



Texas Wendish Heritage Society

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

VOLUME IV, NUMBER 1, JANUARY-MARCH

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

PHONE 409/366-2441

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First, I want to thank you for placing confidence in me to be your President for 1991.

The ole saying goes "Time Changes Everything."

As I take over the responsibilities as President of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society, I want us, all of us, to think about making changes, not changes for changes sake, but changes for a better Society.

One of the first changes I ask you to consider, is to combine the Executive Board and the Museum Board. You will have the opportunity to vote on a constitution change at our next membership meeting.

In this newsletter are the meeting and activity dates for February and March 1991.

A goal of mine is to have a monthly newsletter. We welcome your comments and suggestions. We may want to have a contest for naming our newsletter.

In our March newsletter we will have a list of committees. If you would like to serve on any of these committees, please let Barbara know, or if you know of someone that could serve well on a certain committee, please share that information with us.

Incase there is someother area that needs some attention, please share that idea with us also.

Would each of you members consider asking someone to join as a new member for 1991? If each of you would do this, the Society would double in membership in 1991. You may wish to give a membership to someone.

One other move which will help the Society, consider moving up one step in membership.

Memorials are becoming very popular.

Estete planning is an excellent way to help the Society financially.

Looking forward to an exciting 1991.

Ken Weiser
President

TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY
QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

SERBIN, TEXAS

FEBRUARY 17, 1991

AGENDA

2:00 P.M. Opening Devotion - Rev. Paul Hartfield
St. Paul, Serbin

Introductions - Barbara Hielscher
Minutes - Charles Wukasch
Treasurer's Report - Joel Meador
Constitution Change - Ron Lammert

Committee Reports:

Tours - Evelyn Kasper
Vogelhochzeit - Laverne Gersch
Family Reunion - Weldon Mersiovsky
Genealogical - Weldon Mersiovsky
Float - Herbert Falke
Fund Raising - Laverne Gersch
Endowment Fund - George Boerger
Landscape - Herbert Schautschick
Librarian - Georgie Boyce
Membership - Judy Hielscher
Newsletter - Barbara Hielscher
Yesterfest

Meeting Place - Museum or Serbin School
Other Business

Upcoming Events

February 16 Genealogy Workshop at the Museum conducted by Weldon Mersiovsky.
10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
February 17 Quarterly Membership meeting at 2:00 P.M. at the Museum.
March 8 Deadline for articles for March Newsletter.
March 16 Genealogy workshop at the Museum conducted by Weldon Mersiovsky.
10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

February Meeting Speaker

The program at the February 17 general membership meeting will be conducted by
Dr. Schaarschmidt of the University of British Columbia. Dr. Schaarschmidt will
speak on the situation of the Wends in the New Germany.

Austin Chapter News
by Charles Wukasch

The Austin chapter of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society had its Christmas party on Sunday, December 9 at Redeemer Lutheran Church. Approximately 30 people attended. The Reverend Reinhard Wuensche, president of the Austin chapter, gave the devotion. Charles Wukasch led the group in the singing of "Silent Night" in Wendish and read The Nativity Story in Wendish.



O Tannenbaum
O Tannenbaum
Wie treu sind
deine blätter!
Christmas
Exhibits, 1990



Special thanks go to Louise Peter for the ceiling high Christmas tree which graced the St. Paul Building during the holidays. Also thanks go to Ronald Hart of Winchester for cutting the tree, to Carroll Hielscher and Telford Zoch for setting it up, to Evelyn Kasper, Hattie Schautschick, Georgie Boyce and Elinor Steglich for trimming it, and to Barbara Hielscher for getting the whole act together. In addition to ornaments purchased by the society in the past, the beautiful old ornaments furnished by Mr. and Mrs. Asa Noack of Clovis, New Mexico, and candle holders used by the Peter family were used.

The first picture shows the Special Christmas Exhibit prepared by our curator Marian Wiederhold. The Peter Building also featured another exhibit of very old candles, ornaments, and candle holders which were donated by Cindy Knippa and originally belonged to Rodger Symm of The Grove.

