



Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum - Serhin, Texas

ROUTE 2, BOX 155, GIDDINGS, TEXAS 78942-9769

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OPEN FROM 1:00 To 5:00 EVERY DAY EXCEPT SATURDAY & HOLIDAYS
Phone 409/366-2441

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VI NUMBER 5, OCTOBER, 1993

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 1993 Wendish Fest was an exciting and enjoyable day. Activities began with an English church service at 8:30 a.m. and a German service at 10:30 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, conducted by the Rev. Walter Otten, guest pastor from Brookfield, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. Rev. Otten was one of the German speaking pastors on the Siberian 1 tour of Lutheran Hour Ministries.

The highlight of the day was the John Worm and Teresa Zoch Wendish wedding held at high noon at St. Paul Lutheran Church, performed by the Rev. Paul Hartfield. The bride and groom arrived in a horse drawn carriage. Both were dressed in traditional Wendish black.

After a brief thunderstorm activities resumed and everyone enjoyed the rest of the day.

Following the ceremony, the couple, wedding party, family and friends, gathered at the picnic grounds and enjoyed the food, drinks, and activities with others attending the Wendish Fest.

Due to the rain, the dedication of the flag poles was postponed. The generous donation from Doris Reagan made this project a reality. Lights have been installed so the flags can fly 24 hours a day.

The Wendish Fest received outstanding press coverage this year. Richard Camuto with The Fort Worth Star Telegram had a large article the following day, The Giddings Times and News had an article and several nice pictures by Sam Pruess, Texas Monthly Magazine was represented, and on October 10 Mr. Camuto had an article in the Chicago Tribune. Coverage outside the United States included German journalists - a radio reporter, and a newspaper photojournalist. The two Wendish journalists were from the bilingual city of Bautzen, where street signs are in Wendish and German.

The Cross Cut Saw contest is still gaining popularity. There are some contestants monopolizing it, and others are just having "PLAIN FUN".

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Next year the Wendish Fest will be on September 25, 1994.

We plan to have our Christmas tree up by the November 21 meeting. After the business meeting, with election of officers, we plan to sing carols around the tree.

Ken Weiser
President

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### WENDISH FEST REPORT

The Wendish Wedding was beautiful and as always, the bride "stole the show"!

Congratulations, to Teresa (Zoch) Worm and John Worm, and Thank You for letting the Wends share your wedding day.

After the ceremony the couple was transported to the picnic grounds by horse and buggy. The bride's table was set up on the gazebo as was the beautiful wedding cake made by Carol Jean (Malke) Noack, one of our local Wendish artists.

We served the noon meal to 871 people. It's a good thing that we started serving early because two inches of rain fell before we were through. The rain was sorely needed and people didn't seem to mind walking in the rain and mud.

Some of the activities had to be cancelled because of the weather. We were especially sorry to have had to cancel the flag raising ceremony as many family members were present. The ceremony has been rescheduled for November 21st at 2:00 p.m. as the opening for the regular membership meeting.

Most of the demonstrations and contests went on as planned. The coffee cake bake-off under the direction of Della Mullens and Laverne Gersch was judged by: James Walker, Lee County Attorney, Cheryl Walker, Lee County Extension Agent, and Mary Ann Schubert of Lexington, Secretary Lee County Extension Office. Winners were: Kase Kuchen - 1st place Hattie Schatuschick, 2nd place Adele Jenke, and 3rd place Adele Sanders. Streusel - 1st place Marian Wiederhold, 2nd place Elinor Steglich, and 3rd place Irene Wiesenhutter. Special category - 1st place Evelyn Buchhorn, 2nd place Ruth Mitschke, and 3rd place Linda Boergr.

Ron and Glenda Lammert were in charge of the coloring contest. It was judged by Kelli Watts of San Marcos and Cindy Hielscher of Winchester. Winners in the 5 years and under were: 1st place Ryan Heinrich, 2nd place Kacie Biebas and 3rd place Christy Lammert. Winners of the age 6 and 7 group were: 1st place Sarah Gersch, 2nd place Ryan Gyllenband, and 3rd place Sarah Knox.

