



Texas Wendish Heritage Society

Route 2, Box 155 / Giddings, Texas 78942-9769

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 4, JULY-SEPTEMBER, 1989

OPEN FROM 1:00 TO 5:00 EVERY DAY EXCEPT SATURDAY

IN SEARCH OF A HOME: NINETEENTH-CENTURY WENDISH IMMIGRATION by Dr. George R. Nielsen

Good News! Dr. Nielsen has completed his second book on the immigration of the Wends.

Dr. Nielsen's work is recognized as the best source available for research on the immigration of the Wends. His first study of the Wendish migration was published in 1977 and has been reprinted several times. This updated and expanded edition carefully describes details of immigration to Australia, Texas and elsewhere and contains additional information on the resettlement of these unique people.

The largest number migrated to Texas, where at Serbin, under the leadership of Pastor Jan Kilian, they formed a Wendish community, retaining their own language in church, school and home. The local agricultural conditions proved too poor to sustain many people so the Wends of Texas scattered to different parts of the state. Eventually they lost most of their ethnic distinctiveness.

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society will have Dr. Nielsen's book available for sale in October. Please note on the price list that pre-publication sales result in a savings opportunity and that multiple sales will also result in savings of several dollars.

Dr. Nielsen will be attending the November 19th meeting of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society and will be available to personally autograph your book at that time.

<u>Price List</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Tax</u>	<u>Total</u>
Regular Price (after 9/30/89)	\$19.00	\$1.14	\$20.14
Pre-publication price -- 1 book	\$16.00	1.04	17.04
Pre-publication price -- 5 or more	\$15.00	.97	15.97
Pre-publication price -- 10 or more	\$14.00	.91	14.91

Postage is \$2.00 for the first book. Add \$1.00 for each additional book.

Out-of-state orders -- no sales tax is charged.

Pre-publication price expires September 30, 1989.

About the Author: Dr. Nielsen is a professor of history at Concordia College in River Forest, Illinois. He spent nine months in Australia researching this volume, has examined archives in East Germany and has had access to many private family collections of letters and papers in the United States.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the August 20th membership meeting, a proposal will be made to increase membership dues for 1990. This proposal was given careful consideration by your Executive Board. The current dues for 1989 and the proposed dues for next year are shown below:

1989 DUES		Proposed 1990 DUES
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does not exist	Student membership	\$7.50
\$10	Regular membership	\$15
does not exist	Couples membership	\$25
\$25	Patron membership	\$25
\$50	Sponsor membership	\$50
\$100	Century membership	\$100
\$250	Silver membership	\$250
\$500	Gold membership	\$500
\$1,000	Life membership	\$1,000

The changes proposed are:

- o Establishing a student membership at half the price of the regular membership cost. A student is anyone 18 years old or younger or anyone who is a full-time student.
- o Increasing the regular dues from \$10 to \$15.
- o Establishing a couples membership of \$25. Couples receive one copy of each TWHS mailing.

There are good reasons for not raising the dues, such as, many of our members are on fixed incomes. There are also good reasons for raising the dues:

- o Until last year, the TWHS would impose on an area church to print our newsletter. All we paid for was the paper. We also had to work around their schedule. Since then we are using Hengst Printing in La Grange. They do an excellent job and charge us a very reasonable price. This additional cost is about \$2 per year per newsletter.
- o Beginning in 1988, we produced a membership directory which costs about \$2 per directory, including postage.
- o The dues have been \$10 since 1984, and the cost of many things has increased in six years, especially postage.
- o The TWHS will assume chapter dues for each chapter member, which will be set at \$3.

Currently, the TWHS has a chapter committee which is working on a project to encourage new chapters, to encourage chapters to be strong and active, and to minimize the administrative effort required of a chapter. Rather than have the TWHS and a local chapter both collect dues from one person, all dues will be collected by the TWHS. A person living in a local area which has a chapter will automatically become a member of the local chapter.

Again, the dues increase proposal will be discussed at the membership meeting on August 20th, at the museum in Serbin at 2:00.

George Boerger, President

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS: As requested earlier, if you have any old ornaments that you are willing to depart with, remember the Museum Christmas Tree. We are looking for ornaments which would have been used during the early 1900's. Glass, tin, handmade (crocheted, or tatted), paper one's from Germany or made by Wendish families. NO MODERN PLASTIC!!! NO ELECTRIC LIGHTS. Ornaments should be in good, useable condition. If you have special heirloom or antique decorations, we would like to arrange a display for the case in the PETER BUILDING. We will also accept donations to be used for the purchase of new reproductions. The tree will go up in the ST. PAUL BUILDING before the November meeting.