In December of 1990 the choir from Holy Cross, Warda, under the direction of Anni Bamsch, represented the Texas Wendish Heritage Society at "Christmas in the Park" on Monument Hill in La Grange. The following thank you was received:

Dear Wendish Society,

Thank you so much for your wonderful entertainment at the park during Christmas. We appreciate you giving your time and talent in making Christmas at the Park such a joyous event. Signed: Sincerely, Glenda Joost.

TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY

Minutes

Serbin, Texas, November 18, 1990

A meeting of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society was held at the museum complex in Serbin, Texas, at 2:00 P.M. on November 18, 1990.

President George Boerger called the meeting to order and introduced Pastor Hartfield who led a devotion based on Luke 19.

MINUTES: The minutes were approved as distributed.

INTRODUCTIONS: One new member was present: E. D. Simank of Stillwater, Oklahoma. Visitors were:

Emily Bauer of Rainbow, Texas
Albert Kriegel of Houston, Texas
Alan Sessions of Austin, Texas

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report was distributed.
MOTION: Approved to file for audit. Passed.

FUNDRAISER: A dinner to celebrate Vogelhochzeit will be held on January 26, 1991, at the American Legion Hall in Giddings. Tickets will sold by members and funds will be used for the museum.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: **MOTION:** Candidates presented by the Nominating Committee were elected by acclamation. The new officers are:

Ken Weiser, President
LaVerne Gersch, Vice President
Charles Wukasch, Recording Secretary
Barbara Hielscher, Corresponding Secretary
Joel Meador, Treasurer
Doris Reagan, Board Member

NEW BUSINESS: George Boerger announced that visitors from Spreewitz intend to come to Texas for fourteen days in the spring and will attend the Serbin Picnic.

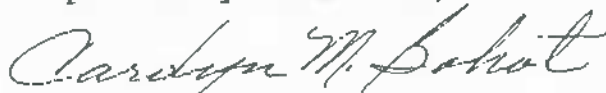
A grant for \$1,000 was awarded by Exxon for the purchase of a computer to be used in the museum.

Charles Wukasch announced that Dr. Schuster will travel to Texas from Germany in February. He is chairman of the Wendish Department at the University of Leipzig and is the world's leading scholar in the area of Wendish studies. He is a native speaker of the language.

Dr. Wukasch also discussed correspondence he has recently received from citizens from the area formerly known as East Germany.

There being no further business to come before the Society, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn M. Bohot
Recording Secretary

IN A WENDISH COUNTRY

This article was written in February 1989 by Dr. Maria-Beate v. Loeben who was born in the villiage of Kuppritz in 1927 and lived there until 1945. Kuppritz is about five miles east of Bautzen in formerly East Germany. Dr. v. Loeben is an instructor of English at Wurzburg University.

The town of Budissin (Bautzen) is the center of the Wendish country. It is a fine, medieval township, founded about the year 900, situated on the north slope of that range of mountains which surrounds the Bohemian Basin, or what is now better known as Czeckoslovakia. Looking down from the town fortifications you see, flowing in a deep valley, the River Spree, and looking up and south, you will see a chain of mountains of middling height, wood-covered, the last mountains of that size until you come to Sweden. On this mellow slope it is where the Wends have lived this last millennium, in this fertile landscape whose fields and meadows are characteristically dotted with clusters of trees wherever there are wells springing from the ground, a landscape whose fields and meadows are traversed by countless little streams which you can easily discern from afar, thanks to the trees that follow them.

Wherever there is a hollow of some size, the roofs of some village peep through the foliage of huge old trees; there is a pond in the center, and quite frequently the tall, mellow-tiled roof of some old manor-house can be made out. There are few churches, but their steeples are characteristic, high and impressive green-clad baroque spires, and their bells are heard far in this wide and light country. To be born into one of these manor houses, and to grow up amid a culture that had been self-subsisting since times immemorial was an experience to be immensely grateful for.

