



# Texas Wendish Heritage Society

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

VOLUME IV, NUMBER 7, AUGUST, 1991

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

PHONE 409/366-2441

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The first Society membership meeting held without conducting business is now history.

The meeting on August 18th was interesting, spiritually uplifting and informative. The meeting opened with singing a German song. Rev. Paul Hartfield opened with a brief devotion.

The program was given by Rev. Hartfield and talked about our heritage and the importance of heritage.

Charles Wukasz held a brief education session on the Wendish language. Charles will begin having small parts in each newsletter.

The 20th annual Folklife Festival has just been completed. The Society received a banner for being participants in all 20 festivals. Emma Wuensche received honors for being one of the first to represent our Society.

The Folklife booth this year had very few items of "Wendish made" items. Items such as aprons, potholders, bonnets, quilting, crocheting, etc. It was suggested that members meet periodically and have the experienced teach others how to make these items.

The Society was approached on how to raise money thru long distance telephone calls. The committee is now studying this and will probably have a mail out in a week or two. If this is something you wish to do, please follow the instructions and take action. Please watch your mail for this information.

Hope each and everyone of you have marked your calendar for September 22nd, the third annual Wendish Fest to be held at Serbin. Those of you who were at the activities last year know how enjoyable the day can be. For persons who have not attended, a treat is awaiting you. One comment last year was "If I would have known this was going on, I would have brought others with me". Hope to see you on September 22nd, and do bring someone with you. They will appreciate it.

Ken Weiser  
President

## UPCOMING EVENTS

September 13	Deadline for articles for September newsletter.
September 14	Genealogy Workshop at the Museum conducted by Weldon Mersiovsky, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
September 22	Third annual Wendish Fest - at the Museum complex and the St. Paul, Serbin, Picnic Grounds.
October 18	Deadline for articles for October newsletter.
October 19	Genealogy Workshop at the Museum conducted by Weldon Mersiovsky, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
November 15	Deadline for articles for November newsletter.
November 17	Quarterly membership meeting at 2:00 p.m. at the Museum with election of officers.

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## CALLING ALL WENDS! CALLING ALL WENDS!

The Wendish Fest Committee met on August 20th, and we are ready to get the ball rolling for the 3rd Annual Wendish Fest. September 22nd is fast approaching and we need all of your support. Please come out for a day of food and fellowship to help support your museum. Last year we ran out of desserts, so please help us out by bringing a dessert.

Many of you will be scheduled to work. If you do not get an assignment notice within the next two weeks and want to help, drop us a note with your name, address and telephone number to Route 2, Box 155, Giddings, Texas 78942, and we will be sure to place your name on the list.

Pastor Hartfield will be conducting a special German Service at 10:30 on that day. The noon meal will be served until 1:30. Snacks will be available all afternoon. There will be music by the Waterloo Brass Band and The Ben Dunk Brass Band, together with sing-a-longs led by Jack Wiederhold.

be sure to enter our coffee cake bake-off! Entries must be at the dessert booth by 10:30 as in the past, and our judges this year will be Silke Thiele and Enrico Kern from Bautzen, Germany. Laverne Gersch will be chairing this event again, and if you have any questions you may call her at 409/366-2247. There will be cross cut saw contests, coloring contests, and the Klettern Pfosten.

DON'T MISS IT! MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS NOW!

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GROUP TOURS  
by Evelyn N. Kasper, Chairman

As a special treat for confirmation reunion classes attending the 100th anniversary of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Austin, Vic and Helen Mathias arranged and helped us host 58 guests for a tour, coffee cake and coffee on Saturday, July 6th.

Mrs. Eunice Snodgrass of La Grange entertained her Sewing Club members and their spouses with a tour of St. Paul Lutheran Church and the Wendish Museum which included a noon luncheon.

The Austin County Texas German Society met here for a tour on July 24th in conjunction with it's meeting.



LILLIE MOERBE CALDWELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
by Georgie B. Boyce, Librarian

New accessions during this summer have been as follows: "The Carl Traugott Kutschke Family" researched and donated by NANCY KUTSCHKE SAUCEDA; English King James version of the Bible donated in memory of GENEVA BERNSTEIN SHARROCK by Georgie Boyce; Concordia Of Texas From The Beginning donated by Concordia Lutheran College in Austin; and we have purchased Der Neue Grosse Shell Atlas 91/92, which should be of interest to any of you who are planning a trip to Germany in the near future.