VOLUNTEERS *** GUIDES *** DOCENTS *** HOSTS/HOSTESSES ---- WHATEVER you wish to be called we would like to schedule a meeting in September. We are desperately in need of volunteers, MEN & WOMEN. Contrary to popular belief, you DO NOT have to be 80 years or over to help. We would love to have interested, willing and dependable volunteers any age over sixteen. Won't you consider this opportunity to commit a few hours per week or month to your museum? Please call the Museum office and leave your name and telephone number, so that we may plan a meeting. If you have any special talents, let us know.

We, the Museum Staff, do appreciate all of the volunteer hours that you have already given us. Thank you,

Vivian Taylor, Director

August Meeting Speaker

The program at the August 20 membership meeting will be conducted by Dr. Joe Wilson of Rice University, Houston. The title of Dr. Wilson's talk is: 'New Discoveries about the First Wends in Texas: Who really came on the Ben Nevis, and who had come before them?'

Lillie Moerbe Caldwell Memorial Library News
by Georgie B. Royce, Librarian

We would like to thank the following people for their recent donation to the library:

Mrs. Miriam Korff York of Giddings, and author of Friedrich Ernst of Industry donated a copy of her recently published book. The book is based on "Research on Life, Family, Acquaintances and Conditions of the Times", during the founding of the first German settlement at Industry in 1831.

Another author, Ray Deutscher, of Toorak, Victoria, Australia, donated a copy of his book, Deutscher - A Family History 1846-1936. In a letter to the TWHS he states, "My ancestors were wends with the name of NIEMZ spelt in several ways as I have explained in my book. They later changed their name to Deutscher meaning a German person". He also included an order form, if anyone is interested in purchasing a copy of this book.

Mr. & Mrs. Howard A. Winter, The Woodlands, Texas, donated a photostat copy of the Fiftieth Anniversary (1899-1949) of the Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Congregation of Port Arthur, Texas, booklet.

Kristin Karisch of Houston donated her high school term paper, "Who were the Wends", dated March 16, 1989.

Two books that would be an asset to our library, but are out of print are: The Smallest Slavonic Nation (The Sorbs of Lusatia) by Gerald Stone published in 1972 by The Athlone Press and the Wilbarger County 100th Anniversary book. If any one has an extra copy of either of these books or knows where we could purchase these, please let us know. We still need a King James Version of the Bible.

Archives Needs Volunteers!
by Daphne D. Garrett, Archivist

The inventory and cataloging project for the Archives makes slow progress due to a shortage of volunteers and time, however progress is being made. About 1000 items have been inventoried, which means that every detail, including title, author, contents, size, color, and condition have been noted. Archival items include rare books, personal papers, research collections, and photographs etc. But there are many more books waiting to be inventoried, and all items are waiting to be described on a 3X5 card so researchers can use the Archives. If you can help at the Museum, or type the information on the cards at, please call the Museum.

Group Tours
by Evelyn Kasper, Chairman

April was a very busy month for tours. Thank you to all who helped host or made donations toward the luncheons served.

April 3, 1989 - Baylor Womens Group from Houston, 35 people.

April 4, 1989 - A Ladies Book Club from Houston, 37 people.

April 11, 1989 - Harris County Heritage Society from Houston, 45 people.

April 18, 1989 - St. Paul Methodist from Houston, 37 people.

April 19, 1989 - Christ Church Cathedral from Houston, 22 people.

Thank you to all who acted as tour guides for the following tours, to Jack Wiederhold for taking the tours through St. Paul.

April 14, 1989 - 18 Students from Sam Houston State University, Huntsville.

April 15, 1989 - Post Chapel at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, 25 people.

April 19, 1989 - Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Houston, 23 people.

April 20, 1989 - Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Houston, 25 people.

April 22, 1989 - Lisa Hartman, German teacher from La Grange High School, brought her German class.

Anyone wishing to bring a group for a tour please make reservations at least two weeks in advance. Call the museum at 409/366-2441 or Evelyn Kasper at 409/242-3367.

CHCEŠ SERBŠĆINU WUKNYĆ?
(Do you want to learn Wendish?)

Dr. Charles Wukasch of the Wendish Heritage Society and Concordia College will offer a seven-week course in beginning Wendish language and culture this fall. The class will meet Tuesdays 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., beginning September 12 and ending October 24. The classes will be held at Murchison Community School in Austin. The cost is \$25. Please contact Gwen Sederholm at (512) 346-8930 to register. If you don't live in Austin, contact Dr. Wukasch for a map. We need six students to make the class, so please consider taking the course. This will be an ideal way to help keep our language and culture alive.