The demonstrations of decorating Easter eggs, churning, wine making, noodle making and quilting went on all afternoon. Also, samples of pie melon were given out and seeds were available in the Kilian building.

The children enjoyed the baby goats (kids), and feeding the geese, and corn shelling as usual.

No one left hungry, but we actually sold all of our food.

Washer pitching went on until after dark.

We had a great day and thanks to all who helped in any way. We appreciate the help and support from our members and friends. It takes good team work to put on a festival like this. We are glad to have you on our Team.

Evelyn N. Kasper  
for The Committee

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UPCOMING EVENTS

November 21	Opening of General Membership meeting with dedication of the flags. General membership meeting at 2:00 p.m. with election of officers.
December 13	Deadline for articles for December newsletter.
January 23, 1994	Vogelhochzeit at the Sons of Hermann Hall in Giddings, Texas.
May 13-15, 1994	Lone Star District Walther League Reunion at Camp Lone Star in La Grange, Texas.
June 1-4, 1994	National Genealogical Society Conference in the States hosted by Clayton Library Friends.

TOURS

by Evelyn N. Kasper, Co-Ordinator

On Saturday, September 11th, we hosted St. Clare Catholic Church, Clear Lake, with a luncheon and tour for 40 people.

On September 15th a group of ladies from San Antonio came for a tour of the Museum.

On September 30th a group of 40, Young at Heart, from Zion Lutheran Church in Pasadena came out for coffee cake and coffee, a tour, and luncheon.

October 8th brought a group of 27 from Christ Memorial Lutheran Church, Houston, for a luncheon and tour.

On October 13th 40 seventh and eighth graders from Immanuel Lutheran School in Houston visited the Museum.

October 18th a group of 15 ladies of The International Department of The Fortnightly Club, Chapel Hill, came for a tour and luncheon.

NOODLE REPORT

by Elinor Steglich, Chairperson

We served 64 pounds of noodles at the Wendish Fest and sold all we had on hand (at least 150 pounds). Since then we have made 260 pounds.

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

Submitted by Reinhold and Irene Teinert

Come to Austin sometime between November 21st through December 28th to view the display of Christmas trees at North Cross Mall. You will see Christmas trees decorated by different ethnic groups relating to their heritage.

There will be about 12 or 13 trees set up in two locations in the mall.

The Austin Chapter of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society will again decorate a tree to share the news of the birth of the Christ Child and share our Christian faith and our joy to the world.

North Cross Mall is located at the intersection of Burnet Road and Anderson Lane.

DOCENTS

Serving as docents during the months of September and October were: Reinhold and Irene Teinert, Vivian Taylor, Jack Wiederhold, Georgie Boyce, Walter and Erna Mersiovsky, Bessie, Luke, and Matt Mertink, Linda, Sarah, and Elizabeth Schwartz, Ruby Koslan, Ken Weiser, Hattie Schautschick, Viola Spacek, Dora Spitzenberger, Laverne Gersch, George Boerger, and Bea Tschatschula.

VISITORS

During the months of September and October we had visitors from all parts of Texas and the following: Germany, Arizona, Ohio, California, The Netherlands, Florida, Austria, Missouri, Colorado, and Illinois.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of:	Donor	Amount
Elmer Nietsche	Freddie Zoch	\$20.00
Shirley (Zoch) Schwartz	M/M August Zoch	\$20.00
Mrs. E. W. (Alma) Hohhertz	M/M Alvin Bernstein	\$15.00
Mrs. E. W. (Alma) Hohhertz	Rev. & Mrs. Robert Boyce	\$15.00
Newton Froelich	M/M Frank Taylor	\$20.00
In Honor of:	Donor	Amount
M/M Alfred Krause	M/M Herbert Schautschick	\$25.00
50th Wedding Anniversary		
M/M Alfred Krause	M/M Leroy Steglich	\$15.00
50th Wedding Anniversary		

