



Texas Wendish Heritage Society

NEWSLETTER

VOL. VIII, NO. 4 DIME BOX, TX. JULY-SEPT. 1987

VISIT THE WENDISH BOOTH

TEXAS FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

THURSDAY THRU SUNDAY,
AUGUST 6, 7, 8, AND 9TH

- WENDISH CULTURE ON DISPLAY
- WENDISH FOOD AT ITS BEST
- WENDISH ARTS AND CRAFTS
- WENDISH EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS
- WENDISH COSTUMES
- WENDISH LITERATURE
- WENDISH MUSIC

COME VISIT US!

INSTITUTE FOR TEXAN CULTURES

CO-ORDINATORS: RON & CINDY KNIPPA
(512/496-3105)

SEE YOU IN SAN ANTONIO!

The TWHS Newsletter is published quarterly in the interest of promoting the aims and objectives of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society.

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OFFICERS OF THE TWHS:

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Vivian Taylor, Secretary;

Kenneth Weiser, Treasurer;

Evelyn Kasper, Museum Director;

Daphne Garrett, Museum Research Associate.

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ANNUAL DUES are just \$10.00 per person per year. Mail dues to TWHS, P.O. Box 311, Giddings, Texas 78942

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THE WENDISH MUSEUM IN SERBIN is open every Sunday afternoon from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Plan a visit to the Museum soon. Bring your friends. WITAJCE K NAM. Welcome!

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ANYONE interested in the Wendish heritage of the Wends of Texas is invited to submit articles for the Newsletter. In this issue we elcome an article by Margaret Rammer Standlee.

THINK WENDISH!

THIS 'N' THAT

KENNETH MOERBE AND HIS FAMILY, OF BRENHAM, ARE PLANNING A TRIP TO GERMANY AND ARE HOPING TO SPEND A LOT OF TIME IN WENDENLAND - LUSATIA - THE HOME OF THE ORIGINAL WENDS OF TEXAS... WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING A REPORT FOR THE NEWSLETTER UPON THEIR RETURN.

A "cute" Wendish folksong, set to a familiar Czech melody, (Ceski ludowy spew) which I will be singing in the Wendish Booth at the Tx. Folklife Festival Aug. 6-9 is WOWERJOWA HANKA:

Hancicka wowcerjowa,
husycki nimas doma.
Husy su w jecmjenju,
Prosu ce, wucer je,
Wucer ja z jecmjenja won,
Prjed' hac dzen
Zawoni zwon!

Like so many Wendish folksongs, the subject surrounds the baryard; in this case Anna, Kanka, and the geese.

LOUISE PETER, donor of the major funds for the new Museum, "had a ball" at the ground-breaking, May 17 in Serbin.... We look forward to having her on hand for the Dedication of the Museum in November... The historic KURIO log cabin has been built at the site of the museum.

PART V. Continuation of the History of St. Paul's
Lutheran Church, Serbin, Texas, by the late
Rev. W. H. Bewie.

Before we go on with the story, I want to make one remark. I noticed, as I read all those many documents, that in less than no time these Wends began to pick up English words. We read about settlements, about Kuhpenne, smoke-house, squires, trustees etc. It has always been that when a small group of one language enters a country in which an entirely different language is used, it is not long before the newcomers begin to use words of that new language, until finally, the new language crowds out the old language. I noticed that in Mexico, where the German colony used about as much Spanish as they used German. That just simply cannot be helped.

We go on now with the story. While at first the colony was dea... poor, yet God blessed them gradually with worldly goods. In a few years they had learned how to farm and how to make a living, and they began to prosper. They began to feel more and more at home. They acquired farms and built homes on them. From time to time a group would go to Bastrop, which was the county seat of Bastrop County, in order to get their citizenship papers. Rev. Kilian encouraged them in this.

As soon as they could, the Wends built a combination church and parsonage. It consisted of two rooms with a hall between. One room was used as church, the other room was the parsonage. If I understand the documents correctly, Rev. Kilian lived in this house to the day of his death.

Gradually the Wends felt that they could do some more building. So they built a church and moved out of the one room. And from then on, as I understand the documents, Rev. Kilian occupied both rooms and the hall as parsonage. The new church was dedicated on second Christmas day 1859. When the new church was dedicated, Rev. Kilian preached first in Wendish, of course, then he preached also in English. and finally in German, all in one service. This English sermon is still in existence. The English is just a little stiff, but it is so plain that anyone who knows English at all can easily understand it, without any trouble.

And it was a real sermon showing the way of salvation. He showed that all men are sinners, and that Christ came into the world as our Savior and fulfilled the law of God for us, and suffered the punishment of our sins for us. He also emphasized that Christ is the Savior of all mankind. Everybody was now happy in the new church.

WE ARE ~~DEDICATED~~ ^{DEBTED} TO MARGARET RAMM STANDLEE for the following account: My Great Grandfather, JOHANN NEITSCH, born 1829, his wife, MARIA SYMMANK NEITSCH, born 1825, and son, August, left their home in Saxony, and came to Texas aboard the ship, BEN NEVIS... One of the tragedies of the trip was the death of their son, August, at Queenstown, Ireland... Johann and Maria Neitsch purchased land and started their family again. Their children: Maria Magdalena Neitsch, married John Mickan, Jr.; Ernst Edward Neitsch, married Emma Wors; Carl August Neitsch, married Emma Caroline Herbrig, Johann Robert Neitsch, married Ann Keiling; Wilhelm Hermann Neitsch married ? ; Hanna Theresia Neitsch, married Wilhelm Martin Ramm.

In the late 1870's, Johann and Maria Neitsch, moved with their family to Walburg, Texas. Carl August Neitsch stayed in Lee County. While Johann Neitsch lived at Walburg, he farmed and worked as a carpenter. In May, 1882, Johann Neitsch was one of nine men who founded Zion Lutheran Church, Walburg. After a few years, Johann and Maria moved back to Lee County, where he died in 1902 and is buried in the Holy Cross, Warda Cemetery. Maria Neitsch died in 1905 and is buried in the Zion Cemetery at Walburg.

by Margaret Ramm Standlee, 10605 Royal Club Lane, Dallas, Texas 75229.

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DR. GEORGE NIELSEN, was in the Giddings area last week, busy as usual, doing research on Wendish families. I expect George will be coming out with a new book soon. If it is anywhere near as good as his, IN SEARCH OF A HOME, it will serve a great need and will be worth waiting for.

Nielsen shed some light on a question I have asked: "Who wrote the story, "The Coming of the Wends," in the 1976 Yearbook of the Lutheran Church of Australia. Nielsen tells me it was a retired Wend, the Rev. Rupert Berger. George added, "He used my manuscript heavily."

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MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION: Rainy weather during May and June slowed the progress of construction on the new Louise Peter Wendish Museum, but it is still hoped we'll be able to have a November dedication. So put everything on hold for a November Sunday. You'll be informed about a definite date.

SEE YOU AT THE WENDISH Booth AUG. 6-9 AT FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL!

Plan to attend the new Museum dedication in November!