



TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Volume VII, No. 2 Dime Box, Texas Jan. Feb. March 1986

TEXAS SESQUICENTENNIAL SALUTE

1836 - 1986

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society salutes the great State of Texas with the celebration of the 150th anniversary of its spirit-filled history during this monumental year of 1986.

As a Certified Participant in the Sesquicentennial the Texas Wendish Heritage Society is proud to review its own history and that of the Wends of Texas who immigrated to the Lone Star State in 1854.

The TWHS takes note of the fact that during February, 1986 the Lutheran Schools in the State of Texas are celebrating their significant contributions to the progress and greatness of the Lone Star State. One of the significant contributions made to the Texas celebration is the publication of a Unit of Study for Lutheran Schools entitled, "The Wendish." Written by Rebecca Ann Winkler, a student at Lutheran Concordia College, Austin, Texas, the project is "A Mini-Unit On The Heritage And 'Roots' Of The Lutheran Schools In Conjunction With The Texas Independence Sesqui - Centennial Celebration."

Souvenir Placemats, selling for just \$1.50 by the TWHS, are a visual reminder of the vastness and richness of Texas.

Before the end of 1986 the TWHS will relive some of the rich heritage which is both Texas and Wendish. All members are urged to participate as actively as possible as events unfold during this historic year.

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The TWHS NEWSLETTER is published quarterly for the members of the TWHS to encourage them to help save the Wendish Heritage of the Wends of Texas, the immigrants from Lusatia in Germany in 1854.

Readers are encouraged to submit news and other information about their Wendish Heritage. Write; Editor: TWHS NEWSLETTER, Rt. 1, Box 172-A, Dime Box, Texas 77853

The TWHS does not in any way discriminate against persons for their nationality, sex, race, or religion.

OFFICERS OF THE TWHS-1986

LAVERNE GERSCH, President
BILL DUBE, Vice-President
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EDITOR: Rev. John J. Socha,
Ella Melde, Membership
P.O.Box 311, Giddings, Tx.
78942

Cookbook Chairman: Emma
Wuensch, Rt. 1, Box 175,
Mc Dade, Texas 78650

Dues are \$10.00 per person per year, payable at the beginning of each year.

The TWHS operates a Museum of Wendish Culture at Serbin, Texas, six miles south of Giddings, Lee County, Tx.

VISIT THE WENDISH MUSEUM

WENDISH MUSEUM OPEN

Laverne Gersch, newly elected president of the TWHS announced the Wendish Museum in Serbin will be open every Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

She also announced the Museum would be open from 1 to 5 p.m. Friday, January 31 when the long-heralded Texas Wagon Train will come to Giddings. Visitors from miles around are expected to view the Wagon Train, and will be invited to visit the Wendish Museum.

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WENDS TO APPEAR AT SCHOOL

An invitation has been extended to Rev. John J. Socha to present a program at the Elementary School in Giddings, Mrs. Ann Campbell, teacher, on Wednesday, Feb. 5th. He has been asked to bring women in costumes, Wendish music, artifacts, etc.

The hour-long program will feature stories about the immigration of 1854 and the settling of the Absalom DeLa Plain Survey by the Wends, Portions of the Oratoria, "Naleco" by Zejler and Kocor, Folk-songs like "Lubka Lilia," Hanka Budz Wjesola" and others, an exhibit of Wendish colored eggs, noodle-making, and the like. Many of the pupils are of Wendish ancestry.

Info submitted by Evelyn Kasper:

Dr. Hartmuth Zwahr of the D.D.R. sent us the author's original editor's notes and galley proofs of Meine Landsleute. Earlier he had sent his book to the Museum.

The Slavisches Institut der Universität at Köln sent us a book entitled Die Kölner Niedersorbische Liederhandschrift with compliments of Prof. Dr. H.C.R. Oelsch, the author.

Evelyn Kasper has placed a copy of the 1857 Texas Almanac in the Museum.

Dr. Joseph Wilson's book of Baptismal Records of Pastor Jan Kilian is available from St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin, at the Giddings banks, and from Gretchen's Book Store in Giddings. It is also available at the Wendish Museum Gift Shop

Visit the Museum soon!

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Henry Schkade, a former Board Member, and an ardent supporter of the Wendish Heritage Society, submitted an interesting portion of Geo-Magazin, printed entirely in German. It is all about the life and culture of the sorbs in present-day Wendenland - Lausitz under the Soviet Socialistic governance. Two double-page color photos show elderly Wendish women enjoying a goose-feather quilting session, and the Punt Riders on the canal out of and back to Lübbenau. (We recall some of the finest gourmet eating at a Lübbenau restaurant during our 1982 trip to Wendenland. Editor)

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Help make the NEWSLETTER an interesting and enlightening organ of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society, of which you are a valued member. Send in news about your Wendish activities. Reunion information makes delightful reading. Send it to the Editor: Rt. 1, Box 172-A, Dime Box, Tx. 77853.

OUR SYMPATHY to the family of EDWIN G. KILIAN of Austin, Texas, grandson of the Rev. Jan Kilian, and son of Teacher Gerhard August Kilian, who died recently at Austin. Ed was a staunch supporter of the TWHS and will be missed. He was a loyal member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Austin, where he was the head usher for many, many years.

REBECCA WA WINKLER

Author of the Mini Teaching Unit, "The Wendish" is the daughter of Rev. George and Mrs. Florence Michalk Winkler, now pastor of Grace Lutheran Church Freeport, Texas. Grandparents are Oscar and Anna Winkler and Rudolph C. and Adele Michalk. Both were originally from the Lee County Area and later from the Belton-Temple Area.

MINI-UNIT CONTENTS

- I. Origin of Wends
- II. Life in Early Settlements
- III. Early Lutheran Schools
- IV. Wendish Celebrations.

The TWHS Newsletter commends Miss Winkler for her fine project which, if and when used, will enlighten children in the Lutheran Schools of their rich Wendish heritage, handed down by the Slavic descendants of the hardy pioneers who came over on the Ben Nevis and settled in what is now Lee County, Texas.

The TWHS Newsletter encourages other young people to follow the example of Miss Winkler. Research the fascinating story of the Wends of Texas. Record your findings. Participate in Family Trees - geneological studies. Submit information about the Wends and their families to the Wendish Museum. The time to start is NOW. Don't put it off. Start today.

Encourage your friends to become members of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society. Send \$10 now to P.O.Box 311, Giddings Texas 78942

WENDISH WOMEN QUIT COOKING

Can you believe that Wendish women will ever quit cooking? It is beginning to look that way!

In 1975 the Wendish ladies accumulated favorite recipes from their files, and their friends and relatives files. We have a cookbook that has sold exceptionally well. Now we would like to publish a cookbook from the files of our new friends and newer members. We also want recipes from our faithful long-standing members that have become favorites in the last ten years. Won't YOU support this project?

Most of the recipes received to date have been sent by "out of state" members. It looks like they have more recipes than we Texans do...

Come on, Let's have your recipes. Send them to:

Mrs. Emma Wuensche
Rt. 1, Box 175
Mc Dade, Texas 78650

Note: If you have the history or story about the recipe, be sure to send it also.

Submitted by Joyce Dube, a Cookbook Committee Member.

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MEETING OF THE TWHS Sunday, February 9, at Serbin. Plan to attend. Come and bring a friend with you.

Enjoy visiting the Wendish Museum while you are here. Have you paid your dues?