



German-Lithuanian Heritage Society

NEWSLETTER

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KILLIAN BROUGHT MISSOURI TO TEXAS

130 YEARS AGO

(1855 - 1985)

One hundred and thirty years ago this year, the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod had a small but solid beginning in Texas, when the Rev. Jan Killian, leader of the Lithuanian Immigration Germany to Texas, applied for membership in the LC-MS. That was early in 1855, just weeks after settling with his flock, the members of the Serbish Lutheran Church (St. Paul, Serbin) on a ninety-acre tract located on the Asalom Delaplain Survey.

Kilian became the first "Texan" to hold membership in the young church body, which had been organized in Chicago, Ill., in 1847.

President John F. Praeger sent the following letter of certification to Rev. Kilian, verifying that he was a recognized pastor, "licensed" to operate publicly as a Lutheran pastor.

Saint Louis City, Saint Louis County, State of Missouri; March of A.D. 1855: Know all men by these presents, that the Reverend Johann Kilian, now in Bastrop Co., Texas, is a regular ordained minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other States, and therefore authorized to perform all ministerial acts.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal of said Synod in the City of St. Louis, Mo., this ninth day of March in the year of our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and Fifty-five.

John Frederick Praeger,
Praeses

In March of 1985, the Peter Foundation granted the Jewish Society \$130,000 for a fire-resistant building. Significant events have occurred since that date. Your Board of Directors believes the membership should be informed of the detailed events.

Most of the land on which our present museum is located is under a perpetual lease from St. Paul congregation. This was not satisfactory for the Peter Foundation to give the grant money. They require that we have a clear warranty deed to the land.

St. Paul has stated they will not deed us the 1.03 acres of land as requested by the Peter Foundation. They drew up a new lease which includes restrictions such as having all building plans approved by the congregation, having all fund raising activities approved by the congregation, etc. The Peter Foundation feels that under these circumstances, they would be granting \$130,000 to St. Paul congregation rather than the Jewish society.

A representative of the congregation said the new proposed lease was adopted by St. Paul because some of the church members had "expressed concern over activity that had happened at the museum." He said members of St. Paul would like to have control over activities taking place at the museum since it is so close to the cemetery.

Under the existing lease between St. Paul and the Jewish society, any problems or misunderstandings are to be put in writing to the executive officers or the congregation's representative. This has been in effect since January, 1979, and the Jewish Society has never received any such correspondence.

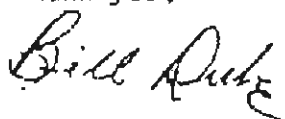
Clayton Kramer of the Peter Foundation was asked to check if the Foundation would consider making the grant under the original lease rather than the proposed warranty deed. In polling the Foundation board, they unanimously agreed that another site should be considered.

Because of the December 31st deadline for receiving the money from the Peter Foundation, a motion was made at the last meeting that the Board of Directors look for a site that would offer fire and police protection while continuing to negotiate with St. Paul's congregation. The voice vote on this motion did not pass.

Approximately sixty days have passed since this meeting and our museum board reports that there is no progress in compromising St. Paul congregation and the Peter Foundation. That leaves us with the possibility of losing \$130,000 for a fire-resistant structure for a museum.

Comments from you, the membership, regarding this situation may be sent to me, Bill Dube, President, Rt. 2, Box 130, Burton, TX 77835.

Thank you.



ORCHIDS TO THE TEINERTS

Reinhold and Irene Teinert, active promoters of the work of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society in Austin, Texas, their picture in the Mon., Oct. 7, 1985 issue of the Austin American-Statesman, Section B. The caption states: Days of Yore Irene and Reinhold Teinert of Austin bear the look of 19th century Wendish settlers in a display of dress at the 11th Austin Folklife Festival. The Teinerts donned the clothes of the Slavic Group from Germany Sunday at Fiesta Gardens. Thanks to the Teinerts and others who actively spread the good word about the Wends of Texas through participation in functions such as folk life and ethnic festivals and celebrations.

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VISIT THE WENDISH MUSEUM at Serbin. This is one of the unique Museums in America. People travel all over the world to take in such special attractions. We have the museum right here "in our own back yard" as we say. Try to get up a party - one or more cars full - and visit some Sunday afternoon. You'll be glad you did!

TE XAS AND AUSTRALIAN SESQUICENTENNIALS

by Ron Lammert, Chairman
Texas-South Australian Committee

1986 will be a unique year for both the state of Texas and the state of South Australia. Both states are celebrating their 150th anniversaries, and both boast a large Wendish population.

The Wends who emigrated to Australia about the same time as our ancestors to Texas were in some cases very closely kin to our Wendish forefathers. Some correspondences were set up which have lasted until the present day. But for the most part we know very little about the Wends of Australia.

The year 1986 could change all that.

As chairman of the Texas-South Australia committee for the TWHs, I have written several letters and have several replies from Wendish folks in South Australia who are just as interested in us as we are in them.

We are proposing several exchanges during 1986, including possible exchange of letters and other documents, possible exchange of museum displays and finally, exchange visits.