Visitors

Since April 1 we have had visitors from: England, Ohio, California, North Carolina, Louisiana, Maryland, Virginia, Missouri, Tennessee, Florida, Wisconsin, West Germany, New Mexico, Illinois, Georgia, Kansas, Michigan, Oklahoma, Indiana, Greece, Pennsylvania, Poland, and Iowa. In addition there were visitors from all over Texas.

Accessions

Pump Organ donated in memory of Ernest A. Farrack, Sr. by his children Mrs. Marie F. Randig, Ernest R. Farrack, and Horace J Farrack.

A copy of the Giddings News, printed in gold, dated November 29, 1935 donated by Mrs. Johanna Pietsch. The issue was printed in gold to commemorate the 50th Wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Teinert and Mr. and Mrs. Ernst Kappler.

A bottle of Horn's Alpenkräuter, plastic seal intact, dated 1935 donated by Mrs. A. E. Koebe.

Wooden egg cups and cutting boards made by Ekkehard Kockel (an organ Builder) in Hochkirch, East Germany donated by Benjamin Fielder.

Docents

Acting as docents since April 1 were: Frieda Wendland, Erna Mersiovsky, Mildred Kilian, Ruth Lindner, Herbert and Laverne Falke, Freddie Zoch, Leroy and Elinor Steglich, Lillian Oltmann, Evelyn Kasper, Laura Mitschke, August and Laura Zock, Vivian Taylor, George Boerger, Georgie Boyce, Bessie Mertink, Reinhold and Irene Teinert, and Barbara Hielscher.

Membership
Patron Members

Duannah Ashmore, Austin, TX.
William F. Kieschnick, Los Angeles, CA.
Arnold R. Mathias, Waco, TX.
Rev. Kenneth Moerbe, Brenham, TX.
Martin A. Teinert, Independence, MO.
Rita F. Warkentin, Fort Myers, FLA.

Barbara J. Tate Womack, Rockdale, TX.
Ernie E. Zieschang, Liberty, TX.
Cindy Gentry, Houston, TX.
Ewell L. Tankersley, Austin, TX.
Mrs. S. W. Mantzel, Giddings, TX.

Memorials

On Occasion of:	Donor	Amount
M/M Alvin Teinert, Jr. 40th Wedding Anniversary	M/M Leroy Steglich	\$15.00
M/M Reinhold Teinert 40th Wedding Anniversary	TWHS/Austin Chapter	\$46.00

\$61.00 Donation given by the childred of Mr. and Mrs. August Zoch. \$20.00 for the landscape fund, and \$41.00 for the endowment fund.

A \$25.00 donation for the endowment fund was received following the Schulz Reunion.

Mr. George Boerger donated \$1,200.00 to the endowment fund, "In honor of the 135th anniversary of the arrival of the Ben Nevis which brought his ancestors to Texas: the Kiesling, Ritter, Schmidt, and Weise families."

In Memory of:	Donor	Amount
Rev. John Socha	George Boerger	\$50.00
Emma Schulz	M/M Marvin Schulz	\$20.00
Mrs. Martin Frank	M/M August Zoch	\$4.00
Martha F. Christal	Dr. & Mrs. Carl A. Fehr	\$25.00
Martha F. Christal	Mrs. Arthur Fehr	\$50.00
Walter H. Kolba, Sr.	Mrs. Agnes Resell	\$5.00
Jamin Nitsche Landscape Fund	M/M Walter Gersch	\$10.00
Jimmy Becker Landscape Fund	M/M Walter Gersch	\$10.00
Shirley Beissert Landscape Fund	M/M Walter Gersch	\$10.00
Rubina Alice Schneider Landscape Fund	M/M Walter Gersch	\$10.00
Emma Gloyna Schulz	M/M Alvin Bernstein	\$25.00
Emma Jentho Bernstein	M/M Alvin Bernstein	\$25.00

In the previous newsletter a memorial was incorrectly listed as given in memory of William Savage by Mrs. Frances Leake. It should have been in memory of Willis Savage. Our apologies.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Theodore (Ted) Lammert who passed away May 13, 1989. Ted will be remembered as having served TWHS twice as president, and holding numerous other positions during his many years of devoted work.

Wendish Fest

Thanks to the St. Paul Lutheran Voter's Assembly for passing a resolution giving the Society permission to use the Church Picnic Grounds for a Wendish Festival in connection with the 135th Anniversary of St. Paul Congregation and the 150th Anniversary of Lutheran Migrations on Sunday, October 22, 1989. Church services will be at 8:30 a.m. and at 10:30 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class at 9:30 a.m. In the afternoon and evening a German Service will be held at 3:00 o'clock and a Historical Film Presentation at 6:00 o'clock.