The background of almost every Wendish family was an old farmhouse, almost always a timbered house with the stable under the same roof, the barn standing at right angles to it. The farmyards were facing the central pond, the fields lying behind the yard. In the old days the village could be thus shut off from the outer world if there was danger abroad. In times of extreme danger the population obviously took shelter behind circular earthworks (ramparts) with a - now aneint - oaktree in the center. These pre-historic constructions are of considerable size - about 500 yards in diameter - and some of them are still intact.

Of the farms in the round villages each had its own well, if possible, but there was also a common well in the center of the village, and I remember the girls going there at night with their pails hanging down on either side from finely-decorated wooden yokes carried across their shoulders. At the village where I spent my childhood, the well was in a very low little house, where you had to descend a few granite steps and then fill your vessels from the ever-full basin, that was continually replenished from an invisible source. The water was as tasty as only water coming from and underground of granite can be, and when you held it in a vessel of lighter colour it appeared a deep blue-green. The richness of wells, streams, and ponds had given rise to numerous fairy tales about water-sprites and water nymphs which had to be propitiated or praised, according to their pleasant or unpleasant propensities. All these waters, of course, abounded in fish (mainly carp and trout), and fishing was on of the annual features of country-life in October. The white stork was - and still is - a frequently seen bird, and there were even some colonies of cranes.

TO BE CONTINUED-----

This article was submitted by George Boerger who traveled to Germany in the summer of 1990.

Docents

Acting as docents from October 1 through December 31 were: Lorine Domel, Ruth Lindner, George Boerger, Evelyn Kasper, Jack and Marian Wiederhold, Walter and Erna Mersiovsky, Bessie Mertink, Daphne Garrett, August Zoch, Mildred Kilian, Viola Spacek, Barbara Hielscher, Dora Spitzenberger, and Herbert and Laverne Falke.

Visitors

During the months of October through December we have had visitors from: Idaho, Montana, Germany, Oklahoma, Nevada, England, Virginia, New Mexico, Missouri, Louisiana, Arizona, and all areas of Texas.

Membership

New Members/Previous Members-Renewed

John Wm. Fuller, Austin, TX.	Alfred V. Dube, Sherman, TX.
Ruby M. Krieg, Thrall, TX.	Friedbert Mutschink, Germany
Linda Lauterbach, Austin, TX.	AAL Branch #4402, San Antonio, TX.
Emily I. Bauer, Rainbow, TX.	Alvin J. Mainus, Sunnyvale, CA.
Heather Montalbano, Camino, CA.	Etta J. Schrader, Pensacola, FL.
E. D. Simmank, Sr., Stillwater, OK.	Rebekah Bohot, Austin, TX.

Student Members

Benjamin Fiedler, Galveston, TX.	Rebekah Bohot, Austin, TX.
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Patron Members

Vivian Taylor, Weimar, TX.	Paul Weise, Orlando, FL.
Kathy Lee Miller, Lafayette, LA.	Mary S. Guggisberg, Vernon, TX.
Dana Z. Clary, Orange, TX.	Paul Weise, Orlando, FL.
Sandra Magers, Dallas, TX.	Karen F. Koepke, Houston, TX.
Ludwig O. Groeschel, Austin, TX.	Norris Kurio, Austin, TX.
W. L. Simank, Stillwater, OK.	Naomi T. Gordon, Grand Junction, CO.
Marvin Wappler, Groves, TX.	Barry Wukasch, Scottsdale, AZ.
AAL Branch #4402, San Antonio, TX.	Gene Miertschin, Friendswood, TX.
Florence R. Saeger, Kirkwood, MO.	Herb Schulz, Torrance, CA.
Harold V. Theiss, Houston, TX.	

Sponsor Members

Bernice F. Schulz, Houston, TX.	Edgar Schulz, Houston, TX.
Charles Haschke, Winchester, TX.	Violet Miertschin, Winchester, TX.
Marjorie Harkrider, Garland, TX.	Herman Teinert, Lubbock, TX.
Dr. Wilbert J. Sohns, Casper, NY.	Edwin Domaschk, Port Arthur, TX.