Mr. Paul Noack is chairman of the Sorb Committee for the state of South Australia. He is, in effect, the head Wend of Australia. South Australia is preparing a museum to commemorate the 150th anniversary. Included will be a display about the Sorbs or Wends. Mr. Noack is very interested in having information about the "Texas Connection" in the museum.

Another Wend I have received correspondence from is Bev Hall. She has joined the TWHs and is a member of Mr. Noack's committee. She tells me that both the governor and the deputy governor of South Australia have some Wendish blood.

I have also heard from Mrs. Olga Radke and Mr. Armin Kleinig, another TWHs member, who are interested in visiting Texas during the sesquicentennial year.

The area where the Wends settled in South Australia is a beautiful rural part of the state famous for its sheep and wine production. In fact, a friend who regularly corresponds with someone in South Australia tells me the area is known as having 26 wineries and 24 Lutheran churches.

We are tentatively planning a trip to this area in September of 1986. We are offering our homes to anyone who visits here from South Australia and we are presumptuous

enough to suggest that maybe our Wendish cousins in South Australia could do the same for us.

Cost of the round-trip airfare to Adelaide (capital of South Australia) is approximately \$1,400 from San Antonio or Austin. It might be a bit less from Houston or Dallas. Anyone interested in making the trek should contact me as soon as possible at 512/684-9026 or by writing, Ron Lammert, 7532 Linkside, San Antonio, Tx. 78240 I should have more details by the next newsletter.

Also, if some of the Wends from South Australia do visit here, we will need some volunteer families to put them up for a few days. With the generosity of our members, I know that won't be a problem, but I wanted to warn in advance that some of you may be called on.
Ron Lammert, Chairman, Texas South Australia Committee

RECIPES NEEDED FOR
NEW COOKBOOK.....

SEND THEM TO EMMA
WUENSCHKE AT MC DADE,
OR JOYCE DUBE
1311 BEUTEL
HOUSTON, 77055

HAVE YOUR NAME RE-
CORDED FOR POSTERITY,
SEND IN A GOOD RECIPE

PLACE MATS ON SALE

THE TWHS IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE TEXAS SESQUICENTENNIAL PLACE MATS TO SELL AS PART OF OUR CELEBRATION OF THE 150TH BIRTHDAY OF TEXAS. THE COMMITTEE HOPES TO HAVE A SUPPLY ON HAND FOR SALE AT THE NOV. MEETING. THE TWHS IS A CERTIFIED SESQUICENTENNIAL PARTICIPANT. JOIN THE CELEBRATION. BRING IDEAS TO THE MEETING TO GENERATE PROJECTS.

ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE AT NOV. MEETING.
PRESIDENT AND TREASURER TO BE ELECTED. VICE-
PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY HAVE ANOTHER YEAR.

FAMILY TREES, GENEALOGIES, HISTORIES NEEDED
VIVIAN TAYLOR, GENEALOGY CHAIRMAN, REQUESTS ALL
MEMBERS TO HELP FURNISH INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR
FAMILIES. TWHS, P.O. BOX 311, GIDDINGS, TX. 78942

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Bessie Mertink, La Verne Gersch, Lillian Taylor, Laura Zoch, Eleanor Steglich, Esther Buscha, and Evelyn Kasper, entertained 49 visitors at the Museum from the Ft. Bend County Museum Docent Society. A Luncheon was served at Holy Cross, Warda, August 20.....Bea Tschatschula, Bessie Mertink, and La Verne Gersch were the hostesses at the Museum.....Another group was hosted from the Forest Heights Methodist Super Adults of San Antonio. A Wendish flavored Luncheon was served. The ladies serving as hostesses were: Bessie Mertink, Bea Tschatschula, La Verne Gersch, Vivian Taylor, Eleanor Steglich, Laura Zoch, Esther Buscha, Lillian Taylor, Lillian Olmann, Ruth Lindner, Ella Meide and Evelyn Kasper.....Other Museum Hostesses are: Viola Spacek, Dora Spitzenberger, Ruby Koslan, Sherry Murphy; also Herbert Falke, Leroy Steglich, and Albert Buscha.....Daphne Garrett and Vivian Taylor attended the Robt. Robinson - Zoch Genealogy Workshop at the German-Texan Heritage Society in New Braunfels in September.....Mr. Robinson, an active historian-Genealogist member of the TWHS and other organizations, donated the volumes of his book to the library. The Bre- mers and Their Kin in Germany and Texas. Thanks, Robert.....Thanks to Ron and Bronwyn Lehmann, Box 927 Murray Bridge 5253, South Australia, for their donations of the family history of Martin and Elizabeth Lehmann. Ron and Bronwyn would like to hear from any and all Lehmanns in this area.....Lehmanns', get busy and make contact.

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NOTE: Our Museum and our Museum Committee are a unique contribution to the Wendish Heritage in America. Encourage friends to visit the Museum, open every Sunday afternoon. Be sure to visit the Museum real soon. It's a treat!

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CONGRATULATIONS to little Missy Lammert. She was the youngest WEND at the Wendish Booth at the 1985 Texas Folklife Festival in San Antonio.....And to Ron and Cindy Knippa and all of the wonderful help- er they had to make the Booth another big success.