Mark your calendars now so that you won't miss this Wendish Fest. If you can help in any way, please drop a line to the Texas Wendish Heritage Museum, Route 2, Box 155, Giddings, Texas 78942, or call 409/366-2441, immediately, so that your assignment can be scheduled. We will again have various demonstrations such as, noodle making, carding, blacksmithing, quilting, etc. There will be a special showing of photographs in the Kilian Building. Food and drinks will be available beginning at 12:00 noon at the picnic grounds. The Museum will be open from 12:00 to 5:30 p.m. Bring your family out to learn and enjoy!

History of Serbin, St. Paul's Lutheran Church
by Rev. Bewie
from the Archives of the Texas District
of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
(from Rev. Socha)

Part XIII

Rev. Kilian did not marry until after he had moved from Saxony to Purssia, but then he married a girl whom he had confirmed at Kotitz. Her maiden name was Maria Groeschel. From everything I have been able to discover, their married life was happy. I give just one instance. When the time came that Gerhard should go far away to college Rev. Kilian wrote to Prof. Lindemann head of the teachers' seminary. When Prof. Lindemann replied, Rev. Kilian naturally read that letter to his wife, since it involved her son Gerhard. Mrs. Kilian then told her husband to greet him from her and to ask him whether he too had a wife and children. Then, turning to the letter she said: "Das ist ein FURCHTBAR schoener Brief". If Rev. Kilian had not had a good minister's wife, his lot would have been much harder to bear.

One of the greatest hardships for Rev Kilian was the fact that for the greater part of his ministry in Texas he was cut off from fellowship with other ministers. The only one he could associate with at all was Rev. C. Braun of Houston, who had taken in the colony of Wends when they arrived at Houston. Even that contact was very rare.

Although Rev. Kilian joined the Missouri Synod right after his arrival in Texas, it was not until after five years that he was able to attend his first convention. He had to go to Houston, from there to Galveston, to New Orleans and then to St. Louis on a riverboat. On a later occasion he told his people how he financed this trip. He borrowed \$25.00 from some church fund, another \$25.00 from a man in La Grange, which he repaid later. The congregation at St. Louis reimbursed him for the \$25.00 he had borrowed from the church fund. The ministers of the convention raised a collection for him that amounted to \$60.00 so that he could go back home.

TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY

Minutes

Serbin, Texas, May 21, 1989

George Boerger, President, called the meeting to order and introduced Jack Wiederhold who led the membership in a devotion based on the hymn, "Lord Jesus Christ Be Present Now."

GUESTS: The following guests were introduced: Dr. and Mrs. Charles Wukash, Mrs. Erna Symmank, Mrs. Mable Grace Symmank Wynne.

MINUTES: A motion was made to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as corrected: i.e. in paragraph one on page 2, add "per minute" after \$1,500; and, in paragraph five, line two, on page 2, change the word "Director" to "Museum Board Chairman." The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Reinhold Teinert distributed the Treasurer's Report. A motion was passed to accept the Treasurer's Report and file it for audit.

LIFETIME MEMBERS: On behalf of the charter members, Laura Zoch read a statement thanking the Society for awarding them lifetime memberships. She also reported that the Zoch family reunion contributed \$100 to the endowment fund in memory of Lillie Caldwell Moerbe.

FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL: Patty Bones reported on preparations for the San Antonio Folklife Festival. Especially needed are noodles, pickles, and adult-sized bonnets. Evelyn Kasper offered to can pickles if someone can provide her with cucumbers. LaVerne Gersch will provide fresh eggs to those who can make noodles. Food items and crafts can be brought to the museum for transportation to San Antonio. George will transport items made by members in the Houston area. In the San Antonio area, they can be given to Patty. The booth will be located in the same area of the festival grounds as it was last year. Hotel facilities are available; contact Patty if you need accommodations. Volunteers and trucks are needed to transport equipment, etc., from Serbin on Saturday, July 29, and from San Antonio on August 7.

A discussion ensued regarding the construction of a booth since we will be required to furnish our own when those presently in use are worn out. Carpenters and designers are needed. It was suggested that they be built in such a way that they can be dismantled and used for other purposes.

Volunteers are needed for working at the festival. Contact Patty to let her know when you are available.

VIDEO: Georgie Boyce reported that, to apply for a grant from the Texas Committee on the Humanities, we will have to provide 25% in matching funds. She will inquire as to whether we can use donated hours instead of money. The amount of the grant request has not yet been determined. She also asked

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for old pictures that she could borrow to make copies -- photographs of people, of the area, and of area churches. She suggested they be delivered to her or to the museum. Jack Weiderhold will prepare and provide background music.

