigration, and about the Rev. Jan Kilian, the great man of God, who led the Wendish Immigration.

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THINK WENDISH. TELL YOUR FAMILY ABOUT THE WENDS.
THANK GOD FOR REV. JAN KILIAN AND THE IMMIGRANTS.

ZWAHR FAMILY REUNION

On Sunday, June 10, the 34th annual KARL ERNST ZWAHR, Sr. Family Reunion was held at the American Legion Hall, Needville, Texas, with 312 family members present at the noon meal, more arriving later for the afternoon activities. (Descendants of a brother, Georg Adolph Zwahr, hold an annual reunion each July at Burton, Tx.) The families of a Zwahr son and daughter, KARL ERNST ZWAHR Jr. and MARTHA ZWAHR MILLER, were in charge of the arrangements.

A cassette recording in Wendish of "The Lord's Prayer" and "My Country 'Tis of Thee" was played prior to the noonday meal, followed by the playing of Wendish music from the Lausitz during the meal. For the afternoon entertainment, music in English, German and Czech, for listening and dancing, was provided by "The Boehnemann Country Crossroads" band,

Prior to the afternoon business meeting conducted by E. A. REEH, special recognition was given to two surviving Zwahr children in attendance, ANNIE KRAMER and SOPHIE MC DOUGAL. The other two surviving children, BETTIE WRUCK and ELIZABETH MILLER, were unable to be present because of illness. A total of 62 gifts, most handmade, were given as door prizes, with Susan B. Anthony silver dollars presented to all babies present who had been born since the previous June. AGNES (SCHOEBEL) DEMANETT of Hamilton City, Calif., won the prize for traveling the longest distance. Additional prizes were given to the oldest male present, ALPHONS SERVIERE; oldest female, HILDA (CESINGER) CLARK; couple married longest, HENRY AND OLIVIA (MELLER) TIELKE; couple married the shortest time, DALE AND PAMELA (TRIGGS) STRINGER.

The families of two Zwahr sons, OTTO ZWAHR and FRIEDRICH "Fritz" ZWAHR, will be in charge of the 1985 reunion, which will be held at Needville on the second Sunday in June.

KARL ERNST ZWAHR, Sr., patriarch of the family, was born in 1857 in Binnwitz bei Grosspostwitz, and died in 1942 at Needville, Tx. He arrived in Texas in 1882.

The NEWSLETTER of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society, headquartered at the Wendish Heritage Museum in Serbin, Texas is published at Dime Box Texas, quarterly.

OFFICERS of the TWHS are Bill Dube, Rt. 2, Box 130, Burton, Tx. 77838, President; Weldon Mersjowsky, 2123 Elysian Fields, Austin, Tx. 78758, Vice-President; Olivia May, 1610 East Avenue, Katy, Tx. 77449, Treasurer; Adele Wilson, 3010 Larknolls, Houston, Tx. 77092, Secretary; Ella Melde, 955 North Chambers, Giddings Tx. 78942, Membership Secretary; John J. Socha, Rt. 1, Box 172-A, Dime Box, Tx. NEWSLETTER Editor.

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society is a non-profit organization and in no way discriminates in matters of race, religion, or ethnic background.

Financial contributions to the Texas Wendish Heritage Society are tax-deductible.

Membership Dues are \$10 per person, per year, and may be sent to: TWHS, P.O. Box 311, Giddings, Tx. 78942.

Send all NEWSLETTER correspondence to the Editor; see above.

1854 - 1984

IT WAS DURING THESE VERY DAYS, SEPTEMBER 10 TO DECEMBER 14, 1854, 130 YEARS AGO, THE IMMIGRATION OF THE WENDS WAS IN PROGRESS. IT SEEMS QUITE FITTING THAT THE TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY, WHO HAVE ORGANIZED TO PRESERVE THE WENDISH HERITAGE, SHOULD MARK THE IMPORTANCE OF THE 130 ANNIVERSARY OF THE IMMIGRATION. MANY IMMIGRATIONS HAVE GONE DOWN IN AMERICAN HISTORY, INCLUDING THAT OF THE PILGRIMS TO PLYMOUTH ROCK, BUT NONE, WE FEEL, CAN QUITE COMPARE WITH THE IMPORTANCE AND DRAMA OF THE WENDISH IMMIGRATION ABOARD THE FAITHFUL SAILING SHIP, THE "BEN NEVIS." WE THANK GOD FOR THE RICH HERITAGE THAT HAS BEEN HANDED DOWN TO US BY THE WENDS OF TEXAS.

1884 - 1984

THE REV. JAN KILIAN, LEADER OF THE WENDISH IMMIGRATION, AND PASTOR OF THIS FAMOUS IMMIGRATION CONGREGATION, DIED ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 12, 1984, AS WE THANK GOD FOR THE IMMIGRATION, SO WE THANK AND PRAISE HIM FOR HIS GIFT OF THE REV. JAN KILIAN