



# Texas Wendish Heritage Society

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NEWSLETTER

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## WENDS WHO CAME TO TEXAS IN 1853 :

ANNA BLASIG'S, THE WENDS OF TEXAS SAYS: "IN 1853 A GROUP OF THIRTY WENDS OF LUTHERAN FAITH IMMIGRATED TO TEXAS VIA BERMEJO. THEY WERE SHIPWRECKED NEAR CUBA BECAUSE THE SHIP CREW HAD LOST ITS BEARINGS. ACCORDING TO HERMANN SCHMIDT, HIS GRANDMOTHER, MARIA MICHALK KRAUSE, HAD LEARNED TO MAKE CIGARS WHILE THE WENDS WERE STRANDED ON THIS SPANISH ISLAND.....

HANNA KRAUSE WAS BORN DURING THE VOYAGE BETWEEN CUBA AND GALVESTON. SHE WAS THE DAUGHTER OF CHRISTOPHER AND MARIA MICHALK KRAUSE OF KLITTEN, SAXONY, WHO SETTLED AT FRELSBURG, TEXAS. SOME OF THE OTHER SETTLERS WERE JOHN NOACK WHO ALSO SETTLED AT FRELSBURG, JOHN KASPER AND MATTHEW MATTHIEZ WHO SETTLED AT NEW ULM, AND MATTHEW MITSCHKE WHO SETTLED AT INDUSTRY.

THESE COLONISTS MIGRATED TO THE GERMAN SETTLEMENTS IN AUSTIN COUNTY AND COLORADO COUNTY, BECAUSE THEY PROBABLY HAD READ GLOWING ACCOUNTS ABOUT TEXAS, THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY, WHICH HAD BEEN WRITTEN BY FRIEDRICH ERNST, WHO FOUNDED INDUSTRY IN 1831. THE WENDS IN TURN WROTE LETTERS TO RELATIVES AND FRIENDS IN GERMANY, URGING THEM TO COME TO THE LAND OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND OF RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL FREEDOM.

Anne Blasig, The Wends of Texas, pp. 12-13, The Naylor Company, San Antonio, Texas, 1954.

## TRIBUTE TO JAN KILIAN by Weldon Mersiovsky

(This is the conclusion of the story, "The Texas Wends - How It Really Happened," by Weldon Mersiovsky, a former vice-president of the TWHS, of Georgetown, Texas. The story was originally presented to the Lutheran Laymen's League Fellowship Club of Zion Lutheran Church, Walburg, and at the meeting of the TWHS Nov. 11, 1984. The latter was in commemoration of the 130th Anniversary of the Wendish Immigration, 1854 - 1984. Editor: JJS)

And the Lord said: "I will give my people a sign that you will not see and words that you will not hear for the time is coming that I will take you My trusted servant to myself in heaven. Hearken now to these My words. In years to come I will cause to come into being a league of laymen who love My word and love to tell My story and their purpose will be to bring the news of My Son Christ to the nations. And as long as they love to tell My story to their friends and neighbors and support the work of the church they will bring Christ to the nations and I will give them rest. But if they fail to train their sons and daughters in My ways and how to tell My story and fail to trust in Me then I the Lord your God will take away all that I have given to them and I will give it to the dogs and the cats of this world and My people will be sore oppressed, and they will have no rest. I will test My people so that they will yield to Me, stop their sinful ways, and go tell others about Me."

And Jan said, "Lord, it is good that You are a gracious God and that Your power and love is everlasting. It is good that though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult, You are our Refuge and Strength, a very present help in time of trouble. It is good that You are a patient God for the Wends will try Your patience."

And the Lord looked kindly upon His servant Jan Kilian and called Him to His own. The Lord looked kindly upon the Wends and caused them to prosper each in his own time and His own way. The Lord also continued to test His people to make them strong and as long as His people continued to tell His story and trust in His Word and instruct their sons and daughters in the righteous ways and faith of their fathers the Lord lifted His countenance upon them and gave them peace.....That's the way it really was and is and is to be.

## ERNST DUBE FAMILY BOOK

More and more families are publishing Family geneologies. This is good. The Wendish Museum is interested in acquiring copies of these geneologies.

I have a copy of a mimeod Booklet entitled, Descendants of the Ernest Dube Family in America, 1854 - 1978, published June, 1978. This is an update of the family tree of June, 1955 at the 4th Ernest Dube Family Reunion. (ERNST is the correct spelling of the name of the family patriarch).