NEW CHAPTERS: Carolyn Bohot, Charles Wukash, and George Boerger volunteered to serve on a committee to prepare a packet of information to be distributed to anyone interested in forming a new chapter.

MUSEUM REPORT: Leroy Steglich is working on the labeling of pictures. Vivian Taylor is scheduling workers for Sunday; two are needed for each building, including the log cabins.

TOURS: Evelyn Kasper reported that the Town and Country Garden Club, of which Barbara Bush is a member, will visit from Houston on November 15.

MISCELLANEOUS: The Austin American Statesman, on the front page of its "Lifestyle" section, recently published a feature on the Wends. The article and photos were especially timely -- just a few days before the Serbin Picnic.

LaVerne Gersch reported that a couple from West Germany spent a week in their home recently.

LONG RANGE PLAN: Long Range Plans for the Society and for the Museum, as approved at the last Executive Board Meeting, were distributed. Comments indicated that goals are needed in order to have a better understanding of why funds are being raised and how they are expended. After discussion, a motion was made for approval. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT/PROGRAM: There being no further business to come before the membership, a motion for adjournment was made and passed. Refreshments were served, and a program on the Wendish language and culture was presented by Dr. Charles Wukash.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn M. Bohot
Recording Secretary

Wendish Children Participate in Grand Opening of Seaworld at San Antonio

An event which will always be remembered by six Wendish youngsters took place during the 1988 Grand Opening of Seaworld. These children were a part of the CHILDREN'S INTERNATIONAL CHORUS which sang "The Seaworld Theme Song" with Marilyn McCoo and "Proud to be an American" with Lee Greenwood. The lucky boys and girls were David and Joshua Knippa, Meagan, Nathan and Sarah Knippa, and Kimberly Leitko. They wore traditional Wendish costumes. contributed by: Cindy Knippa

Even though this event took place a year ago, it still is "interesting". The "NEWS-LETTER" invites you, the reader, to send in note-worthy items which relate to today's Wends. These items also make the "NEWSLETTER" a lot more enjoyable to read!!!

By the time you read this, another San Antonio "Folklife Festival" will be history. Did you help in any way ???

Reunions

There seem to be more and more family reunions. Won't you readers please send in Reunion Write-ups? They do make interesting reading and who knows----you may hear from that long-lost relative who will complete your family tree!!

Teinert Reunion

The ELEVENTH REUNION of the descendants of PAUL and PAULINE LEHMANN TEINERT took place on June 17, 1989, in La Grange, Texas. Five of the six families were represented. Johanna Teinert Pietsch (Emil), Alma Teinert Froehlich (Roland W.), Rachel Teinert Witt (Carl J.), Paul and Gladys Koenning Teinert and Leon and Lillian Noack Teinert. No one from the family of Louise Teinert Wagner (Martin E.).

Paul and Pauline Lehmann Teinert were descendants of Wendish immigrants who came to Texas in 1854 and settled in and around Serbin. Paul Teinert was a son of Johann (John) Herman Teinert and his wife, Christiane Winzer. John was a son of Karl Teinert and his third wife, Anna Symmy.

If you would like to announce your reunion in the "NEWSLETTER", please send information to the Society/Museum address and mark it "Reunion". Newsletters are printed 4 to 6 weeks in advance of quarterly meetings. The next letter will be out the first of November.

Museum Musings

Thank you to Delbert Gersch and Maass Butane for materials and labor in repairing the butane stove.

Thank you to Jerry and Scott Hielscher for the two "Wendish Blue" trash barrels they brought to the Museum in time for the Serbin Picnic.

IF ANYONE CAN HELP THIS PERSON IN HIS SEARCH, PLEASE, CORRESPOND DIRECTLY WITH HIM.

I am trying to trace the family of Johann Schneider, who was born at Nechern, near Groditz, Saxony sometime between 1844 and 1849. His parents were Adam Schneider and Maria nee Doecke. He immigrated to Texas in approx 1886 with his wife and little girl Elsa, born at Nechern on the 17th August, 1882. Johann raised a family in Texas and died in approx 1920. He had been corresponding with his cousin Herman Doecke up until his death. After this we lost contact with the family. I would not be surprised if he had other brothers or sisters living in U.S.A. as his father had been married previously. The Schneider's were Wends from Lusatia. I am interested to know if you have any knowledge of this family or are descended from them. I have been trying to contact them for the past 10 years.

Thanking you in anticipation,
ReGaRDS.

Mr. A. J. Doecke
4 Coombe St,
Berri 5343
South Australia

John Doecke
A. J. Doecke



Texas Wendish
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