For the Wendish Fest, the rotating exhibit in the library case, will feature a photographic display showing six generations of the Johann Karl Teinert family.

DOCENTS

Serving as docents during the month of July were: Evelyn Kasper, Elinor Steglich, Gloria Mae Gersch, Barbara Kocurek, Jack and Marian Wiederhold, Vic and Helen Mathias, Herbert and Hattie Schautschick, Esther Buscha, Heather Hielscher, Barbara Hielscher, Lorine Domel, and Ruth Lindner.

VISITORS

People from all parts of Texas and the following visited the museum during July: New Jersey, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Illinois, Alabama, Nebraska, Missouri, Delaware, Berlin, Germany, Esslingen, Germany, Dresden, Germany, Indiana, Australia, Arizona, Reutlinger, Germany, and Ammerbuch, Germany.

MEMBERSHIP

New Members/Previous Members Renewed

Wilbert E. Schubert, Spring, TX. Don C. Wukasch, Houston, TX.

MEMORIALS

In Memory Of:	Donor	Amount
Esther Gersch	Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gersch	\$15.00
Charles Haschke	Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gersch	\$15.00
Herbert Krause	Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gersch	\$10.00
Kelsey Pietsch	Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gersch	\$10.00
Rubin Becker	Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gersch	\$10.00

MEMORIALS

On Occasion of:	Donor	Amount
M/M Marvin A. Lorenz 40th Wedding Anniversary	Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Schulz	\$20.00
M/M Leon Lindner 50th Wedding Anniversary	Ann Smith	\$25.00

A \$10.00 donation was received from Friedbert Mutschink of Dleinsendelbach, Germany.

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Thank you, to the following for furnishing refreshments for the August Meeting:  
Ruth Lindner, Bessie Mertink, Laura Zoch and Adele Pampell.

Thank you to Esther Buscha and Viola Spacek for donating ingredients for making noodles.

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### St. Paul Church

Heritage Worship Service  
The Rev. Paul Hartfield  
German/Wendish

### St. Paul Picnic Grounds

**10:30 a.m. Deadline for Coffee Cake Bake-off entries**

11:00 a.m. Noon meal tickets sales  
begin, Adults \$4.00,  
Children \$2.50

**11:30 a.m. Ben Dunk Brass Band & Waterloo Brass Band alternating all day**

**Noon meal served until 1:30**

Menu: Sausage, Sauerkraut, Noodles, Beets,  
Bread and Butter, Drink  
Desserts Available - 50 cents

12:30 p.m. Bake-off winners announced

## DEMONSTRATIONS

## Picnic Grounds

Easter Egg Decorating  
Sauerkraut and Dill Pickling Info.  
Jelly Making Information  
Wine Making Information  
Quilting

### Kilian Building

**Noodle Making**  
2:00 and 4:00

### Kilian Building

**Old Fashioned Butter Churning**  
3:00

### Kilian Building

## Crocheting and Feather Stripping

St. Paul Bldg.

**Sausage Stuffing - Hog Butchering**  
**Information**  
 3:00 Picn

## Picnic Grounds

## Carding and Spinning

**St. Paul Bldg.**



The Museum Complex will be open from noon until 5:00 p.m. with Genealogy help available in the Library located in the Peter Building.

**Food/Drink Booths open at 2:00 p.m.**

Chicken drumsticks  
Sausage-Sauerkraut boats  
Sausage-on-a-stick

Koch Käse  
Noodles  
Desserts

Tea, Coffee, Beer &amp; Soda Water

## ENTERTAINMENT

**Coloring Contest**  
2:00 . . . . .

### Picnic Grounds

**Sing-a-long with Jack Wiederhold**  
4:00 Pic

### Picnic Grounds

**Cross Cut Saw Contest**  
5:30

### Picnic Grounds

**Horseback rides for children 2-6  
all afternoon** P

### Picnic Grounds

**Corn shucking - shelling - Feed the geese and turkey all afternoon      Picnic Grounds**

**Ben Nevis Float and Wendish couple picture taking props available all day**

### Picnic Grounds

◆◆◆ ADDED ATTRACTIONS ◆◆◆

### Watkins Products Booth

### "Klettern Pfosten" Picnic Grounds



WENDISH POEM  
Translated by Charles Wukasch

Handrij Zejler is considered one of the leading Wendish poets. His German name was Andreas Seiler (Seiler means "ropemaker" in German.) Born in 1804, he later studied to be a Lutheran pastor at the University of Leipzig (Pastor Kilian's university). It was ironic that he studied on a scholarship furnished by a Catholic friend.