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M/M Leroy Steglich	M/M Alfred Krause	\$10.00
50th Wedding Anniversary		
M/M Leroy Steglich	Dr. & Mrs. George Kunze	\$25.00
50th Wedding Anniversary		
M/M Leroy Steglich	M/M Herbert Falke	\$20.00
50th Wedding Anniversary		
M/M Leroy Steglich	Herbert Foerster	\$25.00
50th Wedding Anniversary		
M/M Leroy Steglich	M/M Edgar Schulz	\$50.00
50th Wedding Anniversary		
M/M Leroy Steglich	Freddie Zoch	\$20.00
50th Wedding Anniversary		

PARADES

Our Ben Nevis float was taken to La Grange to enter the Fayette County Fair Parade by Telford Zoch, on Saturday, September 4th. Jack Wiederhold on the accordion, and Doug Malke on the rake and bench provided the music. Others riding were Georgie Boyce, Barbara, and Jerry Hielscher, II, Tiffany and Bobby Lucas, Sarah and Elizabeth Schwartz, Freddie Zoch, Evelyn Kasper, and Allison and Constance Karisch.



Since the traditional float - the replica of the "Ben Nevis" had been entered in the Giddings Geburstag parade many times it seemed the time had come for a change.

This year the float advertised the Wendish Fest taking place the next day. The front part of the 16 foot trailer featured Lorine Domel and Bessie Mertink demonstrating homemade noodle making. The cross cut saw contest was advertised with Clyde Schimank and Doug Hartfield wielding the saw and Walter Gersch acting as time keeper. Young riders watching the demonstrations were Heather Hielscher, Elizabeth Schwartz, Christopher Schimank, Luke Mertink, Shaina, Sarah, Alicia, and Minerva Gersch. Pulling the float were float co-chairmen Telford and Freddie Zoch.

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society received the second place ribbon for the best German theme.

Thanks go to Walter Gersch for the use of the trailer, and sign painting.

REUNIONS

Fritsche Reunion

Out of state family members attending the Fritsche reunion this year were Robert Malke of Seattle, Washington, Les and Doris Zable and Mildred and Ernst Malke of St. Louis, Mo. A total of 86 members attended from Lee and Fayette Counties, as well as from San Antonio, Houston, Spring, Huffman, Humble, Jarrell, Channelview and Austin. The reunion was held at Serbin on Sunday, October 17th. A potluck dinner was enjoyed after a short devotional service led by Mr. Gordon Schumacher, Principal of St. Paul Lutheran School, Serbin.

Mildred Fritsche of Houston and Barbara Clifton of Spring served on the Food Committee.

After the meal the group enjoyed fellowship and the accordion music by Mildred Malke of Missouri. She used to play in a band with her father and is very talented. A number of folks also enjoyed visiting the Wendish Museum.

Simank Reunion

Decendents of Carl August and Ana Magdalena Simank (Family Number 70 - Ben Nevis Original Ship Register) held a reunion near Nordland, Marrowstone Island, Washington, at the home of Calvin and Yvonne Rogers, on August 5,6,7, 1993. Forty family members - together with 3 guests were in attendance. Entertainment consisted of -- crab fishing, walking the beach, golf, a sunset Kayak trip on Mystery Bay, hikes, evening campfires, hayrides, watching ocean going ships go by, sightseeing near by areas. A wonderful time was had by all (the weather was perfect). Family members came from the following states -- Arizona, California, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington.

