



# Texas Wendish Heritage Society

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NEWSLETTER

VOL. IX, No. 4, DIME BOX, TEXAS, JULY-SEPT. 1988

NEWSLETTER EDITOR RESIGNS - ILLNESS  
CITED

HISTORY OF ST. PAUL'S, SERBIN, CONTD.

TEXAS FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL, AUG. 4-7TH

NEW WENDISH COOKBOOK AVAILABLE

PROSTWA - PRAYER

by Jan Kilian

Ow wola luboscé, stań, ty si nade mmu!

Ja chcu, štož jeno chceš;

we tebi wotpočnu,

we tebi jeno mam ja zbóžnosť tu a tam.

Ow słowo žiwjenja, so we mni zakorjeń,

mje zahor a mi swěć,

zo džećam, hydž je dzeń!

Mi pomha twoja moć, zo přěndu pře wšu nóc.

Ow ruka swěrnosće, mje stajne dzerž a wjedź,

w čimž chodžu nječistym,

to ty mje wšitko sleć,

mje rjenje wupyš tu na wěčnu hosćinu!

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

JOHN J. SOCHA, Editor,  
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#### OFFICERS OF THE TWHS:

Elwood Domaschk Jr., Pres.,  
Leroy Steglich, Vice.-Pres.  
Vivian Taylor, Secretary  
Reinhold Teinert, Treas.  
Vivian Taylor, Museum Dir.  
Daphne Garrett, Museum Research Associate.

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ANNUAL DUES are just \$10 per person per year. Mail dues to TWHS, Rt.2, Box 155 Giddings, Tx. 78942-9769

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The WENDISH MUSEUM IN SERBIN is open every Sunday afternoon from 1 to 5 P.M.

Plan to visit the Museum soon. Bring your friends. WITAJCE K NAM. Welcome!

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#### WENDENLAND TOUR AUG. 15/26

Tour Guides: Reinhold and Irene Teinert, Phone: 512/453-1839, 1501 Barbara St. Austin, Tx. 78757. Tour will include the celebration of the 300th Anniversary of the Spreewitz Church.

EDITOR RESIGNS: With this issue of the Newsletter, the Editor, Rev. John J. Socha, is resigning from the position because of health reasons. Socha organized the Newsletter during the presidency of Ted Lamert of Katy, Tx., who promoted the idea of a Newsletter for several years. Vol. I, No. 1, appeared while Socha was pastor at Zion Luth. Church in Ft. Worth. The Newsletter continued after Socha accepted the position of Manager of the Giddings Chamber of Commerce in 1980, when he also became pastor of Trinity Luth. Church at Dime Box.

Socha underwent surgery for the removal of a malignant tumor in the stomach area May 10. He is currently undergoing several series of Chemo and Radiation treatments in Austin.

President Elwood Domaschk has taken the resignation under advisement.

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#### TEXAS FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

Director of Booth: Patti Bone of San Antonio.

This is a major Fund-Raiser for the TWHS and gives many members an opportunity to lend a helping hand.

The dates are August 4-7.

Plan to work or just visit.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU IN SERBIN AT THE AUGUST MEETING!



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

Gradually however, there was a desire felt on the part of some of the people, to split the congregation and have two congregations, one German and the other Wendish. While the documents are not altogether clear on this point, yet one just about gets the impression, after reading all those letters, that the former Stundisten, whether they were Wendish or not, were involved in this movement. It is plain that there were those who were personally opposed to Rev. Kilian. For there is a document on hand in which the people that drew up and signed it, say to Rev. Kilian he should not worry about all this opposition, for it is only on the part of some of the people. They, the undersigned, want him to know that they have full and absolute confidence in him.

It appears from the documents that about this time when this trouble was brewing a young pastor came to Texas for his health. He was a guest in Rev. Kilian's home. But when he saw what was going on, instead of keeping his hands out of this, he encouraged those that wanted to draw back. I know this, because there is a letter extant written by this young man after he had left Serbin, in which he apologizes for the trouble he had caused.

Rev. Kilian was in hot water. He wrote any number of letters to Pres. Buenger of the Western District and to Prof. Walther who was then Pres. of Synod, and to Prof. Lindemann of the teachers' Seminary at Addison. And they all advised him. After I had read and even copied out these letters because they were hard to read, I wondered whether all these men that advise Rev. Kilian really understood the whole situation. It would seem, though I cannot be too certain, that it was not merely the language question, but partly also the matter of Stundisten.

This was a terrible ordeal for Rev. Kilian. The new rock church had been started. The walls were going up, the roof was on. But they needed loans of money in order to complete the building. But who was going to loan money to a congregation that was splitting? It seemed unsafe to loan money. And so the building of the new church stopped for the time being.

But it proved in the end that Rev. Kilian was right in saying that there is only one thing left, namely that

the congregation split into a German congregation and a Wendish congregation. The split was made. This was at the beginning of 1870. Those that wanted to stay with Rev. Kilian's group, stayed. Those that wanted a German church got together and organized a church in which German only was to be used. The new church, strange to say, called itself St. Peter's. So there was now a second St. Peter's. Rev. Kilian's church which had been known as the Wendish Lutheran Church now also took on a name, calling itself St. Paul's Lutheran church.

An agreement was drawn up between the two churches, as to property. Since there were legal questions involved they secured the services of two lawyers to advise them. I searched diligently for this agreement for I was anxious to know exactly what the agreement amounted to. All I know, and that is not on the basis of any documents, is that the cemetery was to be common, also a certain amount of money was turned over by St. Paul's to St. Peter's. But the agreement seems to have disappeared.

So now there were two churches. The new church proceeded to call its pastor. But, strange to say, they felt that they needed a pastor who could also handle Wendish, besides German. Such a person was found in the person of Rev. John Pallmer. (To be continued.)

ELWOOD DOMASCHK, 42, president of the TWHS traces his ancestry to the Ben Nevis Wends. His great grandfather was JAN DOMASCHK, who was with the group who settled in Warda after their brief stay in Serbin. That's where his grandfather, Carl A. Domaschk, was born.

Mr. Domaschk heads the Accounting and Auditing Dept. of the C.P.A. firm of Cabaniss, Horn, and Domaschk on Allen Parkway in Houston.

His wife is the former Jeanette Richter, daughter of one-time football great at SMU, R.R. Richter of Giddings. They have three children and are members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church at Spring Branch.

### WENDISH BOOKS FOR SALE

Heirloom & Original Cookbook, Published 1988, Cost; \$8.40, includes Tax and shipping.

Wends of Texas, by Anna Blasig, Cost: \$9.56, includes Tax and shipping costs.

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