Zejler married late in life, at the age of 50, but outlived his younger wife. They had two daughters. He died in 1872. His famous poem "Na Sersku Łužicu" was later set to music and served as the national anthem of the Wends.

Na Sersku Łužicu

Rjana Łužica,  
sprawna, přečelna,  
mojich serskich wótcow kraj,  
mojich zbóžnych sonow raj,  
swjate su mi twoje hona.

Bitwu bijachu  
horcu, železnu  
něhdy serscy wótcujo,  
wójske spěwy spěwajo.  
Štó ha pójda waše spěwy?

Zrudny syłobik  
ma nětk Hromadnik,  
sowa laka z Prašicy,  
ma tam swoje škałoby.  
Hori, što wój pomnitaj?

Boha Čorneho  
stare kralestwo  
rapak nětko wobydli.  
Stary moch so zeleni  
na skałi, kiž wołtar běše.

K luda nadobi  
njejsu zhódali  
hódakajo, što so ma  
dočakać wot přichoda.  
Sami nětk sej wěšćić mamy!

Časo přichodny,  
budžeš zakčěć ty?  
Ow, zo bych z twojeho  
klina wušli mužoj,  
hódni wěčnch wopomnika!

To Wendish Lusatia

Lusatia fair,  
We honor thee:  
Our Wendish fathers' land,  
Our heaven here on earth,  
How holy is this place!

They fought the fight  
With fiery steel,  
Our Wendish fathers brave.  
They sang their martial songs -  
Their songs of war and death.

A nightingale  
So very sad  
Keeps watch with guardian owls -  
From Hromadnik so high,  
And Prashec's lovely heights.

Mt. Chornoboh,  
That mountain high,  
Its cliffs are altars large.  
But this our kingdom old,  
A scoundrel now does rule.

The prophets wise  
No puzzles solved.  
Such loftiness deceives.  
But from the future dim,  
These lessons we must learn.

In future years  
Lusatia fair  
Will give us men of truth.  
And our dear land will be  
A lasting monument.

## PARADES AND EVENTS

On July 13 the Ben Nevis Float was entered in the McDade Watermelon Parade and received two ribbons. A blue ribbon for Most Original and a white ribbon for Best Overall. On the float were: Herbert and Laverne Falke, Emma Wuensche, Ellen Wuensche, Lorine Dome, Bessie Mertink, Freddie Zoch, Telford Zoch, Laverne Gersch, Shanna Gersch, and Sarah Gersch.

## OUR BRIGHT YOUNG WENDS!

Jennifer Symmank, who just completed her sophomore year at Lutheran High North in Houston, was accepted as a member of the National Honor Society. She also was elected to Who's Who in American High Schools.

Rebecca Symmank, who is enrolled in the St. Mark's Lutheran Conservatory of Music in Houston, recently provided the pre-service music at St. Mark Lutheran Church at Houston. She will enter the seventh grade this fall.

Jennifer and Rebecca are the daughters of Jim and Kathy Symmank of Houston. Their grandparents are Ben and Mary Symmank of Houston, and their great grandmother is Mrs. Bertha Goodson of Giddings.

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Our benefactress, Louis Peter, whom we are all grateful to for the gift of the Peter Building at the museum complex will be celebrating her 92nd birthday on September 24. She is a resident at the Rolling Meadow Retirement Community in Wichita Falls, Texas.

All TWHS members and friends are invited to participate in a birthday card shower for her. Send cards to:

Ms. Louise Peter  
3006 McNeil Blvd. Apt. 349  
Wichita Falls, Texas 76309

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GIDDING, TEXAS 78942-9769

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