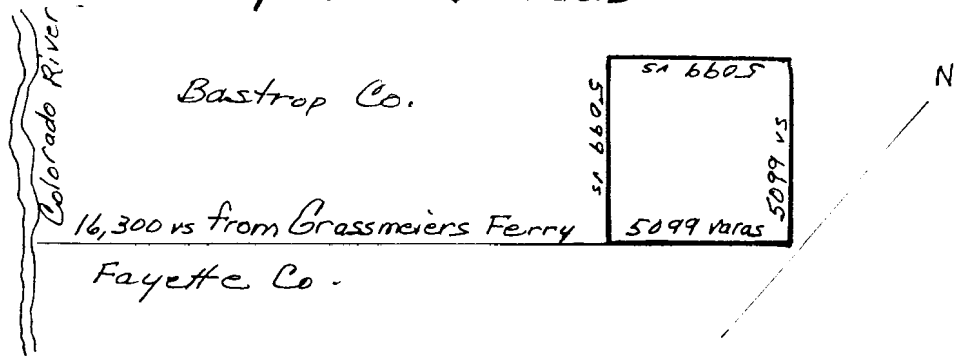
The next reunion is set for the 4th week in April 1995 at La Grange, TX. (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)

Submitted by -- W. L. "Bill" Simank
1116 West Knapp
Stillwater, OK. 74075-2711
Phone (405) 372-1921

Bill Simank

Delaplain - 26 Labors

HISTORICAL NOTES V



It is interesting to search the land records in Texas, not only to study the tracts which belonged to one's ancestors, but also to learn about the land's first owner. As most everyone knows, the Wends of the 1854 immigration purchased a tract of land in Bastrop county in 1855 from Absolom C. Delaplain. From the records of the General Land Office in Austin, we learn that A.C. Delaplain was a soldier in the army of the Republic of Texas, serving from June 1-December 1, 1836 and received a "Bounty Warrant" for 320 acres as his pay. Delaplain applied for his headright land on January 25, 1838 and was granted a league and a labor.

Certificate no. 170 issued by the Republic of Texas Land Commissioners of the District of Washington County states that Delaplain was entitled to one league and one labor because he proved that he emigrated to Texas before the first of May, 1835, was a citizen at the date of the Declaration of Independence, and had remained a citizen in the country with his family ever since. The land was located on the road leading from Gouchers to John Eblins about two miles . . . comprising 26 labours.

Normally, a league is equivalent to 4428.4 acres, and a Labor 177.1 acres. However, early surveys were not always accurate and some discrepancies came to light when the property was sold and re-surveyed. Thus we read in the Deed Records of Bastrop County and the transcribed Deed records of Lee County, that A.C. Delaplain of Washington County sold to Charles Leman (sic) and John Dube his "headright League and Labor of land except 125 acres in the north east corner surveyed for Adam Thomas which leaves 4254 $\frac{2}{3}$ acres as shown by the field notes of the County Surveyor." He received \$3054 and 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ cents cash, with a note for the remaining \$1200.

This transaction is recorded in Volume A, p. 133 of the Lee County transcribed records. The sale of the land from Dube to other Wendish families and the Church is recorded in Volumes A, B and C. Genealogists might like to take a look at the combined Direct Index for these three volumes which lists sales by Dube and Lehman into 1870. If you only want to find your ancestor, look in the Reverse Index under that surname.

Searching the court house records can be very exciting and rewarding. Tid-bits of information gleaned from these records can be used to add interest to an otherwise factual genealogical record. I have donated copies of some of the Deeds and Deed Index pages and two large maps issued by the General Land Office of the original land grants in Lee and Fayette County to the Lillie Moerbe Caldwell Library.

Read more about it!

P.S. Delaplain was still alive in 1881 when the State donated 1280 acres of land to surviving soldiers of the Republic.

LOST AND FOUND

A ladies watch was found the day of the Wendish Fest. Would the owner please call the Museum at 409/366-2441.

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Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Zoch of Houston for the one year gift subscription to THE HOUSTON LUTHERAN.

Thank you to Walter and Erna Mersiovsky, and to Anna Schmidt for helping to get the fliers and brochures for the Wendish Fest ready for mailing.

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