Century Members
Elwood M. Domaschk, Jr., Houston, TX.

Silver Members
Floyd V. Zoch, El Campo, TX.
Bettye S. Zoch, El Campo, TX.

In Memory Of:	Memorials Donor	Amount
Alice Noack Landscape Fund	M/M Walter Gersch	\$25.00
Linda Nitsche Landscape Fund	M/M Walter Gersch	\$10.00
Paul H. Kolba	Verne M. Kolba	\$5.00
Walter Kolba	Verne M. Kolba	\$5.00
Agnes Resell	Verne M. Kolba	\$2.50
Agnes Resell	Frances Leake	\$10.00
Marina K. McEachern	M/M Reinhold Teinert	

A \$200.00 donation has been received from AAL Branch #5092.

A \$250.00 donation was received from AAL Branch #4854.

Mr. George B. Ross donated \$125.00.

A \$10.00 donation was received from the Pietsch Reunion.

A \$25.00 donation was received from the Pampell Reunion.

Reunions
NOACK REUNION

With three generations of the Noack Family laid to rest at the Holy Cross Cemetery at Warda, it is fitting that the Noack Family Reunion is held at the Warda Picnic Grounds each year. The oldest Generation, Johann and Maria Noack, died at an old age of natural causes. Their son, Jakob Noack, died as the result of a wagon accident, the granddaughter, Maria, died at age 14 from kidney failure. This year's reunion was again held on the first Sunday in October. Family members enjoyed barbecued chicken prepared by R. C. Franke of Winchester, with side dishes and desserts brought by family members. The outgoing officers were given a resounding round of thanks. They were Ivan Fritsche, Houston, President, Carol Schramm, Warda, Vice-President, Charles Haschke, Winchester, Treasurer, and Evelyn Kasper, Warda, Secretary. Newly elected officers for a two year term are Leon Noack, Rockdale, President, Debbie White, Friendswood, Vice-President, Elinor Steglich, Wards, Treasurer, and Pat Kuehn Schmidt, Sealy, Secretary.

PIETSCH REUNION

The annual Pietsch Reunion was held October 14, 1990 at the Winchester Community Hall in Winchester. There were approximately 100 family members in attendance. Mrs. Meta P. Kleiber, age 84, from Winchester, was the only surviving child of Traugott and Anna Pietsch attending the reunion. Mr. Bill Haney of Palestine led the group in the singing of the Doxology and the table prayer. A delicious pot-luck dinner was enjoyed by everyone.

PAMPELL REUNION

The first annual Pampell Reunion was held at Roitsch Camp in La Grange on Saturday, October 27, 1990. The 56 members attending enjoyed a delicious barbecue chicken lunch prepared by Carroll and Jerry Hielscher. Side dishes and desserts were brought by family members.

The reunion recognized the descendants of Carl August Pampell (Number 93-Ben Nevis Ship Register). Of the 6 children born to Carl August there were descendants of three represented. There were seven direct grand children present, Milton Pampell, Sidonia (Donie) Pampell Meador, Edward Pampell, Irene Pampell Wilderson, Gertrude Pampell Kleinert, Erwin Krautz and Violet Krautz Miertschin.

Those individuals recognized for distance traveled to attend were, Richard and Susan Santamaria from Chicago, IL. The oldest descendant was Milton Pampell, age 77, of Winchester, TX. and the youngest was Clara Meador, age 3, of Rockport, TX. The most recent married was Ricky and Michelle Cantu of Corpus Christi, TX. Officers elected were: Joel Meador, Luling, President, Mary Watts, Houston, Secretary, and Judy Toppel, Needville, Treasurer.

Thank you, to Bessie Mertink, Evelyn Kasper, Hattie Schautschick, and Elinor Steglich for helping to get all of the Newsletters, Membership Notifications, and all other large mailings out on time!

Thank you, to the Austin Chapter for providing refreshments for the special 10th anniversary meeting on November 18, 1990.



**Texas Wendish
Heritage Society**

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