Contributors to the booklet were: Mrs. Olga Moerbe, (The Schneider Family), Mrs. Gladys Holmes (Blasig Family), Victor Krause, (Krasue Family), Mrs. LaVerne Blaylock (Mann Family) Edmund Dube (Karl Dube Family) Adele Jenke (August Dube Family) and Ted Lammert (Lammert Family). Bekki Lammert, Ruth Handerson Boethel, and Joyce Lammert Scherer Dube did much of the production work.

Michael Dube died on board the Ben Nevis on Sept. 20, 1854, and was buried in Ireland. A daughter, Marie, died near Houston on Dec. 22, 1854. The widow of Michael Dube was Johanna Rosina Dube. She died in Serbin on Aug. 19, 1889 at the age of 82. She is buried at the Serbin Cemetery. For further info about the Ernst Dube Family Book contact Ted Lammert, P.O. Box 752, Katy, Texas, 77450

WORK ON YOUR OWN FAMILY TREE!!!

## KILIAN GRAND' 'CHIEF' DEAR

Mrs. Marie Luecke, granddaughter of the Rev. Jan Kilian and daughter of Teacher G.A. Kilian, and his wife Anna Gersch Kilian, 87, died in Austin, Texas Sun., July 7. Burial was at the Giddings Cemetery, her home town, with a Service at Immanuel Luth. Church, Giddings, conducted by the pastors, Rev. Wilbern Michalk and Rev. Robt. Koenig

Marie was a dedicated member of the TWHS. She was always appreciative of any remembrance of her family and their contribution to the cause of the Wendish immigration and colonization at Serbin. Her father, Gerhard August Kilian, born just two years before the Wendish Immigration of 1854, was an accomplished musician and was well-known for his outstanding organ playing ability.

Your editor received much encouragement from Mrs. Luecke to do research of the Wends. She supplied him with many primary source materials about Rev. Jan Kilian.

Mrs. Luecke was married to P.H. Luecke, who preceded her in death in 1971. He was an active Giddings merchant and community leader. They had no children. Asleep in Jesus!

<sup>LT</sup>  
IF., 'SH ORPHANS - 1854

In a letter to Rev. W. A. PASSAVANT at Pittsburgh, Pa. May 16, 1857, Rev. Jan Kilian mentions: "Lastly I express my delight in Your report that LITTLE ORPHANS OF OUR HEAVILY DISCIPLINED COMPANY WITH MRS. RICHTER FOUND A HOME UNDER YOUR CARE IN YOUR CITY. I am greeting them. We are not yet able to send them a "Scherflein," (mite), because we not yet got one crop in Texas, wherefore my people sometimes struggles with difficulties. of alimnt (sic). The merciful God bless you and your Orphan's Home with everlasting goods. In our Lord Jesus Christ I am yours, John Kilian, minister."

Also, an article in The Missionary, edited by Re, W. A. Passavant, Pittsburgh, Pa., Thurs., March 22, 1860, Vol. V-No. 9, Whole Number 217, gives additional bits of information about the children orphaned by the tragedies created by tragedies created by the Yellow Fever epidemic which struck the immigrants shortly after arriving at Galveston, Dec. 14, 1854.

The article states: "It may not be generally known that we have three little Serbian orphans in the Home and Farm School - one having died - whose parents were among the victims to the yellow fever on their arrival in Texas. They were sent to us by the German missionary in Houston in charge of a widow woman (Mrs. Richter, according to Rev. Kilian) whose husband also died at the same time. Many of the above particulars have been obtained from her, and will be found, in the main, to be reliable."

Editor's Note: Here is a good research project for someone: Who were the orphans? Who were their parents? Who was Mrs. Richter? Two Richters are mentioned in the Ship's Register of the Ben Nevis: No. 115 RICHTER, Carl Ernst and No. 122, RICHTER, Joh. Gottlieb Ernst, Mason, wife Hanna and two sons: Simon Johannes and August Herrman, who died Nov. 12 Hope someone will do this research!

NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL GOOD MEMBERS OF THE TWHS TO PAY THEIR DUES. JUST \$10.00 TO BE A MEMBER OF ONE OF THE MOST UNIQUE OF ETHNIC ORGANIZATIONS IN AMERICA, THE TWHS.

NOTE: Vivian F. Taylor is Geneology Chairman of the WENDISH MUSEUM. Send her your FAMILY STORY: P.O.Box 311, Giddings, Texas 78942.

THIS ENDS VOLUME VI. I have enjoyed the past six years of humble efforts in behalf of the TWHS Society Newsletter. JJS