



# Texas Wendish Heritage Society

NEWSLETTER

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VOL. IX, No. 3, DIME BOX, TEXAS, APRIL-JUNE, 1988

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1988 "A YEAR OF CHALLENGE"

SOCIETY ADOPTS CHALLENGING GOALS

150 TO 200 NEW MEMBERS EXPECTED

DAVID GOEKE, MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

PATRICIA BONE TO HEAD-UP TEXAS  
FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL EXTRAVAGANZA

OFFICERS DETERMINED TO REACH GOALS!!!

NEXT REGULAR SOCIETY MEETING MAY 15 AT 2

## 1988 OFFICERS AND BOARD

ELWOOD DOMASCHK, JR., PRESIDENT

LEROY STEGLICH, VICE-PRESIDENT

VIVIAN TAYLOR, SECRETARY

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JOYCE L. DOBE, LEROY PAUL, GEORGE H. BOERGER,

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## MUSEUM BOARD

OTTO BECKER JR., DAPHNE GARRET, VIC MATHIAS,

RON LAMMERT, EVELYN KASPER, BETTY HUTCHINSON

NEW BOOK - PUBLISHED.... AUGUST and CHRISTIANA BIEHLE,

A History of the Biehle Family

Doris Biehle Reagan, author-compiler, says: "August and Christiana Biehle settled in Lee County when they arrived from Germany in 1869. Most of their descendants remain in Texas and many still live in the Central Texas area." Cost: \$12.95, includes tax. Add \$1.00 for shipping and handling. Order from Doris Biehle Reagan, 2502 Braemar Cove, Austin, Tx. 78747.

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NEWSLETTER REPORT: At the last regular meeting of the TWHS, your editor reported that we have published 38 issues of the NEWSLETTER.

Goals and objectives of the NEWSLETTER are:

Keep members informed about happenings in the TWHS;

Report new findings about the 1854 Immigration;

Include information about family geneologies;

News about Family Reunions;

New information from the homeland of the Wends;

Book Reviews, etc. Articles in Journals and Magazines;

Official announcements from the Executive Board;

Information from Committees.

You will notice that to meet our goals and objectives, our officers and members need to become involved with the NEWSLETTER. Officers and Committee Chairmen need to write articles; family members must report activities in their family circles; concerned persons need to communicate with the editor. All of these will help to make your NEWSLETTER more interesting and valuable. So, please keep in touch. Write to TWHS NEWSLETTER, John J. Socha, Editor, Route 1, Box 172-A, Dime Box, Texas, 77853.

LAISON between the Board of Directors and the Editor is Mr. Gerald Boerger who is deeply interested in upgrading the NEWSLETTER.

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TEXAS FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL: Now is the time to start making arts and crafts items with a Wendish Flavor for the Booth at the San Antonio August Festival. Patricia Bone will be in contact with the Society outlining some of the needs and plans for the upcoming Festival. Remember, one of the Society's Goals for 1988 is to increase revenues for the Society through participation in the Folklife Festival.



PART VIII. Continuation of the History of St. Paul's  
Lutheran Church, Serbin, Texas, by the late  
Rev. W. H. Bewie (An Unpublished Manuscript.)

Now Rev. Kilian was a wise pastor. He understood quite well what the Stunden idea always led to, but he would not say, NO, you can't do this. He said, Let us have weekday services also. So then had night services, with Bible Class, etc. He writes in one of his letters which is still preserved that he took through several chapters of the gospel according to Matthew with them, also all the petitions of the Lord's Prayer, as well as the articles of the Augsburg Confession.

And these were real Bible Classes. These matters were discussed. Each could ask questions and state his opinion etc. It happened one time that one of the men in the Bible Class made a statement which was plainly contrary to sound doctrine. It was explained to him that what he said was not sound doctrine. He learned to see that and then apologized.

But in the course of the months, the real Stundisten were not satisfied with the way Rev. Kilian handled the Stund. That was too tame for them. They did not want to join the Methodist church, for, as Rev. Kilian said, they were too Lutheran for that. But yet they wanted Stunden. And so they resigned from the Serbin church, formed a little congregation of their own and called a minister of the Texas Synod, which was also quite unionistic. When after a short time the first pastor left them, they called another. They also built a church about two miles away from the Serbin church. But this little congregation which called itself St. Peter's did not grow. At the very best they had only about 45 communicant members, counting men and women. So, finally, they saw the error of their way, and after the Visitor had been down from St. Louis, Rev. H. Fick, they resigned from the Texas Synod, broke up their congregation and rejoined the Wendish church of Rev. Kilian.

It would seem that now all was well and peace and quiet restored. But about the time when St. Peter's church disbanded and rejoined Rev. Kilian's church, which was in 1867, trouble was again brewing, of a somewhat different nature. I shall now tell this trouble, on the basis of documents in the archives, although I do wish the archives were more complete, for it is not always possible

to see ~~clearly~~ all the details.

When the Wends came over that followed Rev. Kilian, in 1854, that was not the end of the immigration. From time to time other Wends came over as we plainly see from the documents. Some of these Wends had either German wives or German husbands, as the case might be. And also Germans came over, that had neither Wendish husbands or Wendish wives. I have already mentioned that Rev. Kilian from the very beginning conducted what we call double-headers. Sunday for Sunday, including the holidays, he preached first in Wendish and then in German. But as more and more Germans came over it became necessary to conduct the voters' meetings not only in Wendish, but also in German. In fact it was not long before the meetings were practically in German, as the minutes will show. (TO BE CONTINUED.)

AS OF JANUARY 12th, 1988, the TWHS HAD 366 MEMBERS!

NEW COOKBOOK PUBLISHED. Title: Heirloom & Original Cook-Book, compiled by the Texas Wendish Heritage Society.

Members of the Cookbook Committee, take a bow! Mrs. Harry E. J. (Emma) Wuensche, Mrs. W. H. (Mary) Schimank, Mrs. E.F. (Frieda) Wendland, Mrs. August (Laura) Zoch, Mrs. Beatrice (Bea) Tschatschula, Mrs. Ron (Cindy) Knippa, and Mrs. Bill (Joyce) Dube.

Plan to purchase a supply of the new cookbooks at the next meeting, May 15.

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE TWHS ~ 1988: Membership: David Goeke; Folklife Festival: Patricia Bones; Float (Ben Nevis), Herbert Falke; Refreshments: Ruth Lindner; Audit: Ed Wuensche, and Newsletter Editor: John J. Socha.

OTHER COMMITTEES: By-Laws: Joyce L. Dube; Fund-Raising: E.C. Knippa; LWML: Vivian F. Taylor; Ambassador: Laverne Gersch.

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE! Get at least one new member in '88 \$10.00 per person, Regular Membership

WENDENLAND TOUR TO SPREEWITZ THIS SUMMER: Contact Reinhold Teinert, 1501 Barbara St., Austin, Tx. 78757

THINK WENDISH. PLAN TO WORK IN THE WENDISH BOOTH AT THE TEXAS FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL AUGUST 4-5-6-7, 1988.